26th March 2014

‘The Puggle Post’

OUR SCHOOL VISION: Encouraging all members of the school community to work together to create a positive and motivating environment, allowing all students to maximise their educational opportunities in an ever changing world.

Being present at school is your present to learning!

PARENT PAYMENTS RECEIVED

185 families at WPS.
115 Completed payments = 62%

Have you recently asked your child/ren.....

“What did you learn today?”

Foundation B: Shaelea Humphreys—(Fantastic counting this week)
Foundation H: Reilley White—(Approaching his learning with infectious enthusiasm)
Foundation K: Chase Northrop—(Trying really hard to learn his golden words)
1/2 G: Matilda Bult—(Being kind and considerate)
1/2 H: Blair Fitzpatrick—(Fantastic writing all week)
1/2 Z: James Mitsakis—(Showing the school value ‘doing your best’)
3/4 A: Lachlan Barnes—(Working hard and asking good questions in class)
3/4 B: Joshua Stone—(Concentrating and learning how to trade numbers)
3/4 C: Brodie Petrou—(Challenging himself in Mathematics and solving difficult problems)
5/6 A: Ryan Battistin—(Being a responsible and respectful student)
5/6 B: Kira Roberts—(Displaying the school value ‘Doing your best’ in all learning tasks)
5/6 C: Charlyse Greeno—(Displaying the value ‘Doing your best’ with all writing activities)
Art Award: Mia-J Nikora—(Great listening skills in all Art sessions)
Sports Award—Alesha McIntosh—(Competing with spirit)

A little reminder.....

Next Friday (4th April) school finishes at 2:30 p.m. for the school holiday break. Assembly will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the hall.
A Message from the Principal…. 

**School Attendance:** Over the past week I have been looking at the attendance rates of our students. We have a small number of students that have already exceeded the state-wide acceptable level of absences for terms one and two…. and we haven't yet finished term one. This is of major concern, as student absence not only impacts on academic achievement, but also on social and emotional connection to the school and to one’s peers. On Tuesday all families will receive an update of their child’s absences for term one. Three days absence (or greater) for term one is a signal that attention is needed.

Families are reminded that a new attendance process for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development came into place from 1st March. Families need to be accountable for student absences and must inform the school as per any reasons for students not being at school. Principals are now required to notify regional office when absences exceed five days for a school year, without an acceptable reason. This is then further investigated by regional office staff.

Every child has a right to access education and it is a parent’s responsibility to ensure this right is provided. If any parent/s is/are having difficulty in getting a child to school, please contact us as we are here to help. However please remember also that well students need to be at school.

Either myself, Mr Potesta or Mrs Smith will be personally contacting families of students with excessive absences before the end of this term.

**KidsMatter:** In 2013 our school began its journey as a KidsMatter school. KidsMatter is a government initiative that assist schools to support students’ mental health and wellbeing. Last year we implemented component one of the training — Building a positive school community. Due to staff changes this year we have rebuilt our KidsMatter implementation team…. and are now introducing the 2014 Wandong Primary School KidsMatter team members. Our team is made up of staff from across the school and parent representatives. Rhonda Cole, Cathrine Yaneff, Alison Stone, members of the 2013 team, have been joined by Julie Smith, Toni Vicary, Simone Gallinaro, Jessye Blakis, Melissa McKean and Cheryl Mann.

Last week our KidsMatter team completed a one day training session focusing on Component two, titled Social and Emotional Learning. The next step for the team will be to meet before the end of the this term to plan professional learning sessions for staff which will take place during term two.

**Student Management Review:** This term, staff have been reviewing the process by which we closely track student behaviour at our school. This process includes both the positive rewards for behaviours we wish to observe and the process we use to address any behaviours we wish to minimise. Staff have provided feedback on what is working well and the areas for further improvement. We have had ongoing discussions attempting to match appropriate consequences to the list of inappropriate behaviours. Yesterday our grade six students will provide their ideas and feedback.

At this stage we would like some input from families on the process and the consequences we use to address both positive and negative behaviour. We will be holding two parent forums and invite parents to attend either of these events.

**Dates for the forums are:** Thursday 3rd April at 2:15 p.m. and again that evening, Thursday 3rd April at 7:00 p.m. Please return the reply slip in the newsletter for catering purposes.

