

Warringa Park School Newsletter

Monday 3rd August 2009



Principal's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to congratulate all of the students for their excellent behaviour over this week. It is great to see our students speaking nicely to each other in the yard and in the classrooms. The pink rule is an important rule and one of the first things we need to learn is that if we are nice to each other it is unlikely that there will be issues or fights or students teasing each other, so congratulations students, well done. Let's keep up the great work for the next week and for the rest of the term. It was also a pleasure to hand out the awards to those students who were drawn out in the assemblies on Monday morning for speaking nicely to each other. The staff of the school have observed students who were following the pink rule and they were given a raffle ticket. These raffle tickets went into a section box and then I had the pleasure of drawing a lucky prize winner out for each section. My congratulations to those who won the award this week.



Imagine the
Possibilities...



Section 1

Section 2

Section 3

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. Congratulations to the following students who received the most raffle tickets for the week within their section: Section 1 - Sabri, Section 2 - Margaret, Section 3 - Russell

I am hoping in the coming week that we will see a section of synthetic grass being laid on our oval. This is a forty by forty metre square of grass that will have a couple of hop scotch areas laid into the grass and will provide a surface for our students to play on all year round. As I have already indicated in previous newsletters it will take some time to resurface the oval.

Have a great week, read to your child and where possible use visuals to communicate.

Cheers

Colin

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Festival of Healthy Living Performance 2nd Sept.
- ◆ Father's Day Stall 3rd and 4th September
- ◆ Jackie's Shopping Tour 7th November

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 -Alternative Augmentative Communication

Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC) is an approach to communication that uses a variety of means to assist children with complex communication needs to communicate. The school has taken a proactive step to trial in three classrooms the strategy of using Aided Language Displays to assist students to communicate and learn. It is important that all students are supported by visual messages and visual scaffolding and those students who have complex communication needs have equal opportunities to participate in all learning activities. Examples of visual scaffolding are all around us, especially in shopping centres and retail outlets. Why? Because it ensures that they are supported in their communications and understandings. Beth Twentyman and Nadine Davies, the schools speech pathologists are supporting the staff at Warringa Park to implement AAC, so the communication and language development for all students is a high priority. To assist the school in building the resources required to deliver this trial program, we have a wonderful group of parents who have been making communication resources for our students over the past year. I would like to thank all those parents who have been assisting in the making of these visual aids and communications that are so desperately needed by our students. The old story, a picture can communicate a thousand words is so true. The majority of students at Warringa Park School are visual learners and we

need to ensure that they are given the opportunity to be aided in their language acquisition through this approach. Warringa Park School will be working hard to ensure that AAC is implemented so that all our students can communicate effectively and understand what is communicated to them.

Due to popular demand, this Thursday Nadine and Beth are running 2 workshops, one in the morning and one in the evening, to inform parents of Aided Language Displays (ALDs) which have been shown to be effective with facilitating and extending the communication skills of children with complex communication needs. Invitations have been sent home for the students who would benefit most from this strategy. I plan on attending the evening session and I look forward to seeing you there and most importantly the students will be the beneficiaries of this initiative.

Assistant Principals' Report



“sustained involvement in the arts correlates with success in reading and mathematics”

Every student at Warringa Park School attends a visual arts session on a weekly basis and when you wander around our school you will see many fantastic artworks on display. It's great to see the creativity, enthusiasm, skills and engagement that is program generates. When you walk into an art class and see smiling faces and students of many differing abilities with a real sense of purpose making a piece of art and being successful you realise what a powerful and engaging teaching tool art is. Research has shown that sustained involvement in the arts correlates with success in reading and mathematics. It's powerful because it engages the mind, the heart and the body and when I look at many of the artworks our students create I certainly feel that it is 'art from the heart.' Kris Smith and Vicky Mercieca are our visual arts teachers and they provide students with wonderful opportunities to engage at their own level and they nurture their creativity and self expression. The visual arts program provides a variety of experiences and art forms including, drawing, painting, modelling, printmaking, paper construction, sculpture construction, photography, threads and textiles. While they learn to work with concrete materials students also learn to listen, attend, participate, arrange, design and problem solve in a supportive environment. Our young artists learn to plan, make and then present their work and what a great job they do. Next time you are in the school make sure you have a look at some of the pieces that decorate our walls. Marie

There has been a large number of Head Lice cases reported in the past two weeks at Warringa Park. We are asking parents to please check your child's hair regularly and treat when necessary.

