Principal’s Report

EDUCATION WEEK

All government schools across the state are currently showcasing the fantastic things that happen in our schools everyday as part of Education Week. We kicked off our program for Education Week with our prep students tunefully singing the first verse of the national anthem to the rest if the school at Monday’s assembly.

We will be opening up our classrooms on Thursday 23rd May between 11:30am and 12:45pm so that mums, dads and family members can come along and join in the fun of learning maths at school. We have our fingers crossed that the weather will be fine so that families can enjoy a picnic lunch together after tackling their maths challenges.

We hope that you might be able to come along on Thursday to help us celebrate Education Week at WNPS.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School Photo Day is next Tuesday 28th May. All students will receive an envelope today with all the relevant details. Please have a careful look at the photo packages you can purchase, then return the envelope and enclosed money on the day of the photos. Please include correct money, as no change is available from the photographer and the office is unable to provide change.

Any families wishing to have photos taken of brothers and sisters together, can collect a separate envelope from the main office to book a family shot.

The schedule for the day will begin with our House Captains at 8:45am and our Year 6 Graduation shot at 9:00am. We would appreciate it if all Year 6 children could be at school by 8:45am next Tuesday.

Please note that any late orders or late payments will unfortunately incur a late fee from the company processing our school photos, so please be sure to have everything organised for next Tuesday 28th May.

TABLOID SPORTS AND ATHLETICS DAY

We were somewhat nervous after the drenching rain on Monday but we needn’t have worried as the condition for our Tabloid Sports and Athletics Day were close to being perfect for this time of the year. As I wondered around both programs, I was so impressed with the enthusiasm that our students displayed as they gave everything a go and really tried hard to do their best. One prep student came running up to me to tell me that he had ‘the strongest legs in the world’ and then...
happily joined his group again. We are so lucky to have such engaged students at WNPS!

It’s a big Gold Star to our hard working PE teacher, Sarah Nobbs, for her meticulous planning of both the Tabloid Sports and Athletics. Everything ran like clockwork and our students had so much fun participating in all aspects of the program. On behalf of the school community I would like to sincerely thank Sarah for the countless hours that went into planning these programs. I would also like to thank the many parents who kindly volunteered their time to support the various activities – we couldn’t have provided such a comprehensive range of events without this tremendous support!

**Thank You Julie & Jo**

Congratulations to both Julie Noonan and Jo Gumley who did a terrific job organising last week’s cake stall to raise money for new sandpit equipment for the preps. The stall raised just under a thousand dollars which was a fantastic outcome! My sincere thanks to all of the mums who dads who very kindly produced goodies for the stall in support of this cause. We should be able to purchase some pretty flash sandpit equipment as a result of this wonderful support to the school!

**SMS Alerts**

An SMS was sent out to all Year 6 parents last week. If you are the primary contact listed for the school and you didn’t get this message then please contact the office to confirm that we have your right phone number listed.

When you receive an SMS from the school please do not reply to this message as we have no facility to track replies. Always contact the office on 93975722 if you have any queries.

**Staff Car Park**

As the weather has closed in over the last fortnight we have noticed a number of parents using the staff car park for drop offs and pickups. We request that parents refrain from using the staff car park under any circumstances as this has the potential to place students at high risk; particularly when cars back out. Thank you in anticipation of your support on this matter.

Enjoy your Week!

Jim Cahill

Principal

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**For Sale—Year 6 T-Shirts**

The school has the following Year 6 T-shirts available for purchase.

One, Size 12 Short Sleeve Polo—$33.00 each
Three, Size 14 Short Sleeve Polo’s—$33.00 each
One, Size 16 Rugby Top—$46.00 each

Contact Judy in the office on 9397 5722 if you are interested in purchasing any of the above items.

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Friday 24th May is Walk Safely to School Day. Walk Safely to School Day asks that we all consider our transport habits and try to incorporate more walking as part of a healthy, active way to get around. Although walking all the way to school isn’t realistic for many of us, it’s quite easy to figure out how you can build a walk into your family’s daily routine. Remember, Active Kids are Healthy Kids so get planning your own Walk Safely to School Day journey for Friday 24th May.

