Principal’s Report

STAFF TRAINING DAY

Please note that no students are to attend school on Monday 6th May. All staff will be participating in our third staff training day for the year which will involve teachers all working together on the school’s spelling program.

Spelling has been the only area where the general achievement levels of students has been at around state average levels. Generally our students achieve significantly higher than the state average in all other core areas. We are therefore eager to review our current planning & practice in this area and to explore how we might further enhance the strategies we employ across all levels of the school. I will provide a report from this training day in next week’s Newsletter.

NAPLAN

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) has published an information booklet for parents about the upcoming NAPLAN tests that all Years 3 and 5 students will undertake from Tuesday 14th to Thursday 17th May. Please follow the link below to find out more details about this testing program:


If you have any further queries about the upcoming NAPLAN testing please don’t hesitate to speak with your child’s teacher.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT TO CLASSROOMS

Over the last week, all classrooms have been equipped with a supply of new sports equipment for borrowing at recesses and lunchtimes. We were very lucky to receive all of this equipment as a result of the last Coles Sport’s promotion. I would like to thank Sarah Nobbs (PE Teacher) for all of her work in securing this equipment as well as a big thank you to the team of parents who assisted Sarah last week in preparing this equipment for each class.

EDUCATION WEEK

All Victorian schools will be celebrating Education Week from Monday 20th to Friday 24th May. This is a great opportunity to showcase the fabulous work that happens in government schools every day of the year. We have a number of activities planned for Education Week and we will be extending a warm invitation to all parents to come and join in the fun of learning maths in our classrooms on Thursday 23rd May from 11:30am - 12:45pm to be followed by a family picnic lunch. If you want to participate in the picnic lunch, please pack a basket, picnic rug etc and join in the fun. Please note this day in your diary and we’ll provide...
more details closer to the day.

PREP INFORMATION EVENING
Can you believe that planning for the 2014 school year is already well underway? Next Tuesday, 7th May, we will be holding an Information Night for all prospective 2014 Prep parents. There will be a tour of the Junior Learning Centre from 6:30pm with the main presentation beginning at 7.00pm. If you have a neighbour or friend living in our designated zone with children who will be eligible to start school next year, please encourage them to come along to this evening to learn more about our great school.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL
With Mother’s day just around the corner, we will be holding our annual Mother’s Day Stall on Thursday 9th May so that our students can purchase a special treat for mum. So here’s a job for all dads - you will need to make sure that there is money tucked away in the school bag that morning so that mum can be ‘surprised’ with a carefully chosen gift on Mother’s Day! Gifts range from $1.00 to $5.00.

Enjoy your Week!
Jim Cahill
Principal

Mother’s Day Stall
The Mother’s Day Stall is a school fundraiser/activity that gives the children a chance to shop for their mum, without her being there to see what they have bought. The stall gives the children a chance to shop, learn about money and feel independent, all within a safe school environment.
The Mother’s Day Stall this year will be held on Thursday 9th May in the school gym. We have a great range of gifts for mum and grandma from $1.00 - $5.00.
Don’t forget to send along a bag for your child to carry their gift in, that way it will remain a surprise.
Thank you Davena Toplis & Jo Gumley
Don’t forget to send back your raffle tickets for the Mother’s Day raffle. All tickets must be returned to the office by Thursday to get into the draw!

Start collecting your WOOLWORTHS Earn & Learn Points
The WOOLWORTHS Earn & Learn Program is up and running for 2013. WNPS has registered once again to participate in the program for the opportunity to continue adding maths equipment into our classrooms.
This is our third year that the school community has worked together to help collect our points. In 2010 we managed a total of 1541 points that we purchased playing cards and calculators for student to use. In 2011 a grand total of 44360 points—What a community effort, enabling us to purchase trundle wheels, balance and weights and 3D shape sets for students to use to support their learning in Measurement.
We would love to exceed last years total so please bring your Woolworths Earn & Learn Points (for every $10.00 spent equates to 1 point). You will find our collection box in the foyer of the office.

Coles Sports Vouchers
Thanks to everyone for supporting the school with the Coles Sports Vouchers last year. We finished with an amazing 114,000 vouchers in total. From this tally, we were able to get a bag of equipment for all classes in the school. Each bag consists of balls, skipping ropes and cricket bats, just to name a few. All classes now have this equipment to enjoy. A big thank you to the parents and Sue Dicken for helping label all the equipment. Let’s hope that Coles run the promotion again and that we have another successful campaign. Cheers—Sarah Nobbs
Help your child ACHIEVE!

