Hello everyone,

It has certainly been a big week at our school. On Tuesday and Wednesday nights our teachers hosted parent teacher interviews. These meetings were an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher for 2017, creating a vital partnership between school and home. Through these interviews hopefully both teacher and parent were able to share on how your child has transitioned back into school and what their future learning goals and direction will be throughout the year.

This week we also commence ‘Mindfulness’ for our year 3 to 6 students. ‘Mindfulness in Action’ is a program delivered through the Life Skills Group. The following describes the program from the company’s website:

In a series of interactive and progressive lessons, students develop their self-awareness and increase impulse control, focus and empathy. Mindfulness in Action utilises scientifically proven mindfulness techniques, effective pedagogical practices, and cross-sectional research in cognitive affective neuroscience to teach students to pay attention to their experiences in a non-reactive way.

This kinesthetic program combines visual and auditory stimuli with physical movement exercises and outcomes include:

- Increased self-discipline, self regulation and self responsibility
- Improved confidence, resilience and respectful behaviour
- Stronger interpersonal communication skills
- Improved emotional response to physical changes and peers
- Increased balance, posture and flexibility
- Increased empathy and understanding of others
Congratulations to Tayla Elovaris who has been appointed to the role of Student Representative Council (SRC) Leader. Tayla will work in partnership with teacher Jacquie Walsh to coordinate the SRC’s activities throughout the year.

At Whittlesea Primary School we value student voice – encouraging children to put forward proposal and ideas. I was pleased to receive a well written letter from Demi-Rose Hooper and Charleigh-Anne Walsh last week. This letter formally requested permission for the girls to compete in competitive horse riding events as representative of Whittlesea Primary School. Of course I was happy to embrace the girls proudly competing in our school colours as students of Whittlesea Primary School. Well done girls!

Until next week,

Ty Hoggins
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

Hello everyone,

Thank you to the 154 families that have logged in to our new Parent Portal, Compass School Manager. Last Thursday, log in details for Compass were sent home with the Primary Post.

If you have not yet logged in I would encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience. The key features of our portal currently include entering attendance data for absences and emailing teachers. You can also view the school calendar and your child/ren’s weekly schedule. If you would like further information about the current features available on our portal please navigate to our school website http://whittleseaps.vic.edu.au/ and scroll down through the home page to view the Compass Parent Brochure. If you have misplaced your login letter please make contact the main office for another copy.
The new attendance feature of Compass is designed to make it easier for you to communicate your child's attendance with the school. If your child is absent (including a late arrival or leaving school early) you can now log this directly on Compass. If you are yet to access Compass, a note should be forwarded to the class teacher informing the school of the reason (a telephone message or oral explanation is accepted). This is a legal requirement. Regular absences will be followed up by the class teacher, the Principal or Assistant Principal and absences are recorded on student reports.

Any child arriving at school after 9am should report to the main office. Once at the office, our Administration Officer, Toni or our Business Manager, Donna will amend classroom rolls and our Community Leaders will escort children to their classroom if required. Please ensure you speak with our office staff before walking through the school. If you are entering our school as a volunteer or parent helper please remember to sign in. More information regarding our Early Leavers Policy can be found on our school website.

It was fantastic to see so many families at Parent Teacher Interviews this week. I had the opportunity to sit in on a number of these meet and greet sessions and it was wonderful to hear so many positive conversations around goal setting for the year ahead and how well the children have settled into the New Year.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend with your family 😊

Rae Gittos
Assistant Principal

SPORTS REPORT

Last Friday the year 5 & 6 boys and girls Cricket and Soccer teams walked down to Walker Reserve and St Mary's School to play the first game of the year.

The girl's Cricket fielding was excellent which set them up for a 97-52 victory, while the boy's lost in a hard fought match that went down to the last over.

