



WARRINGA PARK SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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23rd February 2009

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please email
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Dear Parents and Carers

First of all I would like to say thank you to our students, staff, and parents and carers who gave a contribution to the schools efforts to raise funds for the Bushfire Relief Fund. Over \$1000 was raised by our school community which is a marvellous effort. These funds will be forwarded to the Red Cross and I am sure it will be used wisely to assist those survivors and families who have suffered at the hands of the bush fires that ravaged our state. The memorial service was held yesterday to acknowledge the fire fighters and those who have given their time to assist in fires. This memorial service was televised across the country with many thousands also attending the memorial service at Rod Laver Arena.



School Council

School Council had its first meeting for the year last Wednesday and the following items were discussed - Co-opted community members, playground development, WMR Blueprint, Hiring of the Hall and the use of the school bus by the Mambourin Tigers, Nation Building Jobs Plan Package. The School Council was extremely pleased to be able to offer the use of the school bus to the Mambourin Tigers as the number of students from Warringa Park School that are associated with Mambourin Tigers through football or cricket involvement. The School Council approved the resurfacing of the existing junior school playground. This work will be undertaken during first term vacation break which will see the mulch and concrete path re-laid with synthetic grass with the appropriate softfall underlay. This work is a significant cost to the school, but is badly needed to be undertaken for the safety and wellbeing for the students who use this area. Carol Tymoszek and I will be attending a briefing with Julia Gillard on Monday March 2nd to hear firsthand about the opportunities that the Nation Building Capital Funding Program will have for Warringa Park School. It is likely that the school will have access to up to 2 million dollars to carry out works in relation to its multi-purpose room and the Independent Living Centre. Some of these funds may also be able to be utilised to support the development of covered outdoor learning areas for the junior school. The school will also be able to access up to \$125,000 through the National School Pride Program which is available for small scale infrastructure. These funds have the potential to deliver a great improvement in the facilities that we offer our students at Warringa Park School.

I would like to acknowledge our retiring school councillors and the contributions they have made to the school council and particularly our school over their period of office. To Elaine Doyle, who has served as School Council President and who has had a long association with Warringa Park School we thank you, the role of School

DATES TO REMEMBER

Prep Parent Group Thur 26th Feb
School Council ballots close 4pm
 Fri 27th Feb
EMA applications close Fri 27th Feb

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

Council President is an important position. The School Council body is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the school, formulating policy and most important of all fiscal management of the school. Elaine, thank you and we wish you well with your family and we look forward to hearing how Liam and Brett are going.

To Kerry Cassar, who is a coopted community member on School Council we thank you for your willingness to be involved, your support of our school and students and your efforts to make Warringa Park School a better place for our students. We look forward to your continued involvement in our school through the volunteer program and your work on the fundraising committee. To Maree Barrett, thank you for your contribution on School Council, your efforts have been valued, especially in the capital works program which saw the redevelopment in the junior and administration buildings. Thank you.

On Friday, you would have received the ballot papers to elect 6 parent representatives on to School Council. It is important that you read the instruction carefully for completing this ballot and please return the ballot paper in the two envelopes provided. If you are going to send your vote to school with your child, then you will need to double envelope with your name, signature and address.

I wish all candidates well and the results of this ballot will be announced in next week's newsletter.

Books Are Us

This project is beginning to take shape. There are various posters around the school highlighting that books and literacy are very important to our students the display in the foyer of our school is taking shape with books and students work being on display. I look forward to the time when every student in our school has made, produced and published their own book, but importantly hearing those students who can take pride in reading their work to me and their teachers.

School Signs - the sign at the front of the school will be refurbished as it is looking a little tired in its paintwork. There will also be entry and exit signs placed at each end of our driveway, a new administration sign will be placed above our entrance and a Welcome to Warringa Park School sign that will be located in the foyer area of the school. This sign picks the values of the school, but will also have a photo of a Warringa Park School student. The school is also purchasing new display boards that will be used to display student work. One of these display boards will be located on the brick wall outside the entrance doors to the administration area and will used to highlight student work and inform parents about coming events at Warringa Park School. I look forward to seeing the changes, but most of all the student work on display.

