

Wasps Weekly



Wantsirna South
Primary School

Newsletter of Wantsirna South Primary School

ABN 85 237 812 060 Number 1 4th February 2010

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Website <http://www.wantsirnasouthps.vic.edu.au>

Coming Events

Wednesday 10th

Thursday 11th

Friday 12th

Monday 15th

Tuesday 16th

Wednesday 17th

Thursday 18th

Monday 22nd

Wednesday 24th

Friday 26th

**Level 3 Swimming Program
commences**

Level 2 Swimming Program commences

**Fundraising Meeting – 9.30am in
Staffroom**

Call for Council Nominations

School Photo Day

**Parent Information Evening – Level
1 & Level 3**

School Council 7.30pm

**Parent Information Evening –
Level 2 & Level 4**

Council Nominations Close

Optional Parent/Teacher Discussions

Aussie of the Month Assembly – 9am

TERM DATES 2010

Term 1 27/1/10 – 26/3/10

Term 2 12/4/10 – 25/6/10

Term 3 12/7/10 – 17/9/10

Term 4 4/10/10 – 17/12/10

Weekly CROSSword

Welcome Back!!!

Hello and welcome to all our WASPs children and families who have returned for the new school year. The teachers have been working hard to prepare and plan for Term 1 and it promises to be action packed and exciting.

I would like to especially welcome the new staff members joining our great team for 2010. To class teachers Paula Phillips (5/6P) and David Witte (3/4D), great to have you with us. We also welcome Vicki Sellers who will be here two days a week in an Educational Support role. Finally, we welcome another 'new' member of staff in Mrs Cotterell who has replaced Miss Klucso in Prep congratulations Elisha!

Of course, we are very pleased to see Kerrie Evans return to WASPS after her year exchange teaching in Canada. Kerrie has some great stories of her time away and found there are great differences, but also many similarities between education in Victoria and in Canada. We also welcome the return of Lorraine Maskill who is back with us full time in an Educational Support role.

Finally, Jan Donnelly, unfortunately, has broken her leg over the holidays and will be some weeks before she returns to the Art/Music program so we are pleased to welcome Jo Dudley and Heather Gardner to fill in for that role. Bernie Flynn is currently enjoying an extended holiday and will return to us at the beginning of March.

New Students and Families

We are really pleased to welcome a large number of new families joining our community with thirty one children starting in Prep, and another twelve children who are in classes throughout the rest of the school. It is great to have you with us and I look forward to getting to know you as the year progresses.

Building Renovations

I have been advised that the Tender process for our upgrade has been extended until mid Term so I don't expect we will have much action on that front until Term 2. I will keep you up to date if things look like progressing sooner.

My School Website

Parents may have seen reports of a new Federal Government web site which provides data on Australian schools. The performance element of this data, the NAPLAN results, is not new – parents will have been receiving these results for their child for several years.

However, the way in which data is grouped is different. The new site provides an **Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA)**, which attempts to identify socio-educationally similar schools across Australia for the purposes of comparing the performance of schools. It divides the population in quarters, and then allocates a percentage that a school has in each of these quarters.

These broad statistics contain some of the data our school uses as part of our improvement planning each year.

It is important to keep in mind that the data provided on the site talks about large groups, not individuals. It is still the case that the best way to find out how your child is going at school is to read the student reports distributed at the end of each semester, and to talk to teachers at Parent-Teacher Discussions.

We were very pleased to see our results continue to be above the average of all schools, and in most cases at or above our 'similar' schools as well. We continue to work hard to improve the learning outcomes for all students in our care at Wantirna South PS.

If you have questions about the My School site, please contact the school – we will be happy to talk to you about what the

data is saying about our school, how we are responding to it and our commitment to ensuring that your child achieves to the best of their ability.

Lunch Orders on Friday

We have been approached by Banksia Nursery offering to provide a 'Lunch Order' service to our school. This will be offered each Friday, beginning on the 12th of February, and a separate notice will be sent home tomorrow.

Garden Roster

On Monday you will receive a letter regarding our Garden Roster system starting again for 2010. This arrangement works really well and means that the school grounds and gardens are always looking terrific, a comment often passed by visitors to our school. The success of this program relies heavily on the "Team Captains" who volunteer to take an organisational role and I would encourage you to think about assisting us in this way. We only need 10 families to take up these Team Captain positions in order for the roster to be completed.

Student Illness and Accidents

At this time early in the school year it is a good idea to remind parents about the necessity to keep us up to date with phone numbers and emergency contact details. If your child is ill at school, or suffers an accident, then staff will give immediate care and appropriate first aid. However, it is necessary on occasions to contact parents and we are often frustrated by out of date information that delays this process. **Please make sure you notify the Office of any changes to yours or your Emergency Contact details.** Obviously in extreme cases we may also deem it necessary to call an Ambulance before consulting parents and you need to be aware of this. Please also keep the Office informed of any change in medical issues faced by your child as this helps us to make the best choices for their welfare.

Parents and guardians should also be aware that they are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any Ambulance transport costs.

Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund. **The Department of Education and Training does not hold accident insurance for school students.**

Is other Insurance available? Yes.

The Department is aware of two insurers, JUA Underwriting Agency Pty. Ltd. and Willis Australia Ltd., that provide accident insurance policies for students. These policies provide specific benefits for students who are injured in accidents for a reasonably low cost. Other insurers may also do so.

Students, Parents & Staff Personal Property

On a similar topic, personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

Please note the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Important Dates

We have included a list of key dates for 2010 in this newsletter. This is not a complete list but includes the ones we can confirm at this stage of the year.

