Principal’s Report

HOWQUA CAMP REFLECTIONS

How lucky we were to have a relatively clear week for our Year 5 and 6 students who attended last week’s camp to Howqua. I had the pleasure of a brief visit last Wednesday afternoon, and the thing that struck me most over the course of my visit was how relaxed and happy our all of the students were. It was great to see everyone having a go at all of the activities as well as the sense of pride they exhibited in conquering some of their challenges. Other than a few minor scrapes for a couple of students, the whole week unfolded beautifully with our students enjoying a fantastic camping experience. The photos below capture some of the action over the course of the week:

On behalf of the school community, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the dedicated team of teachers & adults who provided wonderful around the clock support and care for our students:

Teachers: Annemarie Honeybone, Giorgia Moss, Patrick Kelly, James Ritchie, Bethany Johnstone, Melissa Brown, Crissy Samaras, Tess Holland, Sarah Nobbs, Belinda Gill (Office) & Melissa Lim (student Teacher).

Parents: Andrew Kimpton-Cheong, Ruairi O’Duil, Rebecca Borg, Jonas Perlind, Chiara Comeri & Michael Gilchrist.

A special mention and gold star to Melanie Kennie who did a superb job organising the entire camp, as well as Belinda Gill who carefully administered all of the medications and any necessary first aid during the course of the week.

PREPS 100 DAYS OF SCHOOLING

Our prep students recently enjoyed some wonderful activities as they celebrated the milestone of having completed 100 days of schooling. I was so impressed with the efforts that some students and their families had gone to mark this occasion, particularly the level of creativity displayed with the number 100! We had a Roman Gladiator adorned with a large ‘C’, one hundred sunflower seeds,
necklaces and bracelets made with one hundred beads, paper chains with 100 links, Lego pieces made from 100 blocks, trees with one hundred leaves/flowers and even the number 100 made from bread covered in hundreds and thousands! The photos below capture some of this wonderful work and fun:

**Soccer and AFL Goals**

How exciting to come into the school on Monday morning to see our soccer field with new goals at either end! Despite a drizzly Saturday morning, a wonderful team of volunteers worked hard to install soccer goals at the Freyer St end of the field and AFL goals at the playground end of the field. The photos below capture a little bit of the action:

On behalf of the hundreds of excited students on Monday morning, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the following parents who very kindly volunteered their time to assist with this project: Dave Pettet, Andrew Portelli, Lisa Robertson, Dave Wallis, Brett & Kay McCall, Frank Krause, Atle Valland, Tom Schultz, Scott Tind-Simmons and Michael Wilkinson.

The installation of the goals was a joint financial project between our school, Barnestoneworth United Junior Football Club and Williamstown Football Club. We are extremely grateful to these clubs for their willingness to support this project and we look forward to ongoing associations with these clubs. In particular, I would like to recognise the efforts of Dave Pettet (President BUJFC), who has liaised with the school for several months, secured financial support, assisted with the ordering of equipment and then coordinated the installation of the goals. Thank you so much Dave – you certainly kicked some winning goals in following through this project!

**Sister School Visitors**

On Monday morning we were very excited to greet six students from Shin Ishikawa Primary School, which is our sister school in Japan, based just out from Yokohama. We welcomed: Chisato, Keita, Kotomi, Yuki, Kanta & Kay. These students have been working in Year 5 classes over the last three days. It was wonderful to hear these visiting students individually introduce themselves at Monday’s assembly. What a daunting undertaken this must have been – thousands of kilometres from home, standing up in front of a thousand students/adults and conversing in a foreign language!!
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Helen Atkins (our Japanese teacher) for all of her work behind the scenes with Shin Ishikawa PS over recent months to bring this trip to fruition. Also a huge thankyou to the following Willy North families who very kindly provided the homestay experiences for these children: Frabotta De Los Santos, Soon, Alatan, Tamblyn, Parker and Nikolovski Families.

