Principal’s Report

2014 PARENT OPINION SURVEY

Next Monday, we will be distributing in excess of 100 surveys to randomly selected families as part of the 2014 Parent Opinion Survey. The survey will take parents about 15 – 20 minutes to complete and the feedback and opinions provided through this survey play an important role in further informing our decision making processes and helping to make our school the best it can possibly be. The survey is completely confidential and all completed surveys are returned to the Department of Education for collation and analysis.

If your family receives one of these surveys, we ask that you complete it during next week and then return the completed survey in the sealed envelope provided, back to the office by Friday 1st August. It would be great if we could get a 100% return to ensure the feedback we receive is truly reflective of our community.

2015 PREP ENROLMENTS

This is a final call for any existing WNPS families who have a sibling eligible to be enrolled in next year’s prep cohort. Once we have a closer indication of the final numbers, we can begin to plan for staffing, room allocations, resources etc. Next year’s intake looks like being a big group with in excess of 120+ students enrolled at this stage; so we’re hopeful that all enrolment forms have now been received.

BABBA

Have you booked you tickets yet for BABBA? This is our big social event of the year for parents which is being staged at Williamstown Town Hall on Friday 5th September.

Bookings can be made on line at www.trybooking.com/82381. When booking your tickets, you will have the choice of booking for a group of ten (at a slightly discounted rate) or you can book for a smaller allocation of tickets. Where tickets are booked in multiples of 2, 4 or 6 for example, the organising committee will then complete the table arrangements for the evening by grouping parents from the same year level together (where possible). If you have any further queries in regards to the purchase of tickets or seating arrangements, please feel free to contact Kellie Walker at ktsrj@bigpong.com .

It should be a fantastic evening, so get in quick to get your tickets!!

P/T/S CONFERENCES

Next week we will be scheduling our P/T/S Conferences from 3.00pm – 7.00pm on both Monday 28th and Wednesday 30th July. Please note that online bookings will close on Monday 28th July at Noon if you haven’t made a booking please go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and the Event Code is BCASR.
To facilitate the organisation of these conferences, we will be conducting a whole school assembly for all students on each of these days, getting underway from around 2:30pm each day. If you have a 3:00pm, 3:15pm or 3.30pm conference booked, please note that students will need to be collected from the gym.

Specialist teachers will be conducting their conferences in the Butterfly Room, except for the LOTE (Japanese) conferences, which will be conducted in the Japanese room.

**READING & WRITING TOGETHER IS MAGIC - RWTIM**

Since the beginning of the term, it has been great to hear the increasing flow of poetry drifting from our classrooms as a lead into our annual RWTIM evening. I have been so impressed at the standard of this work; what clever & creative students we have at WNPS! I think all parents will be similarly impressed on Thursday 14th August at our annual RWTIM evening, as all students from Prep to Year 6 will have a wonderful forum for sharing their published pieces of writing.

To assist our planning for this evening, we are asking parents to register their attendance on line at [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and use the **Event Code G6EH6** to register your child/ren attendance. The online booking will open tomorrow (Thursday 24th August) at 9.00am. We hope you will be able to attend this evening to help celebrate the reading and writing skills of our very enthusiastic and highly capable students! See the full flyer in today’s Newsletter.

**SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION (SRI)**

As mentioned in several recent newsletters, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), is currently in the processes of reviewing the provision of SRI in Victorian schools. As part of this review, all families were asked to complete new consent forms to enable students to participate in SRI for the remainder of 2014.

At the end of last week, the average number of forms returned at each level of our school was 23%. After meeting with the SRI Coordinators last Friday, it was decided that there were insufficient numbers for the program to proceed over the next two terms. Unfortunately, this also means that we will be unable to proceed with any Christmas celebrations at the end of the year that have been coordinated by SRI instructors in the past.

Having determined that the program will not proceed this year, new consent forms will be distributed at the beginning of 2015 to determine the viability of SRI classes running next year at WNPS. This will be an annual process undertaken by all schools across Victoria and schools will then make decisions based on the level of demand expressed within their respective communities and their ability to accommodate these classes.

SRI (CRE) has been operating at WNPS for many decades and we recognise that there will be mixed feelings felt by all families on this matter. As always, the school is respectful of the diversity of opinion on this sensitive matter and we will continue to make decisions that are reflective of the combined aspirations of our school community.

I would like to sincerely thank the following SRI volunteers for their contributions to the school during the first half of 2014 – Sue Russell, Linda Sutton, Ann Hodges, Elisa Jasper, Rodger Duff, Shaya Minns and Patti Gerken. We also thank Astrid Jasper (Team Leader) and Sophie Clayton (Assistant Team Leader) for all of their assistance with the organisational aspects of the program, as well as their understanding in regards to recent changes.

