Principal’s Report

WELCOME BACK

Term 4 has started very smoothly with all students already busily engaged in their Term 4 learning programs.

Teachers have been planning extensively together to ensure our students participate in a broad range of stimulating learning programs & activities to complete their 2013 academic year.

Through our newly developed intervention and extension programs running across the school, we will be aiming to ensure that all students have acquired all of their expected outcomes for their current level so that they can successfully transition to their new levels in 2014. We certainly have a busy term ahead!

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

It was a delight to watch our junior students excitedly climbing over the new junior playground equipment on Monday morning. There are still several components to be completed in this area, with additional rubber surfacing, mini trampolines and new pathways still to be installed.

The central play zone in the centre of the grounds is also taking shape and we are hopeful that this might be completed by the end of next week. There are several major components yet to be installed in this area. We will maintain close contact with the installation company over this week as we would like to host an official launch of the new playgrounds next week, with a family picnic tea. Keep a close eye out over the next week for further information on the grand opening of our new playgrounds. How exciting it is to be at WNPS!

REFLECTIONS FROM CHINA

What an amazing three weeks I have experienced as I spent two weeks visiting schools in China and then a further week in Darwin on holiday.

As part of a Study Tour organised by the Victorian Principal’s Association, I had the privilege of joining 15 other Principals to visit schools throughout China. The cities we visited included Beijing, Xian, Nanjing, Suzhou and Shanghai. Each of the schools we visited was very different, with varying socioeconomic demographics and varying approaches towards teaching and learning. The scale of everything in China is ‘huge’, including the schools that typically have thousands of children housed in multistorey complexes. We sat in on some classes that had 50 – 60 students in each class being instructed in a very formal manner and some with 25 – 30 students being instructed in a more personalised manner, which was more typical of our context at WNPS. The trip certainly impressed upon me the level of privilege that our WNPS students enjoy in regards to the facilities they have, but also the high standard of teaching.

Like WNPS students, the Chinese students were always very respectful and well behaved. They were eager to engage us at all times in order to practise their English. In one of the classes I viewed, I presented each of the students with a
collection of Australian coins. They were so excited – it was fascinating to observe that regardless of the cultural dimensions, children all over the world are very similar. The trip also provided some further insights for how we can work with our sister school in Japan to broaden the global focus that our students can have as 21st century learners. This picture was taken at a school in Shanghai where the students were drawing traditional dragon designs in an art lesson. We also had to sit with the children and undertake the same drawing activity; sadly my dragon lacked the artistic depth in comparison to this eight year old girl!

**CONCERT DATES**
I hope you all have Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December marked in the diaries for our end of year Concerts. These Concerts provide a wonderful opportunity for our students to showcase their performance skills as well as being a lovely way to bring the community together at the end of the year celebrate the 2013 academic year. Please watch out for more information over the coming weeks as the planning for our Concerts unfold.

**UNIFORM NEWS**

It was with some excitement that we were able to promote our new polo shirt design at assembly this week. The side panels on the new design along with the collar trim certainly provide a more contemporary and smarter look.

The plain green or gold polo tops will no longer be available to purchase from our uniform supplier. Please note that it will be acceptable for students to wear either the old or new polo design. We expect it will take 12 months or so to transition to the new design for all students.

At our last School Council meeting on Wednesday 18th September, an updated ‘School Dress Code Policy and Procedures’ was endorsed by the Council. As documented in this policy, it is compulsory for all students to wear approved school uniform. The policy has also been extended to make reference to the colour of shoes worn by students (in light of some fluoro designs appearing recently) and other items including the wearing of any jewellery and suitable student hair design. The policy can be found at the following link


I would encourage all parents to take a few minutes to become familiar with this policy. As always, if you have any further queries then don’t hesitate to drop me a line at cahill.jim.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

**BIG NIGHT IN**
Our Year 1 & 2 students are all very excited about our ‘Big Night In’ this Friday evening. A lot of planning has been undertaken by our wonderful Year 1 and 2 teaching team to ensure that this first step of our camping program is fun and enjoyable for all participants. We seek the support from parents to ensure that the Year One students are collected at 9.00pm from Rooms 5 & 6 on Friday evening, and the Year Two students are picked up at 7.30am from Rooms 1, 2, 3, & 4 on Saturday morning.