**School Tours:** Over the past few weeks, we have conducted a number of school tours for prospective parents and students. It has been delightful to hear the positive comments from our visitors - especially those related to the fact that our students are on task in class and the classrooms are very quiet learning spaces. These are both things we have worked on over the past few years and it is great that others have noticed the results of our efforts.

**Have a great week ~ Rhonda Cole**
You, Me, We: Together we can achieve.

This term in grade three and four, we have been doing the inquiry topic “You, Me, We: Together we can achieve”. Over the past few weeks we have been looking into the topic of bullying. Last week we spoke about things that make us feel put down or sad. We each brainstormed and then shared our ideas in a class discussion. After doing this we then brainstormed ideas about things that make us feel better once we have been put down or upset. We then put these strategies onto a poster to display in the classroom. The students are now encouraged to use the poster when they are feeling sad or upset. Other activities we have completed to do with the topic of bullying include; reading stories, watching short clips, having class discussions and role playing activities.

Balancing Love & Discipline - A Parenting Program

This program is facilitated by Marc des Landes from Familycare in Seymour. Marc has conducted numerous parenting workshops and worked with adults and children in a counselling capacity for many years. Marc is highly regarded and has a terrific reputation in this area.

The course is open to all parents and has an emphasis on the important role of the father in establishing sound relationships with their children. This is a seven week course that will begin next term. This course will be run at Wandong Primary School next term on a Tuesday evening.

Please read the leaflet sent with this newsletter for more information regarding dates and times.

1/2 G: Mini Towns

In grade 1/2 G we are literally developing a real sense of community in our classroom. Students are collaborating to develop Mini Towns.

Students are exploring new ideas, problem solving, revising and communicating together to produce the ideal town.

This task requires students to select their design role, develop a draft, revise ideas, create a final plan and present it to the class. The final plan is judged based on its inventiveness, practicality and value for potential buyers.

Each team will practise their persuasive skills for the presentation, highlighting what sets their town apart from the others.

Our Mini Town Planners are practising their team and town building skills!
**WOW! …. WHAT’S ON @WANDONG**

**March**
- Thursday 27th - Grade 5/6 summer sports day
- Friday 28th - Easter raffle drawn today.
  - 2014 Netbook payment due today
  - Second hand uniform sale in the library before assembly this week. Get ready for the cold weather!

**April**
- Thursday 3rd April - Parent forum on Student Management (2:15 – 3:15p.m.) & (7:00 - 8:00 p.m.)
- Friday 4th - Last day of term one 2:30 p.m. finish
- Tuesday 22nd - First day of term two
- Friday 25th - Anzac Day (Public holiday)

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**Second-hand uniform sale**
Second hand uniforms (clean) will be available for sale from 2:30pm this Friday before assembly in the library. Great selection and excellent prices.

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**CHOOK ROSTER - April School Holidays**

**Family Name: ………………**

**Eldest child: ………… Grade: ……….**

We would be happy to go on a roster for three days and come to school and care for the chooks over the holidays and collect the delicious fresh eggs!

*(Please return slip to the office. The school will send home a letter next week with details of the roster.)*

*Thank you!*

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**Behaviour Management Reply Slip – Parent Forum**

Consultation with parents regarding our positive and negative consequences is being sort by families at Wandong Primary School.

Please complete the information below and return this slip to the school office.

**Name of parent/s attending:**

**Child/ren of:**  ___________________________ **Grade/s:** ___________________________

**Session attending (please circle):**

Thursday 3rd April 2.15p.m – 3.15p.m or 7pm – 8pm

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**What’s gone home this week?**

The following notices were sent home this week:

**Whole school:** Raffle tickets

**Individual grade levels:**

**Foundation:** Nil

**One/Two:** Nil

**Three/Four:**

Reading reward and Movie time

**Five/Six:** Nil

All notices are uploaded to the school website. Spare copies of notices are in the school foyer in the grade level trays.

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**Congratulations to Green House.**

Green House captain and vice captain, Andrew Dowell and Jacob McDonald are proudly holding the winner’s trophy

**Posture Police awards**

Congratulations to Tom Simon, Trinity Hobson, Amber Cartwright and Lindsay Chalker.

These four students were selected by their peers for displaying the correct posture in class.

Other nominated students were: Riley Roberts, Kira Roberts, Sean Holt, Bella Mazzone, Tyler Carr, Georgia Gawley, Emmeline Nastevski, Congratulations on your nomination.