From the Principal

PREP ORIENTATION PROGRAM
Last week saw the commencement of the 2016 Prep Orientation Program and it was a wonderful and enjoyable time to meet with new parents and children. We currently have 84 Prep enrolments for next year and we warmly welcome the children and their families to our school community.

MELBOURNE CUP HOLIDAY
Next Tuesday 3 November, is the Melbourne Cup Holiday. Please note that the Monday before the Cup Day Holiday is not a scheduled pupil free day and the school will operate as normal.
Understandably, there may be families who will be away during this period. If this is the case, and your child/children are going to be absent on Monday, we ask that you provide a note to your child’s classroom teacher. This will allow us to grant the absence as having parental approval.

PARENT OPINION SURVEY RESULTS
Each year, all Government Schools ask a sample of parents/guardians to complete the Department of Education’s Parent Opinion Survey. The purpose of the survey is to obtain a cross section of views about the school’s performance and direction. Questions relate to school climate, student behaviour and student engagement.
In September, families were randomly selected (via a computer generated list) and asked to complete the survey. The sealed results were forwarded to the Department for analysis and last week we were in receipt of the results (see below). As the tables opposite illustrate, our school has received favourable results, with school means in each area (coloured bar graphs) considerably above state means (pink dots).

The use of opinion data as a measure of school performance is a very important step towards making our school the best it can possible be. Our school will use these results to ensure we continue to meet current and future student needs.

Tina King (Principal)
Hello everyone! Thanks so much to the parent/carers that expressed their delight in regards to the increase in our attendance allowance. The feedback we receive is always gratefully appreciated. The collaboration between all stakeholders involved in Cool Care is considered imperative, so we thank you for your input.

Our Prep transition presentation last Thursday afternoon was received in positive manner with around 15 – 20 families expressing interest in use of Cool Care for 2016. As our current families are, our new families have been encouraged to return their enrolment forms as soon as convenient to secure their bookings for next year. The 2016 enrolment forms are currently being revamped to meet required Regulation standards and they will be available the first week of December. It is envisaged the enrolment fee of $15.00 will remain the same with payment required with return of the form. Stay tuned for further details if anything changes.

A reminder to families the importance of us being informed of any changes in personal contact numbers or other details. Recently we have had difficulty contacting several families on the mobile numbers we have, so please, let us know if you have changes occurring. At the end of the session, if a child has not been collected or for emergency purposes, it is of utmost importance we are able to contact you, please.

Gardening news, hears us celebrating the rapid growth of our little sunflower plants. Amazing that they turn their little heads toward the sun so distinctively. I would love to say our lettuces are booming as well but, unfortunately, I think the unknown visitors throughout the nights have been having a wonderful feast! Seems we may have to plant a few more and this time place netting over them to ensure no unwelcomed little critter enjoys a midnight snack! Possums, perhaps?!!

Nature has found itself inside during the last week or so. Donna and her art and crafters have been on 'nature hunts' during several of the afternoons, gathering their resources found around the school grounds, using their wonderful imaginations to create the most amazing collages of a range of insects and bugs, whether they be based around an existing creature or being an original. Either way, the results have been outstanding, well done 'artys'!

Day for Daniel - Keeping Kids Safe
This Friday students and staff will be wearing red as part of the Australian wide initiative, Day for Daniel. The day is around educating children and adults about keeping kids safe through child safety and protection initiatives. It aims to help empower our children to Recognise, React and Report if they feel something is not right. This Friday, students are asked to "Wear Red and Educate" as a part of the theme of for Day for Daniel as we join schools, kindergartens, businesses and communities across Australia to take action and conduct child safety activities within their local communities to help in Keeping Kids Safe.

A community walk around the school block will take place at 2:40pm this Friday, 30 October. Classes will assemble on the oval and complete one lap of the school block to shine a light on Child Safety. Parents are welcome to come down and join the walk and be a part of this important day. Look forward to seeing you there.

WE NEED YOU!
Watsonia North Primary School has the opportunity to review the structure of our written reports. We would love your feedback to assist us with the process. Please give us five minutes of your time to respond to a quick survey. The survey is online and just requires you to type the following url into the address bar of your browser.
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W6RYKCQ

Have your say, be a part of change at Watsonia North Primary School.
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.

PERFORMING ARTS CONCERT
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). Applications from Year 6 students closed last week but there is still time if you contact Mr Perry straight away. Instrumental ensembles will also be performing – these include the guitar ensemble, violin ensemble, clarinet/saxophone ensemble, Choirs and recorder/percussion ensemble. Notices for students involved in these groups will be issued soon, but please save the date!!
Tuesday 1 December will be the Prep Concert at WNPS Hall. Information will be forthcoming over the next few weeks, but please keep the date free – there will be a matinee (daytime) and evening performance.
Choir Tour: Wednesday 2 December (TBC – local area) and Friday 4 December (city including attending a performance at VCA Secondary School!).

David Perry (Performing Arts Coordinator)

CAROLS NIGHT
10 DECEMBER @ 5PM
We are all asking all parents for help with our upcoming Carols Night.
The type of help needed is
- Assistance on the sausage sizzle stall (even if for a short time)
- Set up and pack up of market
- Face painting and colour hair spraying
- Handball competition assistance
- Anything else that may come up
If you think you can help in any way please contact Maria Cogger: maria.cogger@gmail.com or contact the office.
Your help would be very greatly appreciated.
Fundraising Committee

Remembrance Day
Remembrance Day in Australia commemorates the noble sacrifices of armed forces and civilians during times of war. At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, one minute of silence is observed across the country to mark the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front during WWI after over four years of gruesome warfare.

POPPIES ARE ON SALE AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE
**2016 ENROLMENTS ARE OPEN**

New timetable at:

www.dancestreet.com.au

All ages - Toddlers thru Adults

DANCE, HIP HOP, ACRO, LYRICAL, TAP & SINGING

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Community Announcement

1st Greenhills Scout Group and Greenhills Playgroup

Christmas Twilight Market
Friday 4th December


Where: Scout Hall, Community Drive Greensborough
When: Friday 4th December, from 4-9pm

BBQ, cake stall, Christmas tree sales & plenty of gift ideas!

For enquires and stall bookings ring John 0431 030 202

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