Principal’s Report

WELCOME TO 2016

A very warm welcome to all students, staff & parents as we get the 2016 school year underway.

Our 742 students have had a very smooth start to the year with all classes settling in beautifully and quickly establishing their classroom routines and learning programs. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome our new members of the Willy North staff who are all doing a great job in acquainting themselves with all of the school's operations: Belinda Witchell & Bronwyn Murray (Prep), Tess Bullock & Danielle Buttigieg (Year 1), Zach Schmidt (Year 2), Allie Gripper & Lauren McGill (Year 3), Tammy Voukelatos (4V every Tuesday), Tim Boylan (Year 5) and Dale Evans (Year 6).

If you get a chance, please pop into your child’s class to introduce yourself to our wonderful new teachers.

HOLIDAY WORKS

It has been a very busy summer holidays with extensive facilities works completed. We had hoped that most of these works would have been finished for the start of the school year, however we anticipate another fortnight will be needed to ensure everything is finalised.

The holidays began with the demolition of the old shelter shed. A new classroom was then installed on the site of the shelter shed, with a further classroom installed in the area previously referred to as the Federation garden. The school will take possession of both of these buildings by the end of this week, with associated pathways and landscaping soon to be completed. Art classes will be held in the new building (room 25) next to gym for two days a week, whilst both rooms will be used to support our Intervention and Extension classes throughout 2016. The new classroom near the Junior Learning Centre (room 9), will also be used for Information Sessions, year levels assemblies etc. It is terrific that we will be able to operate this year with
additional spaces to support our many programs across the school. In addition to our two new classrooms, our new bike shelter has also been installed. This was particularly timely given the downpours we had in the first few days of school! Our students can now be assured that their bikes will be dry when they go home each day. It has been interesting to note this week, the growing numbers of students riding to school this week, which is great to see. We have some further work to be done on this structure over the next fortnight to add the finishing touches – what a fabulous outcome from our 2015 Fete proceeds!

Painting works continued in all classrooms over the break, with our contractors now ‘touching up’ recently painted rooms to ensure every learning space/corridor is well presented. All playgrounds have also been mulched, sand pits topped up, gutters cleaned etc.

Over the next fortnight there will be extensive concreting, asphalting and turf works down throughout the grounds to ensure we have the best facilities available for our students. How lucky we are to be at Willy North! These photos capture some of new buildings and works.

**School Council Nominations**

All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a School Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Parents on School Councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a School Council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging/engagement.

Each year, approximately half of the School Council retires to allow new members to become involved. To this end, we are now formally calling for nominations for the 2016/2017 Williamstown North PS School Council.

Membership on the council is for a period of two years and regular meetings are held every 2 – 3 weeks. Councillors will become involved in our three subcommittees of council: Education, Facilities & Finance and Community Engagement. If you would like to know more about being a councillor, don’t hesitate to give me a call or send an email at cahill.jim.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

In 2016, we have five parent vacancies on School Council for a full period of two years.

**Nominations for School Council will close at 4.00pm on Wednesday 10th February. Please contact me for a nomination form if you are interested. If we receive more nominations that positions available, an election process will follow in the coming weeks.**

**COMPASS**

The rebuilding of one of our servers over the holidays resulted in a loss of connectivity with our Compass platform. I apologise to any families who were trying to access Compass over the break; particularly in regards to downloading student reports from 2015.

Our technicians have been working around the clock to restore Compass and we hope that all families now have full access.

