Hello Everyone,

**NAPLAN**

Today students from years 3 and 5 will be bringing home their NAPLAN results for 2015. ACARA, the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority, have provided each child with a personalised results booklet plotting their achievement against that of all other students. ACARA have also provided an information sheet to help parents understand their child’s results. Please take the time to study these carefully and contact your child’s teacher should you require further clarification. The NAPLAN assessments are a single snapshot of a student’s academic progress. They should be considered in combination with other assessments when considering exactly what your child’s academic progress truly is.

**Interim Reports**

Tonight your child will also come home with their interim report. These assessments greater inform our parents and guardians of each child’s progress here at Whittlesea Primary School. While at the end of each semester our reporting focuses heavily on literacy and numeracy achievement, the interim report is more orientated towards personal learning skills. Please take the time to compare this term’s report with the interim report from earlier in the year.
**Student Led Conferences**

Thank you to those parents / guardians who have taken advantage of our online booking system and made appointments for the upcoming student led conferences. These conferences are a great opportunity for our students to take the lead and showcase their learning with the most important stakeholders in their education – parents and teachers. The conferences are a structured conversation where students present learning for which they are particularly proud. They will also be challenged to consider their future learning goals and the support they need to achieve these. By embracing a three-way conference all parties celebrate in each child’s achievement and future learning journey.

Parents who have yet to make a booking have been allocated a time. Confirmations of these conference times will be on a slip in your child’s communication bag.

A reminder that Wednesday August 26th is a Student Free Day. Students only attend on this day for their 15 minute conference.

**SchoolMate**

Victoria’s Department of Education and Training has released a new app that is designed to help parents become more engaged in their child’s education.

SchoolMate provides parents with a roadmap to help aid their child’s learning at home and at school. It:

- shows parents what their children are learning in each subject, at each year level according to the Victorian curriculum (AusVELS)
- provides parents with tips for helping their child in the best way possible
- suggests apps, books, events and activities related to each subject area and year level.

SchoolMate was created by the Department with input from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and Victoria’s professional teaching associations including:

- Victorian Association for the Teaching of English
- School Sport Victoria
- Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation
- Geography Teachers’ Association of Victoria
- Science Teachers’ Association of Victoria
- History Teachers’ Association of Victoria
- Digital Learning and Teaching Victoria
- Mathematical Association of Victoria
- Art Education Victoria.

We think SchoolMate is a great resource for parents and we encourage you to visit the App Store or Google Play and download it today.

The Department will begin updating SchoolMate soon, so please let us know if you have any feedback you would like us to share with them, or you can email the SchoolMate team directly at online.comms.unit@edumail.vic.gov.au

Until next week,

Ty Hoggins
Acting Principal
SRC News

Last Friday the SRC held their Jeans for Genes fundraiser. The day was a great success with $451.85 raised which has been donated to the Children’s Medical Institute. The money raised will help scientists to discover treatments and cures of genetic childhood diseases.

Students participated in the fashion parade on the day modelling their creative denim outfits. Congratulations to all students for supporting this worthy cause!

Jacquie Walsh on behalf of the SRC
World of Maths - Whole School Incursion - Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September
For your information, in next week’s newsletter the time and day your child’s class will be attending this event will be listed. Parents are welcome to come.

FATHER’S DAY STALL – THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST

$7.00 for each gift available
Can you help?
We need volunteers to come to the staffroom on Monday 24th August straight after assembly to help wrap the presents. Thanks.

Step-a-thon
Step-a-thon for Kids is a national campaign for primary school children to help teach them the importance of making every step count.

Obesity is on the rise in Australia and Step-a-thon aims to teach kids the value of making every step count, by encouraging them to keep active and supporting the research that keeps kids everywhere healthy and active.

From 31st August until 6th September 2015 kids will count their steps and raise money for child health research. The first 25,000 kids to register will receive a free slap on pedometer to make counting their steps fun and easy.

This is a great initiative so if you are interested please go to the website and register at www.stepathon.com.au

Friendship, Loyalty and Trust

Our world seems to turning into a cynical, untrusting society, driven by general busyness and lost trust, with loyalties regularly violated without the checks and balances of the past. Through Face Book especially, there has been a stripping away of the usual discretion. This form of social linking, through the pseudo-personal internet, has allowed people to look into someone else’s private life to an unprecedented depth. This is seen as a form of entertainment. The internet, including text messaging, is an area where our young people (and old) can be bullied, and certainly gossiped about. This plays havoc with relationships.

We teach through our example and it is my hope that as a school community we act wisely and learn to live with secrets without ever divulging them. It is a good feeling to be trusted to hold a secret. It takes discipline and a “renewed” way of nurturing relationships. Obviously there are truths that have to be reported, things that are wrong to hide. But when that is not the case, we are called to honour confidences and protect people and reputations.

Not everything is to be told, nor are there things for us to hold. It takes wisdom and discretion.

Peter Ackland - school chaplain
Hello Everybody,

First of all I would like to say a huge congratulations to the under 17s and under 12s from Whittlesea Eagles for their grand final wins on the weekend!!!!

In after school care we have been putting on our astronaut helmets, jumping in our rockets and setting forth on an adventure into the solar system. We have discovered what the solar system looks like including all the planets and their amazing features as well as looking into the discovery of earth. We have been making paper-mâché planets and rockets to interpret what we had seen on our adventure. Jumping back onto the ground of earth we have been looking at different countries and learning about cultures and flags of these diverse countries.

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.

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the holiday program enrolment.

Please get your holiday enrolments in by the 31st of August to avoid disappointment. 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!

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
INTO THE LIGHT
Echoes of Home
Sunday September 13th
3.00 – 7.30pm
Parade gathers at 6pm

At the Cattle Shed - Whittlesea Showgrounds, Yea Road, Whittlesea

A Magical Lantern Parade and celebration for the whole community.

Once again lanterns are being made by students in preparation for this year's INTO THE LIGHT event.

On Sunday 13 September 2015 INTO THE LIGHT will be staged from 3.00-7.30pm. Everyone is invited to attend and carry a lantern in the parade, walking together from the darkness of winter into the light of spring.

From 3.00pm there will be food stalls, kids’ activities and games, live music by locals and a mini ‘cinema’ of short films by teenagers. Then at 6pm we will all gather to light the lanterns and walk in (or watch) the parade.

INTO THE LIGHT is a community process and event, made by, for, and with people living in and around Whittlesea Township.

This year INTO THE LIGHT explores the themes of Home and Community. The parade will feature a series of sound installations and a choir of combined voices from Whittlesea and the surrounding communities.

Lantern making workshops for adults and students, for those who haven’t made a lantern in the schools workshops, are being offered in Whittlesea in the week leading up to the event. This is a free activity suitable people of all ages and abilities. Everyone is welcome to become involved at any stage and no experience is necessary.

Lantern making workshops will be held at:

Kinglake Neighbourhood House, 6 McMahons Rd Kinglake, VIC. 3763
Sunday 30 August 12.30 – 3.00pm

The Cattle Shed, Whittlesea Showgrounds, Yea Road, Whittlesea
Thursday 10 September from 4-6pm
Saturday 12th September from 1-3pm.

Here's a link to the video of last year's event... https://vimeo.com/111696852

For more details or to become involved, call 9217 2174 or email: Stefanie.robinson@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
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