Principal’s Report

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN)

Next Week, Year 3 and 5 students will complete a number of tests as part of the 2015 NAPLAN schedule.

This annual assessment program is an initiative that includes students in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 from all over Australia. The tests cover the important areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

A flyer will be distributed to all parents who have children in Years 3 & 5, providing further details of this program. Please note the following schedule for next week’s testing, as we hope to have all Year 3 and 5 students in attendance for these tests:

**Tuesday 12th May:**
Language Conventions (40 minutes) & Writing (40 minutes)

**Wednesday 13th May:**
Year 3 Reading (45 minutes) & Year 5 Reading (50 minutes)

**Thursday 14th May:**
Year 3 Numeracy (45 minutes) & Year 5 Numeracy (50 minutes)

Whilst most of this testing will occur in the morning sessions, it will vary a little from class to class as we incorporate these tests into our regular timetable. Please contact your child’s teacher if by chance you need any further details regarding NAPLAN.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION (SRI)

During the first week of this term we distributed parent consent forms to all families in Years 1 – 4 seeking authorisation for students to participate in this year’s Special Religious Instruction program.

The percentage of consent forms received for each year level was quite low, averaging between 10-15%. After meeting with the SRI coordinators last Friday, it was mutually agreed that it was not viable to proceed with an SRI program for 2015 given this very low response rate.

Thank you to all families who returned these forms. Pending the availability of authorised instructors each year, the school will continue to offer this program on an annual basis; however we will only proceed with
its implementation if there is sufficient demand for the program.

My sincere thanks to Astrid Jasper and Patti Gerkins (SRI Coordinators) for all of their work behind the scenes to offer the program to the school again in 2015.

**Family Life Sessions**

We had a terrific response to our Family Life information sessions last Wednesday evening with over two hundred parents and students in attendance. We hope everyone found these sessions to be both informative & engaging and have helped to foster more comfortable discussions at home on the topics ‘Where Did I Come From?’ and ‘Preparing for Puberty’.

**3 Step Rule**

Have you heard your child talking about the three step rule?

I thought I would take the opportunity this week to discuss what the three step rule is at school and how it supports student wellbeing.

Firstly, we encourage all students to use the three step rule when experiencing any problems in the playground at recesses and lunchtimes. In skilling students to use the three step rule, we are essentially empowering them to be positively assertive when interacting with their peers.

When a student is involved in a situation where they do not want a particular behaviour to continue from another student, during the first step they simply say – ‘Stop it, I don’t like it when ……”’ We normally find that when a student verbalises this first step, thereby making the other student aware that the behaviour is causing a problem, then this behaviour in most cases ceases.

If by chance an unwanted behaviour continues, during the second step the student is then encouraged to say – ‘Stop it, I don’t like it, or I will need to tell the teacher’. When using the second step, a student is again highlighting the unwanted behaviour, but also explaining that a teacher will be needed if the behaviour continues.

If an unwanted behaviour continues after a student has verbalised the first two steps, then the student lets the other student know that they are getting the yard duty teacher to help sort out the problem.

In encouraging students to use the three step rule, we find that they are equipped to deal with most minor infractions in the playground. We also find that they become more confident at articulating their feelings and have a greater sense of empowerment within their peer group. If you get a chance at home, it would be great if you could discuss the three step rule as strategy which can be used at school and possibly modified to use in other contexts.

**Mother’s Day Stall**

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, our annual Mother’s Day stall will be held tomorrow morning in the gym. Classes will be rostered to attend the stall, with all students having the opportunity to purchase a small ‘treat’ for mum. We recommend that children bring along five dollars to spend at the stall, with junior students bringing their money in a named envelope. A huge thank you again to Helen Parker and Rachelle Burbidge (parents), for coordinating this year’s stall.

Enjoy the rest of the week

Jim Cahill—Principal

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**Mother’s Day Stall Reminder**

Mother’s Day Stall tomorrow from 9.00am – 1.00pm

There will be great gifts for both mums and grandmas ranging in price from $1.00 - $5.00. Also send along a carry bag so your child can keep your lovely gift a surprise. We hope you love your gift as much as we love seeing the smiles on your children’s faces as they choose their special present.

Thank you, Helen Parker & Rachelle Burbidge
PREP ENROLMENTS FOR 2016

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.

Additional School Tours will be conducted on
Wednesday 20th May – 11.30am
Wednesday 3rd June – 9.30am
Wednesday 17th June – 10.00am
Tuesday 21st July – 11.30am

Please contact the school office to register for a tour.

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 commence week beginning Monday 12th October, Week 2 of Term 4.

All transition details 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

The NEW 2015-2016 Entertainment Book is here
Last years books expire June 1st so get your new book soon.
Willy High Parents & Friends are pleased again to be able to offer Willy North families the chance to purchase the Entertainment Books. The NEW 2015-2016 Entertainment Book has arrived at our school offices at Bayview and Pasco Street! Both Book and the New Digital version for smart phone users is available.

Our Entertainment Book fundraising assists school purchase items that are not covered in capitol expenditure. We hope this year to have enough funds to assist with the plans to establish shade areas at Bayview. Remember primary school kids today are secondary school kids tomorrow.

You can collect books from either school office or order online. Order forms are available at WNPS school office or you can order directly via the link https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/1884e76. For any queries or to arrange a book pickup contact our Entertainment Books coordinator Karen Needs on Phone: 0408547539 Email: karenneeds@hotmail.com We can also get Books from other regions if you are travelling, or perhaps buying for a gift.

