

# Warringa Park School Newsletter

Friday 23rd October 2009



## Principal's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Friday I had the opportunity to attend the Above and Beyond Awards. These awards have originated from Julia Gillard, our Deputy Prime Minister, to recognise the achievement of members of the community. To hear what people do and how they serve the community was a heartfelt experience. It was also a great pleasure to be present to hear and see our own Bev Williams, who has volunteered for and supported Warringa Park for many years, be presented with an Above and Beyond Award by Julia Gillard. Bev does not want recognition, but with Bev you get someone who is highly committed to making a difference for our students at Warringa Park. She has volunteered in classrooms, she has assisted at many Bunnings BBQ's, fundraising events and stalls and she is highly respected by the staff and students for her work in the school. She has also worked extensively to support Allied Health in the making of visual communication aides that will assist our students in this area. To all our volunteers we acknowledge and appreciate what you offer Warringa Park School.



As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have new outdoor gym equipment installed on the oval under one of the shaded areas. This equipment has certainly met with great enthusiasm by our students who just love working out on this equipment. In the near future, there will be synthetic grass laid underneath the equipment and seating in this area and there has also been a quote obtained for new shade sails that are badly needed as already one of the shade sails is in disrepair. Equipment such as this is making a significant difference for our students who are certainly appreciating having the opportunity to engage in extended outdoor play.

**Classroom placement letter** - Next week, a classroom placement letter will be sent home. This letter provides all parents and carers with an opportunity to raise any concerns or issues they may have with their child in terms of their class placement for 2010. This letter does not provide parents with the opportunity to select their child's teacher, but it does provide parents with an avenue for comment regarding the class placement for 2010. Please note the due date for these responses is 6<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**Blackwood Visit** - an opportunity was provided to parents and carers to visit Blackwood Outdoor Education Centre on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Unfortunately, only 4 parents could find the time to make the trip. The feedback from those parents was overwhelmingly positive about the camp and the wonderful facilities it provides for students with disability. The parents were thoroughly impressed with not only the facilities, but the beautiful setting where the camp is situated. Lyn Porter, one of the parents who attended last Friday has written an account of this trip and it appears later in this newsletter. I would like to encourage any parent who has a spare Saturday or Sunday to take a trip to Blackwood, only an hour away from Hoppers Crossing, to see what this wonderful facility has to offer.

**Bunnings BBQ** - on October 17<sup>th</sup>, this was the first BBQ that I have attended since my arrival at Warringa Park School. This BBQ raised over \$2000 for our school, which is a wonderful effort. This could not have been achieved without the School Council and staff support in volunteering their time and commitment to make this BBQ successful. To Bev Williams, Anna and Tabitha, Ben, Vern and Amanda, Wendy, Bob Metselaar who organised the BBQ, Marie Hayes and Annette, Maree, Greg, Liz, Carol and Rachel and Marianna, we thank you for your support in this wonderful initiative for our school. Next year we are hoping to have two Bunnings BBQ's to raise funds for our school and I look forward to assisting and hopefully raising as much as we did last Sunday for our students and our school.

Have a great weekend,  
Colin  
[schot.colin.h@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:schot.colin.h@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Imagine the  
Possibilities...

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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ School Council Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> November 7pm
- ◆ Section 2 and 3 Christmas Concert - 8<sup>th</sup> December 11am
- ◆ Section 1 Christmas Concert - 9<sup>th</sup> December 11am
- ◆ Christmas Stall - 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December

### 2010 TERM DATES

- ◆ TERM 4 MON 5 OCT – FRI 18 DEC
- ◆ TERM 1 MON 1 FEB – FRI 26 MAR
- ◆ TERM 2 MON 12 APR – FRI 25 JUN
- ◆ TERM 3 MON 12 JUL – FRI 17 SEPT
- ◆ TERM 4 MON 4 OCT – FRI 17 DEC

## In focus this week - Parent Involvement

There is strong and clear evidence that when a parent or carer is involved in their child's school it has a positive impact on a student's attitude, attendance and achievement. There are many ways to be involved at Warringa Park School, and many of them only involve an hour or two every now and then. Not much effort is it? Your child will sense that you are more aware of the school they attend and are more involved. Parents and carers being involved at school also brings a sense of community to the school, making it a better place for students and staff. So, where do you start?

There is a fundraising committee that meets twice a term for one hour. These parents then spend one or two hours on the fundraising activity for that term. A lot of fun is had by all and money is raised to provide resources for students at Warringa Park. All up, 4 or 5 hours effort per term.

On Friday afternoon, ladies meet for one hour at 1:30 to cut and laminate speech resources for students. A fun group of women who come together to have a chat and are able to ask questions of the Speech Pathologists. There are many other volunteering opportunities at Warringa Park, with students and without. If you are interested, please contact the volunteer coordinator, Val Bacon.

If you work, or are unable to come to school during the day, there are still plenty of opportunities for you to become more engaged in your child's school. After hours focus groups twice a year provide

an opportunity for you to help the school understand what parents and carers need from Warringa Park. There are also opportunities for you to Meet the Teacher, attend Parent/Teacher evenings and workshops are also sometimes run at Warringa Park School. At present Warringa is hosting comprehensive autism workshops to help parents understand their child. You can also support your child in their learning by being interested in their learning diaries that come home every term, listening to them read or reading to them, regularly communicating through the diary with your child's teacher or even phoning the teacher every now and then to touch base.

Warringa Park is lucky enough to have one of the only Parent Liaison Officers in the Victorian State School system. Abi Fraser is dedicated solely to parents/carers and their needs, as well as helping Warringa Park understand the needs of parents and carers.

