Hello Everyone,

Tuesday was a wonderful day to be a part of the Whittlesea Primary School community. Congratulations to our Foundation students who attended school for their 100th day. Thank you to all significant adults who came into the Early Learning Centre to share in the celebrations. I know the junior students were all counting down the days eagerly and enjoyed sharing a story or a fun maths activity with their parents / guardians.

Whittlesea Primary School was definitely a hit with our sister school from China – Jinling Primary School. We are proud and honoured to have hosted Madam Lin and her touring party as part of their whirlwind tour across five Victorian schools. Our afternoon began with official welcomes from our school captains and the exchange of gifts. We then allowed the visitors to engage in soccer and skipping with our children on our soccer pitch. Afterwards the Chinese students combined with our year 5/6 Mandarin elective students for a ‘Wildlife Experience’. Our visitors were clearly thrilled with the opportunity to hold a crocodile and pat a baby Joey.
Our afternoon concluded with the presentation of ‘Possum Magic’ books and an afternoon tea themed on this classic Australian story. The delegation’s visit was not only a great experience for the Chinese visitors, but also for our students. All our children were excited to welcome international guests and while it was only short – I’m sure it will act as an impetus to further embed Asian culture and Chinese studies into our school. Bente and my office even has Chinese translations for chair, door, computer table – all labelled!

Our year 5/6 Chinese elective students may have the opportunity to visit Jinling Primary School as part of a student exchange through the Victorian Principal’s Association. What an amazing opportunity for our students. As places are very limited this opportunity has been offered to the year 5 and 6 students who currently participate in the Chinese elective. At this point our school’s participation is still not confirmed – but we are hopeful that in October a group of Whittlesea Primary School students will travel abroad to China.

**Jumpers**
A reminder to all parents to please ensure all articles of uniform are clearly named. Can I also ask that you regularly check your child has their own particular clothing as jackets can easily be misplaced and swapped following play times and Physical Education.

**Parent Opinion Survey**
This year participation in the Parent Opinion Survey was optional across all state government schools. At Whittlesea Primary we always invite and value feedback so we have opted to once again distribute the survey to a randomly generated sample of our families. If you have been selected, please return the survey as soon as possible. There will be a small treat for each child who returns their families survey!

到下週 (Until next week,)
Ty Hoggins
Acting Principal

**Cross Country**
Last Thursday two of our students, Kane Johnson and Tara Watson, ran in the State Cross Country at Bundoora Park. This was the first time that we have had any of our students compete at State level for many years.

The competition was very strong with approximately 95 high quality runners in each race. Kane ran in the 11 year old boys’ event and smashed his PB. He ran 3km in a time of 10.54 and came 69th. Tara ran in the 10 year old girls 2km event and also ran a fast time, achieving 28th place.

Congratulations to both students who represented our school, Bridge Inn District and the Northern Region and gave their best efforts throughout. This was a great achievement.

Cheryl Abbott
IMPORTANT NOTICE..........  
Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
Dear Parents / Guardians,
If you applied for CSEF, please be advised that the money has been received by the school. If you would like the money to go towards the 3/4 camp or the 5/6 camp, you need to contact Donna Gray to authorise her to do so. If you have any queries, please contact the office.

Active Engagement

Patterns of engagement begin very early in children. They are curious and are seen as information sponges. Because they are not able to discern which piece of information is going to be important down the track, they store a staggering amount of unrelated learning in their developing minds. They are built to engage with mystery and involve themselves in many interests. It is not until adolescence when their minds begin pruning unnecessary knowledge that this pattern will change.

It is good then that we have specialist subjects at our school such as sport, art, music, language (LOTE) and Inquiry alongside that of numeracy and literacy. The primary school child definitely benefits from the wide variety of experiences on offer. Students are engaged with mind and body in new more active ways, rather than the old passive learning styles.

The aim of our school is engender and active engagement for Life. Yes, there still has to be reading and arithmetic, but a breadth of experience at such a critical time in their cognitive development has the potential to nurture motivation to “dig deep”, so vital for learning in today’s very free thinking and highly distracted society. Learning must be enjoyed, and the more there is on offer the more chance those “Ah ha!” moments will happen.

Peter Ackland - school chaplain
Dear Parents,

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school/early learning centre – and all we need you to do is shop for your groceries at Woolworths.

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, we are collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. You will get one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Place the Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet and when it’s complete, the Sticker Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box here at the school or at Westfield Plenty Valley, South Morang Central, Mernda, Pacific Epping (Epping Plaza) and Epping North Woolworths.

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students – including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library. If you’d like to know more visit woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

Thank you for your support ☺
Jo Vitale and Carli Starkey

BOOKCLUB ISSUE 5
BOOKCLUB DUE BACK FRIDAY 24TH JULY (TOMORROW)

SCHOOL BANKING EVERY TUESDAY
Girl Guide Unit Opening in Whittlesea

After over a decade, Girl Guides are returning to Whittlesea when a Unit for girls aged 5 – 11 years opens in August. There will be an Information Meeting for interested girls and parents on **Monday 27th July** at the Whittlesea Scout and Guide Hall, 40 Fir St, Whittlesea at 6 pm. The first meeting of the new Unit will take place on **Monday 3rd August**, starting at 6pm and finishing at 8 pm.

For further information, please contact Catharine Vaughan-Pow (District Manager) on 03 9088 1256 or email cvaughanpow@guidesvic.org.au

**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](http://www.prace.vic.edu.au)