FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello Everyone,
It was unquestionably wonderful to see all of our children back at school last Friday. As I have said to some parents – a school is not a school without children! The smiles on your faces and those of the children were precious. I felt so excited and proud to be part of our school community and to being WPS’s principal. We are generating a terrific reputation for meeting and challenging the needs of every child and as a result we have increased our enrolment to 394 children.

I have been most impressed with the hours of preparation that the staff have put into ensuring a great start to the school year for your children.

The teachers were involved in two professional learning days – one on Writing/Spelling and the other on Student Health and Wellbeing. Every Tuesday all of our staff are involved in professional learning to continually improve their knowledge, skills and instructional practice. Teachers must have a repertoire of skills to meet and challenge the needs of every child.

During the holidays –as per the norm – we continued to make improvements to our beautiful school environment and to complete holiday maintenance. Thank you to those of you who have noticed and acknowledged the improvements.

We welcome new staff to our school:

Laura Mackfall – Foundation  Laura worked at our school for some time in 2014
Danielle McDowell – Visual Art/Design Technology  Danielle also worked at our school last year replacing Louise Reid who went on family leave.
Amanda McLean – Year 5 teacher
Stacey Powell – Year 1 teacher
Emma Walsh – Year 3 teacher
Carli Starkey – Year 1 teacher
Joanne Vitale – Year 2 teacher
Lynne Tolmay – Year 4 teacher
We have also employed our new Chinese teacher – Ms Chong - who will teach the foundation children Mandarin as well as a year 4,5,6 Elective Chinese class. The selection of children for the *Chinese Elective* will occur in the next week or so.

We also welcomed back Erin Maher this week to assist with the foundation assessments before she goes overseas.

**Uniform Policy**

It was great to see that almost all of our children wore their full school uniform to school on Friday and only 9 children required an *out of uniform* notice. School Council expect that all children comply with the policy. Should any of our families require financial assistance for uniform or booklist fees, they should make contact with Donna (Business Manager) or myself.

We look forward to another successful year of learning and teaching at Whittlesea Primary School.

Kindest regards,
Bente Stock
Principal

**Hello Everyone,**

Welcome back for another exciting year at Whittlesea Primary School. Even though we are only a few days into the first term, there is a fantastic atmosphere across the school. The one thing that stands out is how happy are children are to be back at school with their teachers and friends. The full list of our teaching staff for 2015 is as follows:-

**Class Listing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00K</td>
<td>Sarah Pearce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00M</td>
<td>Laura Mackfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00D</td>
<td>Renee Dipaola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1P</td>
<td>Stacey Powell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>Matt Dunstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1S</td>
<td>Carli Starkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2V</td>
<td>Joanne Vitale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Verena Goetzke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We welcome a number of new staff in 2015 and wish them all their best in their careers at Whittlesea Primary School.

ACMA’s Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation – FEBRUARY 23rd, 2015

Whittlesea Primary School have been fortunate to secure a booking for a highly sought after parent presentation on Internet safety.

As part of its Cybersmart Outreach program, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA), delivers free internet safety awareness presentations for parents, teachers and students. Presentations provide valuable information about the risks confronting children online, and offer tools and tips to help make their internet experiences safe and positive.

The upcoming parent Internet safety presentation will cover topics including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, illegal content, inappropriate contact, identity theft, grooming and predatory activity
- tips to help children stay safe online.

The presentation is thorough, non-technical and will be presented by Greg Gebhart, the senior presenter at ACMA who is highly regarded in the field. Better yet, this opportunity is presented to our community free of charge.

Meet and Greet

Our meet and greet parent / teacher conferences will be conducted on February 17 and 18. Please refer to the information enclosed with this newsletter regarding our online booking system and available times.
All parents / guardians are expected to attend a session with their child's classroom teacher.

Specialist teachers and school leadership are also available upon request.

Regards,
Ty Hoggins
Assistant Principal

**Bookclub 2015**

Hi Everyone and welcome to another year of Scholastic Bookclub at Whittlesea Primary School. For those of you new to the school my name is Vicki Johnson and I am the Bookclub Coordinator. If you ever have any questions please don't hesitate to leave a message at the office for me - or catch me in person when I am around the school.

There are 8 issues of Bookclub throughout the year. Please check the Primary Post for the closing dates for each issue. Your child should receive them on a Thursday and I generally make the closing date the following Friday. Bookclub is a great way to raise money to buy resources for our school. Last year we collected close to $1000 in school rewards.

Scholastic have changed a couple of things for 2015 including the introduction of online ordering via their LOOP system. Please read the attached flyer for more information. This new system means you can now order and pay for your books yourself online via your computer or mobile device. If you choose this method there is no need to return the order form to school. Scholastic are still offering the option of paying via cash or cheque and for the time being you can still pay by card online but still return the order form to school.

Scholastic have also changed their method for brochure distribution. All age group brochures now include the "Extra" Specials in the one booklet. Your child will now only receive the brochure relevant to their age group. If you would still like to receive the other brochures there will be spares in the office and you can also access all brochures via the Scholastic website.

Happy Reading!!
Vicki Johnson

**FAMILY STATEMENTS**

Statements for all families that are yet to pay for the booklist and excursion/incursion levies will be sent home next week. Please note that the due date for payment is the 28th February 2015. Any queries please see Donna Gray in the office.

**SCHOOL BANKING STARTS TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2015**

**VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS YEAR..........................**

If you are interested in volunteering your time for this year, we need help with School Banking and Bookclub. We have parents already volunteering for these but they need help. Contact the school office if you are interested. Thank you.
Starting Back

First term is underway and classes are settling in with students being allocated their stationery for the year and receiving initial briefings from more often a new teacher. Each year offers new challenges and that translates into new opportunities for everyone. My service to the school has such a challenge this year, and I am called to be positive about it in the same way. This is because the government funding for a chaplain at our school has ceased.

Through the affirming measures of the Principal Team (and School Council) and the support of the Whittlesea Chaplaincy Committee, my position has been maintained for this term. After that, I expect my hours to be significantly reduced in line with the non-government funding that is able to be raised. In the meantime I am able to continue to offer my programs: woodcraft club, drawing club, and breakfast club (with SU Australia). I also have a timetable placing me in classrooms, offering teacher support during the teaching and learning time. Another thing that I am (still) doing is making trick wallets with the younger children. In all that I do as I serve the school community I find opportunities to meet with children and have meaningful conversations with them.

So I have started the term on a positive note viewing the less than certain path before me as an opportunity to serve as best I can in whatever capacity that I can. The staff curriculum days set the tone. We are all on the same page and see ourselves as members of a quality team led by progressive and experienced leaders. I am proud of our school and know that the children are in caring and calm hands. I expect to see all our students respond positively and productively as a result.

Peter Ackland - school chaplain

Men’s identification bracelet. If lost please come to the school office.