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.

Welcome to all of our families.

Welcome back to the 2012 school year. It was delightful to see the many smiling faces of our students—including our new preps and the other five students new to our school in grades one to six. We look forward to continuing our home-school relationships, ensuring a fun filled, challenging and exciting year ahead for everyone.

In 2012 we will continue to closely monitor our student attendance.

"Every day is an important day to be at school"

Parents are asked to please notify us if children are unwell and will not be attending school.

On the second day of absence, we will be telephoning parents to clarify any reasons for unexplained absences.
A Message from the Principal....

Welcome back to the 2012 school year. Prior to the arrival of students, our staff spent two days completing professional learning as part of our cycle for continuous improvement. Over the two days we investigating the following:

1. The techniques that have the biggest impact in assisting students to move forward with their learning. This was based on major research completed over 15 years and involving 50,000 studies. **“Feedback” was a big winner!** We then looked at the type of feedback that we need to give to students so as to provide them with precise information at the right time to allow them to take the next step in their learning. In the coming weeks we will look at the information we receive as teachers from our students and examine how we should best use this information to change or modify our teaching programs.

2. We also spent time revising and developing our Mathematics curriculum for 2012. We ensured we were well aware of the developmental sequences for our non-number areas (e.g: Area, Mass, Length, Time, Capacity, Data etc).

3. We investigated a whole school “hands on” learning program that will be rolled out in March.

4. Building on our 2011 Action Research trials in CAFÉ (Gr 3-6 Literacy) and Early years Learning Developmental Framework (EYLD) in Grades Prep - Two, we investigated how we will implement these two programs across the relevant sections of our whole school. (Parents will receive information about these two programs from their class teacher at their Parent Information Sharing evening.)

All teaching and learning teams have completed planning for the 2012 school year, with teams gathering together at the end of 2011 and building on this over the Christmas holiday break to ensure a smooth transition into 2012.

**Parent Sharing Afternoon/Evening:** On Wednesday 22nd February we will hold our annual Parent Sharing Afternoon/Evening. This will provide an opportunity for parents to meet the class teacher and share with them any information that will assist our staff to better support your child. It will be a time for us as a school to gain information about your child. Each interview will run for ten minutes. Families will receive information and a booking slip tomorrow.

**Parent Payments:** Many thanks to the families who have completed their parent payments. So far we have received about 18% of all payments due. A reminder to all families that payments completed by **Friday 17th February** will receive a ten dollar reduction.

**Student Arrivals:** Parents are reminded that our school grounds are not supervised until 8:45 a.m. Teachers are in their class preparing for the day’s events or attending meetings. Please do not send students to school before this time. (Any early students will need to wait in the office area.)

**Computer User agreements:** By the end of this week, all students will bring home their Wandong Primary School ICT User Agreements. These outline the expectations and responsibilities of students when using any digital media - computers, video cameras, cameras, interactive whiteboards etc. Parents are asked to please read through these with their child/children. Students will not be able to access ICT equipment until these are returned to the class teacher so please return them promptly.

**Nut Free:** Our school is continuing to support students with allergies. Our Prep – Grade two classrooms are to be completely nut free as these classrooms have students with severe allergies. To assist parents and broaden our understanding of allergies, we will feature regular articles in our newsletter. Students in all grades across the school will eat indoors, with only fruit and drinks allowed outdoors.

**TEAM Building Process:** For the first week of the 2012 school year, our students will participate in their TEAM building program. This program assists classes to develop a positive school culture with expectations and responsibilities as determined by the class as a whole.

**School Uniform:** Enclosed with today’s newsletter is our current school uniform policy. A reminder that nail polish and make-up is not allowed and that hair should be as close as possible to the natural colour. The only body piercings allowed to be seen are ear piercings. (Students should wear stud earrings to avoid injury from fingers getting caught in sleepers). Any other body piercings must be covered over at school.

**Congratulations!!!** Our congratulations go out to three staff who have exciting news. Mr and Mrs Fearn had a beautiful baby boy “Deegan” in January, Miss Pratt became engaged to her partner Dean and Mrs Smith is pregnant — Congratulations to her and hubby Jason. (No, she has not eaten too many donuts over the holidays as some people thought!) We wish our three staff (and their families) a future filled with much happiness.

**Student Management Policy and Process:** All new families will today receive a copy of our Student Management Policy and Process. (Other families received one last year however if you would like another copy, please see Ros at the office.)

In closing, the best outcomes for students are achieved when the school and family work closely together. Please approach us with any concerns or items for clarification.

We look forward to a great 2012! **Rhonda Cole**
Bunning Fundraising BBQ 25th February, 2012

On Saturday 25th Feb, Wandong Primary School will be holding a BBQ at Bunnings Craigieburn, starting at 8am until 4pm (it usually finishes early because we sell out!). Bring the family down and dad can go shopping and mum can help on the stall or mum shops and dad helps. Please let us know if you can help. Return the form with the times that you can assist us.

Name: (print)……………………………… Contact number:………………………………

Please circle times that you can assist.

