**Issue 34 – November 3rd, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 7th November</td>
<td>Coffee and Chat with Ty and Rae after Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th November</td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th November</td>
<td>Years 5 and 6 Personal Health - Session 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th November</td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th November</td>
<td>School Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18th November</td>
<td>Foundation Mindfulness Incursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22nd November</td>
<td>2017 Foundation Transition - Session 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23rd November</td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23rd November</td>
<td>Year 5 Stay Late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 25th November</td>
<td>Foundation to Year 4 Mega Stay Late</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRINCIPAL REPORT**

Hello Everyone,

Welcome back after the long weekend, I hope you enjoyed the short break before the second half of term 4. Our teachers are currently working through their end of year assessment and creating semester two reports. The reports that come home this semester will be similar to previous reports with a graphic demonstrating student achievement against the expected standard for the child’s year level. There will also be a letter grade as with previous years where ‘C’ represents expected achievement. A grade of ‘A’ or ‘B’ indicates achievement above the expected level of achievement while a ‘D’ or ‘E’ represents achievement below. Of significant importance is student growth so please look carefully to observe how far your child has progressed over the past 12 months of school.

We have been advised by the curriculum authority that reporting will change over the coming years, with schools having more flexibility in designing custom reports with unique grade systems. Schools will also have greater scope to personalise learning targets for students in particular curriculum areas and allocate assessments on their achievement towards these goals. We will investigate this further in the new year and keep the school community informed of any improvements we plan for 2017.

A huge thank you to our community for your patience and understanding while our old art and before/after school care rooms were removed and brand new classrooms were delivered. Work will continue for a short time with services and access ramps still needing to be completed. The new classrooms will be a wonderful addition to our already outstanding physical environment.

Later this term all students will be involved in ‘stay late’ experienced here at school. Our policy has been to conduct camping programs for year 3-6 every second year, with alternate years being a stay late experience. This reduces financial stress on our families and ensures that the bi-yearly camps are a feature when scheduled. The teachers are planning great experiences that range from physical activity, special meals and movie screenings.

Until next week,

Ty Hoggins
Principal
Hello Everyone,

I am excited to share that next week our Year 5 students will have the opportunity to begin the process of Student Leadership applications for 2017. The structure of our Student Leadership in 2017 will look a bit different to what it has in past years. While our School Captains and Vice Captains will continue to play an important role in representing our students and our school, the Prefects, as has been in the past, will be replaced by House Captains and Vice Captains.

At Whittlesea Primary School our Student Leadership program aims to;

- Provide opportunities for students to be outstanding role models for other students, modelling the Whittlesea Primary School values of Community, Confidence, Honesty, Excellence and Respect
- Demonstrate positive leadership ability, good sportsmanship, excellent organisational skills and show initiative
- Inspire reliability, helpfulness and courteousness to all students, staff, parents and school visitors
- Create a whole school community where every member feels their contribution is valuable.

As the end of this school year fast approaches it is timely to remind our families to save the date for our special December assembly, Wednesday 14\textsuperscript{th} December. This assembly will be in lieu of our normal Monday assembly on the 12\textsuperscript{th} December. All of our families are invited to attend this event so please save the date! This assembly will showcase year level Christmas carols and the announcement of our successful School and House Captains for 2017. Following this assembly there will be a morning tea to thank all of the parent helpers who have volunteered in our classrooms and attended excursions to support our children and teachers throughout the year.

At our most recent school council meeting a new policy relating to Working with Children Checks was ratified, outlining that at Whittlesea Primary School all volunteers, including parent helpers are required to have a current Working with Children Check (WWCC). This process will be in place for the start of the 2017 school year. While there are exemptions to this policy, Whittlesea Primary School reserves the right to request a WWCC if the Principal considers it necessary. As many of our parent helpers are often working with children additional to their own child in the classroom or on excursions, WWCC are necessary moving forward.

If you would like to be a parent helper in 2017 you can apply for a WWCC at \url{http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/}

Victorian applicants need to take the following items to a participating Victorian Australia Post outlet to lodge;

- application summary and receipt
- a passport size photo of yourself
- documents that prove your identity
- volunteer checks are free

With the warmer weather approaching, a reminder to return your Early Years School Swimming Program consent forms by Thursday 17\textsuperscript{th} November if you would your child to participate.

I am really looking forward to the Whittlesea Show this weekend; I hope to see you there!

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend with your family 😊

Rae Gittos
Assistant Principal

\textbf{STATE SCHOOL SPECTACULAR}

The highlights package of the Victorian State School's Spectacular will be aired on Channel 7 on Saturday December 3 at 7pm.
Last Friday four teams from years 5&6 participated in the District Cricket Round Robin Competition. They played Blast20 45 minute games where all team members batted for two overs, bowled one over and wicket kept for one over. The games were exciting with quick runs being taken in a small field. Our teams played well and won many games. Our two girls teams showed their skills by being the winners on the day.

The A boys won two games and lost two games so didn’t play in the finals.

The B boys team won two games and lost won game. They play in the semi-final but were beaten by Hazelglen, who won overall.

