Principal’s Report

QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY
The school will be closed on Monday 10th June for the annual Queen’s Birthday holiday. I hope everyone enjoys the extended break over this long weekend.

STUDENT REPORTS
First drafts of the mid-year student reports have been printed off this week and we now undertake an extensive process of review to ensure all assessments and comments have been recorded and uploaded accurately. This is undertaken by a team of teachers to ensure all reports have been moderated by several different teachers.

One of the major challenges presented to all teachers across Victoria for this round of reports has been the shift towards the national curriculum. In term one all curriculum programs were structured using VELS (Victorian Essential Learning Standards). With the new industrial agreement determined at the start of this term, all Victorian schools will now be using AusVELS (structured in line with the national curriculum) to plan curriculum programs. In 2013, schools will be reporting progress in English, Maths, Science & History against AusVELS. To accommodate this swift change, our teachers have been working very hard to convert and reconfigure assessment data to ensure it aligns with the new national curriculum. Whilst this is all happening in the background, the presentation of the student report will essentially look the same for parents. As mentioned last week, there will be an increasing focus on more personalised/succinct comments on the reports.

As a result of an unforeseen extended absence, there will be no student assessment information on the Music Program for semester one. We are hopeful that Fran McCormick (Performing Arts Teacher) will be back with us next semester to facilitate this important program for our students.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
Exciting news!! After ten months of planning, School Council selected the preferred contractor for the replacement of all of our playground equipment at last Wednesday night’s meeting.

We are currently in the process of finalising the contractual arrangements and scheduling of this exciting venture. Whilst the successful company is a Melbourne based company, a number of the major elements selected will be sourced from several world leading European companies. If all goes according to plan, work will begin in late term three, with the entire project finished in early term 4 of this year.

The final scope of the program is in excess of $350,000. In the junior area out of the front of the school, the major piece of equipment underneath the shade sail will be replaced with a larger and more integrated structure as well as a series of mini trampolines to add a further sensory element to this area for our junior...
For our students from Years 1 – 6, three new structures will be integrated to form a completely integrated play zone around the oak tree and decking near the existing bike shed area. A large chain mesh fence will be constructed to separate the soccer field and the new play equipment so that students in both zones can play safely. The existing Year 1 and 2 equipment in the back corner of the school will be removed and this area has been targeted for a new shed and will eventually become an out of bounds area for all students.

We are so fortunate to be in such a strong financial position as a school thanks to the wonderful support of our school community over recent years. This significant project is being entirely funded by the school. We can be so proud that the hard work of our community will flow directly to transforming the opportunities for our students.

**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

At last week’s School Council meeting, an updated Student Engagement Policy was endorsed. In summary, this policy outlines the rights and responsibilities of all students, teachers and parents/guardians. It goes on to outline to school’s expectations and procedures for supporting the wellbeing and positive behaviour of all students. Please take a few minutes to have a look at this updated policy at [http://www.willynthps.vic.edu.au/app/webroot/uploaded_files/media/student_engagement_policyand_procedures_updated_may_2013.pdf](http://www.willynthps.vic.edu.au/app/webroot/uploaded_files/media/student_engagement_policyand_procedures_updated_may_2013.pdf)

**FETE COORDINATION**

I am delighted to announce that one of our wonderfully supportive parents, Shane Graham, has very kindly accepted the coordination role for the 2015 School Fete. He has big shoes to fill in replacing Michael Jackson but I have every confidence that Shane will comfortably manage the challenges associated with this important role. On behalf of the school community I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Shane for considering and accepting this role.

**SAFETY REQUEST – GATE LATCHES**

Just a quick reminder that if you are visiting the school through the day to ensure that the gate are closed and latches are reattached on the main gates to ensure that students do not have clear access to these entrances/exits. The last thing we would want would be for a child to chase a ball out of a gate that is swinging open. Thank you in anticipation of your support on this matter.

Enjoy your Week!

Jim Cahill
Principal

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**Help Support our school!**

Remember to collect Earn & Learn Points stickers when you shop at Woolies.

The more we collect, the more our school will benefit.

This year we are aiming to redeem our Earn and Learn Points for Maths equipment.

**Program Ends Soon**

The Woolworths Earn & Learn program ends on Sunday 9th June, so keep on collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Points to help the school.

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

Thank you to those parents who have packed your son’s/daughter’s lunch today in a re-usable container. We will be having weekly nude-food days in the foreseeable future, and by bringing lunches without wrappers you are contributing to more environmentally healthier future!

