Message from the Principal’s Desk

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.

Diary Dates 2016

ASSEMBLY WILL BE EVERY FRIDAY AT 9AM

February
Thursday 18th – Parent Information Night
Junior School 5:30 – 6:00pm
Senior School 6:00 – 6:30pm
Thursday 18th – Twilight Sports – 6:45pm to 7:30pm
Thursday 18th - PFN Twilight Sports
Sausage Sizzle 6:30pm
Friday 19th - School Leaders Badge Presentation at assembly
Friday 26th – District Swimming Carnival – for selected senior students
Monday 29th – Free Dress Day – Money raised will go to the Staffordshire Rescue Foundation – Junior School Council Fundraiser

March
Friday 11th - Pupil Free Day
Monday 14th – Labour Day Public Holiday
Monday 21st - Harmony Day

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

School Council Elections - Next week there will be a letter coming home asking for nominations for four school council vacancies. There are four vacancies, three for 2 years and one is a casual vacancy for 1 year. 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 School Council Vice President), Leisa George (current School Council Treasurer), Joseph Gan, Sam Loten (Community Member and PFN President), Adriana Grisold, Kath Faichney or myself.

School Council Meeting - Next Tuesday at 7 pm we have our first school council meeting for 2016. I would like to extend an invitation to any parents who are interested in attending as observers to please come along on the night.

Parent Information Night/Twilight Sports - I would like to thank the staff for their preparation for tonight’s Parent Information Night and for their attendance at the Twilight Sports. A special note of thanks to Ms Creed for her organisation of this event. It is a great opportunity for our families to come together as a community and for the House Captains to lead their teams in an activity in 2016. Our appreciation to the PFN for providing the option of a BBQ dinner for the families and to all the families for your participation.

Student Leadership Presentation - On Friday we have invited Nick Wakeling to present our student leaders with their badges. I know parents, grandparents and extended family members will be very proud of these Year 6 students as they embark on their last year of primary school with a significant role to play.

Senior School Inquiry - This week the Year 3 to Year 6 students had a visit from Katie Scott and Daniel Clark who were answering questions from the students about the local community to assist them with their Inquiry Investigations for Term 1. This was a great opportunity for them to find out a bit more about the responsibility of Knox Council as well as the services they provide to the community. Students were encouraged to formulate questions in preparation for this visit.

Knox Schools Expo - Every year Knox Council hosts a Schools Expo. Every secondary school in Knox is invited to attend and promote their school. The evening provides parents, families and young people with an
opportunity to explore and discuss key factors to consider when choosing a secondary school. The evening will allow attendees to have extended conversation time with representatives from Knox Secondary Schools. This year’s event is being held on Thursday 17 March, 5.45pm – 8.45pm at Knox City Council, 511 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna South. Bookings are not required.

Parent Night - Knox City Council’s Youth Services is hosting their first parent night for 2016 on Monday 21 March @ 7pm. This parent night, Young People: Gaming, Social Media and the Internet, will be facilitated by Jeremy Shub from EACH and will include education on current technology, gaming, social networking and gambling within games. This Parent Information Session is being held at the Youth Information Centre in Knox Ozone. A detailed map will be provided to all parents registered to attend. Registrations are essential please contact Sarah Waters on sarah.waters@knox.vic.gov.au or Megan Parker on megan.parker@knox.vic.gov.au or 9298 8308 to register.

What’s your after-school ritual with your children?
“How was school today?” you ask brightly.
“Good!” your daughter answers.
“I can’t remember,” your son mutters.

In homes across Australia and, let’s face it, the entire world, this is the scenario being played out. When our kids get home from school we are like eager puppies bouncing around them and they are like fellow puppies, let off the leash and racing away.

A vague question like “how was school today?” just becomes part of the getting-home-from-school ritual. A glass of milk, a quick “dunno” and they’re out the door. If we really want to reconnect with them and get to know them through their day, we’ve got to be clever with our questioning.

The trick is to not sound too detective-like. You don’t want to appear over-eager or raise their suspicions – too many questions makes them think you’re fishing for something to get them in trouble over (or is that just my lot?). We need questions that are specific but open-ended enough to result in an answer that the kids themselves are interested in.

