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)
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)!
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

Unlocking Your Child’s Genius

Wednesday 29th July
7.00 pm registration for a 7.30 pm start
Eltham Senior Citizens Hall, 905 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, GUERILLA TACTICS FOR TEACHERS, HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED AT SCHOOL.

Purchase tickets exclusively at Eltham Bookshop 9493 8700
elthambookshop@bigpond.com

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Proud sponsors of our Anaphylaxis
Management Program.
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