From the Principal

CHILDREN’S PLACEMENT FOR 2016

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 23 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.

PROFESSOR DAVID HOPKINS VISIT TO WATSONIA NORTH

Last week, we hosted Professor David Hopkins at Watsonia North as part of his visit to schools in the Northern Metropolitan Region. David is Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Education, University of London and is an international expert in the field of leading school improvement programs and interventions. His work over the last 8 years with schools in the NMR has provided the intellectual framework for school improvement.

As part of his visit last Monday, David met with the school’s leadership team, visited classrooms and spoke with our school leaders. He was most impressed with the structures and systems in place at the school which are conducive to positive teaching and learning. David made particular mention of the quality of teacher practice and our students’ capacity to articulate their learning.

PREP ORIENTATION PROGRAM

A reminder to families of children starting Prep next year that the first Prep Orientation session begins this Thursday 22 October from 2:00 to 3:00pm. We are looking forward to welcoming our new group of students to our school as they commence their formal education journey.

PREP – YEAR 2 TABLOID SPORTS

“Awesome” was the word used by our youngsters to describe the tabloid sports morning. Great fun was had by our participants and thank you to all staff, parents and Mr O’Sullivan for a wonderful morning of excitement and games.

Tina King (Principal)

CHILDREN NOT RETURNING IN 2016

Names of children not returning:

……………………………………………………………………………………………… Rm………
……………………………………………………………………………………………… Rm:………

Reason for Transfer:

………………………………………………………………………………………………

School your child/ren will be transferring to:

………………………………………………………………………………………………

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

………………………………………………………………………………………………
Hi everyone! We have some very exciting news to share with you all this week. Cool Care has been approved an additional 20 attendance places for both before and after school care. We are now licensed to accept 90 children for each session. This allows us to clear all of our waiting lists for the year. Casual needs can now be met easily. With the expectation of increased demand in 2016, we are thrilled to be able to say ‘yes, your child is able to attend!’ It is imperative that I stress however, the importance of families re-enrolling as soon as possible when our 2016 registration forms become available toward the end of November. It seems, with the commencement of each school year, our Prep families’ demand for Cool Care increases.

Our boys will be judging their drawing challenge throughout this week – we await your decisions boys, keep up the good work. They will commence their challenge next week – their theme is “Cartoon Characters” – this should be fun!

Our Pattern board is filling very quickly. The aesthetic imagination the children are using to fill their patterns with colour is quite amazing. Bright colours make us all feel that little bit happier, which we all love.

Liz and our Gurus have been very, very busy in the gardens. Our seedlings have been planted - spinach, lettuce, sunflowers and many more little plants. We have also created our ‘Remembrance Garden’. We have planted this plot with an ANZAC Grevillia to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of Gallipoli. Sharing the garden bed are several little Rosemary plants. The garden originated back in April through discussion around ANZAC Day. The children were keen to establish this little garden. We all felt this gave us an opportunity to recognise our treasured history, reminding us all year round how lucky we are to have such a wonderful country, and how proud we should be of our soldiers and nurses from that time. A restful place to relax under the shade of the trees – we hope you can all enjoy our gardens with us.

SPECIAL GROUP PHOTOS

Students should have received an individual letter for special group photos (students photographed included instrumental groups, sporting groups and leadership groups).

Please note that the Year 6 Graduation photo is complimentary and will be included as part of the Graduation Pack. Each student is given a specific ‘Shoot Key’ and parents can go online, view and order photographs.

The cut-off date for all orders is TOMORROW.

Once ordered, photos can be returned if you are not completely happy with them and this needs to be done directly with MSP Photography, 7/9 Mirra Court Bundoora within 14 days of receiving them. Photos returned after the 14 day period will not be eligible for a refund.

Stay Cool, Jenny
Brochures for the latest Scholastic Book Club issue were distributed last week. Please note that these orders are due by **THIS FRIDAY, 23 October.**

Our school has now opted-in to use the new LOOP method of ordering and payment. If using this method, there is no need to send the order form or the payment back to school. It is all done online – so easy! Alternatively, you may still order on the brochure and pay in the usual way. Please see the order form page of the brochure for more information on ordering and payments.

Don’t forget that our library receives many free books as commission on our Book Club sales. Last year, we were lucky enough to receive 68 new books to the value of **$879**! Thanks for your support!

**Free your imagination. Read!**

Judy Leigh (Library)

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2016 CHOIR

It’s time to start thinking about choir for 2016. For our current Year 2s, next year will be their first experience of singing in a choir: remember that for all of Term 1, all students in Years 3 and 4 are in the choir. This culminates in an impressive performance at the end-of-term assembly. We already have some exciting activities planned for 2016 – it’s good to be in the choir! **Invitation letters and application forms for students in Years 4 and 5 will be issued very soon.**

CAFÉ CONCERT

On **Tuesday 13 October** we held the Café Concert in the WNPS Hall, for students learning an instrument at WNPS from Years Prep to 5. All year levels were represented amongst the **EIGHTY STUDENTS** (yes, that’s “80”) who performed. This is a record number for us, and unsurprisingly we went a little over time! I would like to sincerely thank Ali Browne, Sue Pearson, Haylee Lyttle, Nick Kuhn, Sarah Pollnitz, Emily Rogers, Julienne Haldon and Ruth Reidy for their greatly-needed assistance on the night, as well as our instrumental teachers in attendance – Brian Fitzgerald, Alice Gaynor, Rowan Lucas, Angela Mosca and Noel Tenny.

I read out a quote on the evening of the Café Concert by Richard Tognetti, the world-renowned Australian violinist who directs the Australian Chamber Orchestra – widely-regarded as the world’s best. He credits his non-musical parents for their patience and attention when he started learning violin as a little boy: “For the first couple of years, when the five year old was earnestly practising his repertoire, they listened indulgently. [Says Tognetti:] ‘I meet brutal, unnecessarily honest parents who tell me they were so glad when their child gave up playing because they were dreadful but, the thing is, everyone sounds dreadful when they first start.’ Learning to play the violin, he says, is a bit like learning to appreciate blue cheese - neither is enjoyable at first.”

On **Thursday 19 November** the Performing Arts Concert will be held at Montmorency SC auditorium. This is for any Year 6 performer who wishes to present a solo item (duets are also acceptable but please discuss with Mr Perry first). Instrumental ensembles will also be performing – please stay tuned for more information.

Tuesday 1 December will be the Prep Concert at WNPS Hall. Information will be forthcoming over the next few weeks.

Choir Tour: **Wednesday 2 December (TBC)** and **Friday 4 December.**

David Perry (Performing Arts Coordinator)
PE & Sport News

TABLOID SPORTS MORNING
PREP, YEAR 1 & YEAR 2 STUDENTS

It was a great sight to see so many YELLOW, RED, BLUE and GREEN colours throughout the school. Our Preps, Year 1s and Year 2s had a wonderful morning participating in many fun activities at our Tabloid Sports morning. Students hit balloons, used the parachutes, kicked at soccer goals, had running and egg & spoon races, skipped to music, did some football, handballs and even played Poison Ball!

A big thank you to our fantastic school leaders who lead and ran the activities for the morning – they did a sensational job!

Trent O’Sullivan (Sport & PE Coordinator)

ICAS – Writing

Dear families of students who participated in the ICAS Writing test. The certificates of achievement have arrived and will be handed out in assembly on Monday 26 October. Thank you for your support.

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