Enjoy your Week—Jim Cahill
Principal

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**Footy Day**

On the last day of term three, we had Footy Day. We had an awesome time and we would like to thank the girls from the Women’s VFL.

Also members from the school community, Justin Charles, Mick Martyn, Jason Taylor, Mark Orrand, Cameron Wood and not to forget WOOFER from the Bulldogs.

A big thank you also to Julieanne and all the parents volunteers who helped with the footy lunches.
What’s the big deal with Instagram?

Kidproof’s Catherine Gerhardt gives the parenting lowdown on Instagram, the new social media phenomenon currently sweeping across girlworld.

Earlier this year my 11-year-old asked me if she could have access to Instagram. Heard of it? It’s a social networking phenomenon that is taking the tween population by storm. In a nutshell, Instagram is a photo sharing app that makes photos fun.

Instagram is steadily growing in popularity among young and teen social networkers. At first it seems a relatively harmless way of sharing photos with each other via a smartphone. You can crop, adjust, reduce red eye and add filters. Even very ordinary photos can suddenly become appealing and interesting.

However, we are hearing from a lot of schools that Instagram is quickly taking over the social networking circuits and creating havoc within and between social groups. It is a sideways slide into social networking. Set up an account and within seconds you are able to comment, like and check out what your friends are doing. Facebook is out, Instagram is in.

What parents need to know

Instagram is a social networking service, and just like all other social networks “You must be at least 13 years old to use this Service”. Why 13? The age of 13 has to do with COPPA – the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (in the USA) which simply applies to the online collection of personal information by persons under 13 years of age. A child who provides a fake birthday to get onto a social networking site is helping that site break the law, as they are unknowingly collecting information from an under-age child. The internet is the biggest public place our kids can possibly hang out in. Rules and guidelines are there for good reason.

How does it work?

Users can upload a photo from their smartphone photo album or take a photo right then and there and use Instagram to change the way the photo looks. Instagram
may be used as a photo-sharing social network on its own, but users also have the option to upload the photo to a number of other social media sites simultaneously, including Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, Tumblr and Foursquare – depending on which one(s) the user syncs their settings with.

Privacy

The most important thing for users and parents to be aware of is that Instagram defaults to a public setting. Your profile and photos are public unless you tell it otherwise. Many parents may feel more secure knowing that their child has set their account to private, but watch to see how many followers your child has allowed on their site. A child with a private setting that claims to have 222 followers means they have accepted 222 people to follow them, and not many tweens can say they genuinely socialise face-to-face with that many kids – no way! Remember even a private setting is still in a global public space, and the user’s profile information is always public.

Signing up for an Instagram account requires that the user provide a username. In many cases young children use their real first and last names to create their accounts. To make matters worse, the sign-up process has an optional phone number section where users can submit their phone number as part of their public profile. Talking with your kids about what is private information, such as a phone number, and explaining why we don’t give this away is a great place to start.

Geotagging

Once a photo has been taken and is ready to share, the option of ‘geotagging’ – including details of the location of the photo – comes up. This option has to be checked, however as with most touch screen devices errors can easily occur and a photo can be inadvertently geotagged. Geotagging is a great way to showcase where a photo was taken, but it can also alert others to where the photographer has been, if not where they might be at that moment.

Blocking and reporting users and content

Although it seems innocent enough, there are users out there who will post inappropriate pictures. People will and do upload nude photos, drug use, and other inappropriate content. Social networking sites such as Instagram provide tools to block or report content and users and it would be a good idea to learn how to use them.

What can I do?

As a parent, continue to monitor your child’s internet presence. At this time, it is not possible to sign up for an Instagram account on their website – it must be done by downloading the app to a smartphone. The app may be on your child’s mobile device without you even knowing about it.

Help your child adjust their privacy settings at the outset so that their photos are only shared with face-to-face friends. Speak with your child about the safety concerns you may have if they accept requests from people they do not have real-life relationships with.

Sign up with Instagram yourself and have a go so that you understand how it works. If your child has an account, follow your child and monitor their behaviour to determine if Instagram is an appropriate hang out for them.

The answer for my 11 year old daughter was “not yet”. However, she is welcome to use my account with my permission as we learn to navigate this new world of social media and digital citizenship together.
Rosters…

Fresh Fruit Friday (FFF)
The parents on the roster for Fresh Fruit Friday this week Friday 11th October are: Martin Ray, Pamela Fernando, Helen Parker, Larissa Deeth, Mette Nielsen, Michelle Boyall, Gail Chew, Moyra McCann, Meredith Cooper and Ivana Musura.

