From the Principal

PRIDE OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL 2014

The Pride of Australia Medal recognises and rewards individuals who do extraordinary things. At Monday's assembly we celebrated and congratulated Eric Watkins (Year 2, J8) who last week received the Child of Courage Pride of Australia medal after helping save his mum's life. Whilst out collecting firewood in Flowerdale, Eric and his mum were riding their quad bikes when his mum lost control, hitting a tree and



losing consciousness. Eric's father contacted 000 and drove out of the bush in order to guide emergency services to the scene of the accident. In the meantime, Eric stayed by his mother's side, comforting and reassuring her whilst being guided by the ambulance operator over the phone. At a time when he was in fear of his mother dying, Eric remained calm and composed offering words of comfort. This is an incredible feat for a young 7 year old and Eric's actions are truly courageous and inspirational. We are very proud of Eric and he is a most deserving recipient of the medal.

This year, there have been 10 medals awarded to Victorians whose heroic deeds, community spirit and bravery have been exceptional. The medal is now going national and the community has an opportunity to vote in the People's Choice award. We would love for our school community to get behind Eric and vote for him in the People's Choice Medal (to be announced in Sydney on December 11).

To cast your vote for Eric please log on to http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/pride-of-australia/vote and follow the prompts.

MELBOURNE CUP VISIT

A very special visit is taking place at our school next Tuesday 21 October – the Emirates Melbourne Cup Tour delegation will be at Watsonia North! The delegation (comprising of a VRC representative, an Ambassador for the Tour and the 2014

will

Emirates Cup trophy) will be in attendance at a special school assembly commencing at 11:00am. The VRC representative will speak about the Tour and where it has been across Australia. Following the address to the school, classes will have an opportunity to have a group photo with the cup. Parents are invited to come along and share in the occasion. We are most grateful to Michael O'Brien (father of Aeryn, Logan and Ellen) who has made all this possible. Thank you Michael for thinking of Watsonia North and allowing us the opportunity to be part of this special tour.

CHILDREN'S PLACEMENT FOR 2015

In the coming weeks, staff will be preparing grade lists for 2015. If parents/guardians would like staff to consider information relevant to the placement of their child for next year, please personally contact Jamie Jaquinta (Assistant Principal) or myself by Friday 24 October. All considerations must be in writing and it will not be possible to consider any such information beyond this date.

Information that parents/guardians provide regarding placement for next year should refer to the following only:

- Information relating to specific teaching and learning needs, particularly those identified in the child's Individual Learning Improvement Plan;
- Information about a child's social and emotional needs, for example, issues regarding placement with other children.

Please note that **specific teacher requests are not accepted** due to the difficulty it creates in trying to meet everyone's requests and the negative effect it has on teacher status and morale. At Watsonia North we are fortunate to have an excellent team of staff who offer high quality teaching in all areas and programs. Parents can have confidence that the placement of a child with any teacher is a positive and well considered placement.

PLANNING FOR 2015

Planning for next year is well underway and to assist with the process, we need to have an accurate student enrolment figure. Our school funding is based on the total number of enrolments which in turn determines our grade structure and programs on offer. In consolidating our indicative student numbers for 2015, it is important that families inform us if their child/children will be leaving Watsonia North at the end of the year (other than Year 6 students). If this is the case, could you please complete the slip below and return it to school as soon as possible.

CHILDREN NOT RETURNING IN 2015 Names of children not returning:	
	Rm
	Rm:
Reason for Transfer:	
School your child/ren will be transferring to:	
Signature of Parent/Guardian:	
	! !

SCHOOL REVIEW

Our school underwent the scheduled School Review day yesterday whereby we undertook a thorough analysis of our school's performance against what we set out to achieve in the current school strategic plan. The School Reviewer, Peter Gannon (former Principal of Viewbank SC) and fellow peer reviewers, Bill Kersing (Principal Viewbank PS) and Graeme Renshaw (Principal Templestowe Valley PS) met with the school's leadership team and Greg Dyer (School Council President) to look at the school's current performance and make recommendations in developing the next strategic plan. There was no doubt that we were able to establish evidence of strong school performance and the review panel was most complementary of the school's achievements and accomplishments. In summary we were able to celebrate success relating to:

- Student learning outcomes NAPLAN data indicates that our students are performing above state and national means. Furthermore, teacher assessments indicate strong student performance and achievement in key learning areas.
- Student engagement and wellbeing programs and data indicate that our students feel safe, secure and stimulated to learn at school.

 Student pathways and transitions – provision of high quality and innovative student transitions into, through and out of the school, meeting the need of students.

The next stage of the review process, involves the school reviewer preparing a written report outlining the school's achievements and making recommendations for the new strategic plan. It is envisaged that by the end of the term, the new strategic plan will have been developed in readiness for implementation over the next four years.

Tina King (Principal)

PE & Sport News

DATES TO REMEMBER

- CHANGE OF DATES: Division Basketball Boys & Girls (selected students only): FRIDAY, 24 OCTOBER.
- Division Softball Year 5/6 Girls (selected students only): TUESDAY, 28 OCTOBER – Alphington Grammar.

DIVISION ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Wednesday 8 October, 32 students travelled to Meadowglen to compete in the Division Athletics Championships.

All children achieved fantastic results and displayed great sportsmanship throughout the day. Many children trained hard over the school holidays, working on their techniques and relay change overs, which helped them to achieve many Personal Bests on the day.

This year, Watsonia North had seven students who finished 1^{st} or 2^{nd} in their event. These students will now compete in the Northern Region Athletics Finals, also at Meadowglen on 15 October. Good luck to you all!

THANK YOU to the parents that came along and supported our students on the day.