Want to know more about Entertainment books? – Go to www.entertainmentbook.com.au
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 to be added to the roster— taylor.linda.t1@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Parents on the roster for Friday 8th May are: - Julia Hacket, Arlene Lawrence, Mel Maskey, Camilla Thompson, Zohreh Basiri, Kim Pamnone, Larissa Deeth, Andrea Crabtree, Helen Parker and Kate Groombridge.

Canteen
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 7th May— Julia Hackett       Friday 8th May— Tracey Somerville
Wednesday 13th May— Rachelle Burbridge
Thursday 14th May— Anne Tobin         Friday 15th May— Maha Sidaoui

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 will also be available for purchase online. Email portmelbourne@psw.com.au. Trading hours for Term One and Term Four 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 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.

After School Care

Student Free Day is on Monday 18th May. Please remember to book your child into OSHC by logging onto the OSHClub website (choose After Care Tab).

There are also some children that have been signing the in/out sheet at OSHC. Please be aware that this is a legal document only to be signed by parents or legal guardians. Children are not to sign in/out on these sheets.

Children at After School Care will be collecting old blankets for the RSPCA, Lost Dogs home. We have a box located at the sign in/out area to collect these. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

If any parents have old clothes, bags etc. that children could use for dress-ups these would be greatly appreciated. A big thankyou to Rizza (Evelyn & Nathans mother) for donating some cardboard and cardboard tubes to the program.

Thank you—OSHclub Staff

Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club are in search of keen boys or girls born 2008, 2009 or 2010 to play in their under 8’s teams for the Winter season beginning 22nd May. One hour training in Williamstown per week and 30 minute games are played at Altona Stadium at 5.10pm on Friday evenings. If interested, please contact David Weston email: under8teams@williamstowncannons.org.au or Phone: 0438 110 373.

SUSTAINABILITY and ENVIRONMENT

TREE OF LEAVES LOUIS JOEL ARTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ALTONA

As part of Art in Public Places, late last year many children at Willy North had the opportunity to decorate a paper gumleaf and write a personal sustainability message for our community. This year Mr Mulvey’s class wrote on a leaf also. The leaves were laminated and placed on wooden trees which are now on display at the front of the community centre. The trees will be on display this week and this weekend, so if you are passing and would like to read the varied sustainability messages the address is 5 Sargood St Altona.

Thank you
Robyn Law
Introducing

[Scholastic]

Book Clubs LOOP
for Parents

NOW AVAILABLE AS AN APP!

LOOP is the NEW Scholastic Book Clubs Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, our new platform makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our NEW iPhone and iPad app from the App Store!

- For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child’s class
- Add your child’s first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club brochure
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child’s classroom if you order by the close date
- There’s no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

For a quick how-to-order video, log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP and click on HELP in the top menu.
Help your children make sense of natural disasters

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as natural disasters. In reality we can’t do this.

Recent natural disasters wreak incredible havoc on so many people’s lives and will no doubt leave an indelible imprint on our collective psyches. Graphic images have been brought into our living rooms via the media over the last few weeks, and will continue to do so in the immediate future.

As adults we all want our children to live carefree lives and keep them from the pain and even horror of tragedies such as natural disasters. In reality we can’t do this.

So what is a parent, teacher, or other caring adult to do when the natural disasters fill the airwaves and the consciousness of society? Here are some ideas:

1. Reassure children that they are safe
   The consistency of the images can be frightening for young children who don’t understand the notion of distance and have difficulty distinguishing between reality and fiction. Let them know that while this event is indeed happening it will not affect them directly.

2. Be available
   Let kids know that it is okay to talk about the unpleasant events. Listen to what they think and feel. By listening, you can find out if they have misunderstandings, and you can learn more about the support that they need. You do not need to explain more than they are ready to hear, but be willing to answer their questions.

3. Help children process what they see and hear, particularly through television
   Children are good observers but can be poor interpreters of events that are out of their level of understanding.

4. Support children’s concerns for others
   They may have genuine concerns for the suffering that will occur and they may need an outlet for those concerns. It is heartwarming to see this empathy in children for the concerns of others.

5. Let them explore feelings beyond fear
   Many children may feel sad or even angry with these events so let them express the full range of emotions. They may feel sadder for the loss of wildlife, than for loss of human life, which is impersonal for them.

6. Help children and young people find a legitimate course of action if they wish
   Action is a great antidote to stress and anxiety so finding simple ways to help, including donating some pocket money can assist kids to cope and teaches them to contribute.

7. Avoid keeping the television on all the time
   The visual nature of the media means that images are repeated over and over, which can be both distressing to some and desensitizing to others.

8. Be aware of your own actions
   Children will take their cues from you and if they see you focusing on it in an unhealthy way then they will focus on it too. Let them know that it is happening but it should not dominate their lives.

9. Take action yourself
   Children who know their parents, teachers, or other significant caregivers are working to make a difference feel hopeful. They feel safer and more positive about the future. So do something. It will make you feel more hopeful, too. And hope is one of the most valuable gifts we can give children and ourselves.

Children’s worlds can be affected in ways that we can’t even conceive of so adults need to be both sensitive to children’s needs and mindful of what they say and how they act in front of children.

In difficult times, it is worth remembering what adults and children need most are each other.
Willy French Club for Kids

French Club is in its 5th year. We are a small group of kids from different schools who meet to role-play, sing and play games to develop our French language skills.

Francoise is our real French teacher and she is highly experienced and cares about our kids.

Wednesdays 3.50-4.50pm  Williamstown Community Centre

Enquiries welcome

Jim Callahan 0432 719 034
jim.callahan@lcfclubs.com.au