

# Warringa Park School Newsletter

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009



Imagine the  
Possibilities...

## Principal's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a week it has been at Warringa Park School. It was great to see the students back at school and it was also fantastic to know that we had some rain, but little did I know what the rain meant to Warringa Park School. Mud and more mud! I completely understand how parents would become upset at the end of the day when their children are coming home with shoes and uniform caked in mud. On the basis of our oval being so muddy, we have decided to close the oval to student use this term, while works are being undertaken to improve this area so our students can play without the mud that they are now experiencing.

At the School Council meeting on Wednesday night, the School Council approved two significant projects that will make a difference to this oval area. Synthetic grass will be laid between the portables and the new Junior school, some 40 square metres, which will improve the play area for the students. School Council also approved the installation of outdoor gym equipment which will be installed in the second shade sail area. These projects are well in the vicinity of \$70 000 and we hope that they will make a difference for our students in their play, but also in enhancing the facilities that we offer. I would like to acknowledge all staff for their willingness to be flexible in ensuring that we have set up alternative play arrangements so that our students can play without access to this oval. Our staff have the students playing all sorts of games on the decking during break times and the students appear to be thoroughly enjoying the change.

As I sit at my desk writing this newsletter, I see our students returning from the ski camp. They are waving and look as if they have had a wonderful time and I have no doubt they will sleep well over the weekend. I would like to thank James, Natalie and Cheryl RW for attending this camp and making this camp such a wonderful experience for our students.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in endeavouring to improve the attendance rates of our students at Warringa Park. Feedback from parents and carers has been extremely valuable in enabling us to improve our systems in relation to attendance at the administration level. It has come to our attention that many parents and carers have taken the time and effort to ring the school and inform the staff that their child is absent. At the school level, we have not transferred this information correctly to our system. We are attending to this and I would like to apologise to any parent and carer who has contacted the school and this was not recorded. It is important that we improve our absences so our students have the maximum time at school, in their classrooms, learning and experiencing the programs on offer.

I am pleased to announce, the outdoor learning areas are almost completed. We are now waiting only for the sails to be erected, but already the feedback from teachers has been extremely positive, where students are now being able to play and learn in these areas with the new synthetic grass that has been recently laid. I would like to thank all staff, especially the junior staff that have for some time, put up with corridors filled with sports equipment until the new shed was available. The staff in the junior area have also been busy moving furniture to free up space for more teaching areas. So thank you, it has been a very busy week for the start of term 3.

Have a great week,  
Cheers

Colin  
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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Festival of Healthy Living Performance 2nd Sept.

### 2009 TERM DATES

- ◆ TERM 1 MON 2 FEB – FRI 3 APR
- ◆ TERM 2 MON 20 APR – FRI 26 JUN
- ◆ TERM 3 MON 13 JUL – FRI 18 SEP
- ◆ TERM 4 MON 5 OCT – FRI 18 DEC

## In focus this week - Café 11

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the work of our students and staff who run Café 11. This Café is managed by Deborah Barnes, who is an Education Support Officer and this café is open 4 days a week. I am told that the café can serve up to 150 coffees a week and there is always five or six students in this café working alongside Deborah, preparing the food and assisting in the operations of the café. These students are learning money and customer service skills. Their literacy and speech skills are making significant improvements, they enjoy their work, are highly enthusiastic and most important of all, they are absolutely thrilled to be learning skills that they can use when they leave school.

On Fridays, Café 11 undertakes a Certificate II Hospitality course and providing an opportunity for our students to be engaged in a program that will give them a certificate on completion of this course. Café 11 is one of the highlights of our school, where our students and our staff love to go. Not only is the coffee good, but the sausage rolls, cakes and sandwiches are all enjoyed by those who visit the café. The visitors to the school often complement the café and

particularly the students on their work ethic, manners and the way they go about their work. If you are visiting the school, please take the opportunity to visit Café 11. My thanks to all those who run the café, you can indeed be proud of what you do to make a difference for our students and our school.



