FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello Everyone,

Why do we place such an importance on student voice in our school?
Student voice is designed to provide opportunities for meaningful participation and contribution including openings for new leadership responsibilities, making decisions, being heard and contributing to community.

Recent research studies have emphasised the importance of student voice in building engagement in and with schools. Significant in this research has been the finding that, when students are given a voice, they become more engaged with learning.

Moreover, teachers gain an insight into how to support student engagement and how build more positive and collaborative relationships with students.

The research identified gains in the personal development of students including enhanced self-esteem, school commitment and communication and teamwork skills.

More research by, Mitra and Frick (2004), argue that what is missing in the discussion of school reform is ‘the question of ownership – that is, who gets to define what the problems of a school are, and who gets to try to improve them?’ They suggest that asking for student opinions, and listening to student voices, reminds teachers that students possess unique knowledge and perspectives about their schools and their learning which adults cannot replicate. They also suggest that school improvement is positively impacted upon by listening to student experiences, particularly the experiences of those who are alienated and struggling.
Following are some of the ways we provide opportunities for student voice in our school:

• Student Representative Council – children decide which community organisation to support and how to raise the money
• Prefects – involved in organising various projects and events
• Captains – decide what is relevant to speak about in assembly and lead the student assemblies every week
• Life Savers – manage the beach – monitor children playing co-operatively and keep the beach tidy
• Car Marshall Leaders – manage the car track play area – similar to the life saver leadership role
• Inquiry Learning – children’s questions provide the basis for teacher planning ensuring deeper knowledge is attained
• Community Leaders Program – children have a schedule to follow and do various jobs that require them to use their initiative
• Foundation (Prep) Buddies Program – year six children nurture foundation children

Examples of how student voice has made a difference to our children and to our school

• Sandpit turned into a beach with life savers to supervise the beach
• Community garden – landscaping crew designed this area
• Some landscaped areas (designed by a ‘landscaping careers team’)
• New year six jackets
• Cubby house walls painted in house colours
• Whittlesea Primary School radio show last year and Semester One this year
• Fundraising for community
• Disco
• Walk-a-thon
• Excursion destinations as a result of children’s passions, curiosity and interests

We are continually looking for authentic and meaningful student voice opportunities because by involving students as partners in their education this strengthens their self-esteem and respect and provide practical agendas for improvement that have student support.

Booklist fees
Finance Committee and School Council ratified the booklist fees for 2015 last meeting - $220 for the year and $65 Excursion Levy. Parents can pay in full now if they wish or begin a payment plan.

Your booklist payments are integral to all we provide in our school.

As a result of parents paying their booklist fees we are able to provide many services and resources (including iPads and netbooks) that ordinarily could not be afforded. One of these services was the employment of personnel from Latrobe Language Clinic. The department provides one day a week for a speech pathologist to work at our school which is clearly not adequate for the number of children in our school. The team employed from the university have worked with over forty of our children in the area of articulation or receptive and expressive language. It was terrific to hear from two of our parents today that there had been tremendous improvement in their child’s speaking and listening skills and importantly their child’s self-confidence.

To Repeat or Not to Repeat
Research by Dr. Helen McGrath – Faculty of Education, Deakin University Melbourne
Dr. McGrath says that over the last 75 years of research-based knowledge about the affects on students of repeating a year level has been accumulating. She says that it now overwhelmingly indicates that there are neither academic nor social advantages for the majority of students who repeat a year of their schooling. In summary, the following conclusions can be stated:
• repeating does not improve academic outcomes
• repeating contributed to poor mental health outcomes
• repeating leads to poor long term social outcomes
• repeating contributes to a negative attitude to school and learning
• repeating results in students dropping out of school
• repeating decreases the likelihood that a student will participate in post-secondary schooling
• Repeated students demonstrate higher rates of behavioural problems
• there is no advantage to students in delaying school entry for a year in order to increase ‘school readiness’

If parents/guardians are interested in reading the twelve page document, they will be available at the office.

As a consequence of the comprehensive research and my 35 years plus teaching experience I am philosophically opposed to children repeating a year of their schooling. Teachers must meet and challenge the learning needs of all children and the curriculum is designed as a continuum of learning.

