4th February 2015

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.

PARENT PAYMENTS RECEIVED

226 families at WPS.
54 Completed payments = 23%

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

“What did you learn today?”

Reminder

School Assembly begins this week at 3:00pm on Friday in the hall
All of our school families have this week received a paper copy of our current newsletter.

The newsletter is also available online, however new school families must register via our website in order to receive a copy via email.

If you wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the newsletter please contact the office.
A Message from the Principal

Welcome back to the 2015 school year. We have had an extremely smooth start, thanks to our 2014 transition program. Our Foundation students happily entered their classrooms and our new parents appeared quite happy, albeit a little sad that the holidays were over. The six transition school visits and our teddy bears picnic session certainly paid off. In addition, our grades one – six students had all met their classroom teachers at the end of last year and spent three sessions in their new rooms so they too headed into class with a minimum of fuss.

This year we are delighted to accept 40 new families to Wandong Primary School. We thank you for choosing us as your school of preference and certainly accept this responsibility with much excitement.

In addition to our 75 Foundation students, we welcome 17 other new students across grades one—six. We look forward to assisting you to achieve your educational goals.

100 Years of ANZAC—The Spirit Lives: Early in term two last year, I worked with the student leaders to complete an application to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. Our application related to us installing a flagpole area, with two flagpoles on the terraced grass area near the hall. In the last week of term four, I was notified that we had been successful—how exciting. Work will begin in the coming three weeks to install the flags, build a terraced garden and then plant it out. We intend to install a commemorative plaque in the garden area and are seeking a BIG rock onto which the plaque can be attached. We need a rock that is approximately 40 centimetres across (at least) it needs to hold an A4 plaque. If you have access to big rock, please let us know. Once the area is finished, we will hold an official opening and then be ready to hold our school ANZAC Day ceremony on Friday 24th April. (The day prior to ANZAC Day).

Introducing Peaches: Have you noticed Peaches before and after school? She is just gorgeous and is a trained service dog. She belongs to Vaughan in grade two and her purpose is to assist him with his socialising skills. She sheds no hair, is very placid and is oh so soft to touch. Many of our students have already enjoyed getting to know her. Peaches is allowed on trains and in shopping centres (as is a guide dog) as she has a very special job to complete. We welcome her into our school.

Other dogs: Parents are reminded that other dogs are welcome into our school yard under the following conditions.

- Dogs must be on a leash
- Dogs must be under the control of an adult (not held by a child) so please do not bring a dog to school if you need to come to the office unless you have another adult to hold the lead outside
- Dogs are not permitted in buildings
- Dogs must be friendly and sociable
- Dogs must not block doorways or walkways and must wait at least four metres from a classroom door or corridor.
- Dog droppings must be removed by the owner

Not everyone loves dogs, so owners are asked to please be mindful of other children and adults.
A Message from the Principal continued…..

Start of the year reminders:  As it is the start of the year, there are a few pieces of general information that need to be shared once again with families. These are listed below. Please read them carefully to ensure we all have a positive and enjoyable year.

Meetings for staff:  All staff attend meetings on a Monday and Wednesday from 3:40—5:00 p.m. We certainly encourage parents to catch up casually with teachers as the need arises, but be aware that staff will need to excuse themselves for these compulsory meetings. Parents are encouraged to please make a meeting time with staff to hold longer discussions. This then ensures that the staff member can give you their full attention.

School Insurance:  The school does not have insurance to cover personal belongings bought to school. Therefore we ask families to please not send expensive items to school with a child. If items are broken, the school will not be responsible for their replacement.

Toys:  Please keep toys at home. As you can imagine, more than one student may own the same toy… and this starts problems. To avoid any incidences of disputed ownership, please keep toys at home.

Pick up location:  It is a good idea to select a meeting spot within the school ground if you are collecting your child. This minimises busy doorway areas and keeps walkways clear for through traffic.

Church car park:  We are VERY privileged to have access to the church car park. It is not school property and we would certainly find it difficult if we were not allowed to park in this area. A sign is erected at the entrance of the car park to remind all users about the expected manner in which the car park is to be used. Please be patient, think of others and remember that student safety is the MOST important thing.

Involvement in school:  We enjoy and welcome parent participation at school. Over the coming weeks, you will be invited to join our classroom helpers program or nominate for school council. For parents who are working, we have ways in which you can assist at home—either covering library books, researching information or assisting in preparation for our school fete later this year. Listed below is information about our Parents and Friends Association. This groups of parents and grandparents meet with me once per month and oversee major fundraising for the school. No experience is necessary and it’s a great way to meet other school families. I hope to see many of you at their first meeting.

In closing, on behalf of staff we wish to let you know that we very all very excited about this new year and have great plans for the future. Stay tuned!! :)

Until next week ~ Rhonda Cole

WPS PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
Join us in the staffroom for our first meeting on 10th February 2015 at 9:15 am
Come along for a cuppa and learn about how you can join our great team of volunteers.
Toddlers welcome too.
MISSING GUITAR!

