FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hi Everyone from China,

What an exceptional learning experience this is for the forty two children who have come to Jingling Primary School for ten days and for myself. We live at the school and have been immersed in the Chinese culture and Chinese language - taught by the English teachers in the school or having instructions translated to us.

Everyone has been spoilt with generosity and love. Every one of the 1800 children say hello or good morning in English as we walk past them. The Chinese children in the school are so happy and energetic - it is extraordinary to observe. They only have ten minutes break every fifty minutes of a lesson but they make the most of it. They run out of the classrooms with skipping ropes and they make every second count. You might be able to imagine - all the children are fed a hot lunch every day and they all eat at the same time in two very large canteen areas with their teachers.
The five schools involved in the student study tour included Laurimar Primary School and the other schools are from the Eastern Region. Three of the schools learn Chinese, one Japanese, and the other one has no language studies - yet all the children have learnt and retained an amazing amount of Chinese language and knowledge about Chinese culture. I could go on and on about the benefits of this program for the children but I won't at this time suffice to say that I believe it would be a sensational experience for Whittlesea Primary School year five and six children and that I feel very honoured to have been provided this opportunity by The Victorian Principals’ Association. Hopefully we will be able to offer expressions of interest to our year five and sixes to take part of another study tour in 2015 if all goes to plan.

PS. I brag to the other principals and teachers that the children at Whittlesea are very friendly too and always say hello:) It makes your day.

Take care and I will see you soon.

Kindest regards,

Bente Stock 😊
Principal

Hello Everyone,

We've hit the ground running with a busy start to term 4. The real theme of the term so far has been connections with the local community. The year 3 students have been involved in local excursions to a nearby pond where they have investigated a local ecosystem to understand the impact humans have on fragile waterways. Through their studies into sustainability, these students are gaining an understanding of the amount of waste produced in the community and how this waste can find itself to ecosystems around us.

All students across our school have also visited the Whittlesea Courthouse for an excursion focused on local history. A special thanks to all the wonderful parent helpers who have helped make these activities possible for our children. Our school value of community is being lived through embracing the 150 year celebrations of this historic landmark in the Whittlesea township.

Our school has worked collaboratively with St Mary’s Primary School and Whittlesea Secondary College to mark this occasion and in addition to having all children attend the courthouse during week 2, some of our year 6 students have submitted writing pieces for display. Whittlesea Primary School’s involvement in these celebrations will culminate on Sunday October 19th at 12:00pm and again at 1:00pm with special local performances by our choir. They will join with St Mary’s students to sing a selection of songs as part of the 150 year celebrations. We encourage all members of our school community to get along to the Whittlesea Courthouse over the weekend. A big thank you to Miss Laura Parkes for her work in bringing this performance together.

Our children were also treated on Monday morning to a special presentation by Nesta from the Courthouse Visitor Information Centre and current parent Jo Junor who came dressed in themed clothing to share with our community about the historic courthouse celebrations. Mrs Junor and her son Josh also amazed our children with demonstrations on their Penny Farthing bicycles. Thank you to Jo and Nesta for their passion and efforts.
Until next week,
Ty Hoggins
Assistant Principal
You are invited……..

Dear Parents/Guardians,
Whittlesea Primary School would like to extend an invitation to parents/guardians for a coffee and chat on Friday 17th October in the staffroom during the school disco. Come along and socialise with teachers and other parents/guardians while the children are enjoying the disco. We look forward to your company.

TERM 4 – COMPULSORY SCHOOL HATS

BOOKCLUB DUE BACK TOMORROW

SPORT – TERM 4
Cricket: October 24th at Marymede – District Round Robin for selected boys and girls in years 5/6. Trials will take place during Friday sport time and training taken during recess.
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.
PE – Gymnastics
All students will participate in a gymnastics program for the 1st five weeks of this term. Coaches from PIT Gym will be taking the program. It is advised that girls wear shorts or skorts instead of dresses on the day that they have PE. All girls with long hair must have it tied back. The cost for the program is included in the excursion levy, therefore no payment is required.

Friday 24th October – Canteen – orders in first thing
Tuesday 21st October
Friday 31st October – Canteen – orders in first thing
Tuesday 28th October
Friday 7th November – NO CANTEEN

More Than Potential

Have you ever accepted a Facebook personality test, curious to know what the verdict will be? I allowed myself to be tested for what animal best matched me; I was surprised by the result:

You were the Owl. Graceful, quiet, and majestic, you glide silently through the night. You are self-sufficient, independent, and make the most of everything around you. You are not very picky about what you like, and when you love something, it will be forever. You would make a wonderful parent, but in no way would you spoil your children; they would be taught how to look after themselves. You are a symbol of guidance.

I wonder just how serious we ought to take these assessments. I would assume that each test is concluded in a positive way, whatever the animal was. After all, this is for our encouragement and amusement.

This brings me to consider how we react to our children and how we might describe our observations of them. They love hearing positive talk about how they are going. They certainly need to feel loved and accepted even when they fall short of family expectations. Parents are called to look into the future for them and help them turn their dreams into reality. It is not enough to acknowledge “potential” for something and leave it at that. Instead, we must feed our child’s potential with guidance and produce structured opportunities to keep them moving forward. What we do for and with our children travels alongside our affirming words about them. They will move in leaps and bounds.

Peter Ackland - school chaplain
WORLD4KIDS

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

Thank you
Jamey Gould, Manager of Whittlesea World 4 Kids

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WHITTLESEA COURTHOUSE 150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

(150 YEARS OF HISTORY IN WHITTLESEA)

Celebrations are from: September 27 to October 19

The Whittlesea Courthouse Association Inc. is celebrating the history of the Whittlesea Courthouse building built in 1864 and also of Whittlesea’s general history over the past 150+ years - and everyone is invited.

Celebrations will include historical re-enactments: on Sept 28, by the Victoria Police Historical Society - capturing of Bushrangers & on Oct 18, by the Secondary School Drama Group - historic, local court cases.

Also a museum, stage coach rides, performances by primary school choir, Whittlesea Township Choir & Secondary School Band.

There is something for everyone to enjoy and to partake in, see details on local flyer.

For further enquiries call 9716-1864
Bright Stars Early Learning is a privately owned and operated approved childcare centre in the heart of Whittlesea. Nicole and Sarah (Owner/Director & Assistant Director) have over twenty years’ experience between them working within the industry.

For ten years Nicole owned a centre in the Greensborough area that exceeded quality standards. She is now taking on this new challenge after recently becoming a local resident. They are working towards achieving those high standards at Bright Stars, and bring with them fresh ideas and a positive attitude that Bright Stars will become a great asset to children of the local community.

They invite you to come down and meet them, look around the centre and hear about their vision for the future of Bright Stars. Enrolments are now being taken throughout the centre for 2015, with positions in the 4 year old Kindergarten program still available. If you require care for your child either now or in the future please give them a call.

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WHITTLESEA BOWLS CLUB

~ FREE Try Bowls Day ~

Sunday 19th October 10.00am – 2.00pm

Families most welcome

Wear flat soled shoes or bare feet

Come along and enjoy the day!

Prizes donated by McDonalds