How exciting it will be for Willy North students to hopefully visit Shin Ishikawa in the future!

**Reading & Writing Together is Magic (RWTIM)**

I hope everyone has added Thursday 20th August into their phone calendars for our annual Reading and Writing Together Is Magic (RWTIM) evening. I’ve had the pleasure of listening to several published poems over the last week or so and as usual, the standard of writing looks like being as impressive as it has been in previous years! To assist with the organisation of the evening, we ask that you book your attendance on line at [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) using the following event code GSGMJ so that we may organise the multi-age groupings for the evening: The online booking opened on Monday 3rd August and will close on Friday 14th August. Please see the attached flyer in today’s Newsletter for more information.

**Prep Transition Dates**

In early September we will be distributing enrolment confirmation letters to all eligible families for next year’s prep placements. Details regarding the transition sessions to be held in term 4 will be outlined in these letters. For families currently enrolled in the school, you may wish to make an early note of these transition dates:

- **Thursday 22nd October,**
- **Thursday 29th October,**
- **Thursday 5th November** and
- **Thursday 12th November.**

**Chicken Pox**

Over the last fortnight we’ve had a couple of confirmed cases of chicken pox at the Prep and Year 2 levels. There is generally a two week incubation period before any signs appear, so parents may want to be on the look out. The most contagious period is the two weeks prior to the spots appearing and until all of the spots have scabbed over. If you notice any rashes or spots in the coming days, you may want to consult your doctor.

Sincere thanks to the parents who have kept the school informed on this matter.

Enjoy the week

Jim Cahill—Principal
Rosters… Fresh Fruit Friday (FFF)
This is a very social and interactive group who volunteer an hour of their time each Friday morning. Thank you to the many dedicated parents that assist with Fresh Fruit Friday. Fresh Fruit Friday continue to need parent volunteers. If you are available on Friday, please email Linda Taylor directly, so she can add you to the roster—taylor.linda.t1@edumail.vic.gov.au. The parents on Fresh Fruit Friday this week, Friday 7th August are: Julia Hacket, Mel Maskey, Camilla Thompson, Zohreh Basiri, Kim Pannone, Larissa Deeth, Andrea Crabtree and Kate Groombridge

Canteen
Juliane Weir manages our Canteen and is always very appreciative of the time parents or family members can volunteer to help in the Canteen. Juliane can be contacted via the General Office. New parents or family members are always needed and most welcome. So, if you can spare any of your valuable time, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thursday 6th August—Imogen O’Neill
Friday 7th August—Di DuBlasi
Wednesday 12th August—HELP NEEDED
Thursday 13th August—Anne Tobin
Friday 14th August—Staff Training Day

Uniform Shop News Primary School Wear (PSW) is our official Uniform supplier. Uniforms can be purchased at the new store located at Unit 1, 128 Bertie Street Port Melbourne. Items can also be purchased online. Email portmelbourne@psw.com.au. Trading hours are Tuesday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm, Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm and closed on Sunday and Monday.

School Banking School banking day is Wednesday. Don’t forget to send in your child’s bank book.

Student Safety Please take the time to regularly remind your child/ren about safety, especially when going to and from school. Here are the important points to mention:

- Do not to talk to strangers and never accept a ride from a stranger, or accept lollies or gifts from a stranger.
- Immediately report any issue or problem you may have when going to or from school, to your mum and dad, or to your teacher, the Principal, Assistant Principal or office staff.
- Always get permission from mum or dad before going to play with a friend after school and always let mum and dad know where you will be and what time you will be home.

We advise that, wherever possible, children should travel to or from school with an adult or with their friends, rather than travel alone.

Early Release All children collected from school before 3.30pm must be signed out at the Office. Parents will be handed an ‘Early Release Pass’ to hand to the supervising teacher. If a child is signed out at Recess or Lunch time, the Office staff will call the child to the Office and then ensure the Early Release Pass is given to the supervising teacher.