**JUMP ROPE FOR HEART**

Next week we will be supporting the Heart Foundation by participating in the annual Jump Rope for Heart initiative. Sarah Nobbs (PE teacher) has been integrating skipping into PE lessons since the beginning of this term and this will culminate with a special skipping demonstration at next Wednesday’s whole school assembly. At this assembly, we will also be attempting to make the biggest heart we can using gold coin donations. We are therefore seeking the support of families by sending along a gold coin donation next Wednesday 30th July in support of the Heart Foundation.

**CHESS**

Thank you to the many families who responded to last week’s snippet in the newsletter about the possibility of formalising a chess club for students at lunchtimes. I am meeting with a chess provider later this week and we hope to trial a program in Term 4. More news down the track!

Enjoy your 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 will need parent volunteers throughout the school year. If you are available on Friday, please email Linda Taylor directly to be added to the roster—taylor.linda.11@edumail.vic.gov.au. The parents on the roster for this Friday 25th July are: Martin Ray, Pamela Fernando, Camilla Thompson, Larissa Deeth, Mette Nielsen, Kate Shaw and Jodie Shaw.

Canteen—NEW HELPERS MOST WELCOME
Julieanne Weir manages our Canteen and is always very appreciative of the time parents or family members can volunteer to help in the Canteen. Julieanne 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 24th July—Help Needed
Friday 25th July—Majella Snelling
Wednesday 30th July—Helene Kuoppa
Thursday 31st July—Help Needed
Friday 1st August—Help Needed

NO SUSHI IN TERM 2 & 3

Uniform Shop News
Primary School Wear (PSW) is now our official Uniform supplier. For all uniform enquiries please contact Kara on her mobile: 0413 008 185, between 9.00am and 5.00pm weekdays (excluding weekends and school holidays). Opening times are: Mondays and Thursdays 8.30am to 9.30am
Internet orders can be placed on the website: www.psw.com.au

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 ribtic 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.
Education Maintenance Allowance

Information about changes to Education Maintenance Allowance as a result of the School Reform Agreement made between the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government.

What is EMA?
The Education Maintenance Allowance currently provides financial assistance to low-income families to help meet costs associated with the education of their children.

How it is paid?
Parents can currently elect to have their EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into the parent’s bank account; or
- paid directly to the school to be held as credit which the parent can use towards education expenses; or
- paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2013 over 70 per cent of parents receiving the EMA chose to have their EMA paid directly to their school. Each school would then use the funds for a range of expenses for that child.

Who is eligible?
The EMA currently provides financial assistance to Victorian families on a low income to help with the cost of educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.

It is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

What is changing?
In the recent School Reform agreement signed with the Commonwealth, the Victorian Government has changed the way it helps low income families with education expenses.

From 2015, the Government will distribute the funds previously used for the EMA directly to schools. DEECD will develop the arrangements to be used to distribute these funds to schools – consultation will occur with stakeholders about this.

Why?
Under the recent School Funding Reform an additional $12.2 billion will be allocated to Victorian schools.

Will my child be worse off?
No. Education funding for children will increase but will be delivered to your child in a new way through their school. The new agreement provides that schools with the most vulnerable students will receive the funding they need.

The students who will benefit the most from this funding agreement are those who are the most vulnerable.

Fact Sheet - Education Maintenance Allowance
Will meets Patty Mills!

Will was lucky enough to meet Patty Mills, a recent NBA Championship winner with the San Antonio Spurs, whilst holidaying in Darwin.

Patty is Australia’s first Indigenous player to win an NBA championship. What a great experience for Will, he even got to touch the NBA trophy!
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Parent/Teacher/Student conferences will be held for all Prep to Year 6 classes on Monday 28th and Wednesday 30th July.

The focus of the mid-year conference is for your child/ren to share their work and discuss how they are going with achieving their ‘Learning Goals’. Teachers will discuss the learning and progress of your child and strategies, to either extend their learning, or provide additional support. You may also wish to seek clarification on any aspects of the mid-year written report at this conference.

To book a time for your child’s P/T/S Conference, go online www.schoolinterviews.com.au. Follow the step-by-step process, using the Event Code BCASR. At the end of the ‘booking,’ confirmation is sent to your email address. Online bookings will open on Monday 14th July from 9.00am, and close on Monday 28th July at Noon.

Please remember, that once a time has been booked, the options for parents are reduced, so, be prompt to select your time. If all conference times are booked, please contact your child’s teacher to make an alternative time.

If your appointment is during the school day, you will also be informed where you can collect your child from and then proceed to their classroom to meet with their teacher.

