



# WARRINGA PARK SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

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2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009

If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, please email  
[fraser.abigail.s@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:fraser.abigail.s@edumail.vic.gov.au).

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to thank all of those parents and carers who took time to vote in the School Council elections. I would like to congratulate the following successful candidates who have gained a two year position on School Council:- Greg Kelly, Kathy Majdlik, Maree Mark, Maree Barrett, Rebecca Cross and Lyn Porter.



The response from the parents and carers has been very positive and the school is extremely lucky to have 9 parents to put themselves forward to assist our school in this way. We thank you.

The telephone system of the school crashed on Thursday morning and is now in the process of being replaced. This is a significant cost to the school, but the new phone system will enhance the ability of parents to communicate with the school and our staff. I apologise to any parent or carer who has experienced difficulty contacting the school over the last few days.

**Clean Up Warringa Day** – two large skips were ordered for this day and for the first two hours students and staff worked together to achieve a positive result for our school. The removal of rubbish and debris from our school was badly needed as it is important that our students have an environment where they can play safely and is free from rubbish. I would like to thank the staff and students for their work and I leave you with the saying, “If you don’t clean up Australia, who will?”



**New Junior Playground** – the junior playground is 99 per cent completed, the sails and the equipment look terrific, but best of all our students love playing in this new area.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Labour Day Holiday	Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Volunteer Induction	Tue 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar
School Council Meeting	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar
School Photos	Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar

### 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

The education tax refund notice from the government is attached for your information. It is important that you read this and understand that if you are eligible for any of these benefits it is important that you keep the receipts so that you can claim.

A reminder to all parents and carers of the importance of your child attending school every day. I realise that there are times when your child has to stay at home for medical reasons, but it is so important that we have students attending every day, to be engaged in their learning and to develop good work habits that will assist them to become independent adults. Our absenteeism has already risen since the start of the school year and I am asking that in the month of March we improve our attendance rate for our school. I am seeking your cooperation and support in this for your child who needs to have the opportunity to learn and experience the benefits of what school has to offer.

Room 7 welcomes 2 new students to their class - Jonah and Penny.

Finally, I am excited. Collingwood showed plenty of dash to get up over the line against Richmond and is now in the NAB cup semi-final. As Collingwood supporters know, we often get ahead of ourselves and nothing will surprise me the next time we play.

Have a great week and where possible take the opportunity to spend some one on one time with your child and read to them.

Cheers

Colin.

[schot.colin.h@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:schot.colin.h@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## **School Uniform**

**Parents are reminded that all students are expected to wear school uniform. The uniform shop will be open Wednesdays 9am to 10am in the hall. Orders may be put into the office at any time.**

## **School Dentist**

The school dentist will be coming to Warringa Park Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week. If you wish your child to see the dentist at school, please fill in the forms that were sent home as soon as possible.

## **A reminder to all parents and carers**

Next Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March is a public holiday. There will be no students at school on this day.

## **Awards**

Awards for group 8

20 Stars to Sean and Tylah, well done!

## **Volunteers**

**Thank you to all those who volunteered this week. Your help is very much appreciated.**

**There will be another volunteers induction held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 9-10am. If you would like to volunteer in 2009, come along on the 10<sup>th</sup> and find out how you can help at Warringa Park School.**

## Assistant Principal's Report



At Warringa Park School we aim to build strong partnerships with parents to achieve excellent learning outcomes for the students in our care.

During the week commencing on Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> parents will be invited to participate in Student Support Group meetings. Prior to these meetings a draft Individual Learning Plan which sets the priority goals for your child for the year will be sent home. The teachers will have written these draft goals after having consulted with previous teachers and the allied health staff. At the Student Support Group meeting you will have an opportunity to have input into the educational program that is being planned for your child to participate in during 2009. It is extremely important that you attend these meetings as they are an opportunity for those who know the student best to share their knowledge, identify student needs and establish shared educational goals. I would ask you to take a few minutes prior to the meeting to read through the Individual Learning Plan so that you are familiar with its content and feel comfortable to raise any issues or concerns you may have. Parents are welcome to bring along an advocate to these meetings if they wish or Abi Fraser, our parent liaison officer is available to advocate for them. Allied health staff will also be attending some of the meetings. A Student Support Group meeting can be convened at any time at the request of the parent or the school. Jo Sadler and I are always available to attend meetings if required. We look forward to your input into the Student Support Group process. Marie & Kellie, thank you for all the good work today. You did a great job of organising the immunisations. Well Done

Marie & Jo



Our bookmaking project is well on the way with various creative books on display in the foyer and within classrooms.

***DID YOU KNOW?.....***

We read for pleasure

We read for factual information

We read to communicate

We read for meaning

We read to learn.....

**SO**

What can we read??????

Story books, picture books, podd books, novels, magazines, recipe books, telephone books, t.v. guide, newspapers, photo albums, menus, street signs, shops, timetables, aided communication schedules, social stories, receipts, bank statements, bills, diaries, calendars, invitations, cards, computers, mobile phones, melways, SMS, IPOD, GTS, singstar.

And so on...- PRINT is all around us...

**Happy reading!**

## Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

### Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s258 of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*
- an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

### What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
  - educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
  - stationery and art supplies
  - school textbooks and associated learning materials
  - trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.
- ⓘ Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)

### When can you claim?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

- ⓘ **Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.**

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

➤ For more information:

- visit [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)
- phone the Tax Office on 13 28 61.

## Performing Arts

Students throughout the school have been attending weekly Performing Arts Specialist classes. Junior school students have been enjoying our Story Drama sessions based on popular children's books.

Middle school students have been learning some circus and mime skills. A small group of students from Room 26 are taking part in a special project where Performing Arts and Visual Arts are combining (with the help of Art Teacher Kris) to explore the theme of the bushfires. Some Middle School students will be taking part in the Festival of Healthy Living project starting next term. Staff have already started planning this exciting project and there will be more information in coming newsletters!

Section 3 students have so far been concentrating on circus and movement skills.

Kym Tonkin,

Performing Arts Teacher.

### **Sensory, BrainGym and PMP Showcase at WPS**

Date: March 12th

Time: 7pm

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)

### **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 20<sup>th</sup> February), at the school from 1:30 until 2:30pm.**

New parents are always welcome.

### **Volunteers Resource Group will be on this Wednesday from 1:30 to 2:30pm in the Parents and Volunteers Common Room. Come and make some numeracy and literacy resources for our school.**

The Parents and Volunteers Common Room is open to all for a cuppa, a rest or a stop between volunteering. Please feel free to visit the common room anytime during the day. It is located at the entrance to the school hall.

**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.**