## Assistant Principals' Report

Many of our students in the middle years are taking part in a program this year called the 'Festival for Healthy Living.' This is a mental health promotion program and it is being run in partnership with Woodville Primary School, Glen Orden Primary School and the Royal Children's Hospital. Using drama and performing arts, the Festival program encourages students and teachers to explore, in a spirit of problem solving, optimism and fun everyday issues that affect their mental health and emotional wellbeing. Research tells us that performing and visual arts are excellent tools for building resilience in young people, and promoting protective behaviours. Drama, dance, music, puppetry and circus are powerful ways of creating connectedness, building relationships and providing opportunities for students to 'shine' in many different ways. We have certainly found that to be true as the festival's talented group of artists have worked with our students over the past semester. There have been opportunities for students to 'felt' in Colleen's workshops and beautiful pieces of art can be seen on walls in many classrooms. These workshops also provided good opportunities for discussions about feelings and how things 'felt.' Frank's 'hip hop' dancers and Dave's drumming group have also engaged students in much music making and merriment. It's called a festival because this is a time of rejoicing about achievements and on September 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be two performances at Wyndham Cultural Centre which will be just that. Students from the three schools will provide us with a performance which will be the culmination of their year's work. I'm looking forward to that so stay tuned for more details as that date approaches. Marie

*“Drama, dance, music, puppetry and circus are powerful ways of creating connectedness”*

## Did you know?

### Education Maintenance Allowance

#### Instalment Two

The second instalment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payment is due from mid August onwards for those parents/guardians who have chosen the EFT payment option on their application form at the start of the year.

Parents and guardians who lodged an EMA application at the beginning of the year do not need to lodge another EMA application to receive the second instalment EMA payment.

Any parent/guardian wishing to change from a cheque payment to an EFT payment will need to submit a new application form to the school for processing. Applications close on **7 August 2009**.

Parents/guardians who have chosen the cheque payment option will receive their payment from late August / early September.

Further information can be obtained from:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/lifeatschool/ema/default.htm](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/lifeatschool/ema/default.htm)

Contact: School Office for application form and further information

#### Key Dates:

- Eligibility day - **13 July 2009**
- Parent applications close - **7 August 2009**
- Census day - **7 August 2009**
- EFT payments - **Mid August 2009** onwards
- Cheque payments - **Late August / Early September 2009**

### Circus at Warringa Park!

Students at our school were treated to a great circus performance at the end of last term by Kyle Raftery (aka 'Smiley'). The show included acrobatics, juggling, unicycling and clowning which are some of the skills our students are learning in performing arts classes.

The following day our students showed off some of their own skills at the whole-school assembly.



### Got a Complaint? Here is what to do:

1. Make an appointment with your child's teacher.
2. If you are still not satisfied, talk to your section leader. Sally - Section 1, Liz - Section 2, Monica - Section 3.
3. Marie Hayes (Assistant Principal) if about curriculum (or bus), Jo Sadler (Assistant Principal) - if behaviour or welfare issue
4. Colin Schot - Principal
5. Western Region Office - if the matter is not resolved, then the issue can be raised with the Regional Office on 9291 6500



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Imagine the possibilities...



The Speech Pathology Department's Ladies Speech Pathology Resource Group is on again

This group meets weekly to make resources (i.e. communication books, social stories, symbols and classroom activities).

All female parents, carers, relatives and friends are welcome to come along.

We meet on  
**Fridays at the school from 1:30 until 2:30pm.**

New parents are always welcome.



**The Volunteer Resource Group will not meet this Wednesday.**



A reminder to all parents and carers to name your child's clothing and put your child's name on anything they bring to school.



We're on the Web!  
[www.warringapark.vic.edu.au](http://www.warringapark.vic.edu.au)

The school uniform shop will be open every **Wednesday 9-10am.** Order forms can be sourced from the school office, through your child's communication book or on the school website.

### Car Detailing at Warringa Park

If you would like to book your car in, please email Tanya. Please include your telephone number so we can confirm your booking.

When: Every Thursday during the term

Where: Warringa Park School

How Much: Only \$15  
We wash both the inside and outside.

[cardetailing@warringapark.vic.edu.au](mailto:cardetailing@warringapark.vic.edu.au)



### HELP!!!

The staff are starting a new Literacy Program and need your help. If you can volunteer to help either at 9:30-11am or 11am-12:30pm, please ring Val Bacon on 9749 5774