Hello Everyone,

Welcome to another edition of our Primary Post. Term 3 is always a busy and exciting time at Whittlesea Primary and this year is no exception. Our teachers are currently preparing for upcoming camps, student-led conferences and generating interim reports. It is also an exciting period of learning with Inquiry learning units, literacy celebrations including author visits and career elective programs.

I had the pleasure of leading the photography group yesterday in Cheryl Abbott’s absence. It again reinforced to me the value in offering unique and personalised learning experiences from which the students have choice. My group of budding photographers was interested to learn about the elements of an SLR camera and concepts such as depth of field and exposure. When presented with a brief to capture images of ‘leading lines’ the children took some fantastic shots around our grounds.

On August 25th and 26th our students, staff and parents will come together for student-led conferences. These meetings are an opportunity to showcase the students learning throughout 2015. Goals will be discussed and students will play a key role in leading the conversations involving the key stakeholders in their education – teachers and parents. Learning is a collaborative team effort and we value the partnership our school forms with parents in helping
students achieve their academic potential. As with previous years, we will utilise an online system for conference bookings. Instructions are in your child’s communication bags – please don’t delay in making your booking as times are limited.

Thank you to all the wonderful parents who volunteer their time at our school. From classroom support to canteen and banking, our supportive parent community help ensure our students have opportunities and experiences that otherwise would not be possible. The Father’s Day stall is an example of one such opportunity which will be held on Thursday 27th August. Students will have the opportunity to purchase a small gift for their dad or significant adult male in their lives.

As you are aware, Thursday is our normal day for all parent correspondence to be sent home. In light of the upcoming camps, book week fair and other events we will be making an exception and sending home book club brochures and order forms on Monday 24th August. I hope you are able to find a new purchase among the great literacy titles and resources available.

Finally, can I please ask that you remember to continue supporting our school through the Earn and Learn program. The collection of tokens allows us to buy valuable resources which directly benefit our school. Boxes are located at local Woolworths supermarkets and in reception. You can also support a worthy cause by sending along a gold coin donation this Friday when our Student Representative Council (SRC) students host ‘Jeans for Genes Day’. Regularly our SRC agree upon a charity to which they connect and organise various fund raising activities.

I hope to see a number of our parents and guardians at tonight’s Phil Kettle author visit.

Until next week,

Ty Hoggins
Acting Principal

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**SCHOOL BANKING EVERY TUESDAY**

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**FATHER’S DAY STALL – THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST**

$7.00 A PRESENT

Can you help?

We need volunteers to come to the staffroom on Monday 24th August straight after assembly to help wrap the presents. Thanks.
AFL 9s
SEDA, in partnership with AFL Victoria, will be running a Junior AFL 9s clinic at the end of term three.

Junior AFL 9s is a 1 hour session with a warm up, skills, a mini game and cool down using the AFL 9s model of AFL. AFL 9s is a non-contact, touch version of AFL.

An AFL 9s venue closest to your school will be held at Epping Recreational Reserve for participants aged 8 – 12. Details below:

**Activity:** Junior AFL 9s  **Venue:** Epping Recreational Reserve  
**Dates:** 25th August – 15th September  
**Time:** 4 – 5pm  
**Cost:** $25  
**Website for more information:** [www.junior afl9s.com.au](http://www.juniorafl9s.com.au)
Steps for Engagement

Positive engagement in our students is the challenge before us and for their sake we must keep our eyes on that prize. We strongly desire to see our students motivated to learn, and not be afraid of taking risks in the work they do. For our part we must always remember to praise them for trying something risky and doing it with effort. We must somehow plant the idea of “value adding” to what is in existence. The worst thing we can do is praise students for their innate intelligence. This will box them in and freeze their sense of self. We must praise “effort” instead so that they develop a “growth mindset” leading them to add value to all they do.

The project work has to be meaningful for the students. They will sink their teeth into projects that they have a fascination for. As they progress through the work and develop a momentum and motivation for it, we will find opportunities to encourage and reinforce their valuable effort. Even small steps forward ought to be praised. What we search for in order to keep the main prize in sight is to see the students moving forward. For the teacher once the “ship of learning” is properly under way it may only take minor adjustments of the rudder to keep it on course.

In these post-modern days the success of this depends on the “differentiating” of the assignments. Because students learn differently there is a host of strategies that teachers employ for different students with the same end goal in mind. It will not matter if one student spends most of the term on one large project while another produces six smaller ones. Learning differentiation means that school work does not have to be uniform. When I was a child we all read from one government School Reader. Gone are those days. Topic, size and presentation structure are potentially as diverse as there are students in the school. This is the new front line in a learning industry that we trust will inspire a new generation into excellence. We must trust it. Trust them.

Peter Ackland - school chaplain
AUSTRALIAN PLANTS EXPO 2015
12 - 13 September, 10am-4pm
Eltham Community & Reception Centre
801 Main Rd, Eltham, Vic (Mel 21 J6)
Adults $5, Concession $4, Children free
Contact apsyarrayarra@gmail.com or Ph. (03)94397228
Native flower show, plant, book & art sales, environmental displays, talks/demonstrations, children's activities, prizes & more. Theme is Native Plants for Small Gardens this year, with a special presentation on Vertical gardens and green roofs.
Full program on our Facebook page event: www.facebook.com/apsyarrayarra
Organised by Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Group

Certificate III in Education Support— August 2015
Course Code: CHC30213
Entry Requirements: *Moderate Computer and Internet and Email Skills & *English LLN skills at an industry entry standard
Graduates work as :
- education assistants/teacher aides
- support workers (working with children with disabilities)
Mode of Study: Classroom, off-site tasks/research, Practical Placement + Assessment Workshops (TBA)
Locations: Merrilands Community Centre & William Ruthven Secondary College
Duration: 23 sessions, 2 workshops (TBA) + 100 hour practical placement. (Excludes: 2/11/15 & School Holidays.)
Days & Times: Mon & Wed: 9.15am to 3.15pm, Fri: 9.15am to 3.15pm (2 sessions)
Enrolment: Please ring early to arrange a pre-enrolment interview. Ph. 9462 6077.

For more details ring PRACE on 9462 6077 or visit our website: www.prace.vic.edu.au