



Wednesday Weekly

15 July
2015

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From the Principal

WELCOME BACK

I hope everyone has managed to have a restful and warm holiday break. Melbourne has certainly put on the cold weather with many of us battling chills, ailments and the like. Despite this, it appears that everyone has returned in high spirits ready for new learning and the excitement of planned activities and events. Remember to keep abreast of the school's many happenings by checking the Wednesday Weekly, your child's bag for notices, or via our school app Tiqbiz.

To assist with planning, here is a heads up on this term's events and happenings. These events and activities are above and beyond the regular classroom program with further details and information being distributed over the coming weeks.

- Year 3/4 Swimming Program
- Year 1 Gymnastics Program
- Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews (see below)
- School Trivia Night (1 August)
- Basketball Clinics (Years 3 to 6)
- Years 1 & 2 School Concert
- House Athletics (Years 3-6)
- Curriculum Day (14 August)
- Diamond Valley Choral Festival (School Choirs)
- Clubs Program (Years 1-4)
- School Disco
- Year 5/6 Band night
- Year 3/4 Curriculum Concert
- District Athletics Carnival
- Basketball Hooptime (Year 5/6)
- Rugby Gala Day
- State School Spectacular (School Choir)

STAFFING NEWS

Several staff are currently taking leave and we are fortunate to have teachers who are familiar with our school replacing them. **Mrs Heather Trengove** is working in First Aid whilst Mrs Cheryl Campher is away, **Mrs Giovanna Doupé** is replacing Ms Sarah Pollnitz for 4 weeks, and **Mrs Julie Schrader** is working in S4 (Year 5/6) during Ms Julianne Haldon's period of leave.

We also welcomed to our school **Ms Jaclyn Sullivan** who has been successfully appointed in the Information and Communication Technology role. This position was made vacant whilst Rachel Mercuri commenced family leave and we are delighted to have Jaclyn at our school. This is a tenured position for 6 months and I know the students will benefit greatly from working with Jaclyn.

Congratulations are extended to **Rachel Mercuri** who is now the proud mother of baby Aria Leigh. Weighing in at 3.2 kg, Aria arrived in the early hours of Monday morning. Both mother and baby doing well.

Carly Joyce also had some exciting news to share, with baby Cooper arriving in the first week of the holidays. Again mother and baby doing well and we congratulate Carly and Cam on the new addition to their growing family.

PARENT, STUDENT, TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent, student and teacher conferences are an important component of ongoing home-school communication and family involvement in our school. Research demonstrates that family involvement in education can lead to positive benefits for children such as increased school attendance, higher academic performance and improved attitudes about school. Teachers are looking forward to meeting with students and parents next Tuesday, 21 July as part of the mid-year reporting process. **A reminder to all families that this is a student free day**, however we do request that children attend the scheduled interview with their family. Three-way conferences provide an opportunity for students to share their understandings about themselves as a learner and to evaluate, reflect and celebrate on goals set at the beginning of the year. Future goals will also be discussed and negotiated.

Parents can book a conference time using the School Interview Online booking site www.schoolinterviews.com.au. Instructions on how to make a booking have been distributed to families however if you do not have access to a computer or are having difficulties, please contact the school office for assistance. Please note that the online booking system

will open at 6:00pm today and close on Monday 20 July at 10:00am.

In order to facilitate meetings and ensure that the interview time is maximised, we have included some tips on having a successful interview. The tip sheet has been reproduced from advice provided by Michael Grose at his parenting ideas website.

Making the most of your parent-teacher meeting

Parent-teacher interviews provide a great opportunity for you as a parent to find out how your child is progressing at school. Many parent-teacher interviews are tightly scheduled and can seem a little rushed. Teachers are generally highly organised so they can make the most of the time you have together. It makes sense also for you as a parent to be prepared and ready to make the most of the brief time you have with teachers.

Here are some guidelines to make the most of these interviews:

1. **Prepare well.** Before the interview, list any questions that you want to raise.
2. **Attend with a partner or friend** particularly if you are nervous or unsure. It is easy to miss a point and often difficult to relay information to a partner.
3. **Take notes and clarify information that you don't understand.** "What do you mean by 'he needs to spend more time reading'...?" Make sure you have a good understanding of the messages your child's teacher is giving.
4. **Be prepared to give an assessment of your child's performance.** You may be asked how you think your child is performing so give an honest, but realistic assessment.
5. **Ask how you can help your child if there are any areas that need to be strengthened.** No doubt your child's teacher will have some strategies for you to assist your child, so make sure you have a clear understanding before you leave. If there are unresolved issues or you wish to discuss your child's difficulties in greater detail, consider asking for another interview. This is being respectful of the teacher's time and of those parents who are to follow.

