

From the Principal

REMINDER: SCHOOL FINISHES AT 1:30pm on Friday 19 December

Australians awoke to the news yesterday morning that the siege in Martin Place has ended. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the two deceased hostages, the wounded and the other hostages. As a mark of respect and mourning for the innocent victims involved in the incident, flags were flown at half-mast all day yesterday.

Media coverage regarding this traumatic event has been extensive and exposure to such distressing and frightening coverage can shatter children's belief in the security of their world. Like adults, children often react to distressing or frightening events in different ways. If you would like advice and support in assisting your child to deal with trauma, please contact Parentline on13 22 89. A fact sheet is also available at the school office or may be accessed online at the school's website <u>www.wats-north.vic.edu.au</u>

PFA & PARENT HELPERS MORNING TEA – THANK YOU!

Last week we celebrated and acknowledged all the wonderful contributions our parent helpers have made throughout the year. Many people give up their time to provide assistance and support for a range of programs and activities. At Watsonia North, we are most fortunate to have such incredible support, and we are continually amazed and most grateful for all the help and assistance provided. Many of the programs and events we hold simply could not be possible without the help of our volunteers. As a special thank you, staff provided a scrumptious morning for all our helpers in honour of their services.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Parent and Friends Association (PFA) for their selfless and relentless work throughout the year. A small, yet committed group of parents, have volunteered their time to organise and deliver many activities and functions. Members of this year's PFA executive have worked tirelessly and on behalf of the school community, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to **Caryn Pentecost** (President), **Cara Wilkins** (Secretary), **Melissa Cromie** (School Council PFA Rep), **Christine Ward** (Treasurer) as well as all the general parent members, for all their hard work and endeavours throughout the year. Thank you ladies for an incredible job this year!

YEAR 6 GRADUATION

A very special evening was had by all in attendance at the Year 6 Graduation Ceremony held last night. We had a wonderful night, with lots of dancing, laughter and a few tears. The evening celebrated a major milestone for both the Graduates and myself, having arrived to Watsonia North together in 2008 (the Graduates preceded me by 6 months!).

Over the years, I have watched these individuals grow and develop into the fine young people they are today, and we spent the night reflecting on our time at Watsonia North and celebrating the many achievements. The Graduates looked absolutely wonderful and the Year 5/6 team, in collaboration with our amazing office gem Jill, did an outstanding job in organising and preparing the event. Please come join us in farewelling our Year 6 students at our Whole School Assembly this Friday at 1:00pm in the Performing Arts Centre. Bring the tissues!

KOOKABURRA MAGAZINE

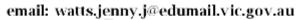
The annual school magazine, 'Kookaburra' is being distributed this week. The magazine provides a compilation of children's work, thoughts and reflections for the year. It also represents a historical record for each year at Watsonia North. Thank you to our magazine coordinators, **Zara Demeris** and **Chloe Hanley** for all their fine work in compiling the magazine.

LAST WORDS FOR 2014

It is hard to believe that we have come to the end of another year. My sincere thanks to everyone – children, parents, staff and members of our general school community, for making our school such a great place to be.

There have been many highlights, events and achievements which have certainly made 2014 a memorable year. I wish everyone a safe and happy festive season. Merry Christmas to all and best wishes for the New Year!

Tina King (Principal)





Tel: 9432 3213 24 hours

Happy holidays are nearly here! Only two more sleeps and our school year is over for 2014. It surely goes without saying that we all feel this year has flown past at turbo speed. We hope all of our Cool Care and the broader school community

have a sensational festive season.

A huge thanks to two of our boys for our much anticipated Movie afternoon on Monday. Their planning, which included canvassing the children for their choice of film, negotiating with Di and Karen in the canteen for the snacks and drinks for their peers, and also working out their intermission periods to give their mates a chance for a stretch and a treat. We watched Polar Express and it did not disappoint. The older children took note of the amazing sound and visual affects whilst the younger children appeared mesmerised with the storyline and lifelike characters. Thanks boys, it was a very pleasant relaxing afternoon.

Cool Care will commence at 1.30pm this Friday afternoon. The afternoon will consist of our usual end of year party with time set aside for a rotated activity session for the children. There will be a variety of activities set up for them in the comfort of the Centre, including table tennis, hookey, quoits and hopscotch. Following positive feedback from the children during one of our many evaluation sessions, they have expressed their enjoyment during the games afternoon and have asked for more. More often than not what the children want, the children get!!

If you are requiring care for Friday, please let me know as soon as possible. The hours prior to our normal commencement time at 3.30pm will be charged by the hour costing \$7.50 per child per hour less any Centrelink eligibility. If your children are normally booked in and not attending, please let me know.

Finalisation of all Cool Care accounts is also required to end our year. Payments are possible electronically, in cash, by cheque or credit card. Due to a possible delay in bank transfers, it would be appreciated if payment in this manner could be completed in time to allow for the processing to be completed – Wednesday or Thursday would ensure payments reach me in time, thanks.

Enrolments for next year are rolling in quickly with our 70 afternoon places filling at a fast rate. If you have not yet completed your form and need care on a regular basis, please return your form as soon as possible. The \$15 registration fee is required to accompany the form please. Let me know if you would like a form sent home. We thank you for the evaluation forms already received. Your feedback is truly amazing and makes us very proud of the service we provide for your children. The raffle prizes will be drawn this afternoon and families notified if they are the 'lucky ones'. All prizes will be available for collection over the next couple of days. If this is not possible, we shall put them away safely for collection next year. Good luck everyone! Ok, lots to do and little time to do it in. From all of our Cool Care staff - best wishes for a wonderful time with your children. Be safe - Stay Cool, Jenny







watsonianorthpspfa@gmail.com

On behalf of the Parents and Friends Association, I would like to thank everyone who has supported us this year, and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Thank you to those who have volunteered your time to help at the stalls, raffles and BBQs over the year. All money raised by these events goes to help our kids at WNPS.