If you are able to help out weekly, fortnightly or even once a month, please contact Linda Taylor at, taylor.linda.11@edumail.vic.gov.au. This is a very happy and social group.

Canteen—NEW HELPERS MOST WELCOME
Julianne Weir manages our Canteen and is always very appreciative of the time parents or family members can volunteer to help in the Canteen. Julianne can be contacted via the General Office. New parents or family members are always needed, so, if you can spare any of your valuable time, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thursday 10th October—Anne Tobin
Friday 11th October—Tracy
Wednesday 16th October—Michelle Lopes
Thursday 17th October—KayLynn Rasmussen
Friday 18th October—Kellie Walker

Please remember that Lunch Orders are only available on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

No Lunch Orders are available on the Last Day of Each Term.

Uniform Shop News
Primary School Wear (PSW) is now our official Uniform supplier. For Term 4, they will supply uniform items from the Uniform shop on Monday and Thursday mornings from 8.30am to 9.15am. Alternatively, uniform items can be purchased on-line by visiting www.psw.com.au. Kara Kreis is now employed by PSW, and for all enquiries, please contact Kara on 0413 008 185.

School Banking
School banking day is Wednesday. Don’t forget to send in your child’s bank book.

Student Safety
Please take the time to regularly remind your child/ren about safety, especially when going to and from school. Here are the important points to mention:

- Do not to talk to strangers and never accept a ride from a stranger, or accept lollies or gifts from a stranger.
- Immediately report any issue or problem you may have when going to or from school, to your mum and dad, or to your teacher, the Principal, Assistant Principal or office staff.
- Always get permission from mum or dad before going to play with a friend after school and always let mum and dad know where you will be and what time you will be home.

We advise that, wherever possible, children should travel to or from school with an adult or with their friends, rather than travel alone.

Early Release
All children collected from school before 3.30pm must be signed out at the Office. Parents will be handed an ‘Early Release Pass’ to hand to the supervising teacher. If a child is signed out at Recess or Lunch time, the Office staff will call the child to the Office and then ensure the Early Release Pass is given to the supervising teacher.

Bikes & Scooters
Many children ride bikes and scooters to school each day. All bikes and scooters must be locked up in either the Bike or Scooter Enclosure to prevent theft. Please ensure your child has a chain and a lock. All children who ride a bike or scooter must wear a helmet which is a requirement by the Government. The school regularly reminds all children about wearing helmets for their safety. All bikes, scooters, skateboards, ribtics and helmets must be labelled, with your child’s name and class. Children are reminded they must walk their bike, scooter, skateboard or ribstic to and from the school gates. No bikes are to be brought through the school buildings and we request, where possible, that Scooters are also not walked through the building.

Working With Children Checks
As from the 1st July 2013 the process for applying for a Working With Children Check has changed. Due to the continual changes to the forms they are no longer available at School or the Post Office. The only way to apply for a Working With Children Check is online. These forms are available at http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

Reminding Parents, if you wish to assist in the Canteen, Fresh Fruit Friday, Sport, Swimming, Excursions or Camps, you must have a current Working With Children Check. If you have a current WWCC and have not provided a copy to the office, please bring your WWCC to the school office, where a copy will be placed on file. Working With Children Checks remain valid for 5 years.
Welcome back to Term 4. I hope everyone had a lovely and restful break. For one little boy from our school, the holidays were very special indeed. Pei Soon from Year 1H was lucky enough to visit Japan with his family, and while there he took the opportunity to pop in and spend some time at our sister school, Shin Ishikawa Primary School in Yokohama.

Pei’s Mum, Paula, contacted me when she was planning their trip to Tokyo, and we organised for Pei to sit in with a Year 1 class at the sister school for half a day. Understandably, Pei was a little shy to start with, but he soon warmed up to his new classmates, joining them for Kanji class and helping with their English lessons, before enjoying a Japanese style school lunch. Paula told me that Pei and the other children had so much fun that Pei was disappointed he couldn’t join them again the next day, as they were flying back to Australia! I also have it on good authority from Shin Ishikawa, that Pei’s favourite activity of all was *souji*, or cleaning! Yes that’s right cleaning! In primary schools around Japan, children spend 20 minutes after lunch each day cleaning the school from top to bottom, and have a lot of fun doing it. If any families are planning a trip to Japan, or even a stop over, please don’t hesitate to let me know so that we can arrange a similar visit for your children.
Congratulations to Ruby Tripodi and one of our past students, Cassidy Gould on winning the U14 Girls VC Basketball Grand Final. The girls play for the Altona Gators and they beat Bellarine in the Grand Final. Well Done Girls.