Once the interview is over, involve your child in discussing any plans for improvement and continued growth. By involving children and taking notice of their ideas, plans are more likely to be successful.

Michael Grose Presentations

www.parentingideas.com.au

Tina King (Principal)



Have you downloaded our new school app, called 'tiqbiz'? The app is available on iPhone, iPad, iPod, Android Phone, Android Tablet and Windows phone device. If you don't have a mobile device, there is also an app available for computer, both Mac and PC. To access the app, you will need to download **tiqbiz** from the app store, register a free account, then find Watsonia North PS, and tick our school.

Once you have the app, you will receive reminders and updates on the latest news happening around our school.

When you are ticking the school boxes, please make sure you tick on "Whole School" **AND** the specific Year level/s that apply to your family.



YEAR 1 & YEAR 2 PRODUCTION

Calling all parent volunteers!

Our production is approaching in Week 5!

If there are any parents who wish to become involved with costumes, props or scenery, or if you are able to assist with makeup on the night, please send

Miss Lyttle an email on

music@wats-north.vic.edu.au and you will

be added to the "Costume Crew" list!



SAVE THE DATE!

**WNPS Fundraising committee are hosting a
Disco on Friday 21 August in the Performing
Arts Centre**

Prep to Grade 2 from 5.30pm-7pm

Year 3 to 6 from 7pm-8.30pm

Entry is \$10 per child including show bag

Further information to follow

**FOUND IN SCHOOL YARD
GREEN & BLACK MOUTHGUARD**

email: watts.jenny.j@edumail.vic.gov.au



Tel: 9432 3213 24 hours

Hi everyone

Great to see many little happy faces back for another term of Cool Care. Hopefully a happy and healthy holiday was had by all.

Term 3 begins with a busy week. Both before and after care attendance figures remain high. Before care is available to all families without permanent bookings at the moment (on a walk in casual basis) providing a current registration has been completed. Children need to be signed in and if breakfast is required, breakfast is served between 7.30 and 8.00am. After care attendances are quite regularly cancelled freeing up spaces for casual attendances. If in need of casual care, please call anytime to ascertain if we have vacancies. Families with their children on the waiting list are requested to contact us each week to determine availability.

A Cool Care news covering changes relative to Centrelink entitlements and other Cool Care News will be distributed to our current families along with their Term 2 transaction statement. The statement shows all care and payment transactions occurring during last term. If a statement is required to support end of financial year taxation returns, please contact me and I will provide one. If you would like to access further information, follow the link provided herewith <https://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/benefits-payments/indexation-rates-july-2015> or visit www.humanservices.gov.au.

This week we look forward to the first of our two sessions with Reptile Encounters. Today the Prep - Year 2 children will be treated to a reptile show and next Wednesday 22 July the Year 3-6 children will be exploring and meeting underwater critters. This term we also celebrate our 21st birthday in Cool Care. This will be celebrated during the week beginning August 3. We are currently in the planning of incursions and child implemented extravaganzas. Watch this space for more details as the term progresses.

In regards to the Pupil Free Day this coming Tuesday July 21, we have not received enough requests for care therefore we will not be operating a Cool Care program on Tuesday July 21. We require a minimum of 20 children to operate on any Pupil Free Day.

The garden area at the pedestrian gate entrance to the school in Sharpes Road has been given a 'new lease of life' over the holidays. As the children in Cool Care show great passion toward gardening, we will be including this as part of our 'garden maintenance and sustainability' program in Cool

Care. The water articulation system is still to be installed - this will be done soon, over the next couple of weeks. This will operate from the water tank on a timer over the warmer months. A huge thankyou is extended to Ruth Reidy and her grade for their hard work providing Cool Care with a couple of worm farm units that were sitting idly around the school. The children in Cool Care have expressed a keen interest in setting up a couple of worm farms to provide us with natural fertilisation. We will pursue this as the term progresses. A loud 'hooray' to Ruth and her Year 5/6 children for their generosity and time! Have a sensational 3rd term - call out to us if you have any queries about Cool Care. Stay Cool (warm)!

Let's meet and talk travel

Wendy Krukowitch

Personal Travel Manager

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Step 2: BAG!

Place all the items into plastic bags.

Step 3: BRING TO SCHOOL!

Your unwanted goods can be brought to school during the week prior to the collection date or on the day of collection.

COLLECTION DATE IS FRIDAY, 24 JULY

The van will be at school from 8.15-9.00am.