The A girls won three games and lost one game before beating Marymede in the final.

The B girls won all of their games and beat Marymede in the final. This was a fantastic result for our girls who had put in some valuable bowling practice in the gym and showed great improvement during this time.

The teams were:
A Boys- Luke, Tyson, Jay, Jack M, Ash, Lewis, Liam, Nathan and Oscar
B Boys – Riley M, Josh, Shannyn, Chace, Ethan, Blake B, Blake R, Riley and Brayden
A Girls- Charlee, Krislon, Ashlea, Chloe, Imogen, Hayley, Keeley, Hannah and Mia
B Girls- Chelsea, Tara, Emilee, Trishy, Kelsey, Lani, Tegan and Georgia

Thank you to two of our parents who each looked after a team for the day.

Cheryl Abbott
Physical Education Teacher
Making decisions: Suggestions for families

Learning to make good decisions helps children become more independent and responsible. A good decision is one that, on balance, is most likely to lead to a positive outcome for everyone concerned. Learning to consider the situation carefully and weigh up the options before coming to a decision helps children make better decisions. It also helps them to understand and take into account others’ views when making decisions that affect them.

How you can help

Allow children to practise making choices
Giving children opportunities to make choices helps to build their sense of responsibility as well as their decision-making skills. It is important that the choice really is theirs, so provide options that you will be happy with no matter which they choose. Showing interest in their choice helps to reinforce that you see their decisions as important.

Talk about everyday decisions
Involve children in your own decision-making. For example, you might say, “I’m trying to decide whether to take up a sport to get fit or go to a dance class. Which do you think I should do?” Talk through the advantages and disadvantages of each suggestion so your child can learn how to thoughtfully evaluate different options.

Support children to use decision-making steps
As children develop their skills for thinking through decisions, teach them the steps of decision-making and show them how to use them effectively. Decision-making steps:

• Identify the decision to be made
• Think of options
• Evaluate the options and choose the best one
• Put your choice into action and check how it works

Ask questions that promote thoughtful decisions
“What do you like about that?”, “What makes this the best option?”, “How would this work?”, “Can you think of any reasons why...?” Asking questions that prompt children to think through their reasons for choosing a particular option helps them learn how to evaluate options and think through consequences.

Encourage children to set achievable goals
Setting their own goals to work towards encourages children to plan and think ahead. It helps them understand the link between making decisions and taking action. Appropriate goals for children to choose include developing a new skill (eg learning to play chess, learning to swim), improving performance in school work or in an area of particular interest (eg learning to play a particular piece of music, masters a difficult skill in sport), or earning pocket money to save for something special. It is important that the goals set are achievable and motivating for the child. In addition, the steps needed to reach goals need to be definite, clear and small enough for the child to manage. Providing praise and acknowledgment for small steps of progress supports children to meet their goals.

When children make poor decisions

Check your expectations
Are the decisions you want them to make appropriate for their age and ability? Do children understand what they need to think about to make an effective decision? Are the options clear? If not, then you may be expecting too much and need to make the task simpler or take charge of the decision yourself.

Everyone makes mistakes sometimes
Allowing children to experience the consequences of their decisions can provide useful lessons in responsibility. It is easier for children to accept difficult or disappointing consequences when they feel supported and cared for as they learn to correct their mistakes.

Talk through good and poor decisions
Children learn best when they are calmly helped to think through the outcomes of their decisions and supported in making a better choice next time. Helping them to accept responsibility for mistakes and plan how to improve the situation teaches skills for more effective decision making.
Good Values Are Eternal

Of the education we offer, either at school or at home, I think the most important for well-grounded learning is good social values. At present these are being unfairly eroded by the popular culture industry. The relentless commercial marketing sees our children (and us as well) as “fair game” and is allowed to infiltrate and distort traditional Western values that have stood the test of time over millennia. We have been falling away from these values through aggressive marketing to change our habits, leaving institutions like our schools as lone bastions of what we have stood for in the past.

We have a thriving popular culture industry that is blatantly teaching that we can ignore responsibility and obligation to the past and the future. This industry plays with our minds and teachers us to demand it now, and on credit. We are taught a consumer lifestyle from the cradle to the grave and we must take back our freedom. Our schools continue to proclaim good and enduring values to live by but without help from parents/care-givers the work won’t last into adolescence.

Let us seek ways to break the consumerist habit and show this change in our behaviour by being the example that our children can follow. We have to change first. When we make mistakes our children will watch how we make retribution, to relationships, property and people. We are called to live in honesty. We must monitor and restrict what our children watch on TV, the music they listen to and the computer games they play. It has to be done. If our efforts to do all this are not taken seriously, the outcome won’t take much imagination to forecast. If we believe we are the “good guys” morally, we have to show this through respect for the rule of law, for innocent life, and love for our neighbour.

Peter Ackland - school chaplain

SUN SMART

A reminder that Whittlesea Primary School is a ‘Sun Smart School’ and hats are compulsory in Terms 1 and 4.

