Hello Everyone,

We have been planning 2016 for some time now. A few weeks ago I asked for parents to put in writing any requests they have regarding their child's class placement.

This request is not about teacher preference but about friendships and perhaps issues that we are unaware of. As I said previously, we try to accommodate where we can to ensure positive, calm and safe classrooms.

I reiterate that any requests must be in writing and addressed to the principal. This needs to be completed by Monday 26th of October, 2015. Please note: all requests should be made annually as circumstances may alter.

Department of Education Parent Survey
We have conducted our own parent satisfaction survey for the last few years now as the Department of Education parent survey only goes to a computer generated and randomly selected small group of parents. In our case only 52 parents had the opportunity to respond.

This year (the same as last year) despite a chocolate frog incentive to the children and phone calls home only 24 families responded to the survey.

Clearly this is not representative of the 284 families we have in our school. We do however take this feedback and that of the 117 Whittlesea Primary Parent Satisfaction Survey (our own survey) results very seriously. I responded to the positive feedback and any of the concerns in our last two newsletters.

The Department Survey (from the 24 parents who responded) results were very good.
There was a concern about the early years learning centre toilets smelling and this issue has been addressed by our new cleaners. Another person commented about me being unapproachable. I implore this person to try and talk to me either when I am in the yard before school, after school or greeting all the parents at our weekly assembly or at a coffee and chat. If these times are not convenient then my office door is always open - just ask the number of children who bounce in every break time to chat, play or draw.

There were lots of positive comments including these ones:

Thank you. We aim to work with parents to provide the best opportunities and experiences for all children so that they can be the best that they can be.

Take care,
Bente Stock 😊
Hello Everyone,

A reminder to parents that a great way to stay connected with Whittlesea Primary School is to ‘Like’ our Facebook page. Recently we have posted images from camps and the latest excursions to the Lego Education Centre. Many parents have expressed their excitement at seeing their children involved in activities both at school and abroad. Facebook gives us the ability to connect with hundreds in the community in a very short time. Thank you to those who have added positive comments through our various posts. A reminder that our school website (www.whittleseaps.vic.edu.au) and TIQBIZ mobile app are also great sources of information.

It is vitally important that all students are in class and ready to learn at 9:00am. As instruction starts at this time we ask for students to enter the room at 8:50am so they have 10 minutes to organise their belongings and commence the morning routine. Students who enter after 9:00am have a negative impact on the learning of the class as the teacher has already started teaching through a whole class introduction. As adults we know how difficult it can be to ‘catch up’ on something new and challenging when you have missed the beginning – it is the same for our children. Interruptions to this vital whole class instruction must be avoided and we ask that students arrive on time and that parents use the opportunities before 9:00am to connect with teachers.

We hope to see many students at our upcoming disco on Friday night. This event is another great community event organised by our Student Representative Council (SRC).

Until next week,

Ty Hoggins
Assistant Principal

**Region Athletics**
One of our students, Kane Johnson, competed in the Northern Metropolitan Region Athletics final. This was a great achievement as the competition at the previous final, Whittlesea Division, was very strong.

Kane gained 6th place in the triple jump and just missed out on a place in the 200m final. As always, Kane gave his best effort to achieve pleasing results.

**EARLY YEARS SWIMMING PROGRAM**
The swimming program for children in the Early Years will take place at the Whittlesea Swim Centre during the last two weeks’ of school. The dates will be December 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 15th, 16th & 17th. There are no lessons on December 8th because it is a statewide and school transition day.

A permission note and timetable will be sent home closer to the date.

Cheryl Abbott
SRC News

On Thursday 15th October the SRC and School Captains visited the Whittlesea Community Garden. The students worked collaboratively in small groups to design and create scarecrows which will be entered into this year’s Whittlesea Show.

Students used plastic bags as stuffing for their scarecrows and clothing, jewellery and other accessories to decorate them. After the Whittlesea show, the scarecrows will be used to protect our gardens at school.

Keep an eye out for our scarecrows at the upcoming Whittlesea Show!

Jacquie Walsh on behalf of the SRC

BREAKFAST CLUB
There will be no Breakfast Club on Wednesday 4th November – straight after the long weekend.

TERM 4 – COMPULSARY SCHOOL HATS

SCHOOL BANKING EVERY TUESDAY
5. Value education and seek a balance between schoolwork and outside activities. Emphasize your children’s progress in developing the knowledge and skills they need to be successful both in school and in life.

6. Recognise factors that take a toll on students' classroom performance. Consider the possible negative effects of long hours at after-school jobs or in extracurricular activities. Work with your children to help them maintain a balance between school responsibilities and outside commitments.

7. Support school rules and goals. Take care not to undermine school rules, discipline, or goals.

8. Encourage children to do their best, but don't pressure them by setting goals too high or by scheduling too many activities.

9. Call teachers early if you think there's a problem while there is still time to solve it. Don't wait for teachers to call you.

10. Accept your responsibility as parents. Don't expect the school and teachers to take over your obligations as parents. Teach children self-discipline and respect for others at home - don't rely on teachers and schools to teach these basic behaviours and attitudes.


These are helpful thoughts from Nigel. Peter Ackland - school chaplain