For more information, visit www.walk.com.au
What bullying isn’t, and what to do when it happens

Bullying should not be confused with teasing, rejection, random acts of violence or physicality and conflict. While children will often tease or fight, this bickering should not be confused with bullying.

Some kids keep it close to their chests so it helps to be on the lookout for warning signs such as: items being stolen, changing the route to school and withdrawal from usual activities.

If your child is being bullied:

1. Listen to their story: Children who are bullied need someone to believe their story. Take them seriously and avoid dismissing complaints as tell-tale. Use common sense to differentiate between bullying and more random, non-selective antisocial acts. Kids can be nasty to each other, yet this doesn’t constitute bullying.

2. Deal with their feelings: A child who is bullied probably feels scared, angry and sad. Boys are more likely to display anger and girls claim they feel sad. The degree of emotional intensity is an indicator of the amount of bullying. Recognise and validate their emotions. Let them talk about how they think (remember boys respond better to ‘think’ language) and feel. It’s normal to feel sad, scared or just plain confused.

3. Get the facts: Get a clear picture of what happens, including who is involved, the frequency and what happens prior to any bullying. Get your child to be as specific as possible by asking good questions. An accurate picture will help you determine your next course of action.

4. Give them coping skills: With a clear picture you can start giving your child some help about how he or she may deal with bullying including using avoidance strategies, being more assertive and changing poor body language.

5. Get the school involved: Bullying is best handled when parents and teachers are involved. Approach your school through the appropriate channels, make yourself aware of your schools’ anti-bullying procedures and programs, and be willing to work within these guidelines.

6. Help build your child’s support networks: Kids need a group of friends to support them when they experience bullying so look for practical ways to broaden friendship groups.

7. Build their self-confidence: Provide children with systematic encouragement. Let them know through your words and treatment of them that they will get through this period.

It’s worth remembering that children who experience some form of bullying often come out stronger and more resourceful because they have experienced difficulties and they know they can defeat them.
**Rosters…**

**Fresh Fruit Friday (FFF)**

The parents on the roster for Fresh Fruit Friday for this week **Friday 24th May** are: Martin Ray, Pamela Fernando, Helen parker, Larissa Deeth, Mette Nielsen, Helen Gibbs, Julie Noonan, Jodie Moore and Helen Dixon.

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.

**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 23rd May**—Sally Lock
- **Friday 24th May**—Majella Snelling & Kellie Walker and Leanne Sutton
- **Wednesday 29th May**—Kaylynn Rasmussen
- **Thursday 30th May**—Anne Tobin
- **Friday 31st 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.

**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. **Out of stock items our now back in stock. If you have put in an order for uniform items, please check at the office as they will be ready for collection.**

**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.

**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.

**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.**
Community Notice Board

2013-2014 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE to WNPS families via Williamstown High School. Willy North is no longer selling the books, however Willy High Parents & Friends Group is raising much-needed funds for our school. Books are still only $65 with many new businesses and most of the favorites still included. Order forms are available in the front foyer at WNPS and if you email this to Karen Needs at karenneeds@hotmail.com or phone 0408 547 539 to request your book be dropped into the Willy North office for you to collect. Alternatively, you can pick up a book directly from the High School Junior Campus office at Bayview Street, or the Senior Campus office in Pasco Street - just pop in. Thank you for your support, Sue Breedon & Karen Needs - Williamstown High Parents & Friends Group.

Calling all T-Ballers—Newport Baseball Club is holding a winter T-ball afternoon for all 5 to 9 year olds interested in T-ball & Baseball, and would like to invite all interested kids and families to attend: Date: Saturday 25th May, Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm, Who: 5 to 9 year olds, Where: Newport Baseball Club, NO COST, Equipment: All equipment will be provided. There will be a mix of instructions on the fundamentals as well as a good game of T-ball to reinforce skills learned. The canteen will be open for a top quality hot dog and refreshments. Please bring your kids, their brothers, sisters, cousins and their friends. Paul Walshe Newport Baseball Club—120 Park Crescent, Williamstown North, telephone 0400 315 166 or email p.walshe@optusnet.com.au

Unwanted Footy Boots—http://www.bootsforall.org.au/ We are currently collecting donations of unwanted footy boots for the “Boots for All” charity who will distribute the boots to clubs and children in need. For all donations please email Virginia at vmfk@internode.on.net if you have booty that your child can no longer use, or place any boots in the tub near the general office foyer.

