Hello Everyone,

We have the best children!

It is always such a pleasure being in the playground or in classrooms observing happy and friendly children. This is a credit to you - their parents and to our teachers who work hard to develop interesting and engaging learning. Importantly, our staff, including our office and educational support staff all care about your children. They are 'there' for each and every child, genuinely caring for all aspects of their development.

No one is perfect - not you, not me and not others and occasionally mistakes are made. During these times it is important to concentrate on the positives and to use some laughter.

Speaking about mistakes, although it was announced that we had three parent vacancies for school council there were actually four.

School Council Election Outcome

The number of nominations equalled the number of vacancies. Congratulations go to the following parents who will represent all of our school community:

Sally Graham, Celina Mott, Samantha McCormick, Lyle Winter

Along with current parent members: Luke Chiodo, Maria Martin, Josh Parks and Kristelle McCumber

Our staff representatives are: Kelly Redmond, Verena Goetzke, Ty Hoggins, Pam Studwick and myself.

We have our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday the 16th of March, in the Staff Room from 6:00pm to 6:30pm. Everyone is more than welcome to attend. The Annual report to the community will be presented at this time.

Kindest regards,
Bente
Hello Everyone

As you would have read in last week’s newsletter, our Principal Bente Stock has announced her upcoming retirement at the beginning of term 3, 2016. Her contribution to our school in immense and as a community we are looking forward to celebrating her time at Whittlesea Primary School.

Due to her scheduled long service leave, Bente’s last day at Whittlesea Primary School while students are in attendance is Thursday, March 24th – just 2 weeks away!

The staff at Whittlesea Primary are determined to make this day a memorable one for Bente – a celebration of her 40 years in education and most significantly, the 7 years of passion and dedication she has devoted to Whittlesea Primary School. While some details remain a secret, we would like to invite all our community to share an afternoon tea in our school gym on this day, commencing at 1:10pm. Children will have an adjusted timetable to allow teachers and parents to come together in celebration of Bente’s career. This afternoon tea will be immediately followed by a special assembly which we encourage parents / guardians to attend also.

A reminder that school finishes at 2:30pm on Thursday March 24th as it is the final day of term.

NAPLAN

The NAPLAN assessments for students in years 3 and 5 are scheduled for early term 2. In preparation for these tests, our teachers are beginning to shift towards learning activities which mimic some of the condition our students will encounter during this time. It is important that those children who are scheduled to complete NAPLAN are given the best opportunity to achieve their best result. To achieve this teachers will continue the normal learning program, but will utilise some of the test conditions so students are familiar come test date in term 2.

Assessment is a vital part of the learning cycle and teachers regularly design assessments that inform them on what a child knows and where the next point of need exists for that individual. NAPLAN and teacher derived assessment tasks are important in this process.

Kind Regards,
Ty Hoggins

---

2016 BOOKLIST REMINDER

Thankyou to the families who have already paid the booklist fees for 2016. Please note that booklist fees of $225 per student were due by Friday 26th February 2016.

The excursion levy of $70 per student can be paid in full or by 2 instalments of $35 each. The first instalment of $35 is due now and the second instalment of $35 is due by Friday 10th June 2016. If you have any queries please contact Donna Gray at the school office.

REMINDER

If you would like your child/children to participate in the religious instruction program please return the completed form by Tuesday 15th March.
Some families may be eligible for the Camps Sports and Excursion Fund.

**CSEF eligibility**

Below is the criteria used to determine a student’s eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

**Criteria 1 – Eligibility**

To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
- on the first day of Term two;

  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

**Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria**

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

**Eligibility Date**

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

**Closing Date**

Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form as soon as possible so that payments can be received. Application forms are available at the school office.
Woodcraft Club Term 1

It seems good to share a bit on how the weekly Woodcraft Club is getting along. This happens in the first recess each Wednesday when I am able to be there and it is not raining. I try to have something of interest to make for about twenty children. This term, ‘assembly’ projects included motorbikes, pear phones, kangaroos and houses with gable roofs. I rely on the children “getting it” and not needing to call for help and I am pleased to see that happening more and more as I can’t be everywhere at once.

The teacher helping me this year is Payam Panahinejad (of 2P) and he sees firsthand the creativity and interest in all who come along. There has always been a good size group each week and the numbers have a way of self-regulating, for those who come late more often decide to give it a miss. The “kits” are mostly all taken in the first five minutes and those who miss out are encouraged to come earlier the following week or stay and try to make something/anything out of the many offcuts available in the trays. Additional time is needed to set it all up and clean everything away but I think it is worth it judging from the excitement I see in all the faces at the door.

Peter Ackland - school chaplain (Coordinator of the Woodcraft Club)

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking is every Tuesday. Please contact the Office if you would like a school banking pack to be sent home for your child.

CANTEEN

The new canteen service provided by Metro Canteens operates every Friday. Families are able to place an order from a PC, Tablet or Smartphone up until midnight Thursday each week. The online system is through www.flexischools.com.au, where you will need to set up an account.
CAR PARKING

The Church kindly lets our school families use their car park. Please reverse park, and keep to the actual car park area. Driving beyond this is not permitted. Also, do not use the disabled car park in the staff car park unless you have a disability permit, we do have parents that require the use of this space. Thank you.

SRC NEWS

The remainder of the SRC representatives received their badges at Assembly this week.

