Aiming High in 2016

‘Way to Go at Wantirna’

What is our ‘Way to Go at Wantirna’ program?

To build a learning community based on the establishment of positive relationships. To have everyone learn and grow together: to think of themselves as a learner and to consider their relationships with others.

As part of the program students have documented their own goals for 2016. Their wonderful pieces of work are on display in the main office area.

2016 School Term Dates

| Term 1 | Thursday 28th Feb – Thursday 24th March |
| Term 2 | Monday 11th April – Friday 24th June |
| Term 3 | Monday 11th July – Friday 16th September |
| Term 4 | Monday 3rd October – Tuesday 20th December |

Message from the Principal’s Desk

Welcome – It has been delightful to welcome our new and existing families for 2016. I hope you all have enjoyed your Holiday break. It has been a positive start to the year with all the students eager to learn.

Thank you - Over the summer holidays, Michelle McLean and Kym Twomey devoted time to ensuring the vegie garden was maintained and the chickens were healthy. I would also like to thank Hamish Smith for shovelling the sand into the sand pit and spreading mulch under the playground at the front of the school. We had a few cubic metres delivered just before school started it was a very big job. He also did a few ‘walk throughs’ to dispose of dog droppings which had been inconsiderately been left on school grounds. My appreciation to Andrew Cusworth who also was at school during the last week of holidays to ensure the students returned to a tidy and clean school. Finally, a special thank you to Peter Gilbert for coming in before school started to plant some annuals and sweep to ensure that Wantirna PS was clean, tidy and welcoming for our families.

Acknowledgements - To the staff who also worked during their summer break to prepare for the new year, setting up their rooms and preparing for new students, your efforts do not go unnoticed. It has been great to visit classrooms to see students who have begun the year with enthusiasm, commitment to learning and with their warm and friendly manner to both new and existing families. Thank you to the Education support staff for their help on book pick up day. The students were very excited to collect their book packs, especially the new foundation students.

New School Motto - This year, as part of our Strategic Plan for 2016-2019, Wantirna PS School Council, in conjunction with staff, parents and students are going to be deciding on a new school motto. Parents will be invited to make further contributions to this (as they were offered in 2015) in the coming weeks.

School Council Elections - Information will be coming home in the next few weeks with regards to vacancies on School Council. We have a number of parents who are ‘retiring’ or whose term has come to an end. Please give consideration to self-nominating or if you prefer a current parent can nominate you. Any questions about this can be directed to Hamish Smith (current School Council President), Ana Beames (current...
New timetable for 2016 - With some staffing changes for 2016, it has been necessary to make some slight adjustments to our daily timetable. This should cause minimum disruption to parents as this is purely an internal arrangement. The only concern may be that the recess break is now from 11.15 am until 11.45 am. It is suggested that parents send some ‘brain food’ eg: fruit, vegie sticks to eat at around 10.00 am. The lunch break is now from 1.15 until 2.00 pm with students eating their lunch inside before going outside to play.

Parent Information Night - Please save Thursday 18th of February in your diary as the first important date for first term. From 5.30 – 6.00 pm Ms Badrock, Ms Ross and Mrs Grisold will be holding a Junior School Information session. From 6.00 – 6.30 pm, Mrs Elliott, Ms Faichney and Mr Peluso will be holding a Senior School Information session.

Twilight Sports – At 6:45pm on Thursday 18th February after the Parent Information night, Wantirna Primary School will be holding our first ‘community event’ for the year. Families are invited to stay after the Information Evening to have a picnic dinner and watch their children participate in some fun Twilight Sports events. Students are encouraged to wear their house colours and to enjoy ‘competing’ in such games as the Egg and Spoon Race and Hula Hoop Challenge. The PFN will be firing up the BBQ and will have sausages and vegie burgers for sale.

Harmony Day - This year we will be celebrating Harmony Day – Diversity is our Strength, on Monday 21st of March which is the last Monday of Term 1. Please make a note in your diary for this date as the students will be presenting to families at 2.45 pm -3.30 pm on this day, to share what they have learned during the day.

Apple Recall - As a reminder to parents who have purchased an iPad as a part of our BYOD program there was recently a recall on a particular component of the cord/adapter. Please see the link below for more information.

Hoax phone calls to Victorian schools - In light of the recent hoax threatening phone calls to Victorian schools in the last few days, I wanted to communicate with you regarding our procedures. Our school has not received such a call but I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year.

Those schools which did receive a threatening call enacted their emergency management plans and they worked well. The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority. If you have any questions please contact me.