We need clothes, footwear, manchester & accessories

Performing Arts News

SCHOOL OF ROOOOCK!

On Tuesday 23 June (why does last term seem so long ago?) – nearly 70 students from WNPS performed at our sixth School of Rock (there have now been eleven in all, organised by Piero D'Elia, Music coordinator for our region). There were so many of us on stage, Piero commented that we must have brought "the whole school"! Well done to all our performers, and thanks to Miss Rogers, Mrs Linssen, Mrs Schrader and Mrs Wilson for helping with the excursion, as well as to our parent helpers Sharon, Amna and Jo.

VIOLIN

Alice Gaynor has started as our new violin teacher this week, taking over from Melanie Simpson who has been fortunate enough to be accepted into further studies at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. Alice is a University of Melbourne graduate and comes to us well recommended from other primary school instrumental programs.

TERM 3 PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

Take a deep breath ... we have: **Tuesday August 11**, Year 1 and 2 concert at Parade College; **Tuesday August 18**, Diamond Valley Choral Festival (choirs); **Tuesday August 25**, Year 5/6 Bands Night at Loyola College; **Thursday September 3**, Year 3/4 Curriculum Concert at WNPS Hall; **Thursday, Friday and Saturday September 10, 11 and 12**, State Schools Spectacular final rehearsals and performance (Senior Choir). And that's just for starters!

BEGINNER GROUP RECORDER CLASSES

Tony Barnden has been teaching groups of beginner recorder students (mainly in Year 3) at a set price of \$100 for ten lessons, and has space for a new group. Please contact Tony or Mr Perry via the school if you are interested in taking up this offer.

STATE SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR TICKETS – EARLY BIRD SPECIALS

If you are thinking about attending this year's State Schools Spectacular on **Saturday September 12**, this week is the time to purchase your tickets, as they are offered at an **early bird discount price** until the evening of **Sunday July 19**: Adult tickets are \$38 if you buy them this week, then they go up to \$44. This offer is open to everyone, not just family of Spectacular performers. Tickets can be purchased at

www.ticketek.com.au/spectacular

David Perry (Performing Arts Coordinator)

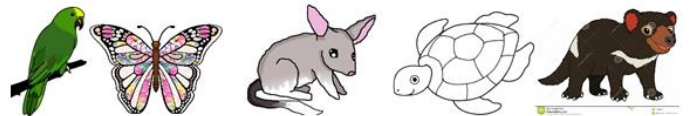
How to Save Endangered Animals

During Inquiry, Year One Students have been finding out about endangered animals.

Here are some things you can do to help look after animal and bird habitats.

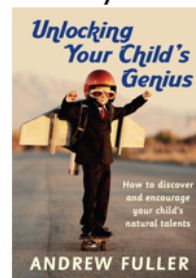
1. Plant native plants so birds and insects have food and somewhere to nest.
2. Pull out weeds in your garden so they don't spread to parks and the bush.
3. Recycle all your paper, bottles and cans. Put vegetable peelings into a compost heap.
4. If you have a cat, put a bell on its collar so the birds can hear it coming.
5. When you visit a park take your rubbish home. Don't pick flowers or move rocks and logs.

Help save our birds and animals!



Eltham Preschool and Eltham Bookshop

Invite you to the launch of Andrew Fuller's new book



Wednesday 29th July

7.00 pm registration for a 7.30 pm start

Eltham Senior Citizens Hall, 903 Main Rd

Tickets: \$32

(This includes a copy of the book and light refreshments)

Andrew has recently been described as someone who "puts the heart back into psychology". As a clinical psychologist, Andrew Fuller works with many schools and communities in Australia and internationally, specialising in the wellbeing of young people and their families. He is author of the books **TRICKY TEENS, RAISING REAL PEOPLE: Creating a Resilient Family, GUERRILLA TACTICS FOR TEACHERS, HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED AT SCHOOL.**



Purchase tickets exclusively at **Eltham Bookshop 9439 8700**

elthambookshop@bigpond.com



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STUDENT LEADERSHIP AT WATSONIA NORTH - REVIEW

Next Tuesday, parents and caregivers will be given an opportunity to review our current student leadership structure. While you are waiting for your student/parent/teacher conference, our current student leadership process will be displayed on a flow chart outside your child's classroom. Please feel free to take a feedback form, fill it out with your comments, and drop it in the Student Leadership Comment box (boxes will be easily visible in each year level area). The boxes will be collected at the end of next week, so if you can't make the conference you could still pop in and give your feedback. We appreciate any feedback you have.

Thank you, Mr Scott Eastwood



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