The soccer teams played really well, the boys team lost 2-1 and the girls won their game 3-0. We are looking forward to our next game tomorrow against Hazel Glen College.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Awarded to</th>
<th>For:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F. Powell</td>
<td>Jimmy Ayer</td>
<td>for being a confident learner and always having a go.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Starkey</td>
<td>Charlie Watt</td>
<td>showing confidence and making new friends.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. McCormick</td>
<td>Holly Leeson</td>
<td>being a kind and caring class member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Perry</td>
<td>Kaven McKechnie</td>
<td>confidence to ask and answer questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.1 Mion</td>
<td>Sarah Mavric</td>
<td>being friendly and helpful classmate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.1 Capito</td>
<td>Zoe Hawking</td>
<td>demonstrating all of the school values this week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.1 Fawcett</td>
<td>Willem Henning</td>
<td>using his voice to ask for help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.2 Pantos/Betty</td>
<td>Emily Omran</td>
<td>demonstrating a positive ‘can do’ attitude to her writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.2 Powell</td>
<td>Sienna Murname</td>
<td>being a cooperative and encouraging team member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.2 Panahinejad</td>
<td>Kaylah Hill</td>
<td>for listening actively in 2P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.3 Kaur</td>
<td>Thomas Mott</td>
<td>having a positive start to the school year and choosing a fantastic attitude every day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.3 Vitale</td>
<td>Bailey Brander</td>
<td>showing excellence in all his learning and confidence when wanting to share.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.3 Walsh</td>
<td>Brodie Brander</td>
<td>writing an outstanding narrative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.4 Walsh</td>
<td>Eamon Conley</td>
<td>sharing creative ideas with his peers during writing. Great effort Eamon!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.4 McCormick</td>
<td>Blake Morley</td>
<td>displaying responsibility in the classroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.5 Dunstone/Pearce</td>
<td>Lillie Coomber</td>
<td>demonstrating fantastic leadership during our first two ‘buddies' sessions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Year 5 Maxfield | Awarded to: Thomas McAuley  
For: completing very special school work all week. |
| Year 6 Tolmay/Wright | Awarded to: Nikki Kennedy  
For: working very hard and trying her best in everything she does. |
| Year 6 Goetzke | Awarded to: Zoe Pixton-Pollard  
For: displaying great leadership as our soccer captain. |
| Year 6 Gambling | Awarded to: Broedy White  
For: producing an amazing news article. |
2017 BOOKLIST

Thank you to the families who have already paid the booklist fees and excursion levy for 2017. Please note that booklist fees of $225 per student are due by Tuesday 28th February 2017.

For those families paying by instalments the due dates are –

- $55 due 28th February
- $55 due 28th April
- $55 due 30th June
- $60 due 31st August

Please contact the school office if you would like to organise a payment plan.

2017 EXCURSION LEVY

The excursion/incursion levy for 2017 is $80.00 per student. This levy can be paid in full or by two instalments of $40 each.

The first instalment of $40 is due by 28th February 2017 and the second is due by 30th June 2017.

Please note that families who hold a current health care/pension card may be entitled to claim the Camp Sport & Excursion Fund (CSEF) Levy. Forms are available at the school office.

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.
Breakfast Club
This Wednesday program is set to recommence next week, 22nd February. Parents who wish to join in are warmly invited to do so. The weekly program starts 8:10 am and clearing up begins at 8:40 am. The location is the school gym and children sign in and sign out. The parent permission form is important for students who are new to the school.

Garden of the Future
We are an extraordinarily active school. We have the daily learning of literacy and numeracy along with the specialisations Art, PE, and Music. In addition to this there are inquiry sessions, careers electives, passion projects and computer coding. There is a Pre-Prep program that happens from term 2. If that is not enough, there are many lunchtime clubs: Breakfast, Drawing, Music, Crossover, Lego, Dance, Colouring-in, Woodcraft, Bolt, and ICT. But let me dream and imagine a Garden Program unfolding at Whittlesea Primary.

Looking not too far into the future, I am able to envisage a learning program that invigorates school life and has the capacity to draw a higher level of outside community commitment. This project will have the direct support of the City Council and Education Department. I imagine many round sturdy raised garden beds in a sunny location within the school grounds. School buildings nearby will have their rainwater directed into a very large storage tank feeding an irrigation system. Students will learn how to install a drip and spray system as part of their inquiry learning. This will be a school community investment that will show considerable value in return.

I am able to envisage that the class timetable for the grade 3’s and 4’s will include ‘gardening’ allowing them to participate fully for an hour each week as part of a special level of inquiry learning. They would first undergo OH&S lessons on location, in order to show they can be trusted with gardening equipment and materials. They would then research appropriate produce to sow and keep records of the growth. Volunteers from the outside community, alongside interested staff, will be involved to guide and encourage these students. During the holiday breaks, especially the long January period, a roster will be set up amongst local volunteers to ensure the plants are adequately watered. This is my dream and not my dream only.

