Principal’s Report

Staff News

On behalf of the school community I would like to congratulate James Ritchie on his successful appointment to the Victorian International School of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. James’ last day at Willy North will be on Thursday 13th August, whereby he will be taking just under two and a half years leave to take up this exciting opportunity. If all goes according to plan, James will return to Willy North at the beginning of 2018. A state wide selection process is currently underway for an experienced teacher to replace James until the end of 2015; as soon as these details become available we will inform the school community.

I am delighted to announce that Emma Holland gave birth to her first baby last weekend. Both mother and baby are doing extremely well. ‘Pippa Kathleen Rose’ arrived at a very healthy 3.9kg. We congratulate both Emma and Tom on the birth of their beautiful daughter.

Today is officially Caroline Reid’s last day at Willy North. We wish her safe travels as she ventures back to Ireland in the coming days with her husband Allan and hope that the next stage of their journey together unfolds with much prosperity.

We also congratulate Melanie Kennie on her exciting news that she is going to be a mum! Melanie had previously announced this to her students and through her eNews, however I didn’t want to miss the opportunity to congratulate Melanie and husband John on behalf of the school community.

2015 Parent Opinion Survey

Next Monday, we will be distributing in excess of 100 surveys to randomly selected families as part of the 2015 Parent Opinion Survey. The survey will take parents about 15 – 20 minutes to complete and the feedback and opinions provided through this survey play an important role in further informing our decision making processes and helping to make our school the best it can possibly be. The survey is completely confidential and all completed surveys are returned to the Department of Education for collation and analysis.

If your family receives one of these surveys, we ask that you complete it during next week and then return the completed survey in the sealed envelope.
provided, back to the office by Friday 3rd August. It would be great if we could get a 100% return to ensure the feedback we receive is truly reflective of our community.

Attitude to School Survey Results

In early term two, a state wide survey from the Department of Education & Training (DET) was administered to all students in Years 5 and 6 across Victoria. In summary, this survey aims to measure the attitudes of these students to their peers, their own wellbeing, as well as their teaching and learning.

We were very disappointed with our school’s results last year and as a response we have begun to implement a number of wellbeing programs and supportive strategies earlier than in previous years, predominantly targeting Years 4 & 5, to ensure a strong sense of preparedness for the rigour of Years 5 & 6.

I’m delighted to report that this year’s results have shown a dramatic improvement with all components of the survey reporting the highest results in all fields over the last four years. The consistency of the results is also very pleasing, with far less variation between the different areas measured.

Eight of the eleven areas measured this year reported results at or above state mean results. The area of student relationships was the highest field, with our students rating classroom behaviour significantly above the state mean, as well as reporting that they feel safe and well connected to their peers. In regards to their wellbeing, this year’s results showed our students generally have a positive morale and experience low levels of distress.

The biggest gains in this year’s results were in the area of teaching and learning, with one of the highest results on the survey being in regards to teacher effectiveness. Areas such as learning confidence, student motivation and school connectedness were also very strong with results very near to the state mean. Whilst the area of stimulating learning showed a significant improvement, this was the lowest variable on the survey at around the 40th percentile.

Each year we review these survey results closely to help inform our decision making processes and to continue to fine tune the program provision for our students. Through careful reflection and collaboration, we will continue to enhance our practices so that we may ensure our students have a positive attitude towards their schooling.

Electronic Sign

Thank you to parents who have provided feedback about our new electronic sign over the last week. We are continuing to tinker with messages in regards to their scheduling & timing. School Council developed a list of protocols earlier in the year for the school to follow in regards to how messages are managed in such a public forum. It was unanimously agreed that the sign would not be used at this stage for any promotional means or as a source of revenue for the school. Messages will therefore focus solely on promoting school events and achievements.

Prep to Year 4 Swimming

As a result of extensive consultation with our school community in 2014, we came to the conclusion that an alternative swimming program/venue was needed to further meet the needs of our students. Sarah Nobbs did a great job exploring all of the available options and after much consideration we decided to trial a new venue. I’m delighted to report that our first few days at the Maribyrnong Swim Centre have been fantastic. The process from when our students walk into the door, get ready to swim and then find their instructor is seamless. The instructors are friendly, welcoming and very willing to listen. I know the kids have had a great first few days and we look forward to this continuing over the fortnight.