Staffing for 2016 -

Principal: Ms Sue Fergeus
Business Manager: Ms Jenine Farley
Administration/Library: Mrs Julie Thompson
Cleaning and Maintenance: Mr Peter Gilbert
Foundation: Ms Brogan Badrock
1/2 G: Mrs Adriana Grisold
1/2 R: Ms Jennifer Ross
3/4 E: Mrs Melitta Elliott
4/5 F: Ms Kath Faichney
5/6 P: Mr Warwick Peluso
Art: Ms Olga Megele
PE: Ms Lauren Creed
Spanish: Senora Ani Falk
ES Staff: Mrs Sue Martin
    Mrs Debbie Blackhurst
    Ms Tash Hill
    Mrs Shirley Thompson
    Mrs Kerri Maida
Chaplain: Mrs Julie Reiher
OSHC: Ms Premila Stone

Regards,
Sue Fergeus
Principal
Welcome back to School. I hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year. It is sometimes hard to get back into routine. Here are some Positive Parenting ideas to help you promote a generous spirit in your children. These tips are published by Michael Grose.

There are many qualities to promote in children: independence and competence are high on most parents’ wish lists. But the spirit of generosity is a personal quality that is often overlooked. Those children who are able to share their time, space and possessions generally have more friends and experience more success than those who are self-centred and mean-spirited. Generosity is something we can practise every day. It happens with the little things—when we give away a smile, or when we stop what we are doing and listen to others. It is amazing how much we get back than we give when we are generous with our time, space and even money. With families shrinking in size and the current high level of parental concern to give children a good start it is sometimes difficult to promote this sense of giving in kids and young people. Young children are generally egocentric and some young people by nature are less giving than others. Part of a parent’s job is to remind children that the world doesn’t revolve around them. Like most facets of child rearing, developing a community ethos can be a frustrating task. However perseverance and modelling are a parent’s greatest allies when it comes to the things that really matter.

Four practical ways to promote generosity in your children.

1. Encourage them to give a toy or book away when they have finished it.
2. Serve the meal from the table so everyone must share.
3. Ask them to put aside a small amount of any pocket money receive to help someone else.
4. Encourage them to visit an elderly person (if safe).

Have a great week!
Julie Reiher
School Chaplain

Please ensure that all school uniforms are clearly named. Please check that the writing is still clear and readable if you have had your uniform for a while. We have many uniform pieces in lost property with writing which we can’t read. Wearing the correct uniform really makes a difference to students, promoting a sense of belonging to the school. The uniform shop is open during school hours.
What's new in Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)?

Our staff operate a stimulating and enjoyable Out of School Hours Care Program.

Fees:
- Before School Care: $22.00 – 7:00am – 8:45am
- After School Care: $17.00 – 3:30pm – 6:00pm

All fees are invoiced and sent out fortnightly and are to be paid within 7 days.

To make a booking or any general enquires about OSHC – Phone 0405 736 870

Coordinator – Premila Stone

All families must be enrolled to attend the program.

Please make sure you are signing your children in and out. It is a legal requirement that this is done by the parent or authorised person picking or dropping them off.

All the children that go to OSHC experience a fun & safe environment.
Dear Parents

As part of the Departments Health and Safety Management Plan, it is expected that new labelling will be installed at Wantirna Primary School. Over time all schools, with asbestos, in Victoria will be labelled. The labels remind workmen, contractors and school community members that they need to contact the school office before undertaking any works at the school, to ensure that they have up-to-date information from the school’s asbestos register. The labels you will see are like the labels attached. I am expecting these labels to be placed at our school (most schools in Victoria will be in same position) but it is not cause for alarm. As mentioned, it is a reminder for all workers entering our school that they need to check our asbestos register.

Unfortunately asbestos, which is now banned, was used in the past and our school does have some areas where asbestos has been used as a building material. Asbestos is considered safe unless damaged or in poor condition. All asbestos at Wantirna PS is in good condition. We have an Asbestos Register which identifies all areas where asbestos has been used and is updated whenever building works occur.

Please be reassured that our school is a safe place and that this labelling adds an extra level of protection for your child and you. We have an Asbestos Management Plan which outlines the responsibilities, procedures, protocols and systems for the effective management of identified asbestos and minimisation of associated risks.

If, and when, any works are planned for areas containing asbestos, before works begin the asbestos is removed. This is undertaken by companies who are registered to remove asbestos and is only completed at times when students and staff are not in the school.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school on 9801 1938

Yours sincerely

Sue Fergeus
Principal
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Yours sincerely,
Sue Fergus
Principal