A grade five girl gave me a gift last Monday. It was words with a picture, all hand drawn, and read: “Imagination powers the world.” How true her words are.

Peter Ackland - school chaplain

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

The first issue of the Scholastic Book Club for 2017 went home last week and orders and payment are due by tomorrow Friday 17th February. If you would like to order and pay online please to go https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/

A reminder that Whittlesea Primary School receives 20% commission on all orders which go towards new library books and classroom resources for all our students.

Thank you.

Jennifer Edwards
Book Club Coordinator
The Dollarmites are bringing the future to your school

Since 1931, CommBank’s School Banking program has been offering engaging ways for Australian children to learn the value of saving and develop lifelong money skills. For our 2017 theme, a futuristic adventure is in store. Students will join the new-look Dollarmites as Future Savers, making their way towards the Savings Hover Park – a fantastic playground up in the clouds of a hi-tech metropolis.

**Encouraging savings habits with great rewards**

School Banking will continue to reward children who demonstrate regular savings behaviour, and this year we’re introducing an exciting new range of reward items. Two are released every term, and available in Term 1 are the Cyber Handball and Colour Change Markers. Your child can redeem one of these reward items, while stocks last, after making 10 School Banking deposits.

Visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking to download and print this year’s Rewards Card. On our website you’ll also find a fun activity sheet and a Savings Tracker your child can use to keep track of their School Banking deposits throughout the year.

Dedicated savers get a chance to win a trip to Tokyo Disneyland! The Future Savers Grand Prize competition will take one lucky student on a family trip to Tokyo, Japan. Up to two adults and three children will get tickets to explore Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea, including the futuristic Tomorrowland attractions. This prize includes:

- Return economy airfares from the winner’s nearest capital city to Tokyo, Japan
- Five nights’ accommodation at the Sheraton Grande Tokyo Bay Hotel
- Three-day Magic Pass to Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea
- AU$1,000 spending money

To enter, your child simply has to make 15 or more School Banking deposits before the end of Term 3, 2017. This will automatically enter them into the competition for a chance to win.

For more information, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

School Banking is every Tuesday February, please remember to hand in your bank book to your classroom teacher first thing in the morning. Please remember that to get your bonus interest at the end of the year you must make one deposit per month.

Thank you.

Jennifer Long  
School Banking Coordinator

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**SCHOOL UNIFORM AND SCHOOL ITEMS**

Please remember to label all uniform items, drink bottles, communication bags, hats etc. We have a lot of unclaimed items that are not named. We cannot return jackets and hats to students if they have not been labelled.
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.

CANTEEN

The canteen service provided by Metro Canteens operates every Friday and commences tomorrow 10th February. 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

Please contact the office if you would like a brochure sent home.

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 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 1 AUSSIE OPEN SPECIAL

FOR FIRST 10 NEW STUDENTS

Enrol Now & RECEIVE 30% OFF YOUR FEES

and also receive a FREE HEAD Tennis Racquet Pack valued at $80

ENROL NOW FOR TERM 1 2017 LESSONS

For more information please call Topline Tennis on 0425 831 666
Web: www.toplinetennis.com Email: info@toplinetennis.com
Retail Industry Program

Want to gain retail, customer service and sales skills? Our course is for you.
Location Merrilands Community Centre (MCC) & Northland Youth Centre (NYC)
Days Tuesday (MCC) & Thursday (NYC)
Time 9.30am—2.30pm
Dates 7 March—18 May 2017
Duration 16 sessions
Cost Concession: $50, Full: $95, Fee for Service: $817

Computers for Seniors (age 55+)

Not confident in using a computer? This supportive beginners’ course will teach you all the basics so that you can start using computers to meet your everyday needs.
Class starts 21 February, 10 sessions, Tuesdays & Wednesdays 12.30pm—3.00pm
Cost: Concession & Full: $34, Fee for Service: $297 + Service & Amenities Fee.

Call PRACE on 9462 6077
or visit our website: www.prace.vic.edu.au