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child’s teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.

5. Inform teachers of your child’s challenges and changes.
Life’s not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child’s teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. Skill children to work with others.
Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties.
Resist the temptation to solve all your children’s problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. Participate fully in class & school activities.
There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child’s schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child’s teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. Trust your teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience.
Your child’s teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. Talk up what happens at school.
Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10 point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child’s teachers.
Rosters...

Fresh Fruit Friday (FFF)

The parents on the roster for Fresh Fruit Friday for this week **Friday 3rd May** are:

Martin Ray, Pamela Fernando, Helen Parker, Larissa Deeth, Mette Nielsen, Michelle Boyall, Gail Chew, Melinda Maskey, Andrew Savoia and Dina Simpson.

If you are able to help out weekly, fortnightly or monthly, please contact Linda Taylor at, taylor.linda.l1@edumail.vic.gov.au. This is a very happy and social group.

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Canteen

Julieanne Weir manages our Canteen and is always very appreciative of the time parents or family members can volunteer to help in the Canteen. Julieanne 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 2nd May**—Anne Tobin
- **Friday 3rd May**—Leanne Sutton
- **Wednesday 9th May**—Meredith Metin
- **Thursday 9th May**—Fran Mitchell
- **Friday 10th May**—Kaylynn Rasmussen

Please remember that **Lunch Orders are only available on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and NO Lunch Orders are available on the Last Day of Each Term.**

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Uniform Shop News

The Uniform Shop hours are Mondays and Thursdays from 8.30am to 9.15am. Any enquiries please contact Kara on 0413 008 185. **Items out of stock have been reordered and should arrive next week. If you want to skip queuing up for uniform items, please fill out an order form which is available at the office.**

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School Banking

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

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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.

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Early Release

All child/ren 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.

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Working With Children Card (WWCC)

If you wish to assist in the Canteen, Fresh Fruit Friday, Sport, Swimming, Excursions, or on Camps, you must have a Working With Children Card. Please note that these forms are available from any Australia Post office if you are wishing to apply for a check (note the forms are no longer available from the school). If you have a WWCC provide it to the office staff to be photocopied and a copy place on file. A WWCC remains valid for five years.

Please note, this year, the second group of our parents who received their WWCC in 2008, will need to renew their WWCC in 2013. If you are in this situation, you will receive a ‘Renewal Letter’ from the Department of Justice. As soon as you receive this letter, please complete the process to renew your WWCC. If you don’t, you may be ‘caught out’ when it comes to volunteering to assist with school activities. Please don’t put it aside, act upon it immediately.

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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 ribtic 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.**
ART NEWS
Congratulations to Jamie Butcher in Year 2I, who has been awarded the Artist of the Week award. Jamies’s drawing and painting of nature is a wonderful example of what great work can be achieved when putting in your best effort. Well done Jamie!
This week’s Art Award was given to Year 5P, for their fantastic enthusiasm and effort to achieve amazing and very realistic results with their Eye Drawings.
Yesterday a group of students attended the agIdeas Conference at the National Gallery of Victoria. It was a marvellous experience, which you will hear more about in next weeks newsletter.
A final reminder that the Pirates project/exhibition at the Louis Joel Art Gallery and Community Centre finishes this Sunday 5th May, so there is only a few more days to check out the wonderful work of our Year 6 students.
Again thank you to everyone who have donated magazines to the art room. If you do have any spare magazines, please drop them into the art room whenever it is convenient. If you have any 1.25 litre plastic bottles, please also drop these into the art room.
Julie Kelly—Visual Arts Teacher

After School Care
Dear parents,
Aftercare will be open and running a full day program on Monday 6th May from 7.00am to 6.15pm. We will start the morning in the Before Care room (Japanese Room) so the children can have breakfast. At approximately 9.00am we will move across to the Gym. Children will be involved in ‘design your own chef’s hat, mini pizza making, placemat making, play dough, biscuit decorating and plaster mould painting’.
Please remember to provide morning snack, lunch and snacks throughout the day for your child/children. The program will provide afternoon snack. To book for Monday 6th May, please log onto oshclub.com.au
Thank you—Leanne, After Care Coordinator

WILLIAMSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENING
THURSDAY 2nd MAY 2013 6.00PM – 8.00PM
At the Williamstown High School Bayview St Campus
Williamstown High School is holding an Information Evening on Thursday 2nd May 2013 between 6.00pm – 8.00pm at the Williamstown High School Bayview St Campus. You are most welcome to come along and attend the session, join a guided tour and peruse displays. School Tours will operate every Friday at 9.15am, until the end of May. Please call 9399 9228 to register your tour place.