So come on, what's stopping you? Meet some other carers who know what you are going through, don't go through it alone. Give Abi Fraser a call on 9749 5774 or email her on [fraser.abigail.s@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:fraser.abigail.s@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## Assistant Principal's Report



*“Our school is full of fine young Australian citizens and we are very proud of them.”*

Last week on Wednesday senior students from Rooms 31 and 32 organised a Sausage Sizzle to raise money to support Indonesia, Samoa and the Tonga Islands following the devastating earthquake and tsunami that resulted in so many people being killed or left homeless in those countries. They raised \$310. They had a similar fundraiser today and raised \$400. What a great effort and well done to all the students and the staff in those rooms who supported this very worthwhile project. Students in Room 12 and their teacher Melissa Hackett are supporting the education of a child in Africa through World Vision. Students in our later year's classes are involved in volunteering activities and partnerships with community organisations as part of Advance Youth Development program. These events and programs all fall under a very important curriculum domain called Civics and Citizenship. We are always looking for opportunities to understand and practise what it means to be a good citizen and to actively contribute to our community and to explore issues around social justice in our country and the wider world. Students from Room 26 take responsibility for raising and lowering the Australian Flag each day and have learnt the correct protocols for doing this. Our school is full of fine young Australian citizens and we are very proud of them.



## Pink Rule Winners

**Last Week - Congratulations** to our 3 winners and well done to all the students who received raffle tickets for using the Pink Rule during recess and lunch breaks. Keep up the good work.

Most raffle tickets

Section 1 - Joshua S & Benjamin

Section 2 - Ruby & Vesna

Section 3 - Matthew S



## Awards

### Section 1

Group 8 - Arios, Peter and Sean achieved 20 stars in this week

### Section 2

Group 10 - Julian

Group 11 - Dale and Danny

Group 12 - Lachlan and Kyal

Group 24 - George, Justin, Jason

Group 25 - Adrian, Star of the week, Keiron, Good Attitude Award

Award

Dylan, Helping Hands Award

Group 28 - Ricky

## A parent's perspective of Blackwood Camp

"Blackwood Special Schools Outdoor Education Centre" was designed for our children to be able to experience outdoor adventure, camping, and challenges outside their comfort zone, while being supported by fellow students and teachers. Last Friday a group of Mums travelled to Blackwood to see for themselves what their children had tried to share with them after attending this facility. Jana was our driver and after leaving school at 9.30 we arrived in Blackwood around 10.30 to be told that she was a local and offered to show us around the town before going to the camp, Jana showed us the local footy oval surrounded by beautiful old gum trees and explained that the locals thought it was the best oval in Victoria, (we tended to agree) we met Tony from the camp who had a group of children at the oval practising their golfing skills, with one boy letting everyone know that "Tiger Woods" had better start worrying. Tony then rang back to camp and organised for us to go to "St Erths Gardens" and spend some time there before moving onto the camp. When we arrived we realised that there were three different facilities, The School, The Residence and The Tent Shelter, all offering different styles

of camping for children with special needs. We meet Harley when we arrived at "The School" and he and Tony showed us through the building, explained some of its history and then a routine day for the campers, there was another school enjoying the camp and they were tucking into their dinner in front of a roaring log fire, Harley then had things to attend to but before leaving suggested to his counterpart that we should experience "The Imaginary Trail". This trail is just under a kilometre long and has full wheelchair access, the children can yabby from their chairs, access the Archaeological Dig, participate on the giant see-saw and join in so many different challenges that are unavailable in their day to day life. We also shared a very special time with Tony who was in constant contact with his wife who was very close to presenting him with their second child. The camp was warm and welcoming and Harley and Tony were eager to show us what our children had tried to share with us, I am glad I took this opportunity to visit Blackwood, I now know that next time my children come home from camp I will be able to relate to their stories and join in their excitement.

Lynette Porter



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Imagine the possibilities...

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

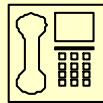
The school uniform shop will be open every **Wednesday 9:30-10:30 am**. Order forms can be sourced from the school office, through your child's communication book or on the school website.

**Special Olympics Victoria  
Melbourne West  
Golf Programme**

**When:** Starts Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October  
**Where:** Riverside Golf and Tennis  
75 Newsom Street  
Ascot Vale. Mel ways Ref 28 C11  
**Time:** 12.00-1.00  
**Cost:** \$12.00 weekly, direct debt available  
(Bookings Essential)

**Contact**

Tanya Files  
Community Development Co-ordinator  
Special Olympics Victoria



03 9275 6922 or 0420 946 538

**Fundraising**

Do you have any new unwanted gifts sitting in the cupboard? Please help our school and donate to the Christmas Stall. Any contributions will be gratefully received at the reception desk or can be sent in with your child on the bus.

Thank you

**You're invited to try Wheelchair Basketball in Wyndham!**

If you love basketball, would like to meet some new friends and are looking for an exciting new challenge, then why not register your interest for wheelchair basketball?

Access for All Abilities Wyndham, YMCA Werribee, Basketball Victoria and Parallel Sports would like to establish an ongoing wheelchair basketball program in Wyndham, running from Werribee Sports and Fitness Centre. **There is no age limit and players of all ages and abilities are welcome.**

To register your interest, please fill out the attached slip below and send it to: Nicole Marie, Werribee Sports and Fitness Centre, 35 Ballan Rd Werribee, 3030.

For more information, contact Nicole Marie on: 9742 5630 or 0437 447 738 or nicole.marie@ymca.org.au. Alternatively, contact Nikki Van Ryn on 0423 627 521

**Come and try day!**

- **When:** Sunday 15th November
- **Time:** 2pm-4pm
- **Where:** Werribee Sports and Fitness Centre, 35 Ballan Rd Werribee

**Number of players interested:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name/s:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone number:** \_\_\_\_\_