Bikes & Scooters Many children ride bikes and scooters to school each day. All bikes and scooters must be locked up in either the Bike or Scooter Enclosure to prevent theft. Please ensure your child has a chain and a lock. All children who ride a bike or scooter must wear a helmet which is a requirement by the Government. The school regularly reminds all children about wearing helmets for their safety. All bikes, scooters, skateboards, ribtics and helmets must be labelled, with your child’s name and class. Children are reminded they must walk their bike, scooter, skateboard or ribstic to and from the school gates. No bikes are to be brought through the school buildings and we request, where possible, that Scooters are also not walked through the building.

Working With Children Checks
From early April 2014, cardholders who are required to renew their WWC Check will no longer need to go to Australia Post to lodge a paper form and present their current card. From this time, cardholders will go to the WWC Check website to complete their renewal application online and, if applying for an Employee Check, pay the fee using a credit card. The online renewal process Cardholders will be notified by SMS, letter or email 28 days before their WWC Check is due to expire. It is important for cardholders to keep their contact details up to date so that they receive this important reminder.

After receiving a notification, individuals continuing to do child-related work should go to MyCheck on the WWC Check website and apply to renew their Check. Cardholders will be asked to register with MyCheck if they have not already done so. Once logged in to MyCheck, cardholders will be prompted to confirm or update their personal contact and work details, complete the online form and, if applying for an Employee Check, pay the non-refundable $102.70 fee. More information, an FAQ guide to online renewals will be available in ‘Publications’ under ‘Resources’ on the WWC Check website. Or contact the Customer Support Line on 1300 652 879 8.30am – 5.00pm weekdays except public holidays.
Provisional Prep enrolments for 2016 has commenced. ‘Enrolment Form’ and the ‘Preliminary Information Sheet’ are available from the General Office. A copy can also be downloaded from the school website located under the Enrolment slider tab.

If you have any enrolment questions, or concerns regarding enrolments, please contact the school office on 9397 5722.

Please Provide the following information when lodging your enrolment

1. Enrolment Form and Preliminary Information Sheet
2. Proof of Age - (Child's Birth Certificate)
3. Certificate of Immunization (School Entry Form)
4. Three documents for “Proof of Residential Address”. (Drivers Licence, a Rates notice and a third document with your full name & residential address).

CONFIRMATION OF ENROLMENT WILL BE MADE IN WRITING BY THE END OF TERM 3, 2015

The ‘2016 Prep Parent Information Night’ is only for Parents of confirmed Prep enrolments.
Tuesday 24th November 2015, 7.00pm to 8.30pm.
Kay Margetts from Melbourne University will speak on “School Readiness” and “School Expectations”.

Transition Program
Our Kinder to School Transition program for our 2016 Prep children will take place on Thursday 22nd & 29th October and Thursday 5th & 12th November.

All transition details will be included with the ‘Confirmation of enrolment,’ letter sent to families.

Dear parents,
This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn and Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school.

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, we are collecting Woolworths Earn and Learn Stickers.

Place the stickers onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet and when it’s complete, the sticker sheet can be dropped into the collection box here at school.

We’ll be able to get some great new equipment.
Reading & Writing Together Is Magic

Prep to Year 6 Students

Thursday 20\textsuperscript{th} August 6.30pm to 7.30pm

RWTIM is our annual Community Literacy event, where all students in Prep to Year 6 have written and published pieces of poetry to share with their family.

To indicate your attendance; please use our online booking system. This will open on Monday 3\textsuperscript{rd} August and close at 4.00pm on Friday 14\textsuperscript{th} August.

“Reading & Writing Together Is Magic” will be held on Thursday 20\textsuperscript{th} August starting at 6.30pm, and concluding at 7.30pm. All families are invited to attend, however children attending, must be accompanied by an adult.

