Hello Everyone!

Six weeks of long service leave and it was impossible to get to sleep last Sunday night. I was thinking and thinking about my reconnection with everyone at our school - especially our wonderful children. I missed you all, but I didn't miss the coldest winter in twenty six years!

I was so excited that I could almost not contain myself - and seeing everyone - especially the children - was just how I imagined it, fantastic. And yes, once again, my jaw hurt so much at the end of the day from all that smiling I did. A huge thank you for the warm welcome back I received from the staff, the many, many parents I saw and our wonderful children.

I also came back to some excellent news that our year three children performed extremely well against the state for their NAPLAN test. You can look forward to learning more about this data in next week’s newsletter. Although this national test is only a 'snapshot' in time and a 'one off' in a series of assessments for literacy and numeracy, against all the children in Australia, our Education Department considers this an important piece of data. It is therefore always good to see that our school is in a good place on our journey of continuous improvement, in growing the children’s knowledge and skills.

**Early Years Swimming Lessons**

Parents of early years’ children will receive a notice tonight requesting their intent to participate for swimming instruction for their children.

The finance committee of school council have been examining the data relating to participation from Foundation to year six, and school council members (over a couple of years now) have been in discussion about the swimming program. This includes the time of year, the number of children per group for instruction, the number of lessons, length of instruction time, the number of sessions and the cost.

Please return your intention to participate by Thursday 17th September.
Parent feedback data

A huge thank you to all of our families who returned their feedback sheet. We had 113 returns and every one of them indicated that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the teaching and learning at our school. This is terrific acknowledgement of the dedication and commitment our staff - teaching, educational support and office - have to meeting the individual needs of every child in our school.

There was one family that indicated dissatisfaction with 'bullying' in the school. I can categorically say that once we are aware of any behaviour where a child is treated with disrespect, we act on it immediately. We have absolute zero tolerance to bullying or unkindness in our school. In next week's newsletter there will be more feedback shared with you.

Families can be confident that all our surveys and feedback requests are used to formulate goals and targets for our annual implementation plan. This is a document that school council endorses each year and that can be accessed by anyone who is interested in reading it.

Church car park

It has been brought to my attention that the two disabled car parking spots in the church car park are being used illegally. Please be considerate of those community members that have a disabled sticker, and keep these designated spots available for them.

State Schools Spectacular

Our third State Schools Spectacular! I am looking forward to seeing the twenty three children in our choir perform at the Hisense Arena on Saturday night. This experience may be a once in a life time opportunity and I am certain that it will be an exhilarating and memorable one. To perform in such a venue, along with three thousand other school children and in front of thousands and thousands in the audience, is very exciting. Of course for this event to be excellent, (and it has always been excellent) great effort, time, practice and commitment from everyone involved has been required. The concert will be televised later in the year.

I am thankful to Laura Parkes for embracing this event and to Amar Kaur who is supporting Laura with all the rehearsals required at Hisense and to both of them for giving up their Saturday for the two performances.

Our school has a reputation for caring about and catering for children's individual needs - how do I know this? We have regular school tours and when I ask families why Whittlesea is their 'school of choice' invariably they respond they have read the website and have heard it from others. Once they have completed the school tour, without doubt, they make comment about the friendliness of our children and staff, the calm and orderly classrooms and the attractive and rubbish free grounds.

I have to share! Yesterday, two visitors from the Australian Education Union, spoke to some of our staff at recess time. On leaving, both made comment that they had been to ninety schools to date and we were in the top five for being warm and welcoming. They also said that there was a 'great feeling' in our school.

I am thrilled that Ty and Kellie will spend three days at our sister school, Jinling Primary School next week. They will observe the teacher instruction at the school and there will be a sharing of learning and teaching practice. I wish them a safe journey.

Take care,

Bente Stock

Principal
Hello Everyone,

On Tuesday next week Kellie Redmond and I will depart Melbourne for China as part of the 2015 Victorian Principal’s Association study tour. This amazing experience will include various cultural experiences and connections with educational leaders across China. The tour’s itinerary also includes numerous days experiencing school life at Jinling Primary School. Jinling visited our school earlier this term and it was a pleasure to welcome Madam Lin and her staff and students to Whittlesea Primary School. Kellie and I look forward to an amazing learning experience strengthening our connection with our sister school for the future.

I’d also like to wish our State School Spectacular performers all the best for the event at Hisense Arena on Saturday. Congratulations to Laura Parkes, Amar Kaur and all the other teachers and support staff who have contributed to help prepare the choir for their performances.