We have a student that is missing a guitar. The guitar was brought to school last year and left in the classroom and seems to have vanished.

If you know any details in relation to the whereabouts of this item could you please contact the office.

Thursday is icy pole & ice cream day at WPS.

Just send along 50 cents (icy pole) or $1.00 (ice-cream) and hand it to your teacher at the start of the day.

Icy poles and ice creams are provided at lunchtime and are delicious on these really hot days.

SCHOOL BANKING - Change of Banking Day

The school provides a school banking service for both the Commonwealth Bank and the Bendigo Bank. This service will commence next Friday 13th February. If students wish to use the service, we ask that they bring their bank books in on Friday. These will then be processed on Tuesday and returned to students in their classroom tubs. Foundation students will shortly receive a school banking pack in order to assist with their school banking needs. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the office.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

BOOK CLUB MONEY & ORDERS ARE DUE BACK TO THE OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2015 FOR ISSUE No. 1
**WOW! … WHAT’S ON @WANDONG**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10th February</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends Association meeting</td>
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<td>(9:15am in the staffroom)</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11th February</td>
<td>Issue No. 1 Scholastic Book Club orders due back today</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13th February</td>
<td>2015 Swimming Trials (Grades 3 to 6 only)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>School Banking starts today</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th February</td>
<td>Parent/Carer Information Sharing Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th February</td>
<td>2016 School Tour - 9:30am to 10:30am</td>
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**What’s gone home this week?**

The following notices were sent home this week:

- Whole school:
  - Student information full details
  - Parent /Carer Information Sharing Session RSVP

- Selected Families: Nil

- Selected Students:
  - Grade 6 windcheater order form re-issue
  - 2015 Swimming Trials permission form (Gr 3-6)
  - State School Spectacular information

- Individual grade levels:
  - Foundation:
    - Information about Foundation student with illness
  - One/Two: Nil
  - Three/Four: Nil
  - Five/Six:
    - 5/6 Summer Sports Training

Spare copies of notices are in the school foyer in the grade level trays.
2015 REGISTRATION DAY

Sunday 15 February

11am – 2pm
LB Davern Reserve

Official Scoreboard Opening

Sausage Sizzle provided

Enquiries - James Hall 0418 572 232

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Sunday Netball

Wandong Junior Football Netball Club

Expressions of Interest
Under 11’s, Under 13’s, Under 15’s and Mixed Under 17’s
For further information, please contact
Kylie on 0418 691102 or Dave on 0432 810662
Enquiries can be made on Registration Day
15 February 2015
11am - 2pm LB Davern Reserve
EARLY DEPARTURE FROM SCHOOL

Parents must come to the office to collect the early departure book and then collect their child from the classroom and have the teacher sign the book. Students will not be called to the office unless absolutely necessary.

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2015 Health and Wellbeing Expo

When: 10am - 1pm, Saturday 28 February 2015
Where: Wallan Multi-Purpose Community Centre, 42 Bentinck Street

The 2015 Health and Wellbeing Expo will bring together sport, fitness and recreation, lifestyle, nutrition, holistic therapies, positive mental health and sexual health exhibitors. There will be a range of live demonstrations including healthy cooking, arts, dance, fitness and fun activities for everyone.

Featuring:
- The Food Exchange
- The Community Kitchen High Tea
- Embracing bodies with Nexus GP
- Mini health checks
- Blend n Bike Smoothies
- Alcicons
- Autism Interpreter
- Care Attendant Available
- Plus many more fun exhibitions

FREE EVENT
Over 30 Exhibitors

Free Classes:
- 10am - Seniors Strength
- 10.30am - Spin
- 11am - Pilates
- 11.30am - Yoga
- 12noon - Zumba Kids
- 12.30pm - All abilities exercise class

Bookings encouraged to avoid disappointment

For class bookings and enquiries, phone 5734 6200 or email jaala.freer@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

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Logos of participating organisations
Our SEL (Social & Emotional Learning) focus is.....

As the students embark on the TEAM Program, they are learning about all about Values.

Specifically the students will be learning and doing activities that focus on What are Values?, Why do we have them? What are our 6 School values? and Who are the new 6 value characters that we have at Wandong Primary School?

A value a day will be taught to our students in year one to six.

Our school values are —Friendship, Care, Respect, Responsibility, Doing Your Best and Honesty. Foundation students will be introduced to our school values over the first term.

For the next few weeks students will be learning about perseverance and the importance of making mistakes so as to learn. Following that time they will spend five weeks focusing on the topic of bullying. Specifically, What is bullying?, Who is a bully?, Who is a target?, What to do if you are bullied and What are bystanders?

This will culminate in our participation in the National Day Against Bullying on Friday March 20th. On Tuesday 24th March, we will be holding our Bushwahzee family dance event which also encompasses the anti bullying message (more information to follow in coming newsletters).

Final Thought:

Teaching children to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best.
Bob Talbert