School hats can be purchased from the uniform shop: Northern Regional Uniforms, Unit 21, 8 Oleander Drive, South Morang. All hats must have a Whittlesea Primary School logo.

Children who do not have hats (lost or otherwise) are not permitted to play in uncovered/non shaded areas of the playground.

SCHOOL CROSSINGS

A reminder that children using the school crossings must not

- Bounce their balls
- Ride their scooters or bikes

Please talk to your children about the importance of following the crossing supervisor’s directions as we need to keep all of our students safe while crossing the roads.
Our school is continuing to work towards becoming an eSmart school, promoting respectful behaviours – both on and offline – to reduce bullying and cyberbullying.

**Tips for taking photos and videos and sharing them online**

Uploading photos and videos onto social media services and websites can be a great way to share memorable moments with friends and family, or to boost engagement with your community.

But there can be risks associated with posting photos and videos online. There are some things you can do to reduce the risk of photos and videos being shared more widely than you intended.

**Think before you post**

Once posted online any photo or video can be shared, copied and/or manipulated. You may not be able to control how a photo or video is used by others.

Think about:

- Who might be able to see these photos?
- Is there anyone else in this photo? (Be mindful that some people may not want their image to be published)
- Will this photo offend anyone?

**Privacy settings**

When uploading photos and videos check your privacy settings on the social media services you use as well as on the device. You can change privacy settings to control who sees your photos.

You can find more information about sharing photos and videos online, including information about how to change your privacy settings, at the Australian Government eSafety website: [https://www.esafety.gov.au/](https://www.esafety.gov.au/)

Matthew Dunstone
ICT Leader and eSmart Coordinator
EXCURSION LEVY 2016

Thank you to the families who have paid the $70 levy for their children.

If you opted to pay this levy in two instalments please be advised that the second instalment of $35 was due on Friday 10th June 2016.

Excursions/Incursions are planned for most year levels this term. Please make sure to check if you have made payment for your child. These activities are based on user pays and we would like every child to be included.

If you are unsure whether you have paid please contact Donna Gray at the school office.

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking is every Tuesday. Please contact the Office if you would like a school banking pack to be sent home for your child.

LOST PROPERTY

Please remember to write your child/ren’s names on all uniform items. We have a lot of unclaimed uniform in our lost property that do not have names written on them. Please check your child/ren’s jackets and make sure that they belong to them, we do have children who are missing their bomber and fleece jackets which are named. Lost property is located under the park bench on the side verandah of the office, please feel free to come and have a look through it.

We also have a large collection of items in the office - drink bottles, umbrellas, jewellery, a watch and a purse. If your child has lost an item please ask them to visit the office and see if any of these belongs to them. Thank you.

CANTEEN

The canteen service provided by Metro Canteens operates every Friday. Families are able to place an online order up until 11:30pm on Thursday each week. You will need to set up an account through – www.flexischools.com.au

CAR PARKING

The Church kindly lets our school families use their car park. Please reverse park, and keep to the actual car park area. Driving beyond this is not permitted. Also, please do not use the disabled car park in the church car park or in the staff car park unless you have a disability permit, we do have parents that require the use of this space. Thank you.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Did you know WHITTLESEA PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS A MARKET?

Why not come!
Our market is held at the College on the third Saturday of the month and is run by the Whittlesea Secondary College and Primary School Chaplaincy Committee to raise money so both schools can have a chaplain – Peter Ackland at the primary school and Eva Natsis at the college.

It is the committee’s main fundraiser and needs your support as a customer and even as a stallholder. There is a good range of stalls including craft, homemade cakes and jams, fresh fruit and veggies, nuts and dried fruit, clothes, DVD’s, plants, dog supplies, gifts and of course enjoy a BBQ sausage or hamburger with a coffee.

The next market is on Saturday 19th November. The smaller car boot sites are $10 with the regular stall sites being $20. Just line up at the gate around 7am if you would like a spot. If you have any enquiries please ring 0419 357 395. Check out our facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/saturday.community.market.whittlesea

WHITTLESEA TENNIS CLUB

TENNIS LESSONS

74 Laurel Street, Whittlesea

WE SPECIALISE IN LESSONS FOR BEGINNERS

BOUNCE INTO OUR TERM 4 SPRING SPECIAL
FOR FIRST 10 NEW STUDENTS
Enrol Now & RECEIVE 30% OFF YOUR FEES
and also receive a FREE HEAD Tennis Racquet Pack valued at $40

ENROL NOW FOR TERM 4 2016 LESSONS

For more information please call Topline Tennis on 0425 631 666
Web: www.toplinetennis.com Email: info@toplinetennis.com

[Image of tennis court]
Arthurs Creek Mechanics Institute

Annual Garden Walk

Sunday 13 November 2016

There will be art works, cottage plants, garden ornaments, Devonshire teas, light lunches – all available at the

Arthurs Creek Hall - 906 Arthurs Creek Road, Melway 393 B4

Six private gardens will be open between 9.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

Maps can be purchased at the Hall until 3.00 p.m.

Cost $20 adults children free

For more details call Lois on 9714 8447 or Peter 0400 406 654