From the Principal

STAFFING AND PLANNING FOR 2016

We are close to consolidating our planning for next year, with staff and student placements being finalised over the next few weeks. There are several staff members who have contributed immensely to our school and these individuals will be taking a leave of absence from their teaching role at Watsonia North next year. Other staff will be expanding their teaching horizons by working at another school. At this stage, the following staff will either be on leave or returning/continuing to work at our school:

- Rachel Roffey (family leave)
- Carly Joyce (family leave)
- Zara Demeris (family leave)
- Bonnie Lewis (family leave commencing Term 2)
- Rachel Mercuri (family leave & returning part time in Term 3)
- Michelle Sterjovski (family leave & returning part time in Term 1)
- Haylee Lyttle (transferring to Wales Street PS)
- Julie Austin (time fraction reduction)
- Jenny Storer (time fraction reduction)
- Ashley Mai (possible return to WNPS)
- Wesley Stevenson (continued leave of absence)

With the above in mind, we are in the process of finalising our staffing structure for 2016 and will advise shortly of staff placements via the newsletter.

PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2016

At the last School Council meeting, a detailed budget for 2016 was presented and approved. As part of the budget process, the amount of parent contribution for each child was considered with the aim of keeping the amount to the absolute minimum. In order to continue providing the excellent quality of programs and services for which we are renown, we have retained the amount at $300.00 per student for the year. Voluntary contribution fees and school levies are not compulsory, however, if parents do not contribute, then the school cannot provide many of the things expected for your child to enjoy.

School Council requests payment at this time of the year in order to obtain the best available price for booklist items and to be able to have items delivered to school for distribution to the children before the end of the year. A detailed notice is being distributed today to all families outlining payment dates. If you would like to make your own specific arrangement regarding payment, please ring or come to the school office and make the arrangements. Please note that EFTPOS facilities are available at the office. It is always a financial challenge to ensure that our students are getting the best possible educational opportunities, facilities and services. Without your support, we simply could not offer all that is available at Watsonia North.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE: CURRICULUM DAYS FOR 2016

School Council has approved the following days as Student Free Days in 2016. On these nominated days, students are not required to attend school.

Curriculum Days 2016
- Friday, 4 March
- Monday, 11 April
- Monday, 11 July

Student Reporting Day
- Tuesday, 21 June (students attend with parents during nominated time)

Preliminary notice is given so that parents and caregivers can make alternative arrangements for the care and supervision of children on these days.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS NEXT YEAR IS THURSDAY, 28 JANUARY 2016.

PERFORMING ARTS CONCERT

Last Thursday evening, we celebrated the work of our instrumental music teachers and their students. Our young musicians had the opportunity to showcase their instrumental and vocal talents and congratulations are extended to all. The commitment given to attend lessons and time devoted to rehearsals is most admirable and commendable. A very big thank you to Mr David Perry and all our instrumental teachers for all their hard work and high level of commitment.

Tina King (Principal)
Hi everyone

Cool Care next week is definitely going to be a busy little place. Enrolment forms for next year will be available for collection. A $15.00 enrolment fee is required to accompany your completed registration to secure bookings. We are also asking our families to assist us by completing a short survey to inform us of your family needs. Collaboration between all stakeholders in Cool Care forms the foundation of our program. Input and suggestions are greatly appreciated therefore, we are hoping to receive many returns. A complimentary raffle ticket will be provided. The raffle ticket is entry into our end of year hamper/raffle draw. Winners will be drawn out on Thursday 17 December and families notified of their win. All families are encouraged to return their enrolment forms as soon as possible to ensure their attendance requests can be confirmed before the end of the year. Prep parents for 2016 expressed a high need for Cool Care which we expect will absorb quite a few of our places.

Christmas experiences will also commence in Cool Care next week. The children are currently voting on their favourites. The Cool Care Wall of Choices has quite a few displayed for the children to choose from. Once our votes have been counted we can continue our preparation ready for the ‘onslaught of Christmas’!!

The drawing challenges this year have truly been outstanding. The organisers have excelled in setting their themes with much originality. Thank you to all for providing opportunities for your Cool Care mates to build their sense of Belonging and Identity in Cool Care. The guidelines the children established last year have proven very successful – well done little guys – next year’s calendar already has entries marked. Please call me if you have any Cool Care queries.

Stay Cool,

Jenny

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**Food for Families**

**ANNUAL APPEAL 2015**

We’re collecting food for families in need this Christmas!

The SRC has signed up our school community to collect non-perishable food and toiletry items for families in crisis in the lead-up to the festive season.

It’s all part of Wesley Mission Victoria’s Food for Families appeal, which helps families who are struggling with the basic cost of living by providing nutritious food and household essentials, at Christmas time and all throughout the year.

We’re calling on all staff/parents/students to donate non-perishable food and household essentials, which will go directly towards families in need this festive season. Whether it’s a single can of food, or a whole bag of groceries, your donation will mean that a local family will be able to put food on the table this Christmas.

A donation box will be located in each classroom and at the General Office. Drop your donations in the box, up until Thursday 10 December. If you have any questions, please contact Julianne Haldon, at the school on 9435 1285.

Wesley is encouraging people to consider donating items that are most in need by families and people experiencing homelessness. These include pasta and pasta sauces, ready-to-eat meals, baby food, breakfast cereal and essential toiletries.

We look forward to your generous support.

SRC – 2015

**About Food for Families:**

This is the 24th year of Wesley Mission Victoria’s annual Food for Families appeal. The non-perishable food and household essentials collected mean that families and individuals experiencing crisis and homelessness can put a meal on the table at Christmas time and all throughout the year. Last year, Wesley collected almost 48 tonnes of donations, providing food for 20,000 families of four throughout the year ahead. This year, with your help, our aim is to collect even more.

**Most Needed items**


THANK YOU FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT!
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.

PERFORMING ARTS CONCERT
Another year, another great evening for our talented Year 6 students to perform one last solo item before they finish primary school. Congratulations to all student performers and to my colleagues who came to assist on the night – I could not have done it without you.

PREP CONCERT
Tuesday December 1 will be the Prep Concert at WNPS Hall. Letters have been sent out: please keep the date free! There will be a matinee (daytime) and evening performance. The Preps are very excited and singing and dancing up a storm!

CHOIR TOUR
Notices have been issued for the two days of the choir tour: Wednesday December 2 (local area) and Friday December 4 (city including attending a performance at VCA Secondary School!). We are performing at Federation Square, two nursing homes, and three primary schools (including Flowerdale PS where Ms Campbell is now Principal). Please return your notices ASAP – this promises to be an exciting couple of days!

David Perry (Performing Arts Coordinator)
**2016 ENROLMENTS ARE OPEN**

New timetable at:
www.dancestreet.com.au

All ages - Toddlers thru Adults
DANCE, HIP HOP, ACRO, LYRICAL, TAP & SINGING

New Players Wanted!
New season starts January 2016
We have GIRLS and BOYS teams starting with our amazing Under 8’s all the way up to our dynamic Under 20’s. Training is held locally at Greensborough Secondary College. Registration is via our club website. Please have your registration and fees finalised by 23 November in order to be guaranteed a place in a team. For all enquiries, please contact
Email: watsoniawarriors@hotmail.com Website: www.watsoniawarriors.com.au

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