The P/T/S Conference times are as follows:

**Monday 28th July**
- 2.30pm to 3.30pm, whole school assembly in the gym
- 3.00pm to 6.45pm – **All classes (5.00pm to 5.30pm staff break)**
- 4.00pm to 6.45pm – Specialist Teachers
  (PE, Art, Music & ICT in the Butterfly Room & Japanese in the LOTE Room)

**Wednesday 30th July**
- 2.30pm to 3.30pm, internal supervision (details to be announced)
- 3.00pm to 6.45pm – **All classes (5.00pm to 5.30pm staff break)**
- 4.00pm to 6.45pm – Specialist Teachers
  (PE, Art, Music & ICT in the Butterfly Room & Japanese in the LOTE Room)

If you would like to make an appointment with a Specialist teacher, (Melissa Brown - ICT, Sarah Nobbs - PE, Helen Atkins – Japanese, Dean Pearce – Performing Arts and Vicki Symons - Visual Arts) please select a time via the online booking system.

P/T/S conferences are highly effective in enhancing children’s motivation and understanding of their learning. The length of each P/T/S Conference is “up to 15 minutes”.

Prior to the conferences, teachers and children will spend time discussing how to take part in a Parent/Teacher/Student conference. We believe all parents and children will find the Conferences very informative and rewarding.

The Prep & Year 1 & 2 children will talk about their ‘Goals’ and achievements, as well as articulating their learning.

The Year 3 to 6 children will talk about their ‘Learning Goals’ and what they were aiming to achieve in the first half of the year, and how they progressed towards achieving their goals.

If a parent or teacher requires time for a ‘one-on-one’ discussion, this can be factored in towards the end of the Conference, or an alternative time/date can be arranged.

Jim Cahill
Principal

Wendy Emin
Assistant Principal
Reading & Writing Together Is Magic
Prep to Year 6 Students
Thursday 14th August 6.30pm

RWTIM is our annual 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 use our online booking system, this will open on Thursday 24th July and close on Friday 8th August at noon.

It’s that time of the year when the school community joins us in celebrating our students reading and writing during “Reading & Writing Together Is Magic” (RWTIM).

The evening commences with each child reading their published work. At the end of the evening, after reading their piece of “published writing,” each child will receive a ‘Certificate of Participation’.

For all students, “Reading & Writing Together Is Magic” will be held on Thursday 14th August starting at 6.30pm, and concluding at 7.30pm. All families are invited to attend, however all children must be accompanied by an adult.

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

Please go online and use the Online Booking System Event Code – G6EH6 www.schoolinterviews.com.au on or before, Friday 8th August to book your child/ren attendance. The online booking system will close at noon on Friday 8th August.

All families will be notified and provided details of the room your child/ren will be reading in, by Wednesday 13th August.

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

Book Fair
Book Fair Garden:
Catch the Reading Bug!

The Book Fair will be located in the Library.

Families will be able to purchase books:

Thursday 14th August from 3.30pm to 4.15pm and from 5.30pm to 6.15pm, prior to RWTIM. 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 until 8.00pm

Friday 15th August, from 8.30am to 9.00am and 3.30pm to 4.00pm.

Thank you – The Teaching & Learning Key Reference Group
On **Thursday 14th** and **Friday 15th August**, the school library will once again 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 free books for our library through commissions in sales—last year we earned $3,000 worth of quality books for our school!

**PREVIEW SESSIONS**
Throughout next week, all classes will have an opportunity to view the books and posters that will be for sale. Your child will fill out a Cool Books form, indicating which books they liked the best, along with their 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 from the fair).*

**BOOK FAIR OPEN TIMES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 14th August (RWTIM evening)</th>
<th>Friday 15th August</th>
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<tr>
<td>3:30pm - 4:15pm</td>
<td>8.30am - 9.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm - 6.15pm (prior to RWTIM)</td>
<td>3.30pm - 4.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30pm – 8:00pm (after RWTIM)</td>
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**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. **All orders, along with payments, will need to be returned to school in a clearly labelled envelope by Tuesday 19th August.**

We hope you enjoy this year’s Book Fair!

Vivien D’Aquino—Book Fair Coordinator

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**After School Care**

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable break. Just a reminder that a student free day will be coming up on Friday 22nd August.

Please look out for an email regarding bookings for the day. We will need a minimum of 15 children to attend for the program to open.

We have 2 new staff at aftercare, Hannah and Renee. Please introduce yourself to them and please make them feel welcome.

Thank you

OSHClub Team

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MSJ 2015 Limited places are available for 2015. Further information can be found at our website [www.msj.vic.edu.au](http://www.msj.vic.edu.au) or by contacting the College Registrar at registrar@msj.vic.edu.au.

**MSJ Open Mornings** - 9.30am – 10.30am (Thursday)
31st July, 28th August, 11th September, 13th November.

**MSJ Open Day 2014** Sunday 12th October, 11.00am – 2.00pm
PREP ENROLMENTS FOR 2015
Williamstown North Primary School
Enrolment Begins
We are in the process of finalising our Prep Enrolments for 2015. If you have not completed an enrolment form and lodged it with the school, please do by Friday 1st August.