If by chance you have misplaced you family’s login details, please don’t hesitate to contact Belinda Gill in our office via phone 9397 5722 or via email at gill.belinda.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

During the year we will continue to broaden our use of this platform. At the moment you can go on at any time to record any absences for your child/ren. In the coming months we will start to post excursion notices and permission forms on line, so it will be really important for every family to be connected. Don’t hesitate to let us know if you need any assistance with Compass.
**UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSIONS**

To help provide parents with an overview of the school year and the programs we will be conducting at each level, we have scheduled parent information sessions in week four of this term. Please note the times below for your planning; we anticipate each session will run between 30 – 45 minutes. Further details will be available over the next few weeks:

- **Years 3 & 4, Monday 15th February at 5.00pm**
- **Prep, Years 5 & 6, Tuesday 16th February at 5.00pm**
- **Years 1 & 2, Wednesday 17th February at 5.00pm.**

Locations of these parent information session will be advised shortly.

Enjoy the rest of 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. Fresh Fruit Friday continues to need parent volunteers. If you are available on a Friday, please email Linda Taylor directly, so she can add you to the roster—taylor.linda.l1@edumail.vic.gov.au. There is no roster for this week, so if any parents are available to assist, please meet in the staffroom at 9.00am.

**Canteen**
Julianne Weir manages our Canteen and is always very appreciative of the time parents or family members can volunteer to help in the Canteen. Julianne 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 4th February—HELP NEEDED  
Friday 5th February—HELP NEEDED  
Wednesday 10th February—HELP NEEDED  
Thursday 11th February—HELP NEEDED  
Friday 12th February—HELP NEEDED

**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. Summer Trading hours are Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm, Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm and closed on Sunday.

**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** 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. 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.

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new year and we hope you all had a fantastic break. Please remember that Term One is a Sunsmart term and the Sunsmart policy, ‘No Hat, No Outdoor Play,’ does apply.

Children will have sunscreen applied at Before and After care before going outside. Oshclub use the Coles brand sunscreen. If your child cannot, or is allergic to Coles brand screen, please see staff at the program. Hats are also required. If would be a great if parents of the younger children place a spare hat in the front pocket of their child’s bag, to ensure they have a hat for Before and After care.

Parents, we also need all medical forms and medications in relation to your child’s Anaphylaxis, Asthma or Allergy. Please check all bookings for your child/children. Children must be booked into the program through the Oshclub website, using your family login information. It is important that your booking is made, to ensure your child/ren are accounted for at the program. Staff look out for children that don’t arrive promptly.

Just a reminder that Prep children will be taken to their classroom from Before care and picked up from their classroom for After care.

Thanks You—OSHCLUB Staff
Dear Parents/Guardian,

Our Canteen lunch days are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and our Canteen is managed by Julieanne. We rely on parents to assist in the Canteen from 9.00am to 2.00pm for counter sales and to prepare lunches on these days.

For parents new to the school, it is a great way to meet other parents and become familiar with the school. Children also enjoy seeing ‘mum or dad’ or even ‘nan’ helping.

The tasks are quite easy and for new helpers, there are people there to ‘train’ and support you.

Any amount of time is appreciated. Parents may nominate how often they can assist, whether it be for a couple of hours, or a full day (9.00am to 2.30pm).

We have a ‘Toddler Play Area’ in the foyer of the Gym for parents who have pre-school age children. (Young children are not allowed in the Canteen area due to occupational health and safety requirements).

This year if you can assist for any length of time, please complete the “Reply Slip” below and return to the School Office by Monday 8th February, or send an email to gill.belinda.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Please note: our Canteen Manager, Julieanne, is there to assist with all tasks on lunch order days so volunteers do not work unassisted. All Canteen helpers are required to have a Working With Children Card.

Please see the Reply Slip below.