Victorian Cricket – I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the states cricketers who have won the right to host the Sheffield shield and the 20 /20 final in Victoria. This is a mighty big achievement and we hope the Bushrangers win these finals when they are played.

After my comments last week about the football, I will remain silent, but I do look forward to see Ben Cousins play as it is fantastic that he has been able to return to football to play the game that he so good at and that he dearly loves. I wish him well in his football and in his life journey.

Have a great week,

Colin Schot
Principal

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Awards

Awards for group 8
20 Stars to Alice, Arios and Henry. Well done!

Assistant Principal's Report

The start of the school year has been a busy one. We had 40 new students start at the school this year – 19 new preps came to school for the first time, 9 students joined us from Western Autistic School, 7 students elected to come to the school from grades 5 and 6 mainstream schools in the area and 6 new students joined our senior area.



I would like to take the opportunity to welcome all new students and families. Staff report that most students have settled in very well and I hope that at home the start of the school year has been a positive and smooth one for families. Staff and families report that the play group that operated in term 4 last year for the incoming prep students made the start of the school year a very positive experience. Thank you to Abi, our parent liaison officer, Sally and her wonderful team and most of all our parents who combined to make this year's transition a great success. When students move from primary to secondary age the Department of Education and Early Childhood (DEECD) requires them to undergo a complete reassessment, in order to ascertain their current needs and measure their progress. A number of students at Warringa this year will undergo year 6/7 equivalent reviews. I have contacted most parents whose child is up for review and I thank them in advance for their cooperation in this process.

At Warringa Park School WE WANT OUR STUDENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK! Our school will therefore conduct a survey to find out what your child thinks of our school. The Attitudes to School survey is an annual student survey for Year 5 to Year 12 (Middle and Senior) students offered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

Students in the middle and seniors years, where appropriate, will participate in the survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Attitudes to School Survey will be conducted at our school over the period Monday 14 April to Thursday 24 April. The survey only takes 20-30 minutes to complete and occurs during your child's class time.

The survey results will be reported back to the school in late July, and the results of the survey form part of the data collection for our annual report. Results also help inform us of areas to celebrate and those that need more work. Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like more information.

Again a very big Welcome Back to all of our students and families and please do not hesitate to contact us at the school.

Jo and Marie

Important Reminder

Could all parents return the student details form ASAP? This form was sent home two weeks ago to update emergency contact details. It is important that we have the correct information for your child.

Sensory, BrainGym and PMP Showcase at WPS

Date: March 12th

Time: 6/7pm (check with Sally)

Venue: Staffroom, School Hall, Sensory Room (old library)

Presenters: Kirsten - Sensory Learning, Philomena - BrainGym, Wendy G. - PMP

Showcase Includes: Information about Sensory development, BrainGym and PMP and their effects on learning as well as 'hands on' activities and discussion/question time

RSVP: via registration form (to be sent home the week before)

Volunteers

There will be a classroom helper induction tomorrow, 24th February for those who have completed the general induction and wish to volunteer in classrooms or language groups.

Numeracy and Literacy Resource Group will be on this Wednesday 25th 1:30pm in the parent common room.

Prep Parent Group will be on this Thursday 26th February 9-10am.

**Do you have an hour or two spare during the week?
Would you like to be involved in making communication resources?**

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

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 (from 20th February), at the school from
1:30 until 2:30pm.**

New parents are always welcome.

**Café 11 is open on Monday and Wednesday 10:30 - 12:30
Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 – 2:00**

We have a new lunch menu on Tuesday and Thursdays

**Toasted Cheese and Tomato, Ham, Salad sandwiches on white or wholemeal bread
Sausage rolls, cakes etc will be on sale in the mornings.
Don't forget about famous Cappuccinos and Hot Chocolates.**