As always, I would invite any feedback from parents over the swimming fortnight – feel free to drop me an email at cahill.jim.a@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Enjoy the week
Jim Cahill—Principal
**Rosters… Fresh Fruit Friday (FFF)**

This is a very social and interactive group who volunteer an hour of their time each Friday morning. Thank you to the many dedicated parents that assist with Fresh Fruit Friday. **Fresh Fruit Friday continue to need parent volunteers.** If you are available on Friday, please email Linda Taylor directly, so she can add you to the roster—taylor.linda.l1@edumail.vic.gov.au. The parents on Fresh Fruit Friday this week, **Friday 31st July** are: Julia Hacket, Arlene Lawrence, Mel Maskey, Camilla Thompson, Zohreh Basiri, Kim Pannone, Larissa Deeth, Helen Gibbs and Julie Du Plessis.

**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 and most welcome. So, if you can spare any of your valuable time, it would be greatly appreciated.

- **Thursday 30th July**—Anne Tobin
- **Friday 31st July**—Carolyn Wilkinson
- **Wednesday 5th August**—Help Needed
- **Thursday 6th August**—Imogen O’Neill
- **Friday 7th August**—Di DuBlasi

**Uniform Shop News** Primary School Wear (PSW) is our official Uniform supplier. Uniforms can be purchased at the new store located at Unit 1, 128 Bertie Street Port Melbourne. Items will also be available for purchase online. Email portmelbourne@psw.com.au. Trading hours for Term One and Term Four are Tuesday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm, Saturday 9.00am to 1.00pm and closed on Sunday and Monday.

**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**

From early April 2014, cardholders who are required to renew their WWC Check will no longer need to go to Australia Post to lodge a paper form and present their current card. From this time, cardholders will go to the WWC Check website to complete their renewal application online and, if applying for an Employee Check, pay the fee using a credit card. **The online renewal process** Cardholders will be notified by SMS, letter or email 28 days before their WWC Check is due to expire. **It is important for cardholders to keep their contact details up to date so that they receive this important reminder.**

After receiving a notification, individuals continuing to do child-related work should go to MyCheck on the WWC Check website and apply to renew their Check. Cardholders will be asked to register with MyCheck if they have not already done so. Once logged in to MyCheck, cardholders will be prompted to confirm or update their personal contact and work details, complete the online form and, if applying for an Employee Check, pay the non-refundable $102.70 fee. **More information,** an FAQ guide to online renewals will be available in ‘Publications’ under ‘Resources’ on the WWC Check website. Or contact the Customer Support Line on 1300 652 879 8.30am – 5.00pm weekdays except public holidays.

Provisional Prep enrolments for 2016 have commenced. ‘Enrolment Form’ and the ‘Preliminary Information Sheet’ are available from the General Office. A copy can also be downloaded from the school website located under the Enrolment slider tab.

If you have any enrolment questions, or concerns regarding enrolments, please contact the school office on 9397 5722.

Please provide the following information when lodging your enrolment:
1. Enrolment Form and Preliminary Information Sheet
2. Proof of Age - (Child’s Birth Certificate)
3. Certificate of Immunization (School Entry Form)
4. Three documents for “Proof of Residential Address”. (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 the defined school neighbourhood are eligible to seek enrolment. A map defining the school neighbourhood is available on the school website.

Confirmation of enrolment will be made in writing by the end of Term 3, 2015.

The ‘2016 Prep Parent Information Night’ is only for Parents of confirmed Prep enrolments.
Tuesday 24th November 2015, 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 2016 Prep children will commence week beginning Monday 12th October, Week 2 of Term 4.

All transition details will be included with the ‘Letter of Enrolment’ sent to families.

For our School Zone go to www.willynth.vic.edu.au / slider tab – Enrolments / WNPS Zone Map

Dear parents,

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn and Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school.

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, we are collecting Woolworths Earn and Learn Stickers.

Place the stickers onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet and when it’s complete, the sticker sheet can be dropped into the collection box here at school.

We’ll be able to get some great new equipment.
Reading & Writing Together Is Magic
Prep to Year 6 Students
Thursday 20th August 6.30pm to 7.30pm

RWTIM is our annual Community Literacy event, where all students in Prep to Year 6 have written and published pieces of poetry to share with their family.

To indicate your attendance; please use our online booking system. This will open on Monday 3rd August and close at 4.00pm on Friday 14th August.

“Reading & Writing Together Is Magic” will be held on Thursday 20th August starting at 6.30pm, and concluding at 7.30pm. All families are invited to attend, however children attending, must be accompanied by an adult.

Children from Prep to Year 6 are allocated in groups to a classroom, with siblings kept together. Our senior students host the evening as part of their Leadership development. Prep to Year 6 students proudly read their poems to the audience with great confidence.