**Nude-Food tip:** Instead of buying share packs of individual chip bags, buy a box of shapes where you take a handful out and put it in a container. The paper box can be recycled and amount of rubbish generated is minimal.

Thank you for your participation, Mr Bainbridge & Mr Mulvey (Sustainability Coordinators)

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**For Sale—Year 6 T-Shirts**

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

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.
Getting a grip on worry-warts

As parents we often grapple with our own worries but one of the most common questions I get asked by mums and dads is ‘what do I do when my child seems overly worried or anxious?’ By Maggie Dent

Early anxiety is developmentally normal – in fact, being fearful or anxious is an essential human survival response. However, as parents we need to know how to soothe our children to help them get a handle on their anxiety. Otherwise it may interfere with their wellbeing.

In fact, anxiety is the most significant mental health issue in childhood and yet it frequently goes undetected, untreated and is frequently misdiagnosed as one of the attention disorders.

Anxiety can begin as early as age two but we see a significant rise when children enter the school system. Unless it’s addressed many will go on to suffer their whole lives.

Why kids worry

We must remember that children under 6 or 7 see the world through children’s eyes. This often means they find plenty to fear as the parts of their brain that rule rational thinking are not fully developed.

Research shows that the number one thing that children fear is feeling separated or unloved by their parents.

This means going to childcare or school, going to sleep, seeing mum or dad walk out the door, sharing mum or dad with a new baby, or not feeling connected to their parents can be huge triggers for anxiety.

While separation anxiety is normal, it’s important for parents of sensitive children to really be on the lookout for when it becomes excessive.

Symptoms of separation anxiety disorder include:

- Worrying about bad things happening to loved ones and being separated as a result
- Persistent reluctance to go to preschool/school, to be alone, to be without adults or loved ones (e.g. at home or when going to sleep)
- Repeated nightmares with themes of separation
- Physical complaints/symptoms when separated or anticipating separation
- Obvious distress.
Assess the environment

If a child is experiencing anxiety, or even to prevent anxiety, try to look at their environment through their eyes and ears.

For example, a huge trigger for children is listening to or watching the news. We must be very mindful of not leaving TVs or radios on around children, exposing them to reports and/or images of disaster, death or trauma. Even online, be mindful if your home page is a news page that may sometimes feature horrific images.

To help prevent anxiety becoming an issue we can make childcare choices that suit our children, particularly being mindful of our sensitive children or children under two who are often developmentally unable to manage environments that cause them stress.

These children really need a ‘mothering’ influence. This can come from mum, dad or someone else. I encourage parents to co-parent around work schedules as much as possible and seek care with trusted relatives, friends or family day care.

Top tips for reducing anxiety:

- Slow things down, leaving plenty of time for transition between activities.
- Have good routines particularly around eating and sleeping. Soothe your child with safe, loving touch and warmth - lots of cuddles, and rubbing the ‘tickly point’ at the base of their neck.
- Don’t overschedule your children’s lives or put too much pressure on them to perform/achieve.
- Make time for silence and relaxation every day. Research shows 10 minutes has proven benefits for the whole family.
- For separation anxiety, make an effort to build ‘love bridges’ with kids: take a small bite out of their sandwich before placing it in the lunchbox; place kisses in their hands to hold onto all day, lay with them at night. Little things are big things to kids.

Maggie Dent is an author, educator and speaker dedicated to quietly changing lives through commonsense wisdom. She is the author of five books. Learn more about Maggie at www.maggiedent.com
Rosters…

Fresh Fruit Friday (FFF)
The parents on the roster for Fresh Fruit Friday for this week **Friday 7th June** are: Martin Ray, Pamela Fernando, Helen Parker, Larissa Deeth, Mette Nielsen, Ivana Musura, Leanne Sutton, Vicky Gibson, Kim Goddard and Davena Toplis. If you are able to help out weekly, fortnightly or monthly, please contact Linda Taylor at, taylor.linda.11@edumail.vic.gov.au. This is a very happy and social group.

Canteen
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 6th June—Fran Mitchell
- Friday 7th June—Leanne Sutton & Georgina Evanson
- Wednesday 12th June—Rachelle Burbridge
- Thursday 13th June—Anne Tobin
- Friday 14th June—Majella Snelling & Andrea Parker

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 are 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 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.**
ART NEWS

Congratulations to Molly Ferguson in Prep M, who has been awarded the Artist of the week award for the fantastic detailed drawing and use of colour in her beach picture. Wonderful work and congratulations to Year 3/4P who have won this weeks Class Art Award for the excellent effort and focus while working on their paper mache containers.