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HOME READING PROGRAM:

Home readers will be sent home on Thursday 16th February. Please ensure you have purchased a home reading log if your child is in grades three—six. Home reading is a vital component of our home-school partnership.

HOME LEARNING:

Grades three – six home learning will be sent home from Friday 17th February.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

BOOK CLUB MONEY & ORDERS ARE DUE BACK TO THE OFFICE BY 15th February, 2012 FOR ISSUE NO1

WOW! … WHAT’S ON @ WANDONG

Monday 13th Feb
- Parent’s Club meeting 9:15 staffroom
- School Council meeting 6pm
Tuesday 14th Feb
- Forms and money due for Swimming trials
Friday 17th Feb
- Swimming trials
Friday 17th Feb
- Final day for School fees discount to apply
Wednesday 22nd Feb
- Forms and money due for swimming carnival
Wednesday 22nd Feb
- Parent Information Sharing Session

2:30-8:00 p.m.
(Information coming home tomorrow)

Friday 24th Feb
- District swimming carnival - Lancefield
Friday 24th Feb
- Closing date for EMA applications
Friday 24th Feb
- Closing date for Conveyancing applications
Saturday 25th Feb
- Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser
Monday 5th March
- Division swimming carnival - Coburg
Thursday 8th March
- Family Box Car Night (Start building your entry now!)
Monday 12th March
- Public Holiday - no school (Labour Day)
Tuesday 13th March
- Forms and money due for 5/6 Interschool sports tournament
Friday 16th March
- Grade 5/6 Interschool sports tournament
Tuesday 15th May
- Forms and money due for District Cross Country - Pyalong
Thursday 7th June
- District Cross Country - Pyalong

(You can check the website for more information or forms)
A team of fire safety experts will be in Wandong and surrounding areas until February 25th, 2012, offering free assessments as part of the Home Bushfire Advice Service.

A CFA Fire Safety Officer can visit your property and provide personalised advice on:

- Property maintenance and improvements to better prepare your home.
- Vegetation that needs to be managed, and the best way to do this.
- Planning for high fire-risk days.
- Personal capacity to deal with major fires.
- Other potential fire hazards, and how to manage them.

The Fire Safety Officer will provide you with a written report, which will help guide you with bushfire planning and preparation.

To book, contact CFA on 03) 92628501, call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667, or go to the CFA website: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/hbas

Free Fruit Friday - It's back!
Free Fruit Friday aims to increase the consumption of fruit and vegetables for all Victorian government school students in Prep – year two by providing them with a variety of high quality, seasonal produce FREE! Fresh fruit and vegetables are a vital part of every child's life. A wide variety of fruit and vegetables provide important vitamins and the prevention of disease.

ICE-CREAMS
Every Thursday is icy pole day. We offer icy poles for 50 cents and ice creams for $1.00.

The children are to hand their money to their teachers in the morning so Mrs Baker can organise the orders for the grades. This is an all year activity, even in winter (brrr!)

All profits are used to subsidise various activities throughout the year.

LEARN GUITAR WITH ASH!
Would your child like to learn how to play the guitar?

My name is Ashley Christensen. I have an Advanced Diploma in Jazz and Performance and currently play in two bands, one jazz and one original rock. I love playing music and believe that it should be FUN.

In 2012, I will be offering guitar lessons at Wandong Primary School. They will run throughout the day (yet to be decided). Children will be withdrawn from class to do the lessons. Times will be negotiated with teachers and rotated so that your child is not missing the same session each week. Although the lessons are during school time, they will be run independently to the school, in the same manner that Amy’s Keyboard lessons have run this year. All bookings and payments need to go through me.

Individual lessons are $20 - 20mins.

Learn in pairs will be $12 each - 20mins. (similar age and ability)

Expressions of interest and all other queries contact Ash.
ph 0408 319 035 57871041 ashchrist33@gmail.com
Wandong Primary School ~ 2012 Staff List

Rhonda Cole  
(Principal)

Anthony Potesta  
(Assistant Principal)

Julie Smith  
(Leading Teacher)

Prep Team

Robyn Beer  
(Room 3)

Hannah Giacomini  
(Room 4)

One/Two Team

Courtney McLure  
(Room 6)

Carol McIntyre  
(Room 8)

Heather Chisholm  
(Room 9)

Three/Four team

Cathrine Yaneff  
(Room 10)

Cassie Saunders  
(Room 11)

Bree Chisholm  
(Room 12)
Five/Six Team

Emma Cachia
Room 1

Amy Pratt
Room 2

Kate Crawford
Room 5

Specialist Team

Cal Fearn
PE/ 3-6 Science

Andrea Lewis
Visual Arts

Jodie Hempel
1/2 Science

Education Support Staff team

Ros Hulett
(Business Manager)

Jane Drury
(Office support)

Helen Syngaris
(Library)

Annie Beaman
(Integration Aide)

Donna Baker
(Integration Aide)

Rita Hastilow
(Integration Aide)
Back to School 2012 – Tips for Parents and Carers

A significant ‘spike’ in asthma symptoms, and subsequent hospital admissions of children occurs during the first few weeks of Term 1. While there have not been direct links established, the February ‘asthma spike’ is believed to be largely due to children coming into contact with triggers that they have had time away from now that they have returned to school.