Class Formations and Transition Program – Kindergarten to Foundation and to year 6

Please Note: Although the classes will be formed by the last transition there will be some flexibility for the month of February. We want to ensure that the relations between children in the groupings are the best that they can be. We also get new enrolments at the beginning of each year which can change the dynamics of the groups.

Kindest regards,

Bente Stock
Principal

Hello Everyone,

It’s been a big week for our school leaders at Whittlesea Primary School. On Monday our student representative council members, along with our school captains travelled to Whittlesea Secondary College for a collaborative project involving the construction of ‘Scarecrows’. In the captain’s absence on Monday, four of our school prefects showed great leadership to lead our school assembly for the first time. Well done to Will Spriggs, Bailey Coutts, Mia Coulthard and April Robertson who displayed confidence in presenting to our school community.
On Tuesday our school prefects and captains then travelled to the Arch and Second World War memorials in Whittlesea for a Remembrance Day ceremony. It is important that our students have an understanding and appreciation of the significance of this day.

**TIMSS**

Students in 4K have completed their TIMSS assessment – an international data collection relating to achievement in mathematics and science. Well done to our students who completed this assessment – and earned a yo-yo as a special reward!

Until next week,

Ty Hoggins
Assistant Principal

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**PLEASE PAY……..**

As the end of the year is fast approaching we would appreciate all outstanding fees/excursion/incursion levies be paid as soon as possible.

Any queries please contact Donna Gray at the school office.

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**BOOKCLUB DUE BACK FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2014**

**Canteen**

Friday 14th November – Canteen – orders in first thing Tuesday 11th November

Friday 21st November – Canteen – orders in first thing Tuesday 18th November

**Asian Literacies Question**

This week’s Asian Literacies questions have been provided by students from 4G.

How tall is the Tokyo Tower?

* (thanks to Liam Chambers-Jones for this question)*

What is the area of Cambodia?

* (thanks to Brock Greaves & Corey Cartledge for this question)*

What is the ‘orang pendek’?

* (thanks to Nathan Martin for this question)*

- Write the answer to ONE of these questions on a piece of paper.
- Write your name and class on your entry (only one entry per person, please).
- Put your entry in the box tomorrow for your chance to win a prize!

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**School Banking 2014 - every Tuesday**

**SCHOOL BANKING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Do you have a spare hour on Tuesday afternoons to help out with the students’ school banking? If so, can you please ring the office, thank you.
RUNNERS UP!
On Friday the 24th October the Whittlesea Primary School Cricket Squad participated in the Bridge Inn Round Robin.

The day was held at Marymede Catholic College and it was very hot! Throughout the day we played a number of modified games against the other schools in our district.

During the morning we played 3 matches. The boys’ team won 2 of their matches and lost one. The girls won 2 and drew the 3rd. This meant that both teams made it through to the semi-finals. In the semi-finals, the Boys team played Marymede. In a very closely fought contest the boys won that game because of some fantastic batting and bowling. The girls played the Year 5 Marymede team and also played a terrific game. Both teams were then into the Grand Final.

The boys played South Morang in the Grand Final, the team that beat them during the morning. This time it was a much closer game and it was extremely competitive. South Morang ended up winning, just. This meant the boys’ team were runners up for the day.

The girls played the Year 6 Marymede Team in the Grand Final. Again this was a very well-played game with the girls displaying some fantastic cricket skills. The girls just lost their Grand Final as well, so both of our teams finished as runners up. This meant we were the best overall school on the day!

We would like to thank Mrs Johnson, Oscar’s mum, Mrs Fordham and Mr Dunstone for coaching us on the day. Thank you also to all of the parents that came to support us.