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**I WOULD LOVE TO HELP IN THE CANTEEN**

Parent/Guardian Name: ____________________________________________________________

Child’s Name: ____________________________________ Child’s Class: ________

Phone No: __________________________________________

Days Available To Work (Please ✔)

- Wednesdays: ☐
- Thursdays: ☐
- Fridays: ☐
- Any day: ☐

Frequency (Please Circle)

- WEEKLY
- MONTHLY
- TERMLY
- OCCASIONALLY (Provide Details)
- EMERGENCY HELPER (Provide Details)

Preferred Time:

- ☐ 9.00am - 11.30am
  
  (Sort money, check orders, organise change, Organise ‘non-perishable’ items for orders, assist with recess sales)

- ☐ 12:30pm - 2.00pm
  
  (Pack lunch baskets, assist with lunch time sales)

- ☐ 9.00am – 2.00pm
  
  (All of the above)

* Remember there is a separate ‘Toddler Play Area’ for parents with pre-school age children.
WNPS Services Program 2016

Below are the services that our school currently provides. If you have some spare time and would like to be involved in one or more of these programs, please provide your details on the Reply Slip below and return it to the General Office.

If you are not sure what it entails, please contact the office.

WNPS SCHOOL SERVICES PROGRAMS REPLY SLIP FOR 2016

Parent/s Name: __________________________________________________________

Child/ren: ____________________________________________________________ Class/es: _______

Daytime Phone Number/s: _____________________________________________ __________________________

I would like to assist with the following program/s: -

- o Swap Shop
- o Canteen (See separate sheet)
- o Fresh Fruit Friday (See separate sheet)
- o Student Banking
- o Prep & New Families BBQ/Picnic
- o Lost Property
- o Sick Bay Washing
- o Family Life Education
- o Mother’s Day Stall
- o Father’s Day Stall

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY – Reply Slip

A big thank you to all the everyone who have kindly volunteered to be part of Fresh Fruit Friday in the past. Without your assistance this program could not happen.

We need volunteers to assist in 2016. Please complete the Reply Slip and return it to the General Office to be part of a team that has lots of fun in helping to provide fresh fruit to all the students each Friday morning from 9.00am to 10.00am.

I can assist

- o Weekly
- o Fortnightly
- o Monthly

Parent Name: __________________________________________________________

Child’s Name: __________________________________________________________ Class: _______

Contact Numbers: Home: ____________________________

Mobile: ____________________________

Email: ____________________________
Get involved in the School Banking program

Williamstown North is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students. The School Banking program provides children with an opportunity to deposit money into their Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at school each week. The program is about how often your child makes deposits, not how much they deposit.

To encourage regular savings behaviour, the program offers an exciting Rewards Program. Every deposit earns your child a silver Dollarmites token, and once they've collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for a reward.

The rewards available during 2016 are:
- Flying Snake Tail
- Wildlife Writer Set
- Mud Splat Handball
- Outback Pat Bag Tag
- Backtrack Eraser Pen
- Jump and Skip Rope
- Bush Fly Fan
- Wriggly Glow Worm

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives $5.00 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5.00% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

Getting involved in School Banking is easy!

You can get involved in the School Banking program by opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at your local branch. All you need to bring is your current identification as well as your child’s birth certificate. If you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer and have NetBank, you can open an account online.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet.

School Banking day is **Wednesday**. Each week please hand your deposit book to your child's teacher for processing by our School Banking Volunteers.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, an Information pack will be sent home with your child soon.

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**SWAP SHOP SALE—Term One**

*Swap shop will open on Monday 8th February & Monday 21st March from 3.15pm - 4.00pm in the old Uniform Shop by the Canteen.*

All second hand clothing has been reduced. Limited numbers of brand new, unworn and old stock is available at reduced prices.

**Prices are as follows:**

- $5.00 items: Rugby tops, Baseball jackets, Long sleeve polos, Girls long pants, Track pants, Stussy pants, Short sleeve polos, Stussy shorts & Skorts
- Winter tunics: $15.00, Summer dresses: $10.00, Bike Shorts: $2.00, Bottle green socks: $1.00 (Size 5-8 only)

**CASH ONLY SALES (NO EFTPOS AVAILABLE)** Please bring small change and BYO bag

If you have any school clothing you no longer need or want, the Swap Shop would greatly appreciate your donation. Clothing should be in reasonably good condition and clean. Please only donate Polo and Rugby tops with the school logo. Any donations of clothing can be dropped off at the office.