Discover Seaholme 3 Year Old Activity Group—is a warm, caring and nurturing learning environment for children aged 3. The group provides children an opportunity to grow and develop independence, confidence, self-esteem and a sense of belonging through play-based activities. We are having an open day on Saturday 25th May 2013 from 10.00am—1.00pm. The purpose of this open day is invite future families to have a look, ask questions and enrol for 2014 and 2015. Contact 9398 1216 or email seaholmeactivitygroup@hotmail.com

CAKE STALL SUCCESS

Thank you

Thank you to all the Prep parents/guardians for their overwhelming support of the cake stall in baking beautiful cakes, scones, cookies and toffees. Everything sold very well raising over $950.00. The funds will purchase much needed sand play equipment.

Thank you to all the students and some teachers that ate all of the yummies items baked.
ART NEWS

Congratulations to Joshua McDonald in Year 6B, who has been awarded this week’s Artist of the Week award. Joshua’s planning and construction techniques during our initial Paper Mache Animal Sculpture lessons, has been very impressive. I can’t wait to see his finished results!

This week’s Art Award was given to Prep B, for their wonderful listening and following of instructions to achieve great results with their Sandwich Collages on paper plates.

This week, students are undertaking activities based on different cultures as part of our Education Week celebrations.

Julie Kelly—Visual Arts Teacher

Junior School Council Report

The JSC will be running a Gold Coin donation, ‘Dress Up Day’ on Thursday 20th June. The theme of the day is to come dressed in your favourite ‘camp’ clothes. This is because the charity we are raising money for is a children’s camp called Cottage by the Sea.

Cottage by the Sea, one of the oldest Australian Children’s charities is a non-government, not for profit organization that empowers disadvantaged children by supporting them in developing their mind, body and wellbeing by providing leadership and outreach programs in a positive, healthy, seaside environment.

If you would like to learn more this charity go to [http://cottagebythesea.com.au/](http://cottagebythesea.com.au/)

Start saving those gold coins, as the class that raises the most money will receive a surprise reward!

SCHOOL PHOTOS

MSP PHOTOGRAPHY ARE ON THEIR WAY!!!

School Photo Day is: Tuesday 28th May 2013

Have your child’s school memories captured forever.

Please take time to read the relevant information on the envelopes and remember these helpful points:

- Do not return your envelope until photo day.
- Don’t seal envelopes inside each other.
- Every student must present their own envelope to the Photographer on photo day, even if money is included in brother or sister’s envelope.
- Please include correct money, as no change is available from the photographer and the office is unable to provide change.
- If paying by cheque, please make payable to “Southern Cross MSP”
- Family envelopes are available at the school office upon request; please collect prior to Photo Day.
- A late fee will apply for late orders and payments.
Walking in Autistic Shoes

An autism presentation and question-answer forum with renowned author, lecturer and autism consultant

Donna Williams, BA Hons, Dip Ed

Born in 1963, thought deaf and assessed as psychotic at the age of two, Donna Williams acquired functional speech in late childhood and was diagnosed with autism in her 20’s.

Donna gained post graduate qualifications as a sociologist and teacher, became the author of ten books in the field of autism, an international public speaker since 1994 and autism consultant since 1996 as well as an artist and musician. Donna will provide a fascinating insight into the world of Autism as someone who has actually been there as both a person with autism and a consultant who has worked with hundreds of children and adults on the autism spectrum.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY:

“The "feel good" feeling you get after the event is amazing. My manager found it the best lecture she had attended in her whole career!”

“Never have I sat through a seminar that held me captivated the entire time. Donna is an expert on the subject and if you think you know a lot about Autism then think again”.

“Donna Williams’ talks are spell-blindingly powerful. I regard her as the preeminent speaker on autism, from a powerful inside-out perspective”.

“As remarkable a spokeswoman, activist, artist, author, and musician Donna is, her humanity is what really sets her apart; her humor, passion, wit and insight into the world around her; her ability to see beauty in everyday things, her playfulness, her way of being in the world. Donna not only changed the way I see people with autism; she changed the way I see everyone”.