Julie Kelly—Visual Arts Teacher

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 your 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 commbank.com.au/adventureisland

Year 1 & 2 Zoo Excursion
**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 their 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 Breeden & Karen Needs - Williamstown High Parents & Friends Group.

**Unwanted Footy Boots**—[http://www.bootsforall.org.au/](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.

**National Institute of Performing Arts** is running an after school 10 week dance program at Level 1/42 Albert Street Footscray in Term 3. Dance is not only great at improving a child's fitness, strength and posture, it is also a fun after school activity. This program is designed so students receive training in all facets of dance during a term. Please email NIPerformingArts@hotmail.com for more information on enrolment.

Looking for something different for the children these **school holidays**—this program has been designed to complement the **Wildlife of Gondwana** exhibition, currently being held in the KIOSC building at Swinburne’s Wantirna Campus. Every booking you make will entitle you to one free child admission to the Wildlife of Gondwana exhibition.

For more information and to enrol online, please visit: [http://sciencecentre.monash.edu.au/shp/](http://sciencecentre.monash.edu.au/shp/)

**Altona City Soccer Club** are having their first **CAR BOOT SALE** to be held at Altona City Soccer Club, Millers Road, Altona on Saturday 29th June. $20 per pitch, 9:00am to 3:00pm. Our canteen will be open for hot coffee and hot food, including a sausage sizzle, so no need to worry about food, just back your car with your items to sell and come down on the 29th June. If you don't have anything to sell, then do pass the word around if you think someone might be interested. Please call me to book your pitch or any further information. Thank you very much, Annette.

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**Celebrate World Environment Day in Hobsons Bay with a week of FREE sustainable food focussed community events.**

In line with the 2013 Global World Environment Day theme – ‘Think.Eat.Save: Reduce Your Foodprint’ – Hobsons Bay City Council is hosting the following events:

- **Wednesday, 5th June – THINK: Eating for Sustainability Forum** – hear from Millie Ross, Lauren Burns, Rod May and Professor Barbara Norman, with Vasilis Kanidiadis as MC. Free organic food and drinks. Hosted by Councillor Angela Altair as part of her 2013 Mayoral Program.

- **Thursday, 6th June – EAT: Cooking for Sustainability Workshop** – cook and share a delicious three course meal using organic, local and seasonal produce.

- **Saturday, 8th June – SAVE: Gardening for Sustainability Workshop** – Learn how your garden can save you in a number of ways; food miles, waste, chemicals, money and more!

For more information or to book your place, please see the attached information or visit the **Council's website.**
**Prep Enrolments for 2014**

**Prep 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**

- 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.
Open now in Newport, Flock Dining offers 7 days of great brunch, 3 nights of fine dining, plus a Sunday night gourmet roast.

Sit in comfort in our gorgeous modern licensed cafe and watch the theatre unfold from our open kitchen.

With a daytime communal table, kids toys and an all day and night children’s menu, we provide a comfortable nest for your family.

Flock, 39 Challis St, Newport
Telephone 93992393
Email office@flockdining.com.au and Website flockdining.com.au
The very talented Year 12 Theatre Studies students from **Footscray City College** are producing and performing a play based on the life of Verity Taylor who in the '70's was institutionalized for behavior that might now be recognized as belonging somewhere on the autism spectrum. It also traces the struggles of Verity’s family and her siblings and the effect her condition had on their lives. **This play is open for everyone in the community to come and see.** Tickets cost $10.00 per person and all proceeds will be donated to Amaze Victoria. If you can make it please do, it is a very worthy cause. **Click on the link to order tickets.** Copy and paste the link below to book your tickets. [http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=51834](http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=51834)

*At the age of twenty, Verity Taylor was charged by the police with damaging a chair by fire in the mental hospital where she was a patient. Later she was committed to Broadmoor “from where she may not be discharged or transferred elsewhere without the permission of the Home Secretary”.*

Produced and directed by Year 12 Students *Find Me* tracks Verity’s life using the technique of multiple-characterization, and seeks to investigate in depth the personality of the young girl, to “find” her – and at the same time attempts to promote awareness of autism and examine the impact it has on family and friends.

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