Children from Prep to Year 6 are allocated in groups to a classroom, with siblings kept together. Our senior students host the evening as part of their Leadership development. Prep to Year 6 students proudly read their poems to the audience with great confidence.

The evening commences with each child taking turns to read their piece of published work and at the conclusion, each child will receive a ‘RWTIM Ribbon’ for attending the night.

To assist with the organisation, it is vital that you register your attendance, and names of your child/ren who will be participating on the night.

Please go online www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use the Online Booking System Event Code – GSGMJ on or before, Friday 14\textsuperscript{th} August to book your child/ren’s attendance. The online booking system will close at 4.00pm on Friday 14\textsuperscript{th} August.

All families will be provided with details of the room your child/ren will be reading in, by Wednesday 19\textsuperscript{th} August.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT ON THE NIGHT

Book Fair - Under the Sea!
The Book Fair will be located in the Resource Centre.

Families will be able to purchase a wide range of books on the following dates and times.

Thursday 20\textsuperscript{th} August, from 3.30pm to 4.15pm and prior to RWTIM 5.30pm to 6.15pm. Book sales will conclude at 6.15pm sharp to enable students and families time to move to their designated room.

Book sales will re-open directly after Reading & Writing Together Is Magic, concluding at 8.00pm.

Friday 21\textsuperscript{st} August, from 8.30am to 9.00am and directly after school, from 3.30pm to 4.00pm.

Thank you – The Teaching & Learning Key Reference Group
On Thursday 20th and Friday 21st August, the school Library will be the venue for our annual Book Fair. A variety of books and posters will be on sale. This will be an excellent opportunity to promote books and reading, as well as a terrific opportunity for our school to earn books for our Library through commission in sales; last year we earned $4,000 worth of quality books!

**PREVIEW SESSIONS**
Throughout the week of the Fair, all classes will have an opportunity to view books and posters that will be for sale. Your child will complete a ‘Cool Books’ form, indicating which books they liked the best, along with prices. This list can be used for placing orders if you are unable to attend in person. (*Please note that you are under no obligation to purchase books.*)

**BOOK FAIR OPEN TIMES**

**Thursday 20th August (RWTIM evening)**
- 3:30pm - 4:15pm
- 5:30pm - 6.15pm (prior to RWTIM)
- 7:15pm – 7:45pm (after RWTIM)

**Friday 21st August**
- 8.30am – 8:55am
- 3.30pm - 4.00pm

**PURCHASING BOOKS**
If you are unable to attend, you can still place an order. There will be a variety of options available for payment of orders, and information regarding making payments will be forthcoming.

We hope you enjoy this year’s Book Fair!

Vivien D’Aquino
Book Fair Coordinator

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**AFTER CARE NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents,

Could all parents please check details such as phone/contact numbers on enrolment and update as required. This has caused some issues when children do not arrive at the program and parents cannot be contacted due to wrong numbers. It is important to keep this information up to date.

There will be a student free day on Friday 14th August. Our program will operate from 7.00am—6.15pm, with children starting off the morning in the Before Care Room, then moving over to the gym for activities.

Please note, we do need a minimum of 15 children to register for the program to go ahead. To book for the student free day, please log onto oshclub.com.au select the A.S.C tab and book the date for August 14th.

Please feel free to call the program on 0422 236 845.

Thankyou Oshclub Staff
Raising a critical generation

In a digitally literate world of ‘likes’ and social criticism Lakshmi Singh looks at how parents can foster critical spirit in a constructive, healthy and balanced way.

The age of entitlement
Parents have always wanted the best for kids, but taking the “you deserve the best, this/he/she is not good enough” mentality a bit too far can also be detrimental, says parenting and education expert Ronit Baras.

“The rules of education are very simple, judgmental parents will raise judgmental kids. Why? Because judgment is a coping mechanism to fight inadequacy. Judgmental people have weaknesses and judgment is their way of hiding. ‘If I find faults in others, I will be able to hide mine.’ If parents model this mentality, kids will adopt it.”