The WPS Cricket Squad
WHITTLESEA SHOW

Commended
Broedy White 3D Construction
Emilee Sorensen 3D Construction
Grace Dundas 3D Construction
Briar Perry 3D Threads and Textiles
Riley Parkinson 3D Construction
Charlie Parks 3D Construction
Luke Ferguson 3D Construction
Alexia Simos 3D Construction
Finlay Koch 3D Construction
Mitchell Evans 3D Construction
Abbie Martin 3D Construction
Keenan Sua 3D Construction
Hayley Park 3D Construction
Tara Watson Creative Language
Mia Webster Creative Language
Hayley Allen Poetry
Phillip Habib Poetry
Taya McClure Creative Language
Tyson Christensen Collage

Highly Commended
Pip Ford 3D Construction
Keeley Parks 3D Construction
Kelsey Hawking 3D Construction
Tara Watson 3D Construction
Josh Junor 3D Construction
Darcy Greaves 3D Construction
Maddie Robertson 3D Construction
Josh Jurasek 3D Construction
Courtney Sorensen Collage
Jagger Fenton 3D Construction
Eden Hird 3D Construction
Liliana Dwyer-Barnes 3D Construction
Bailey Brander 3D Construction
Avril Caddy 3D Construction
Natasha Rogers 2D Art
Avril Caddy 2D Art
Cohen Bell D Threads and Textiles

Very Highly Commended
Hayley Allen 3D Construction
Brayden Fermaner 3D Construction
Jesse Hawking 3D Threads and Textiles
Luke Barnett 3D Threads and Textiles
Holly Dawson 3D Construction
Sophie Coe 2D Threads and Textiles
Eden Draper Collage

Third
Jack Donavan 3D Construction
Grace Evans 3D Construction
Sophie Pearce 3D Threads and Textiles
Verity Colosimo 3D Construction
Handling Anger (part 2)

There are some basic root causes for the anger we feel. One is being unaccepted, when we feel compared and criticised. Another is when we’re unappreciated, taken for granted. A third is feeling unsupported, our responsibilities not recognised. Another cause is being unprotected, when our needs are treated as not important, and lastly, we might get angry when we feel uncertain because we can’t trust the other person. Hurt, frustration and fear are behind each. To manage anger it helps if the cause is identifiable.

Anger is a state of being prepared. It is a power emotion and used the wrongly it is dangerous. It helps us to know what pushes our buttons so that we can respond differently when they are pressed. Anger can then be expressed as feelings, and not as accusations or physical hurt. We have greater ability to control our anger if we are fully aware of what might trigger us and are ready with a positive planned response.

There is a cost to misdirected anger, sometimes leading to long term hurt and mistrust. We are called to reflect carefully before reacting and to watch our tongue. We must learn to release our anger appropriately, preferably briefly and humbly. Community support through love and care can help keep us accountable. As we learn to manage anger well, we experience a positive level of relationship with others, and easily get on with the business of living.

Peter Ackland - School Chaplain

SPORT – TERM 4

T-Ball: November 20th at Mill Park Softball Diamonds for selected boys and girls in years 3/4. Trials and training to take place during recess on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Swimming: December 17th at Whittlesea Swimming Pool - Trials to select swim team for 2015. A notice will be sent home closer to the date.

Swimming lessons for Early Years children at Whittlesea Pool: 8 lessons beginning on Monday December 1st. Notice will be sent home soon.
WORLD4KIDS

Don’t forget to re-enrol for next year as soon as you can. You can do this by going onto our website www.world4kids.net, clicking on our parent portal and pressing new enrolment. If you have already enrolled using parent portal and just press on re-enrolment instead of new. If you can’t remember your password you can put your email address in and a new password will be sent out to you. Some of our days next year are getting very close to reaching 30 which means you might be put on a waiting list. So please get your enrolments back as soon as possible so you don’t miss out.

If you have any questions or queries please don’t hesitate to call me on 0426768971 or email me at whittlesea@world4kids.net.

Thank you
Jamey Gould
Manager of Whittlesea World 4 Kids

WHITTLESEA JUNIOR BASKETBALL

Registrations now open for season 2015. Visit www.whittleseajunior.basketball.net.au and follow the link to register. Registrations close 16th December 2014 or when that section is full.

SATURDAY COMMUNITY MARKET

Whittlesea Secondary College
Laurel Street (MEL 246 G9)

3rd Saturday of each month

Enquiries 0419 357 395

You can also find us on Face Book:
https://www.facebook.com/saturday.community.market.whittlesea