The evening commences with each child taking turns to read their piece of published work and at the conclusion, each child will receive a ‘RWTIM Ribbon’ for attending the night.

To assist with the organisation, it is vital that you register your attendance, and names of your child/ren who will be participating on the night.

Please go online www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use the Online Booking System Event Code – GSGMJ on or before, Friday 14th August to book your child/ren’s attendance. The online booking system will close at 4.00pm on Friday 14th August.

All families will be provided with details of the room your child/ren will be reading in, by Wednesday 19th August.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT ON THE NIGHT

Book Fair - Under the Sea!
The Book Fair will be located in the Resource Centre.

Families will be able to purchase a wide range of books on the following dates and times.

Thursday 20th August, from 3.30pm to 4.15pm and prior to RWTIM 5.30pm to 6.15pm. Book sales will conclude at 6.15pm sharp to enable students and families time to move to their designated room.

Book sales will re-open directly after Reading & Writing Together Is Magic, concluding at 8.00pm.

Friday 21st August, from 8.30am to 9.00am and directly after school, from 3.30pm to 4.00pm.

Thank you – The Teaching & Learning Key Reference Group
On Thursday 20th and Friday 21st August, the school library will be the venue for our annual Book Fair. A variety of books and posters will be on sale. This will be an excellent opportunity to promote books and reading, as well as a terrific opportunity for our school to earn books for our library through commissions in sales—last year we earned $4,000 worth of quality books for our school!

**PREVIEW SESSIONS**

Throughout the week of the fair, all classes will have an opportunity to view the books and posters that will be for sale. Your child will fill out a Cool Books form, indicating which books they liked the best, along with their prices. This list can be used for placing orders if you are unable to attend in person. *(Please note that you are under no obligation to purchase from the fair.)*

**BOOK FAIR OPEN TIMES**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Thursday 14th August (RWTIM evening)</th>
<th>Friday 15th August</th>
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<tr>
<td>3:30pm - 4:15pm</td>
<td>8.30am – 8:55am</td>
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<td>5:30pm - 6.15pm (prior to RWTIM)</td>
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<td>7:15pm – 7:45pm (after RWTIM)</td>
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**PURCHASING BOOKS**

If you are unable to attend, you can still place an order. There will be a variety of options available for payment of orders, and information regarding making payments will be forthcoming.

We hope you enjoy this year’s Book Fair!

Vivien D’Aquino
Book Fair Coordinator

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**AFTER CARE NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents,

Could all parents please check details such as phone/contact numbers on enrolments and update please, this has caused some issues when children do not arrive at the program and parents cannot be contacted due to wrong numbers. It is important to keep this information up to date.

There will be a student free day on Friday 14th August. The program will operate from 7.00 am—6.15 pm with children starting off the morning in the before care room, then moving over to the gym for activities.

Please note that we do need a minimum of 15 children to attend to be able to open the program. To book for student free day, please log onto oshclub.com.au select the A.S.C tab and book date for 14th August.

Please feel free to call the program on 0422 236 845.

Thankyou Oshclub Staff
Raising a critical generation

In a digitally literate world of 'likes' and social criticism Lakshmi Singh looks at how parents can foster critical spirit in a constructive, healthy and balanced way.

The age of entitlement
Parents have always wanted the best for kids, but raising the 'you deserve the best, this/that is not good enough' mentality a bit too far can also be detrimental, says parenting and education expert Ronit Burns.

"The rules of education are very simple, judgmental parents will raise judgmental kids. Why? Because judgment is a coping mechanism to fight inadequacy. Judgmental people have weaknesses (and) judgment is their way of hiding. 'If I find faults in others, I will be able to hide mine.' If parents model this mentality, kids will adopt it."

Similarly projecting a "my child is special and they need to know that" vision by over-supplying them with activities, commodities and even praise can lead to an unhealthy sense of entitlement, says Dr. Ash Nagaya, clinical neuropsychologist.

"Narcissism [i.e. a feeling of entitlement] is a sign of unhealthy self-esteem. Narcissistic people don't see themselves as equal to others, they see themselves as better than others - and the reason they hold this belief is to cover up their fear of 'not being good enough'," she says.

Judging people helps alleviate that fear, she says. To help stop the cycle, she believes parents need to lead by example.

"Developing a healthy self-esteem is critical. If as a parent you have low confidence and low self-esteem, your kids are going to pick up on that as well. If you want your kids to be resilient and confident, then you need to work on the confidence and self-esteem within yourself."