Thank you, Leisha Campbell – Swap Shop Coordinator
CLASS REPRESENTATIVES PROGRAM 2016

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM

Now is the time to put your name forward to be a Class Representative for your child/ren’s class/es!

Williamstown North Primary School encourages the active involvement of parents and guardians in the life of the school. The Class Representatives Program enhances communication and engagement between teachers and parents to more actively support learning in the home environment and to assist parents in building relationships with other families in the school community.

The Program is supported by a network of parents, called Class Representatives, and provides parents with a fortnightly eNewsletter giving an overview of their child’s classroom literacy, numeracy and inquiry activities, as well as details of classroom excursions and parent social outings.

Class Representatives coordinate the Class Rep Program for their child's class. This role includes:

- Maintaining and distributing a parent contact list for your class
- Facilitating regular communication between the classroom teacher and parents via a fortnightly class ‘eNewsletter’
- Organising social events for the parents in your class to help them get to know each other. Events may include family picnics or parent dinners
- Where requested by teachers, organising parent helpers for class activities and programs as required (ie swimming, reading, sports events, excursions)
- Encouraging parent involvement in classroom and whole school activities
- Welcoming new families to the class and encouraging their participation in the enews program
- Supporting and fostering a strong sense of the School as a ‘community’.

Required skills of Class Representatives:

- The role is accessible and manageable for parents who are in paid work or ‘at home’ parents
- Sound knowledge of Microsoft Word
- Class Reps are respectful of everyone’s privacy and ensure that the confidentiality of teachers, students and parents is maintained at all times
- Friendly and reliable!

How to become a Class Representative:

We are looking for one to two parents for each class. Please email your expression of interest in the role to the Class Representative Program Coordinators, Julie Noonan and Toni Burton at wnpsclassreps@gmail.com by Monday 8th February. PLEASE DO NOT APPROACH TEACHERS DIRECTLY REGARDING THIS ROLE. Please provide your name, your child/ren's name/s and the class/es you would like to nominate to be a Class Representative for, along with your contact details.

All nominations will be considered by the Schools Leadership Team and Reps will be notified early in Term One.
Bunches of Lunches
Making quick, healthy and yummy school lunches
Saturday 13 February
10am - 1pm
$10 / person
(tickets limited to 20 people)
Altona P-9 College Corner of Grieve and Civic Pde, Altona
Book at: Eventbrite: Bunches of Lunches 2016
Queries please email tencarthur@gmail.com

This workshop teaches to make a week's food options for that are simple to
participants how worth of healthy school lunches prepare.
Participants take home 5 lunch items, recipes and lots of inspiration
from this workshop. Bring a few take away containers on the day.

This Sustainable Living Festival event is part of the workshop series
at Altona P-9 College's Seed Savers and Beyond garden program
which covers food sustainability, seasonality and healthy, delicious
meals to grow and eat.

Sponsored by: Transition Hoppers Bay
As part of the Sustainable Living Festival's State of Sustainability
Program 2016

Mobile: 0401 133 996
Fax: (03) 9748 3340
4/53 Elm Park Drive, Hoppers Crossing, VIC, 3029
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FRENCH CLUB!

Fun French for Kids
Wednesdays 3.45pm - 4.45pm
Williamstown Community Centre
14 Thompson St

Limited places available.
Our club is starting its 4th year!
✓ French the fun way through games, stories, songs and activities - a learning program designed especially for 5-11 year olds
✓ Native speaker and experienced teacher of French
✓ Enable your child to develop an ear and a feel for foreign language early

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FAMILY AND FRIENDS FUN DAY
The Jawbone Marine Sanctuary-Williamstown
February 7th 10-12pm
BYO Lunch/ BBQ available/ Refreshments

Displays of Marine Animals
or
Meet and Talk to a Marine Scientist

Where-Jawbone Sanctuary, parking at the end of Rifle Range Rd
Facebook- Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group