What can parents and carers do to help their children avoid asthma exacerbations at school?

Ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (eg. Ventolin, Asmol, Airomir or Bricanyl) as well as a spacer. Also ensure that you provide medication to the school or preschool that your child attends if required.

Ensure that you have provided the school or preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan that has been signed by a medical practitioner.

Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early asthma symptoms, and can self-administer their reliever medication properly.

Encourage your child to seek assistance from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms.

Preparing Your Child for School Sports Days

Sports carnivals are an important highlight in every school’s calendar, and it is important that all students are able to participate to the best of their abilities. Exercise is a trigger for over 50% of people with asthma, so asthma exacerbations are common on sports days. Parents and carers can take several easy steps to help manage their child’s asthma, and to prevent them from having a serious asthma attack.

Return an updated Asthma Action Plan to the school so that staff are ready to respond appropriately to any asthma symptoms that your child may have.

Teach your child to recognise early asthma symptoms, and help them to feel confident to self-administer reliever medication (also using a spacer where possible).

Encourage your child to notify staff if they experience asthma symptoms, even if they self-administer reliever medication and feel comfortable returning to activity.

Be aware that if your child is unwell or has poorly managed asthma, they are more likely to experience symptoms during exercise.

For further information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email schools@asthma.org.au

School Banking at WPS for 2012

School Banking day at Wandong Primary School is Tuesday. Your child may choose to do school banking with the Commonwealth Bank and/or the Bendigo Bank.

If your child already has a Youthsaver account with the Commonwealth Bank they can start banking straight away. Just fill the deposit slip and enclose the money in the yellow wallet and ask your child to place it in the tub in their classroom.

If you would like your child to bank with the Bendigo Bank, simply pop into a branch (nearest one is Wallan) and open a piggy bank account for your child. Once they have their passbook fill in the deposit slip and enclose the money in it and ask your child to place it in their tub in their classroom.

The Commonwealth Bank has a rewards program for students who bank with them. Every time a child makes a deposit with school banking they receive 1 silver token. When they collect 10 tokens they can redeem them for prizes.

Awards are also given with the Commonwealth bank for 10, 20 and 30 deposits over the year.

Students banking packs for the Commonwealth Bank have been sent home to every family with today’s newsletter. If you have any queries please ring Ros in the Office or myself on 0419 011064.

Happy Banking, Robyn (Student banking co-ordinator)
BUNNING’S CRAIGIEBURN IS HOLDING A LADIES NIGHT ON THURSDAY 15TH MARCH 2012 FROM 6 TO 8PM.

WE WILL HAVE DEMONSTRATIONS FROM SUPPLIERS, ACTIVITIES FOR THE CHILDREN AND A SPECIAL APPEARANCE OF HAYDEN QUINN FROM MASTERCHEF.

FREE GIVEAWAYS AND MAJOR DOOR PRIZE.
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.
PLEASE RING 8338 3500 TO MAKE A BOOKING.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Please call into the office and fill out a form and ensure you have your card with you. Due Date: 24th February, 2012

Eligibility
To be eligible to receive the EMA, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent; and submit your application to the school by the due date.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of first term (1st February, 2012 which is the first day for teaching staff) for the first instalment and the first day of third term (16th July 2012) for the second instalment.

Wandong Netball Club is seeking interested children who are turning eight in 2012 to join our Under nine team to play competition in the KBNA on Saturday mornings at 9 am. Competition begins in late April and runs through until late August. Training will be once a week at the LB Davern Reserve in Wandong. Please contact Amy on 0415 225 141.

Conveyancing Allowance.

You may be eligible for conveyancing allowance if you live 4.8 kilometres from the nearest school. (Not your school of choice.)

Please call into the office and discuss your eligibility with Ros.

All applications must be in by 24th February, 2012. No late applications can be processed.

Mrs Beer is Desperate!

Mrs Beer is seeking barbie dolls and clothes, toy farm animals and kitchen utensils for the prep unit.

If you can help please bring any donations to Mrs Beer or Miss Giacomini.

Hanson Medical Centre
1 Hanson Road Craigieburn Vic 3064
PH: 9305 5555  Fax: 9305 5620

OPENING HOURS
MOnDAY- FRIDAY: OPEN 8.30AM TO 10.00PM
SATURDAY: OPEN 9.00AM TO 6.00PM
SUNDAY: OPEN 9.00AM TO 6.00PM
FULL TIME FEMALE GP AVAILABLE.

WE ARE JUST OPPOSITE CRAIGIEBURN SHOPPING CENTRE,PLENTY OF PARKING.
NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
DOREVITCH PATHOLOGY IN HOUSE
EASY ACCESS FROM HUME HIGHWAY AFTER WORK.