Readily accessible forums to dish out criticism
It is no secret that millennials are more digitally literate than the rest of us. With most having access to their own mobile phone, laptop and social media accounts, the stage is set for their communication with others who are wide and always available.

"Social media encourages us to be more vocal about criticism. So instead of just judging people quietly, in our minds we can do it aloud, behind the safety and anonymity of a computer screen," says Dr. Nagaya.

more on page 2
The privacy that social media affords also brings to the fore a trait that Baras calls a “brain fart”.

“In my program we consider it a ‘brain fart’ when you do not consider others or the outcome of what you say and only want to say it, at all cost,” she says.

She believes the problem is intensified in a society that values external standards and imposes them on the education system through set metrics. “Teachers use marks, tests and they flush with standards and rules and this is far away from teaching critical thinking. So, no wonder kids are learning that everything in their life needs to be judged.”

From teacher review sites to specialist groups and threads on social media forums, kids today can critique anything about their school, programs or individual people, making up their mind whether something makes the cut or not.

**A culture that accepts criticism**

With the prominence and popularity of reality TV shows comes the hard truth that our culture is now one of judgement and criticism.

“People are evaluated on the basis of what they’re missing, how they’re not good enough or worthy enough, and what’s ‘wrong’ with them,” says Dr. Nayate.

To compound the situation, today’s society is more geared towards materialism and capitalism, she says.

With the aim of being ‘better’, ‘richer’ and ‘more successful’ comes the habit to indulge in self-criticism, another trigger for engaging in a dialogue centred around “I am better than this guy because…” or “I am so hopeless at this compared to…”

“Self-criticism is the first step towards judgement of others. We can only judge others if we’re somehow judgemental of ourselves,” says Dr. Nayate.

**Striking a balance**

So, how do we turn all this ‘judgement’ into something that is more considered, evaluated and more respectful of the people and practices involved in the process?

By understanding the difference between informed decision-making or critical thinking and straight judgment, says Baras.

“Critical thinking is when we present kids with options and teach them to evaluate and consider the advantages and disadvantages between options. Critical thinking/judgment is considering yourself above others and rating them based on your own individual standard.”

The good news is that critical thinking skills can be developed without being critical of others says Dr. Nayate.

“It’s about adopting an attitude of open-mindedness and healthy curiosity. Just like a three year old who always asks ‘why’ - the child isn’t doing it out of judgement or maliciousness, it’s simply a raw desire to learn more about the world.”

While critical thinking skills depend on the maturity of the child, Dr. Nayate believes parents can nudge kids in the right direction by role modelling it:

**Verbalise** the thought-process involved in everyday decisions – for example choosing healthier food options (“When I eat fries, I feel a bit sick in the stomach, and the next day I get a headache from all the salt and grease. And then I feel sluggish and lazy, and I just want to sit around at home all day instead of going to the playground with you.”)

**Assist** with decisions and evaluations – implement this as a two-step process, she advises first, acknowledge kids when they have demonstrated critical thinking. For example: “that was a good decision to do your homework before you went to your friend’s house. That way, you can really have fun and you don’t need to rush to get home”.

Secondly, help them assess whether the decision they made was because they accept an idea or because it came from a person they accept. As an example, many teenagers tend to accept information as credible when it comes from their peers or celebrities more so than their parents.

**Help** them put their higher values in perspective – while some children may value hard work or aim for certain levels of achievement, they would also value acceptance, connection with others, happiness, fun and adventure, she says. For example, a child who values health and fitness highly might override them in favour of other values like fitting in with their peers who smoke and thus take up that habit. Encourage them to see when decisions are made based on what we value, rather than on impulse or what feels good at that moment.

Sources:
- Tim Elmore’s blog on ‘Curing a critical spirit in students’ - http://growingleaders.com/blog/curing-critical-spirit-students/

Lakshmi Singh


parentingideas.com.au
THE SUBSTATION
Artists' Market

CRAFT CUBED EVENT

1 Market St, Newport
Sunday 2 August, 2015
10am-3pm

Celebrating the best established and emerging designers in the western suburbs of Melbourne. Melbourne's best food trucks, live music from local acts and a special guest DJ set.

For interested stalls holders visit www.theubstation.org.au
www.craftaucubed.craft-cubed
#craftcubed #craftcubed
#theubstationartsmarket

Minuteman Press
The First & Last Step in Printing.

Printing Business Cards Flyers
Design Letterheads Postcards
Posters Envelopes Stickers

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