Williamstown High School
Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program for Students of Exceptional Academic Ability
In 2014 Williamstown High School will provide a Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program for Year 7 students who have exceptional academic ability. This program offers students the opportunity to undertake challenging learning experiences that are tailored to meet the needs of students of outstanding academic achievement. There is a greater emphasis on higher order thinking and learning skills and independent learning and research. Extension leads to indepth study and the integration and application of knowledge at a higher level.

Enquiries and applications to enter the program should be directed to the school on 9399 9228. Applications for the Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program close Friday 10th May 2013. The test will take place on Saturday 17th May at 9.00am.

Community Notice Board
Host Families needed for June/July—In June-July we will be receiving exchange students from Europe, the USA and Latin America. Our new arrivals will live with a host family and attend a local school for 2-10 months. As we plan for their arrival, we are keen to hear from suitable families who might be interested to host a student. If you have any questions about hosting an exchange student or would like to view profiles of students arriving from other countries, you can call our office on 1300 135 331.
What a wonderful day we had on Wednesday the 24th of April. The whole school came together to celebrate what Japanese culture can offer us, with all children participating in a range of cultural activities. Professional musicians and experts in Japanese Calligraphy, Kimono and Judo visited us to share their knowledge and skills.

A special thank you must also go to our wonderful classroom teachers who brought their talent and professionalism to all manner of Japanese themed activities, from Sushi and rice ball making, to Sumo Wrestling, Origami, Chopstick Tournaments, Fan Making and more.

Our children are to be congratulated on their impeccable behaviour on the day, with many of the special guests commenting on how engaged and well behaved our children were.

The costumes on display at the parade were truly stunning. Thank you to all those children who dressed up to add lots of colour and atmosphere – and to their parents who put so much time and effort into the preparations.
Prep Enrolments for 2014

Telephone — 9397 5722  Website — www.willynthps.vic.edu.au
email — williamstown.north.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Provisional Enrolments

A Parent Information session will be held on Tuesday 7th May. Provisional Prep enrolments for 2014 will commence on Wednesday 8th May. ‘Enrolment Forms’ and the ‘Preliminary Information Sheet’ will be available at the Information Session, or from the General Office from Wednesday 8th May. A copy can also be download from the School Website from Wednesday 8th May.

If you have any enrolment questions or concerns please contact the Assistant Principal Wendy Emin on 9397 5722.

Please Provide

1. Proof of Age (Birth Certificate).
2. Certificate of Immunization.
3. Proof of Residential Address for Primary Carer (3 Documents)
   (Drivers Licence, a Rates notice and a third document with your full name & residential address).

Enrolment Policy

Please note that in line with the “School Ceiling” endorsed by the South Western Regional Director, only families who reside within our defined school neighbourhood are able to seek enrolment. A map defining the school neighbourhood is available on the school website.

Parent Information Session

“Finding Out About Williamstown North Primary School”

An Information session for prospective 2014 Prep Parents will be held on Tuesday 7th May from 7.00pm to 8.00pm at the school. A tour of the Junior Learning Centre will be held prior to the start of this session, from 6.30pm to 7.00pm.

School Tours will be conducted on

Friday 24th May at Noon, Thursday 6th June at 10.00am and Wednesday 26th June at 11.30am.

Additional tours will be facilitated on request during Term 3 by contacting the office on 9397 5722.

The ‘2014 Prep Parent Information Night’

is only for Parents of “Confirmed Prep Enrolments”.

Tuesday 26th November 2013, 7.00pm to 8.30pm. Kay Margetts from Melbourne University will speak on “School Readiness” and “School Expectations”.

Transition Program

Our Kinder to School Transition program for our 2014 Preps will commence the week beginning Monday 14th October, Week 2 of Term 4.

