

Warringa Park School Newsletter

Monday 7th September 2009



Principal's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wow! What can I say? I attended two absolutely marvelous events this week that showcased what Warringa Park School can achieve.

The Poss-abilities EXPO - It was my pleasure to attend the opening of this EXPO where Bill Shorten, the Minister for Disabilities and Children's Services, spoke very passionately about his portfolio and his intention to make a difference for those in our society who have a disability and need to be supported. There were over three hundred and fifty people that attended this EXPO, with 62 stall holders present. I would like to thank all of our VCAL students who participated on this day. These students assisted in the catering arrangements, were on the registration tables and as they wandered around the EXPO, visiting the stalls themselves, their behavior and the way they conducted themselves was an absolute credit. My thanks again to all the VCAL staff and students for making this Poss-abilities EXPO such a success for Warringa Park School.

The Festival for Healthy Living Concert - On Wednesday Evening, with Marie Hayes and many staff from Warringa Park, I had the pleasure of attending the Festival of Healthy Living Concert. This was indeed an absolutely wonderful occasion for all the students who participated in this concert. The three schools involved - Glen Orden, Warringa Park and Woodville Primary came together to present a wonderful concert. The whole hour was filled with messages that reflected happiness, how to deal with anger and how to deal with other feelings. It was also a celebration of what students can do in the area of performing arts. It was colourful, musical and there was lots of drama and activities that meant for the whole hour the audience was engaged and enthusiastically applauding the students for all their efforts. The Festival for Healthy Living has been a wonderful initiative at Warringa Park School and certainly has made a difference for our students in their learning and all their activities that they engaged in during this program. To all the artists involved, Warringa Park thanks you because without you, this Festival of Healthy Living would not have been as vibrant and as meaningful as it was. To our staff at Warringa Park School, I congratulate you on a wonderful achievement and as Marie Hayes and I walked backstage after the concert, there was a sense of achievement on the children's faces, and the parents who were so proud of their child in the performance is a sight I will not easily forget. To all the staff at Warringa Park School, thank you, I am so proud to be the Principal of this school and see our students and staff achieve so much.

Parent focus Groups - this week I had the pleasure of hosting 2 parent focus group sessions. Included in this newsletter will be some of the comments from these focus groups on what the school does well and the areas we need to improve. I would like to thank all of the parents who came to these focus groups; your feedback is most appreciated.

Colin

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Imagine the
Possibilities...

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ School Council Meeting 9th September
- ◆ End of term 3 - 18th September 2:30pm
- ◆ Start of term 4 - 5th October 2009
- ◆ 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 -The Administration Team

This team is led by Lesley Bennett, our Business Manager and is ably supported by Joan Tate, Marianna Clennett, Wendy Richter and Val Bacon. These staff are the first staff you meet when entering Warringa Park School and are pivotal to the schools operations. As the school has grown in student numbers and budget, the administration staff are continually having to take on new challenges, but most importantly of all they are there to make sure that the staff are supported and our parents and carers get the attention they deserve in any request they make and to ensure the schools operations run smoothly. They are also responsible, as are all staff, for the delivery of quality customer service to all the visitors, parents and carers, students who are part of the Warringa Park School Community. When you visit Warringa Park, you will

meet either Wendy or Marianna at the reception desk and they will be able to help you or redirect your inquiry to the right staff member. It is our aim at Warringa Park to improve this important area of service and that everyone who walks in the door at Warringa Park School is made to feel most welcome.

Parent/ Carer Focus Groups

What parents/carers like about Warringa Park School:

- Good teaching/teachers
- Facility upgrades are good
- Reading program
- Gross/fine motor skills programs
- Teacher cooperation
- Friendly environment
- Supportive
- The classroom resources are fantastic, i.e., computers and interactive boards
- The staff and teachers are always available if I have a problem, an idea or an issue with my child.
- Dedicated, hardworking staff
- School activities
- The activities conducted at school have improved my son's ability to interact with other friends outside school.
- Café 11
- Reading program
- Improved playground