Until next week,

Ty Hoggins
Acting Principal

SCHOOL BANKING EVERY TUESDAY

Boxes Needed!
The Early Learning Centre (ELC) is in need of BIG boxes to store our materials for our Term 4 inquiry unit (e.g. fridge or television boxes). If you can assist, please deliver them to Matt Dunstone in the ELC.
On Decision Making

Life entails constant decision making, from the moment we get up in the morning until we drift off at night. Most decisions are smoothly handled because they are as regular as clockwork: what time to get up, what to wear, and so on. For the more challenging decisions, we need a good moral compass based on a toolbox of good value. When we are pressured to cut corners, we can resist the temptation with a balanced ethical perspective. We ought to be driven by care and concern for family, community and society. For example, keeping home clean may be a humble and thankless task but it contributes to a far higher level of health to family and friends than if it were not done.

We are decision makers in training for the whole of our lives. Our learning is accompanied by them. Decisions have a strong impact on problem solving through the complexities of life. Humility and good life habits add to our inner ballast when times become rough. Good decisions lead to human flourishing and support a healthy world view. They surround us constantly and more likely involve other people, so we are called to be sensitive and consider others, weighing the pros and cons. If a decision involves a family, let it be one that the family can share in, as being left out can create dissention. A shared decision contributes to communal hope and peace.

Should a quick decision be necessary, make it, however BEWARE OF SNAP DECISIONS - they may have lasting consequences.

Peter Ackland - school chaplain
Basketball

Our school entered 6 teams in the annual Hooptime Tournament that was held at Mill Park Stadium. Children from years 5/6 played in either the Boys, Future Stars or Rookies competition. It was a busy day with teams playing at different times on four different courts. Thank you to the parents who helped with coaching.

The Boys competition was very strong, and even though our boys’ teams played well and gave their best effort, they weren’t able to win a game.

The Future Stars won all of their games and then played in the semi-final, which they also won. The Grand Final was very close and exciting with the lead changing several times. With just 5 seconds remaining in the game and one point down, Ashlea shot a goal giving her team the win by one point. The team received the winning flag and each player received a new basketball.

The three Rookies teams had a fun day with Rookies 1 winning 2 games, Rookies 2 winning 3 games and Rookies 3 winning 1 game. There were no finals for this competition.

Well done to all children who played in the tournament.

The teams were:
Boys 1 – Lauchie, Ethan, Harrison, Cooper, Oscar, Riley L and Kane J.
Boys 2 – Ben, Kayden, Alex, Luke, Micky, Lewis and Seth
Future Stars – Riley R, Brock, Steven, Dylan, Chloe, Ashlea and Zoe
Rookies 1 – Josh, Liam C, Tyson, Mitchell, Jessica and Charli.
Rookies 2 – Corey, Blake B, Ryan, Riley D, Hannah and Eden.
Rookies 3 – Nathan, Julian, Jazzara, Georgia B and Mikayla.

Cheryl Abbott
Hello Everybody,

It is that time again! School holidays are getting closer and closer. This is a holiday program you do NOT want to miss. We have 3 excursions coming your way these holidays: Show your skills in bowling at Epping, have a relaxing day heading to Doncaster to see the movie Blinky Bill and spend a fun filled day down at Bollygum Park in Kinglake playing games and eating sausages for lunch. The excursions are just the beginning, come along and enjoy our amazing incursion days at the school full of laughter and fun.

Please get your holiday enrolments in as soon as possible, we only have a limited amount of spots available for the excursions and I do not want anybody to miss out on all of the fun!

We have had a slight change in provider of the before and after school care program. The new provider will be World 4 Kids and this will have no effect on management, staffing or the program. Nothing at all is changing. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in contact with us.

If you have any enquiries please feel free to call me on 0426 768 971 or email me at whittlesea@world4kids.net.

Thank you
Jamey Peterson
Manager of Whittlesea World4kids

Computer Courses starting soon

**Introduction to MYOB-Term 4, 2015**
A short course for participants who want to learn how to use a computer-based accounting system (MYOB) to perform basic bookkeeping procedures.
At  Merrilands Community Centre- Starting Wednesday 30 September , 12.45—3.30pm, 11 sessions

**Computer Essentials- Semester 2**
This program will build skill and confidence in the use of essential Microsoft 2013 programs for personal, work and study purposes.
At  Merrilands Community Centre- Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9.15 am—12.15 pm, 6 October —Tues 8 December, 2015, 18 sessions

**Introduction to Internet and Email – Term 4 2015**
This short course will give you the confidence and ability to access and navigate the internet and use basic features/functions of email for work, study and personal purposes.
At  Thomastown Neighbourhood House -Starting Thursday, 15 October, 9.30am—12.00pm, 8 sessions

**Introduction to Computers and Basic Word Processing – Term 4 2015**
This introductory course will give you the confidence to perform basic word processing tasks on a computer
At  Merrilands Community Centre - Tuesdays, 12.45 – 3.30pm, 6 October —8 December, 9 sessions

For more details ring PRACE on 9462 6077 or visit our website: [www.prace.vic.edu.au](http://www.prace.vic.edu.au)