2016 PREFECTS

Lewis, Alex and Charlee received their Prefect badges this week, they were absent last week due to school swimming.
| Foundation Reid/Redmond | Awarded to: Tahlia Coath  
For: displaying confidence when sharing her learning with Mrs Stock and Mr Hoggins. |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Foundation M/Powell     | Awarded to: Angel B Ferguson  
For: consistently being a star learner and doing her best in all areas of the curriculum. |
| Foundation Powell       | Awarded to: Dahlia Khano  
For: always sitting in S.T.A.R position on the floor. |
| Year 1 Capito           | Awarded to: Sylvia Hallam  
For: being caring and kind to everyone around her. |
| Year 1 Miller           | Awarded to: Charlie Higgs  
For: making my day every day this week |
| Year 1 Starkey          | Awarded to: Marlee Rice  
For: showing excellence in everything she does. |
| Year 2 Goetzke          | Awarded to: Rory Mirrielee  
For: displaying a positive attitude when taking on challenges in his learning. |
| Year 2 Panahinejad      | Awarded to: Mason Gillespie  
For: trying his best to make good choices in the classroom. |
| Year 2 Vitale           | Awarded to: Kevin Ford  
For: showing our school value of confidence when helping others in the class with I.C.T. Well done Kevin. |
| Year 3 Kaur             | Awarded to: Tea Morrell  
For: showing a great improvement in her writing by using descriptive words. |
| Year 3 Walsh            | Awarded to: Alice Biber-Williams  
For: an amazing story about Harry the Koala. Well done Alice. |
| Year 4 Mion/Walsh       | Awarded to: Aiden Coakley  
For: an excellent effort during writing. You have made a genuine effort to improve your spacing of words. |
| Year 4 Mion/Walsh       | Awarded to: Amity Bell  
For: an outstanding improvement in her writing and remembering to always check for meaning. |
| Year 5 Dipaola | Awarded to: Chace Burgess  
For: being an active member of the classroom and showing enthusiasm in all of his learning. Well done superstar. |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Year Cook/Tolmay | Awarded to: Jamie Critsilis  
For: always displaying the school values in everything he does.  
Awarded to: Jasmine Waters-Wickham  
For: always displaying the school values in everything she does. |
| Year 6 Dunstone | Awarded to: Alex Luscombe  
For: showing the value of community and volunteering to help others. |
| Year 6 Wright | Awarded to: Kayla Davis  
For: demonstrating the value of confidence at interschool sport. |
Yesterday fifteen students from Whittlesea Primary School participated in the School Sport Victoria Swimming Championships at Northcote Swimming Pool. Twenty schools from the Northern Region competed, all children demonstrated excellence when representing our school.

Students who finished in the top three places received a medal and the first place swimmers now go on to complete at the SSV State Finals at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on Tuesday 19th April.

Results are as follows:

**BACKSTROKE:**
Girls 11yr – Emilee Sorensen - 7th
Boys 12/13yrs – Alex Luscombe – 7th

**BREASTSTROKE:**
Girls 9/10yrs – Chloe Mott – 10th
Boys 12/13yrs – Lewis Grogan – 9th

**BUTTERFLY:**
Girls 11yr – Emilee Sorensen – 5th
Boys 12/13yrs – Alex Luscombe – 5th

**MULTICLASS:**
Freestyle – Olivia Sorensen – 1st
Backstroke – Olivia Sorensen – 1st

**FREESTYLE RELAY:**
Girls 9/10yrs – Jade McLay, Rachel Firebrace, Olivia Sorensen and Mia Webster – 8th
Boys 12/13yrs – Riley McLay, Brock Greaves, Lewis Grogan and Alex Luscombe – 5th

**MEDLEY RELAY:**
Emilee Sorensen, Lewis Grogan, Alex Luscombe and Charlee Brander – 6th

Awesome effort by all students, good luck to Olivia in the SSV State Swimming Finals.

Kim Ferguson
PE
SPORTS NEWS

Friday 12th February
Boys teeball – Whittlesea defeated St Marys  16-9
Girls teeball – Whittlesea defeated St Marys  21-12
Boys soccer – St Marys defeated Whittlesea  1-0
Girls soccer – Whittlesea defeated St Marys.  3-1

Friday 19th February
Boys teeball – Hazelglen defeated Whittlesea  11-10
Girls teeball – Whittlesea defeated Hazelglen  13-11
Boys soccer – Hazelglen defeated Whittlesea  3-0
Girls soccer – Hazelglen drew with Whittlesea 0-0

Friday 26th February
Boys teeball – Whittlesea defeated St Josephs 13-8
Girls teeball – Whittlesea defeated St Josephs 17-1
Boys soccer – St Josephs defeated Whittlesea 3-0
Girls soccer – St Josephs drew with Whittlesea 0-0

Friday 3rd March
Boys teeball – Whittlesea defeated The lakes 17-9
Girls teeball – Whittlesea defeated The Lakes 11-5
Boys soccer – St Josephs defeated Whittlesea 2-1
Girls soccer – St Josephs defeated Whittlesea 1-0

The last round of inter school sports is this Friday 11th March at Marymeade Catholic College (for both sports), any student that is not competing in Soccer or Teeball will be going to the Whittlesea Bowls Club for their alternative sport

Due to Naplan testing, the school Cross Country event has had to be re-scheduled.
It will now be held at Walkers Reserve on Tuesday May 17th. This event is for all children in years 3-6.

Congratulations to Mia Webster from 05C who competed at the Australian BMX Championships in Bathurst last weekend. Mia finished 4th overall which is a fantastic result and something to be very proud of. Well done Mia!