Similarly projecting a “my child is special and they need to know that” vision by over-supplying them with activities, commodities and even praise can lead to an unhealthy sense of entitlement, says Dr. Ash Nayate, clinical neuropsychologist.

“Narcissism (i.e. a feeling of entitlement) is a sign of unhealthy self-esteem. Narcissistic people don’t see themselves as equal to others, they see themselves as better than others - and the reason they hold this belief is to cover up their fear of ‘not being good enough’,” she says.

Judging people helps alleviate that fear, she says. To help stop the cycle, she believes parents need to lead by example.

“Developing a healthy self-esteem is critical. If as a parent you have low confidence and low self-esteem, your kids are going to pick up on that as well. If you want your kids to be resilient and confident, then you need to work on the confidence and self-esteem within yourself.”

Readily accessible forums to dish out criticism
It is no secret that Millennials are more digitally literate than the rest of us. With most having access to their own mobile phone, laptop and social media accounts, the stage through which they can communicate with others is wide and always available.

“Social media encourages us to be more vocal about criticism. So instead of just judging people quietly, in our mind, we can do it aloud. Behind the safety and anonymity of a computer screen,” says Dr. Nayate.
The privacy that social media affords also brings to the fore a trait that Baras calls a “brain fart”.

“In my program we consider it a “brain fart” when you do not consider others or the outcome of what you say and only want to say it, at all cost,” she says.

She believes the problem is intensified in a society that values external standards and imposes them on the education system through set metrics. “Teachers use marks, tests [and] they flash with standards and rules and this is far away from teaching critical thinking. So, no wonder kids are learning that everything in their life needs to be judged.”

From teacher review sites to specialist groups and threads on social media forums, kids today can critique anything about their school, programs or individual people, making up their mind whether something makes the cut or not.

A culture that accepts criticism

With the prominence and popularity of reality TV shows comes the hard truth that our culture is now one of judgement and criticism.

“We are evaluated on the basis of what they’re missing, how they’re not good enough or worthy enough, and what’s ‘wrong’ with them,” says Dr. Nayate.

To compound the situation, today’s society is more geared towards materialism and capitalism, she says.

With the aim of being ‘better’, ‘richer’ and ‘more successful’ comes the habit to indulge in self-criticism, another trigger for engaging in a dialog centred around “I am better than this guy because …” or “I am so hopeless at this compared to …”

“Self-criticism is the first step towards judgement of others. We can only judge others if we’re somehow judgemental of ourselves,” says Dr. Nayate.

Striking a balance

So, how do we turn all this ‘judgement’ into something that is more considered, evaluated and more respectful of the people and practices involved in the process?

By understanding the difference between informed decision-making or critical thinking and straight judgement, says Baras.

“Critical thinking is when we present kids with options and teach them to evaluate and consider the advantages and disadvantages between options. Criticism/judgment is considering yourself above others and rating them based on your own individual standard.”

The good news is that critical thinking skills can be developed without being critical of others says Dr. Nayate.

“It’s about adopting an attitude of open-mindedness and healthy curiosity. Just like a three year old who always asks “why” - the child isn’t doing it out of judgement or maliciousness, it’s simply a raw desire to learn more about the world.”

While critical thinking skills depend on the maturity of the child, Dr. Nayate believes parents can nudge kids in the right direction by role modelling it:

1. **Verbalise** the thought process involved in everyday decisions - for example choosing healthier food options (“When I eat fries, I feel a bit sick in the stomach, and the next day I get a headache from all the salt and grease. And then I feel sluggish and lazy, and I just want to sit around at home all day instead of going to the playground with you.”)

2. **Assist** with decisions and evaluations – implement this as a two-step process, she advises: first, acknowledge kids when they have demonstrated critical thinking. For example: “that was a good decision to do your homework before you went to your friend’s house. That way, you can really have fun and you don’t need to rush to get home.”