All details regarding transition will be included with the ‘Letter of Enrolment’ confirmation, sent to families at the end of Term 3.

For our School Zone go to www.willynth.vic.edu.au / Our School Top Tab / Side Tab—Enrolments / WNPS Zone Map
Aspect Victoria is pleased to offer our highly successful, contemporary, evidence-based three (3) day Autism specific Positive Behaviour Support Workshop in the Western Region of Melbourne.

More than 1200 families have participated in Aspect’s Recipe for Success workshops. Post workshop evaluations showed an effectiveness of the workshops, with participants reporting decreases in challenging behaviours and increases in confidence and capacity to support their children and young adults.

When: 27th, 28th and 29th May, 2013
Where: Sadie McCarthy Learning Centre
         Altona P-9 College
         227 Civic Parade, Altona, Vic, 3018
Time: 9:30am-2:30pm (9:15am for Registration)
Cost: FREE (morning tea and lunch will be provided)
Registration: Register online at www.autismspectrum.org.au

Eligibility to participate in this Workshop:
- Parents or carers of children aged between 5 – 18 years with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- The children are attending a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) school in the Western Region of Melbourne
- Participating families are encouraged to invite professionals or service providers working with them to attend the workshop

Families participating in this workshop will:
- Develop an understanding of autism and how an ASD impacts upon learning and behaviour
- Learn how to be proactive by creating an autism friendly environment at home
- Learn how to write an autism specific behaviour support plan for one of their child’s behaviours
- Learn how to write a plan to respond confidently when challenging behaviour occurs
- Learn how to teach new skills to promote their child’s independence and quality of life

Enquiries:
Contact Amber Day – Workshop Administrator or Heather Kirkhope - Service Coordinator
Phone: 03 9377 6600 or email aday@autismspectrum.org.au

What participants say about Aspect Positive Behaviour Support Workshops:

“Brilliant information and concrete strategies to use, thank you. I have learnt very important self-reflection, being able to step back and really look at and examine behaviour, so valuable. I really value the focus on being positive and improving my child’s, my own and my family’s quality of life. Great workshop – I will highly recommend it to others.”

“Fantastic presentation. Very interactive, affirming & capacity building. Ideas not just discussed but taught how to follow through on.”

“Best information session on Autism I have been to. So much clarity about getting to the core behaviour, unpeeling the onion.”

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is Australia’s largest not for profit autism specific service provider. Established in 1966, Aspect provides a wide range of services and support. In 2010 Aspect commenced operation in Victoria.
STUDENT BANKING 2013

Does your child have a Commonwealth Bank Dollarmite account?
Did you know that for every NEW child that starts banking at school – we get $5.00 commission?
PLUS we get 5.00% commission on all deposits.
This is a great fundraiser for our school.

We have School Banking every Wednesday
Just bring your deposit book in with your $ and hand it to your Teacher.
Your deposit will be processed and your child will get their book back the same or next day.
The Student Banking program is aimed at helping students understand core financial values and money management skills. The emphasis on this program is on regular savings and not the value of each deposit so there is no minimum deposit amount, it is more of a fun and engaging activity for the students to enjoy!

DON’T HAVE A BOOK?
………Call into your local Commonwealth Bank Branch and open a School Banking account – it’s simple; all you need is Parent photo I.D and child’s Birth certificate – you can start banking at school straight away!
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office or call our School Banking Specialist Susan Brailsford M: 0422 116 040 / email susan.brailsford@cba.com.au
The School Banking Team

Win a share of the Dollarmites’ treasure by saving in Term 2 of School Banking.

The Dollarmites have found some amazing treasure on Savings Adventure Island and both your child and school could win a share of it in Term 2 just by saving.
First prize is a $5,000 family adventure holiday to anywhere in Australia, with $500 spending money. Plus, the winning student’s school will also receive $5,000 to spend as they wish. What’s more, there are 25 Runners-up Kid’s Adventure Packs, worth over $700 each, to be won. Each adventure pack includes a Wii U, night vision goggles, a waterproof camera, walkie talkies and a Razor eSpark electric scooter!
For you chance to win, students need to simply make three or more School Banking deposits during Term 2. To find out more, talk to your School Banking Co-ordinator or visit cmbank.com.au/adventureisland

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