Welcome to the New Year and I look forward to seeing you around the school,

Andrew Crossett
Principal

Assistant Principal's Report

Welcome to all of our families for the 2010 school year. It is great to see all the familiar faces as well as lots of new ones around the school.

Last week the teachers spent the first three days planning the programs for Term 1 as well as updating our First Aid knowledge in CPR, asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes and general care of possible school injuries. All the teachers also attended a half day presentation by a prominent educator who provided us with information and data about effective teaching practice.

Enrichment & Support Programs

In the classroom programs, teachers endeavour to cater for the learning needs of all children's ability levels, interests and special skills. Teachers started last week, and will continue during February, to read children's files from last year and conduct different assessments to gain an accurate picture of children's learning levels in a variety of areas, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.

To complement the whole class programs, WASPS also has different programs to support children who are not achieving at the expected level. The children will be grouped with other children of similar level in small groups or individually with different teachers for extra support in their learning in Literacy and Numeracy. These programs will start in the last week of February.

We have many high achieving children at WASPS and offer a variety of programs to challenge them and extend them further in different areas of strength. Our school based Enrichment program will again be taught by Heather Gardner who is well-known to the children across the school. The main focus will again be Literacy and Numeracy but incorporate the use of technology, mainly computers.

The local schools' enrichment program, "Thinking Outside the Box" (TOTB), taught by Penny Willoughby will also be offered

again this year. Different programs are offered to highly able children in Years 1 to 6 that will include like ability children from different schools. WASPS is hosting the Level 2 program on Fridays in the Artroom starting on Friday 12th February.

For more information on any of these programs, please see me.

Individual Learning Plans

As their current teachers get to know children each year (and based on information in their student files), it becomes apparent that the overall curriculum planned for the level and the teaching strategies do not fully cater for all children in the group in the different learning areas. To address each child's learning needs, some specific plans are written for individual children.

These Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) may specifically address one learning area eg Literacy or may address behaviour or attitude. They may continue over the whole year or only be needed for a few weeks. When teachers have written these, they are discussed with the parents so it is a focused joint effort between home and school to support all children's learning. ILPs are written for higher achieving and lower achieving students and also for children with specific learning needs.

Instrumental Music Program

Another aspect of our Enrichment Program is the Instrumental Music Program. As well as the school music program for all children, individual or partner lessons are offered to children who would like to learn keyboard, drums or guitar. These weekly lessons are taught by Vicki, Andrew and Daniel respectively in The Hive throughout the day. A separate notice (printed on green paper) has been sent home today with the details.

The School Value of Responsibility

One of our school values is Responsibility. Even children in Prep are expected to have some responsibility for themselves and their belongings. Parents can assist children to develop

this value by having all their belongings named and expecting them to remember to bring them home. The lost property grows at an alarming rate with many unnamed items.

The teachers are also setting their expectations during the first two weeks through the School Induction programs at every Level of the School. This is based on the WASPS Student Wellbeing Guidelines.

Teachers have expectations of children according to their age and parents can support their children by giving prompts for remembering their notices, home activities tasks, school sunhat and drink bottle. The best way to learn to do something, is to do it for yourself, not having someone do it for you. Teachers, like parents, are there to support and encourage children's efforts.

Wantirna South teachers are very proud of the curriculum and special programs that are offered to all children. We are also very proud of the safe and caring environment for all children. We look forward to a great year for every child to achieve to their potential.

Please come and speak with me if you ever have any concerns or questions. Keep smiling everyone.

Cheryl Holdsworth
Assistant Principal

Fundraising Report

Welcome back everyone for 2010. This year I am undertaking the position of Coordinator for the Fundraising Committee. As you may be aware, the role of the Fundraising Committee is to conduct a number of events and activities throughout the year, which will assist in raising funds for the school. These funds assist the school in purchasing new equipment and facilities which benefits our children.

I would like to take this opportunity to call upon any parents who are interested in joining the Fundraising Committee, to contact me. I am proposing to hold a Fundraising Committee Meeting on Friday 12th February in the Staffroom (following the morning assembly) to discuss the Fundraising Committee objectives for 2010. I hope to see you there.

Candice Wanstall

UNIFORM SHOP

Please note that the Uniform Shop is open each Thursday of term from 3.15pm.

Julie & Lynette
Uniform Shop Co-ordinators

SCHOOL BANKING

Welcome back. Our new banking co-ordinators this year are Jody Pace and Kelly Birchall.

Banking is held every Wednesday morning but books can be dropped off any day at the office. Application forms can also be collected from the office. It is a great way for children to save. No fees are taken out of accounts and bonus interest is paid even if only one deposit and no withdrawals are made per month.

You can deposit as little as 50c and receive 10 House Points. Every new account **opened at the school receives** \$5 toward school fundraising and 100 House Points. Our school also earns commission of 5% on individual deposits as well as chances to win prizes throughout the year.

Remember – as little as \$2 a week deposited from Prep to Grade 6 adds up and you won't even miss it. It's never too late to start. If you have a Youthsaver or Dollarmites Account from children not at the school, we are happy to process these as well.

Congratulations to the following students who have earned 10 House Points each this week –

Adam, Ashley, Justine, Michael, Bradley, Mia, Joe, Paris, Tyler, Georgia and Jesse.

Happy saving,

Deb Mikkor, Kellie Birchall & Jody Pace

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Please contact Deb Drake in the office if you would like information regarding our reasonable advertising rates to advertise in the school newsletter.

Happy Birthday



February

10th Tuncay and Emma

**Reader covers are now available
from the office for \$2 each.**