Secondly, help them assess whether the decision they made was because they accept an idea or because it came from a person they accept. As an example, many teenagers tend to accept information as credible when it comes from peers or celebrities more so than their parents.

3. **Help** them put their higher values in perspective – while some children may value hard work or aim for certain levels of achievement, they would also value acceptance, connection with others, happiness, fun and adventure, she says. For example, a child who values health and fitness highly might override them in favour of other values like fitting in with their peers who smoke and thus take up that habit. Encourage them to see when decisions are made based on what we value, rather than on impulse or what feels good at that moment.

Sources:
- Tim Elmore’s blog on ‘Curing a critical spirit in students’ - http://growingleaders.com/blog/curing-critical-spirit-students/
This September, I’m walking 35km in The Bloody Long Walk. Last night I completed a 16km training walk (walking from Ascot Vale to Williamstown) and totalled 27km in just three days as part of my training.

WHY would I take on this extreme physical challenge? I’m doing it to support people living with mitochondrial disease (mito), the second most common genetic disease in Australia. I have included some information about Mito, including a story below.

Your donations are what keep me motivated when I am training in the freezing cold! So far we have raised $500. I am sending this out for those that want to donate, but haven’t gotten around to it yet! The next four weeks of training are particularly gruelling!

Mito can affect anyone, at any age and can cause loss of sight and hearing, strokes, inability to walk and intellectual disabilities.

Up to twenty children born in Australia every week will develop a form of Mito in their lifetime. There are few effective treatments, and no cure. It is often fatal.

So, I’m taking on the challenge to support people living with Mito and help find a cure for this devastating disease.

Will you please support my efforts by sponsoring my 35km walk?

It would really mean a lot, your support will keep me going all the way to the finish line.

Please click the link below to view my page and make a donation:

https://bloodylongwalkmelbourne.everydayhero.com/au/dita

Your tax-deductible donation will help the Australian Mitochondrial Disease Foundation find a cure as well as support the thousands of Australian families living with Mito.

Thanks for your support.

Dita (parent of Zachary, Talia & Olivia)

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**Williamstown Imperials Cricket Club – Juniors wanted**

Williamstown Imperials Cricket club, based on the Fearon Reserve (beachside), are seeking Junior Cricketers between the ages of 8-11 years to join our newly formed Under 11 teams, starting October 2015.

Under 11 Cubs - will compete Friday evening’s between 5.00pm - 7.00pm in the Williamstown Junior competition, in a modified format, against other local teams in the area.

Under 11 A – Competing Friday evenings from 5:00pm-7:00pm in the WJCA competition, in a full scale game format.

Our club also enters its 4th year of running our successful Milo Cricket program for children 4-8 years. Held Friday evenings between 6.00pm-7.00pm on the Fearon reserve, it is great fun for kids and parents alike.

For more information and registration details, please visit the club website

[www.williamstownimperialscricketclub.com](http://www.williamstownimperialscricketclub.com) or contact Justin Horsburgh on 0477 997 222
2015 / 2016 REGISTRATION DAY
Saturday, 22nd August
10 am - 12 noon
Fearon Reserve, Osborne Street
Williamstown
Under 17, 15, 13 & 11 players welcome!
Cost $110 for U11, 13 & 15
Cost $130 for U17
(Covers playing fees and selected clothing)
CYMS also runs Milo in2Cricket & T20 Blast programs
Available on registration day or online later
Cost $50 - In2Cricket
$99 - T20 Blast
For more information contact Michael 0407 051 450
Please bring proof of age with you
www.williamstowncyms.vic.cricket.com.au

T20 Blast - Williamstown Cricket Club
Ages 7 - 10 (Boys and Girls)
October 2015 - February 2016 (cost $100)
Sunday mornings - 9.30am - 11.00am
Register via playcricket.com.au/T20blast - (Williamstown Cricket Club)
Contact - Cam Smith (0423 401 659)

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