Some ways to improve at Warringa Park School from a parent perspective

- More parent forums like this one
- More activities and programs to keep students busy to improve their skills
- Accepting information from parents
- Communication between parents and teachers to be more individual, e.g. what they did that day
- At the start of each year to ask the parents to write a short list of what distresses and motivates their child so that the teachers have a good understanding of each child before the year starts
- Better communication through diaries
- At least a half hour for the SSG's
- Any issues that may have occurred during the day (behavioural) be communicated on the day and not brought up at a later time so they can be addressed
- More shelter at the front of the school
- Class activities and plan for the week or month given prior to it happening, e.g. this week we will look at the letter 'c' etc
- New parents to meet not only class teacher, but specialists
- Behavior management
- Swimming program to be during warmer months, especially younger students
- 2nd hand uniform shop
- Compulsory uniform
- Ideas board in the main foyer
- Autism specific classes



“They used circus skills, drama, visual arts, puppetry, dance and percussion”

Assistant Principal's Report

Festival for Healthy Living Concert Review

It's been described as a brilliant, fantastic and truly wonderful and as a person privileged to be sitting in the audience it was all of that. The play told the story of a child cloaked in 'feelings' and was performed by 240 students from Warringa Park School, Glen Orden and Woodville. They used circus skills, drama, visual arts, puppetry, dance and percussion to tell a powerful story about friendship and community. 'Planet Happy' was certainly an exciting, colourful and fun place to be. At Warringa Park we are especially proud of magnificent 'cloak of feelings' beautifully crafted out of bright and vibrant felt pieces made and then stitched together by our students under the guidance of local artist Colleen Bourke. I loved the bright tie dyed costumes all made by our students ably assisted by their teachers. Congratulations to all of our stars in rooms 24, 28, 25, and 26 and to the teachers and support staff who assisted them. A special thanks to Kym Tonkin (Performing Arts) and Kris Smith (Visual Arts) for the enormous amount of work they put into the performance. And to our artists Colleen, Frank, John and Dave a big thank you for a marvellous and thought provoking performance.

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 tickets

Section 1	Alex & Penny & Robin
Section 2	Bronte
Section 3	Russell



Warringa Park School 'Girls Together Group'

Warringa Park School has recently received funding from the Office for Youth to run the 'Girls Together Group'. We have been working with female students from the VCAL program to develop this program. The program is held each fortnight on a Thursday after school.

Bryonie McPherson reports on the group:

"I am going to tell you about girls group. It is a great activity for the girls. Sometimes we have people come to our school and we have done belly dancing, yoga exercises, healthy lifestyle activities, talked about how we would treat others, how to solve problems and other cool stuff. At the end of our girls group we are going out to dinner to celebrate our achievements in girls group. Sometimes Colin comes and has a sticky beak about what we are doing in this program and he makes us laugh a lot. We are enjoying this program and we would like to thank Ines, Denise and Therese for this program."



A big thank you to all the families that supported our school on the weekend at the Family Portrait Day. Just a reminder that an adult appearing in the portraits needs to come and view the finished product on Tuesday 13th October. Additional portraits may be purchased on this day.

Jackie's Shopping Tour

If you are waiting to book your tickets, you will be disappointed. Not enough interest has been generated in this fundraising event. We need to book more tickets urgently for it to go ahead. Don't delay!

Tickets are \$35 each and we have 38 tickets available, so you need to be quick. Buy a ticket for yourself, your sister, mum, neighbour...

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.

EMA

EMA cheques are now available to be picked up from the school office.

Section 2

Section 2 will be having a movie day on Friday 11th September 2009 at 12:30 - 2:00pm in the VCAL room for all the students involved in the compass program. There is no cost and a PG movie will be shown.



Congratulations to the 46 students who successfully completed the Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge. A total of 1079 books were read by these students - what an achievement!

The Age, as official partner of the 2009 Challenge, will publish the Premier's Reading Challenge Achievers honour roll in *The Sunday Age* on 15 November.

A huge THANKS to Jo Pace, one of our parent volunteers. She consistently takes books home and covers them all, and does a fantastic job. This is making it quicker to put new books onto the library shelves and allows me more time to actually buy and catalogue books. Thank you Jo.

Jeannette Kip

Literacy and numeracy Week

Thank you to all the families who participated in the Target Words competition. Congratulations to the Porter family for winning the competition. They made 109 words and have won a board game for the family.

Congratulations also to all the students in Room 25 who won the problem Solving Competition. These students have won a cafe voucher and will have morning tea in our cafe on Wednesday morning.

Eleven of our students also joined other schools to participate in the *Young Writers Read Around* workshop at the Wyndham Events and Leisure Centre on Friday. They worked with authors and illustrators in various workshops. We hope to publish some of the work they produced in our next newsletter.

Keep talking to your child about the books and texts they read.