A special thank you to Melissa, Caryn, Wendy, Jenni, Ann-Marie, Irene and Olga. It has been an absolute delight working with you all this year. As I have previously mentioned, all PFA positions are vacated at the end of each year. An AGM will be held in early Term 1, 2015 to elect new members. It is a great opportunity to meet other parents and raise money for the school.

TWILIGHT CAROLS

Thank you to all the families that came to the Twilight Carols. It was a very successful night and everyone appeared to have a great time. If you have any feedback from the night, please email me at watsonianorthpspfa@gmail.com

The night could not have happened without the help of a large number of people. Thank you to everyone who helped.

Also, thanks to the local businesses that made donations for our raffle.

Bunnings Thomastown | Cafe 41 | Watsonia Florist Confectionary Favourites | Bizz Buzz | Watsonia Pharmacy | Watsonia Bakery Regards, Cara Wilkins (PFA Secretary)

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.



STATE SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR

I have received confirmation that WNPS will be performing as part of the massed choir in the 2015 Victorian State Schools Spectacular. Not a compulsory event, places are limited and will be restricted to students who are members of the choir in 2015, and preference will be given to children in older year levels. This is always an exciting event and a great opportunity for our students.

CHOIR 2015

Application forms for Senior Choir in 2015 have been issued to existing choristers and to students who may be interested in becoming part of our school choir. I urge all children in Years 4 or 5 who are interested in singing to consider joining, as there are a lot of exciting plans for next year! Parent helpers: I would like to sincerely thank all those parent helpers who have assisted in choir events this year, particularly to Sharon Scammell who has coordinated the choir uniform in an ongoing capacity this year. If you would like to assist in coordinating choir uniform in 2015, please contact Mr Perry on music@wats-north.vic.edu.au

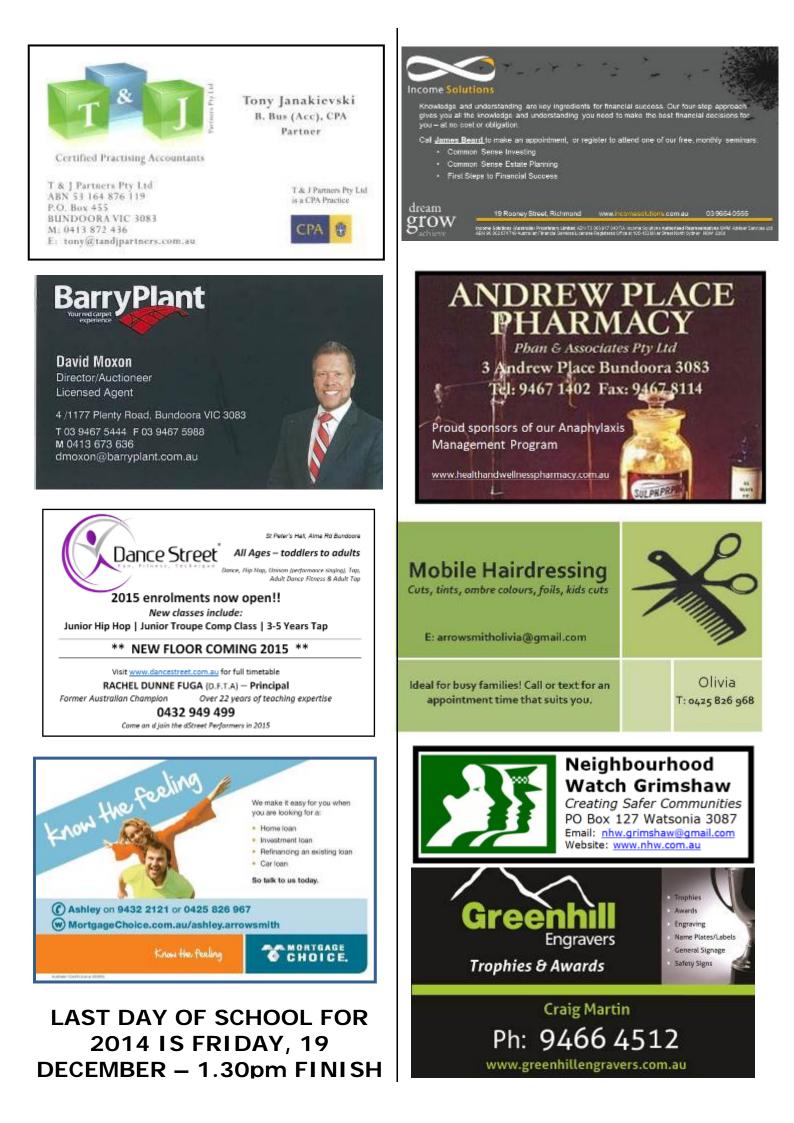
YEAR 3 2015

Is your child entering Year 3 in 2015? They will need a recorder! This is a separate item to be purchased and most families do this through the school. We sell recorders for \$8 and a note for this will go out at the very start of the year. Year 3 students also have the opportunity to take up group recorder lessons with Tony Barnden for a lower than usual price – information will be provided in Term 1, 2015.

CLARINET PROGRAM 2015

Students in Years 3 and 4 THIS YEAR might consider joining our beginner clarinet program -Mr Fitzgerald will be teaching beginner groups early in 2015. Please contact Mr Perry if you have any questions.

David Perry (Performing Arts Coordinator)





Book Now!! tarajleigh93@gmail.com www.taraleigh-photography.com