Williamstown High School Uniform Shop
(Located at Pasco St Campus)

Buy early sale now on
Sale finishes 3rd November

Trading Hours
Tuesday 1.00pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday 8.00am – 11.00am
Thursday 1.00pm – 4.30pm

Personal fitting appointments are available outside of trading hours

Phone Kaye or Marie-ann 9399 8662 or email wil@dobsons.com.au

Family Dental Clinic

The recently opened Yarraville Family Dental Clinic is offering parents of school-aged children no out-of-pocket costs for their child’s check-up.

This offer applies throughout October.

The clinic is located at
116 Gamon Street (corner Hood Street), Yarraville.
Telephone: 8354 7618.

yarravilledental@gmail.com

Stride ‘N’ Ride

KIDS DUATHLON
RUN – BIKE – RUN

GLoucester Reserve, Williamstown Saturday, October 19th, 7AM – 11AM
Healthy breakfast provided after race!

$20 registration fee
Register now at

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Telephone: 8354 7618.

yarravilledental@gmail.com

Hip-Hop PLUS Breakdance
A dance class for energetic kids!

Saturdays
2:45pm – 4pm
with Peter Sette from “Of The Streets”

@ Artz Collective
2/59-61. Hudsons Rd
SPOTSWOOD

Call: 9939 6320 / 0425 731 569 Email: admin@artzcollective.com.au
How to get your free tickets for INSIDE THE BRICK: Williamstown – Strictly Limited Time

We have reserved a whole session at 9am on the 10 November as a sensory Friendly Session. Normally there would be a large crowd; however we are limiting numbers and restricting access to people who are sensitive to the needs of children with ASD.

Note: due to the delicate nature of the models on display all children must be closely supervised at all time to prevent damage to displays.

To reserve free tickets:
1) Go to the booking link [http://www.trybooking.com/61938](http://www.trybooking.com/61938)
2) Select the 9am Sunday Sensory Friendly Session (only)
3) Continue to the booking page
4) Ignore the $10.00 price for the moment
5) Enter in the number of tickets you require (max 10).
6) Provide additional information and continue to the Shopping Cart
7) Enter AMAZE100 as the Gift/Promotion Code. This will give you 100% discount on your tickets.

Note:
- Free tickets are ONLY available for the 9am Sunday (10/11/13) session. Early bird discounts are currently available for other sessions.
- Free entry for Under 4’s.
- All children must be accompanied.
- Models on display are not to be touched. However we will have a hands on area for children to play with bricks.
- More info available at [www.insidethebrick.com](http://www.insidethebrick.com)

Fran Ludgate
Manager Marketing & Communication
T 03 9657 1611  |  F 03 9639 4955  |  E fran.ludgate@amaze.org.au
24 Drummond Street Carlton VIC 3053 | PO Box 374 Carlton South VIC 3053 | [http://www.amaze.org.au](http://www.amaze.org.au)
Amaze (Autism Victoria)

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After School Care

Dear parents,

Great to see everybody has had a happy and safe break. Please remember to check your bookings for Term 4, to be sure you have all your required days.

Please also remember that the hours for Oshclub are as follows

- **Before Care**—7.00am to 8.45am and **After Care**—3.30pm to 6.15pm.

There are a couple of children arriving early. Due to licensing the program is not able to accept children before this time (7.00am).

Please check the blue lost property basket at after care (Gym) as this is again starting to fill quickly with your children’s belongings.

Children also need to wear a hat at before and aftercare this term. The Oshclub policy is—’No hat, no play’. Information for Before and After care can be obtained from oshclub.com.au, or by telephoning the program on 0422 36 845.

Thank you

Oshclub Team
School Banking Update: Redeem your tokens for a moneybox this year!

In 2014 the School Banking program will be launching a new set of exciting reward items for students to redeem their tokens for. Each reward item will continue to be valued at 10 tokens (i.e. 10 deposits) and there will be two new reward items for students to choose from each term.