Trent O'Sullivan (PE & Sport Coordinator)

FOR SALE IN SCHOOL OFFICE WNPS REPORT DISPLAY FOLDERS

We have a limited number of maroon WNPS display folders for sale. These folders can be used for school reports. Folders are \$3 – first in, best dressed. See Pauline or Jill

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



Tel: 9432 3213 24 hours

Hi everyone

Do you have the time, please? That's what we have been asking each other since we have been practising to tell the time together. It is amazing how quickly the children are associating their knowledge of the 5 times table and understanding of the basics of 60 minutes to an hour etc. We now hear them counting between the main digits on the clock to ascertain how many minutes past or to the hour. Fantastically so, some of the younger children are helping the older children to tell the time!

Our other focus this term is practising our politeness, respect and regard for others. It is without fail that we receive compliments from any visitors we may have in Cool Care in regards to the children's wonderful behaviour. This is reflected in all areas of the school and duly noted however, there are little times that a friendly reminder can at times be necessary. We are concentrating on our 'meet and greet' communications. As we all know it is not always a comfortable feeling to look into others eyes during conversation and not always do we realise that we may not be doing this. This can be especially so when we meet people for the first time. We are encouraging the children to practise these skills in the comfort of Cool Care where we can all do so together as friends. The children are doing extremely well and progress is strong. Congratulations to all concerned! Please call me if we can be assistance with information about Cool Care. Call past and spend some time with us if you would like more details about our program.

Have a great week, stay cool Jenny



CHOIR

ALL CHOIR MEMBERS will be performing on the evening of Wednesday 22 October at Ivanhoe Girls Grammar. Please ensure that your ticket form has been completed and permission note returned. I urge families to make carpooling arrangements if you are unable to take your child yourself - this is always a great evening and ALL CHOIR MEMBERS are encouraged to attend. SPARE NOTICES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MUSIC OFFICE - PLEASE COMPLETE THESE ASAP.

PERFORMING ARTS CONCERT

If your child is in Year 6 and wishes to perform, please ensure they complete a form (outside the Music Office) and submit this to Mr Perry as soon as possible. All Year 6 students learning an instrument, whether through WNPS or outside the school, are invited to perform at the Performing Arts Concert on THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER.

David Perry (Performing Arts Coordinator)



Advertisements in the Wednesday Weekly are included in good faith; however, neither Watsonia North Primary School, nor the Department of Education can endorse or accept responsibility for the goods or services offered in these advertisements.



DISCO - FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER

The PFA will be running a canteen at the disco selling lollies and snacks. Items and prices will be listed in next week's Wednesday Weekly.

We will need volunteers to help set up, run the stall and pack up at the end of the night. If you can help anytime between 5.30pm and 9.30pm, please contact me via email:

watsonianorthpspfa@gmail.com

ELECTION DAY BBQ: SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER

The PFA is hoping to run a BBQ on Election Day as it is a great fundraiser and also a chance to talk to local families about the school.

In order to run events like this, we need the support of the school community and people to volunteer to help.

We are looking for several volunteers:

- One person (or more) to order food and drinks a list will be provided.
- One person (or more) to collect and deliver the food and drinks on the day.
- One person (or more) to organise equipment, eg BBQ, gas, utensils, tables, etc. All equipment is available at the school.
- One person to coordinate a roster of volunteers to help set up, cook, sell and pack up.

If we do not get enough people volunteering, the BBQ will not be able to go ahead. These tasks do not take a large amount of time and some can be done outside of work hours.

Cara Wilkins (PFA Secretary)



at WNPS Performing Arts Centre
PREP to YEAR 2 DISCO: 6.00-7.00pm
YEAR 3-6 DISCO: 7.30-9.00pm

Cost is \$5.00 per student
Wear your very best disco outfit!
Parents will need to sign their children in and out on the night. Please \$5 to be paid on the night please.

Run by Footsteps Dance Company



This year, Sharon Scammell, a mum at the school is participating in The Ride to Conquer Cancer, a 2-day, 200km cycling event that raises funds for cancer research and treatment. All proceeds from the event go to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, the only public hospital in Australia solely dedicated to cancer.

She will be doing the ride for her father, and also an exstudent of Watsonia North who sadly passed away from Neuroblastoma, a rare type of childhood cancer, last year at the age of 13! I'm sure that everyone will know at least one person who has been affected by cancer!

Any donation would be greatly appreciated, no matter how small! She needs to raise at least \$2,500 to enable her to do this epic ride!

For contributions, please visit:

http://ml14.conquercancer.org.au/site/TR/Events/Melbou rne2014?px=1429656&pg=personal&fr_id=1141



ONLY A FEW DAYS TO GO!!

Have you registered to vote? Voting closes on Friday, 17 October for the Leader Newspaper Local Grant of \$1000 which our school could win to help us purchase a defibrillator. All members of your family can vote (you need to register to be able to vote and all that is needed is an email address, together with your name). Each registered person is given 10 votes and these can be used on whatever project you wish – hopefully all ten votes will come to us!

To vote, visit:

http://www.leaderlocalgrants.com.au/current-ideas
The winner will be announced on Monday, 27 October

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

** SPECIAL GROUP PHOTOS – CHANGE OF DATES **

Please note that the Special Group photos that were scheduled for today have been postponed until MONDAY, 27 OCTOBER.

This year, the photographer will be providing an online ordering system for our Special Group photos. All families will receive further information on the ordering process as soon as it becomes available from the photographer. Please also note that there will be a photograph taken of the WELL-BEING TEAM (this was omitted from list in the note that was sent home to all families on Monday).

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 - 3-5 Years Tap

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