Hello Everyone,

Welcome back for an exciting term 3 at Whittlesea Primary School. Despite the wintery blast, our teachers and children came back on Monday morning enthusiastic and refreshed for the term ahead. This week we also welcomed new students to our school across many year levels. It is always great to welcome new children and their families to our community.

Congratulations to our 2015 Foundation students who will celebrate their 100 days of school next Tuesday. I'm sure their parents in particular will agree that time has flown for our youngest students who have grown up so much in that time. A numeracy activity showcase is organised for the morning and we warmly welcome our families to join in the celebrations.

At the end of last term you would have noticed an updated report format for our end of semester reports. To coincide with the introduction of our interim reports, Whittlesea Primary has purchased a more fully featured reporting package. This gives us the ability to create more personalised reports that can be tailored to our requirements. A new feature of the end of semester report is a personal learning comment which draws upon the learning outcomes of the interim reports. Our feedback to date has been positive, but as always we welcome parent / guardian comments so we can endeavour to further improve how we communicate student progress through formal reports.

Our entire school is very excited about the upcoming visit from our sister school - Jingling Primary School in China. Fourteen students, two teachers and their Principal, Madam Lin will visit our school next Tuesday as part of a greater tour of Victorian schools. We have planned a uniquely Australian experience and look forward to presenting our school in the best light possible. Over the past couple of years our school has strengthening our commitment to preparing our students for their future by engaging with Asia. In 2014 we incorporated asian cultural studies into our inquiry learning and in 2015 we introduced Mandarin language studies. The strengthening of our relationship is a milestone in the introduction of asian literacies at Whittlesea Primary School.

Until next week,
Ty Hoggins
Acting Principal
IMPORTANT NOTICE
CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

DO YOU HAVE A CENTRELINK HEALTH CARE CARD, PENSIONER CONCESSION CARD OR YOU ARE A FOSTER PARENT?

Please read ‘Information for Parents’ flyer attached to this newsletter.

SCHOOL BANKING EVERY TUESDAY

Student Engagement

Here is a project that we are all called to encourage and support. Researchers have found that students who were actively engaged at school were more likely to have a successful working adult life. As being actively engaged equates to motivation for life, this comes as no surprise. Our collective challenge is to find ways to engender and nurture this direction for the children of our school.

The research team (Menzies Research Institute, Tasmania) collected data about “tweens” (9 - 13 year old students) and surveyed them again, 20 years later. The team used a “school engagement index” and applied this measure against how the children were performing through their adult life. The higher the index measure the more professional and managerial was the life that unfolded.

The findings place confirmation on the importance of schools and parents for the way they create “a rich variety of learning experiences” for students to flourish in. Parents play a huge part in this, in cooperation with the school, to enhance positive student engagement. This is a worthwhile partnership. Motivation for learning trumps perceived intellectual abilities and economic advantage.

Peter Ackland - school chaplain
Computer Courses - Starting Soon

Computers for Seniors
Location: Merrilands Community Centre, Reservoir
Dates: Wednesdays 29 July—23 September, 2015, 12.30—3.00pm  10 sessions
Cost: Concession & Full: $27, Fee for Service: $207+ Service & Amenities Fee

Computers for Beginners
Location: Merrilands Community Centre
Dates: Monday 27 July—Wednesday 16 Sept, 2015, 9.30am—12.00pm, 16 sessions
Cost: Concession & Full: $43, Fee for Service: $330+ Service & Amenities Fee

Retail Industry Placement Program
Suitable for a person wishing to gain retail, customer service and sales skills plus work experience in the retail sector.

Location: Merrilands Community Centre (MCC) & Northland Youth Centre (NYC)
Days: Tuesday (MCC) & Thursday (NYC)
Time: 9.30am—2.45pm
Dates: Tues 28th July to Thursday 17th Sept. (No class 11/8/15)
Duration: 15 sessions + 30 hours Work Placement
Cost: Concession: $50, Full: $130, Fee for Service: $990 + Service & Amenities Fee

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