If you have any enrolment questions or concerns regarding enrolments, please contact the general 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, 2014

The ‘2015 Prep Parent Information Night’ is only for Parents of confirmed Prep enrolments.
Tuesday 25th November 2014, 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 2015 Prep children will commence week beginning Monday 13th October, Week 2 of Term 4.

All details outlining transition will be included with the ‘Letter of Enrolment’ sent to families.

For our School Zone go to www.willynth.vic.edu.au / slider tab – Enrolments / WNPS Zone Map
Community Notice Board

Western Autistic School Information Sessions
Date: Tuesday 29th July 7.00pm to 8.00pm. Program: Depression and Anxiety—identifying and managing these additional stressors in your life. Details: Depression and anxiety are common in families with a child with Autism. This program looks at strategies to assist. Venue: Niddrie Campus, Cnr Garnet & Teague Streets Niddrie (childcare available).
For more information on these two programs contact Margaret Itsines, Social Worker Western Autistic School 9097 2000.

Want to Play Netball? Willi Tigers Netball Club (WTNC) is calling all interested players (boys and girls) for Summer Season, commencing Term 4, 2014. Come along and meet our Players, Coaches and Committee Members to find out more about the Club! Club Information Days: Wednesday 23rd and 30th July, Time: 4pm to 7pm, Where: Williamstown High School Gym, Corner Pasco Street & Melbourne Road. Depending on the team, training is an hour on Tuesday afternoons, OR Wednesday afternoons between 4-7pm. Games are on Saturdays, between 12.15pm and 5pm, at the Altona Netball Centre, Queen St, Altona Meadows. Please contact WTNC for further information willi.tigers@gmail.com

Anger management classes—The Laverton Community Centre and Neighbourhood House is running women’s anger management, self-esteem and assertion for women courses, starting August 12th. Courses are also provided in meditation and for those struggling with mental health. The centre is in the Laverton Community Hub 95-105 Railway Avenue. Bookings are essential. Call 8368 0177 or Email reception@lcis.org.au

World Education Program (WEP) Australia is a not-for-profit student exchange organisation. We are now looking for volunteer host families interested in welcoming an exchange student into their home and family in January 2015. If you have any questions about our programs, please do not hesitate to contact us. Phone: +61 (0) 3 9598 4733 In Australia only: 1300 88 4733 Fax: +61 3 9598 4233.

2nd Newport Scout Group is currently holding a membership drive for interested Cubs Scouts aged 7 1/2 – 9 years old and meets on a Monday night from 7.30pm at the Scout Hall, Market St, Newport next to the Bowling Green. The Leader in charge is Leona Gresty and can be contacted on 0418 518 689 for further information. And Leaders hold a current Working with Children and police checks. Yours in Scouting, Leona Gresty Cub Scout Leader, 2nd Newport Scout Group. paulhyman1958@gmail.com

Celebrate National Tree Day
Help us Celebrate National Tree Day
Sunday, 27th July 2014 from 10.00am to 1.00pm
Altona Coastal Park, Altona Road Seabrook (across from IGA)
Meet and register at the gate next to the Pinnet Scout camp
Come along to this FREE event and plant a tree, grow a shrub with local community members and help create a healthier environment for our local wildlife.
National Tree Day is a Penguin Foundation initiative that will be held around Australia on Sunday, 27th July.
In 2013, Australians were actively involved in planting trees and shrubs in their local area.
National Tree Day activities at Altona Coastal Park will include:
Trees planting;
Free barbecue; and
Free entertainment by local performance group The Comilies.
It is particularly important that this day is used to be spent outside of your local area. For more information, visit www.treeidayaustralia.org.au
ENROLMENT FOOTY TERM 3 2014

When: Thursdays, Term 3 2014
Classes commence: 24/7/14
Classes conclude: 11/9/14
Time: 3:40pm - 4:40pm Year Levels: F-4
Venue: Williamstown North Primary School
The cost per student per term is $111

Williamstown North Primary School

Year Level:
Name(s):
Address:
Date Of Birth: ______ / ______ / ______
Phone (Home): ___________ Mobile/Work: ___________
Email Address:
Parents Consent: I hereby authorize Big 5 Sports and Dance Oz to act on
my behalf should my child require medical attention, and release Big 5
Sports and Dance Oz from any liability incurred by my child at a Big 5
Sports or Dance Oz Program.
Parents Name: ______________________________
Parents Signature: __________________________

Medical Conditions: __________________________

At the completion of the after school class does your child:

[ ] Go to aftercare
[ ] Get collected

Credit Card Payment: (Please tick)
[ ] Visa
[ ] MasterCard

Card Number: ______ ______ ______ ______
Expiration Date: ______ / ______

Amount: $_________
Card Security Code: ______ ______