The Children's Book Council Award Winners for 2009 have been announced:

Picture Book of the Year- Collecting Colour, By Kylie Dunstan

Early Childhood Book of the Year- How to Heal a Broken Wing, by Bob Graham

Young Readers Book of the Year- Perry Angel's Suitcase, by Glenda Millard

Older Readers book of the Year- Tales from Outer Surbabia, by Shaun Tan

Victorian Student Number

What is the Victorian Student Number (VSN)?

The VSN is a student identification number that will be assigned by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to all students in government and non-government schools, and students in Vocational Education and Training Institutions. The number, which is unique to each student, will be used as a key identifier on a student's school records, and will remain with the student throughout his or her education, until reaching the age of 25. The VSN is nine digits long, randomly assigned, and tied to identifying information about the student (name, gender, date of birth).

Why is the VSN being introduced?

The introduction of the VSN will provide the capability to accurately detect patterns of student movement through, and departure from, the Victorian education and training system. It will greatly improve the collection and analysis of timely and accurate data about education in Victoria.

Why do students need to have a VSN?

In a large and diverse education system such as Victoria's, a standard, centrally assigned student number is the best way to identify individual students. Using a reference number to collect and store data helps avoid the errors and confusion when names are misspelled, changed, or mistaken for other similar names.

Most Australian states either have already or are intending to introduce a student number, and the practice is common in

many other countries, including New Zealand and Canada.

Where will the VSN appear?

The VSN will appear:

- on common student communications, such as enrolment confirmations and report cards, and
- on applications made by the student for enrolment in new schools or institutions.

Why does the Government need information on students?

The Department collects information to track improvements made to the education system, to identify areas that require further improvement, and to analyse trends and identify future needs. The VSN will simply improve the accuracy, reliability and completeness of this information, providing a better basis for assessing needs and developing policies to meet them. The improved quality of information will also result in more accurate reporting to the community on the state's education system.

Will the privacy of personal information be protected?

Yes, security is built in to the VSN system and the number itself. The student records maintained in the VSN system contain minimal information about each student -name, date of birth, and gender together with the date of admission and date of exit from each school attended.

The VSN system is not a collection point for other student data such as academic achievements and outcomes, health

or welfare information. Because the number is randomly assigned, personal information about the student cannot be inferred from it.

Access to the data in the VSN system is strictly limited, and the database itself will be maintained in a fully secure environment. The information will be used only for educational purposes and the ways in which the VSN can be used are prescribed by legislation. The legislation also includes criminal offences for use of the data for other than the prescribed purposes. Commonwealth and State Privacy Principles have also been used to guide the design of the VSN system.

Are parents and students entitled to see the information stored on the VSN system about the student?

Yes. A student (and the student's parents, if the student is under the age of 18) may request a copy of the information held in the VSN system relating to that student. What do schools think of the new system?

Schools, other education organisations and education experts have been regularly consulted during the development and design of the VSN. Care has been taken to minimise the administrative demands that the VSN places on schools. There has been broad support from the education sector in general, for the introduction of the VSN.

How can I find out more?

Visit www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/vsn/parents.htm or send an email question to: victorian.student.register@edumail.vic.gov.au



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We're on the Web!

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.

Awards

Section 2

Group 10 - Kyra, Dion, Margaret, Carly, Rohan, Jamie, Julian

Group 25 - Luke Mastin
Group 26 - Jordan, Amy
Group 28 - whole class for the Festival of Healthy Living participation.

VCAL Parents Group

VCAL parents and carers are getting together for a cuppa at Café 11 this Tuesday at 10:30 am. If your child attends the VCAL program, come along and meet other parents and have a chat and a coffee.

CANTEEN REMINDER

Just a reminder to parents and carers that the canteen will be open on 11th September 2009 and will be closed on 18th September 2009.

Thank you.
Jean Roga.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL STUDENT HIP HOP DANCE

- SECTION 1, 2 AND 3

The Junior School Council is holding a Hip Hop Dance on Monday 14th September in the school hall at lunchtime. Students are also able to come dressed in their favourite hip hop/dance clothes. Students need to bring \$2.00 to cover the Hip Hop Dance and their Out of Uniform dress.

All money raised will go towards the Junior School Council Fundraiser for an Indoor/Outdoor Stage at our school.

If you would like to know more information please speak to Therese Bourke, Denise Litton or one of our Junior School Councillors. Thank you for your support.