“Donna shares her knowledge with her audience in a way which makes it one to one, when in a room of hundreds. I would recommend her as a ‘never to be missed’ speaker”.

“Donna’s passion for her autism topics dominate the whole room leaving you wanting more”.

“In the years I have read many books on Autism but the most extraordinary and significant experience in my personal and professional life was my meeting with Donna Williams”.

For more information visit http://www.donnawilliams.net
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 cbbank.com.au/adventureisland

After School Care

Dear parents,
On Wednesday the children will be decorating cup cakes and muffins at aftercare.
On Thursday the children will have their own ‘biggest afternoon tea’.
For a ‘Gold Coin’ donation, the children will also have tea, coffee and the decorated cakes and muffins available for the parents. The children are raising money for the Cancer Foundation.
Parents, please remember to bring your Gold Coin donation and have a cuppa and cake to support the Cancer Foundation.
Thank You
Leanne
Oshclub Coordinator
Provisional Enrolments
A Parent Information session was held on Tuesday 7th May. Provisional Prep enrolments for 2014 will commence on Wednesday 8th May. ‘Enrolment Forms’ and the ‘Preliminary Information Sheet’ are now available from the General Office. A copy can also be downloaded from the School Website from Wednesday 8th May.

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 was held on Tuesday 7th May from 7.00pm to 8.00pm at the school.

Additional 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 held 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
Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge 2013

Students have a chance to take part in the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge “Challenge” in 2013. As a means to promote the importance of reading among students in Victorian schools and to encourage families and parents to be more involved with supporting children’s reading, in and beyond school, the Victorian Government has continued its support.

Details of the “Challenge” are available at www.education.vic.gov.au/prc.

PLEASE NOTE:

SECTION 1 of the consent form attached must be signed if your child is to participate in the “Challenge” and receive a Certificate of Achievement at the end.

SECTION 2 of the consent form below is optional.
In October/November 2013 an Honour Roll lift-out in The Age will contain the names of all Victorian children who completed the “Challenge” (publication only with the permission of their parents or guardians). Consent is sought from students and parents for the publication of names following the conclusion of the “Challenge”.

When consenting, you authorise collection of the name/s of your child/ren who are participating, including their schools, by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

This information will only be used for the purpose of conducting the “Challenge” in 2013 and printing Certificates of Achievement for students who meet the “Challenge”. If you consent, your child/ren will be issued by their school, with a username and password.

If you have any concerns about providing this information please email readingchallenge@edumail.vic.gov.au.

All queries will remain confidential, and all information that is to be provided to the Department will be held via a secure website and kept confidential, in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2000.
Dear Parent/Guardian

Students have a chance to take part in the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge “Challenge” in 2013. Details of the “Challenge” in 2013 are available at www.education.vic.gov.au/proc. There is no payment involved.

SECTION 1: Consent of a parent/guardian to authorise student entry and to authorise awarding of Certificates of Achievement for students who meet the “Challenge” in 2013.

Please tick □ only one of the boxes below.

☑ I consent to my child entering the “Challenge” and authorise their name on a completion certificate (Certificate of Achievement).

☐ I do not give consent for my child to enter the Challenge in 2013.

Parent/Guardian Name ____________________________________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian ______________________________________
Date _____ / _____ / _____ Class of Student _________________________
Student name (Print Full Name) _________________________________
Signature of Student __________________________________________
Age in years as at 1 February 2013 ________________________________
Name on Student’s Certificate ____________________________________
(Only required if different from name given above)

SECTION 2 Optional- Consent to publish child’s name in Achievers Honour Roll in the Age Newspaper

Please tick □ only one of the boxes below.

☑ I consent to publication of my child’s name in the Achievers Honour Roll in the Age Newspaper.

☐ I do not give consent for my child’s name to be published

I understand that if I wish to withdraw this consent to publication it will be my responsibility to inform the Reading Challenge Coordinator at my child’s school on or before 10 September 2013.

Parent/Guardian Name __________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature ______________________________________
Date: _____ / _____ / _____
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Come in and say Hi to Julie and the Team.