With exciting new reward items on offer in 2014, please be aware that the Dollarmites moneyboxes will no longer be available next year. To avoid any child missing out on claiming their moneybox, please let your children know of this change and encourage them to redeem their moneybox this school year.

In an effort to ensure your child doesn’t miss out, the rule of one money box per year has been removed. If your child is trying to collect the series of Dollarmite moneyboxes, they are encouraged to do so before the end of the school year. Please understand that they still need to redeem each moneybox for the required 10 tokens.

Talking About Childhood Asthma Live From The Airways
Presented by The Asthma Foundation of Victoria and Royal Children's Hospital

Sunday 27th October 2013, 4pm - 6pm
FREE!
Ella Latham Auditorium, Ground Floor, Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne

Ask questions, gain advice on: medications, diagnosis and asthma management from top Respiratory Specialists:
A/ Prof Sarath Ranganathan, Prof Colin Robertson, Dr Jo Harrison

Light refreshments will be served and tickets are limited, therefore registrations are essential.
Attend the event at the Royal Children’s Hospital OR watch the LIVE Webcast online
Register at www.asthma.org.au or call 1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 462)
Simonds Catholic College is a unique school. Our small size (500 boys in Years 7-12) means that each boy can be individually known, valued and have a sense of belonging. The excellent facilities mean that we are able to offer a broad and exciting curriculum within the setting of a small school. Our close proximity to St Mary’s Church at West Melbourne, and St Brigid’s Church in Fitzroy North, means that boys are provided with frequent opportunities to reflect, pray and celebrate the Sacraments in an inspiring and historical religious setting. Simonds Catholic College is a member of the Associated Catholic College Interschool Competition.

Simonds Catholic College is currently taking enrolments for Year 7, 2014.
You may contact the College for enrolment information on the numbers listed below.
St Mary’s 7-10 Campus - 273 Victoria Street, West Melbourne 3003 Tel: 9321 9200
St Brigid’s VCE Campus - 20 York Street, Fitzroy North 3068
Tel: 9403 6800
http://sccmelb.catholic.edu.au

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**Willy French Club!**

**Term 4**

**Wednesdays 3.50pm – 4.50pm**

Williamstown Community Centre
14 Thompson St

Now in its 3rd year!

- Stimulating, supportive and fun approach to learning French for 4-12 yr olds
- Intimate small group environment
- Native French speaker
- Mixed age group from all local schools
- Engaging learning activities

**jim.callahan@lcfclubs.com.au**
Ph 0432 719 034
www.lcfclubs.com.au

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**Q&A Discussion Event**

**Talking About Childhood Asthma Live From The Airways**

*If you have questions about your child’s asthma, you are not alone.*

**Sunday 27th October 2013**

4pm - 6pm

Light refreshments will be served

Ella Latham Auditorium, Main Building, Royal Children’s Hospital

Meet our Royal Children’s Hospital panelists

**REGISTER NOW FOR THIS FREE EVENT BY 26TH OCTOBER**


Can’t make it in person? Register to watch LIVE online in our first ever asthma webcast

For more information visit: www.asthma.org.au or call (03) 8365 7088
Hobsons Bay City Council is asking children, young people and their parents what they think about living, working and playing in Hobsons Bay. If you are aged five to 25 or a parent, then the Council would like to hear from you via the “Speak your Mind” surveys.

Find links here:  

Complete the survey and enter the draw to win an iPad mini or Samsung Galaxy Note. All feedback must be submitted by 23rd October 2013. The feedback you give will help to guide the planning for the Children and Young People’s Plan 2014 – 2018, which will be available for your comments next year.

For hard copies of the surveys call into your local library or community centre or contact the Council’s Social Planning and Policy Officer Alex Dodd on 9932 1000.

We would love for everyone to help spread the word and ensure that as many people as possible get the opportunity to speak their mind, especially children and young people. Please circulate throughout your organisation. Don’t hesitate to contact me with any further queries. The documents are attached for your reference and to circulate. We will happily provide your organisation with printed copy and posters as requested.

Kind Regards

Alexandra Dodd
Social Planning and Policy Officer
Strategy and Advocacy
T: 9932 1191 | F: 9932 1090
NRS users phone 133 677 and quote 03 9932 1000