Interschool Sports

This week's Netball players of the week are Ruby and Bronte from Group 25. Ruby played against much older opposition and stopped many goals from being scored in her role as Goal Defender. Bronte played very well as Wing Attack alongside Ruby. Well done girls!

Congratulations to the whole team. Over the past two weeks the team has defeated Croxton and Rosamond.



Junior School Council News (Written by Elijah Van Wynen)

Student Out of Uniform Day/Student Disco

The Student Out of Uniform Day/Student Disco was a great success. The disco was held at lunchtime in the hall and everyone enjoyed it. We raised \$185.15 for homeless children and young people and we donated this money to the Open Family Foundation. Thank you to everyone who helped us raise the money.

SIDS Foundation

Students were busy selling Red Nose Day pens, stickers and other items. We donated \$261.00 to the SIDS Foundation. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

'Dancing With the Stars At Warringa Park School'





2009 SKI CAMP



This year was the second annual Ski Camp to Falls Creek for Warringa Park School. This year James, Luke, Sinead, Crystal, Alex, Samantha, Daniel and Rachel participated in the camp with the help of Teachers Natalie, Cheryl and James. The camp was a great success. Our students displayed excellent skill development over the five day camp, with every student learning cross-country and downhill skiing techniques. As always, our students demonstrated exemplary behavior and maturity for the duration of the camp.



Well done to the Warringa Park students on another great Ski Camp.



VCAL News: Vinnies at Laverton

In the VCAL program, students are required to complete modules in all the following four areas:

- literacy and numeracy
- personal development
- work related skills and
- industry specific skills.



Every Tuesday and Thursday, a group of students go to Vinnies (St Vincent de Paul Society) in Laverton to participate in a Structured Workplace Learning program. This is an integrated module which incorporates the learning outcomes of both Personal Development and Work Related Skills.

Students are actively involved in various tasks. These include: sorting clothes and shoes, folding blankets, working in the front shop, vacuuming and arranging items to be sold to the public. They also work in the warehouse on the conveyor belt and unpacking and sorting housewares. These learning activities are flexible to allow our students to experience and develop an understanding of a functional workplace.



Our students are learning about Occupational Health and Safety in the workplace and work related skills. The focuses of this program also includes time management, community service, communication in the workplace, and team building skills.



All the staff at Vinnies have been highly supportive, accepting and welcoming to our students. The supervisors have been understanding and considerate of individual needs and abilities. We would like to thank the St Vincent de Paul Society for providing such a wonderful facility and opportunity for our VCAL students to engage in work activities.



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Imagine the
possibilities...

We're on the Web!

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.

Jackie's Shopping Tour Saturday 7th November

Come on ladies, and support your school! The fundraising committee has organised a shopping tour for the 7th November to raise money for Warringa Park School. It will be a jam packed day of shopping and fun!

Tickets are \$35 each and we have 38 tickets available, so you need to be quick. Staff and parents and carers will be given first option, relatives and friends will only be allocated tickets closer to the day. The itinerary is as follows:
7:50am: Pick up at Warringa Park School
We will visit Classica, Toyworx, Dianna Ferrari, Capelle Groupe, Beaches, 1999, Natio, Faulty Towels and Newmans. Lunch will be at 11:50am at McDonalds.
5pm Drop off at Warringa Park School.

If you would like more information or would like to book a ticket, please call Abi Fraser on 9749 5774.

Awards

Section 1

Group 2 – Madaison, Lachlan, Justin
Group 8 – Gabrielle, Trey

Section 2

Group 11 – Dale, Tom, Daniel, Luke, Brodie
Group 12 – Bailey, Christos, Lachlan
Group 13 – Divyal, Kia
Group 24 – Emily, Salil
Group 25 – Joshua, Whole class
Group 26 – David, Jordan
Group 22 – Toni, Wendy

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

Contact: School Office for application form and further information

- 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