“Did” questions can often result in a “yes” or “no” answer (Did you enjoy your lunch? Did you play with anyone new?). “What” questions are always good (What did you most enjoy at lunchtime?). Ask questions that ask for a description of their world and hopefully open up a genuine conversation.

When they get home from school today, here are 10 conversation starters that will hopefully spark their interest.
1. What was the funniest thing you heard all day?
2. What was your favourite thing that happened today?
3. Who worked really hard in class today?
4. What games did you play at recess or lunchtime today?
5. What subject was the most interesting today?
6. Was anyone away today? Did that make the day different?
7. What was something new you read today?
8. What did you enjoy most for lunch today?
9. What are you learning about in science?
10. Did anyone do something nice for you today? Did you do something nice back?

And a bonus question that is always absolutely lovely to ask:
What are you looking forward to tomorrow?

Remember that a conversation is a two-way street. You can open up your questions with an anecdote from your own day.
“I laughed so much today when I dropped my shopping all over the kitchen floor... what made you laugh a lot today?”

kind of thing. Actually, I didn’t laugh at all when I dropped the shopping all over the kitchen floor today (eggs!), but maybe I should have...

Keep the conversation going and maybe, just maybe, you’ll actually get to know the answer to “how was school today?” I would like to acknowledge some of these questions were taken from Learning matters from the Australian Scholarships Group.

Regards,
Sue Fergeus
Principal
Stars of the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ryan T</td>
<td>Narrating with expression.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew D</td>
<td>Congratulations on getting your boat licence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spencer P</td>
<td>For showing a great interest in THRASS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corey H</td>
<td>For showing great leadership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle B</td>
<td>Always encouraging &amp; helping others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke G</td>
<td>For his care and diligence with his work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Z</td>
<td>For showing enthusiasm in his work and compassion for his classmates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma T</td>
<td>For her positive attitude to her learning and classmates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lili B</td>
<td>For always trying her best and joining in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethan G</td>
<td>For an outstanding start to school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelvin C</td>
<td>An excellent start to Grade 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alicia K</td>
<td>Demonstrating wonderful team work in our tower challenge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy I</td>
<td>For his persistence in his writing this week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily S</td>
<td>For her kind, encouraging nature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myrto K</td>
<td>For great improvement in her writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chern X</td>
<td>A great attitude towards learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy S</td>
<td>Great writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corey H</td>
<td>For his great THRASS rap with Adam N.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam N</td>
<td>For his great THRASS rap with Corey H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily H</td>
<td>For an excellent attitude to her homework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rithik K</td>
<td>For his excellent hand writing.</td>
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</tbody>
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Have you changed your address or contact details?
Are your child’s emergency numbers up to date?
Please let the school office know of any change to your family details.

School Uniform
Please clearly name all uniform. If you have had your uniform a while please check that the name is still clear. 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.

Staff Car park

IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ

We have had many parents coming into the school office concerned about the number of parents who drive into the Staff Car Park and drop off their children. For the safety of the children please do not drop off your children in the car park. The children know the Staff Car Park is out of bounds to them and they might become confused about being dropped off in the Car Park, and not to mention the safety issues that arise from little children being around cars unsupervised. It is very hard to see little children especially when you are reversing. It only takes a minute or two to park in Wondalea Cres to let your children out of the car. Even when it is raining please do not drop off the children in the Staff Car Park.
SIBLING FUN OR NOT!

There is nothing like a sibling fight or upset to supercharge a child’s emotions.

What starts as a minor dispute can quickly escalate into World War 3, where the whole family becomes involved, including you.

Of course, these fights break out at the worst times - while you’re in the midst of getting dinner, helping with homework or getting ready for work in the morning.

As the caring adult it’s your job to maintain peace and take the heat out of a difficult situation.

First, you need to stay **calm**. Yep, stay in control.

Staying calm while there’s chaos all around is the No. 1 task of leadership. It’s sometimes very hard to do.

In fact, in any group the leader will always be the person who can remain calm in a crisis. You don’t have to have the answers, but you do need to stay calm and in control.

When you stay calm not only will your children follow, but you’ll be able to more effectively manage their fights so that it doesn’t happen again.

Enjoy Family Times together

Have a great week!

Julie Reiher
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 enquiries 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

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**LYNN’S LEARNING**

**MATHS & ENGLISH TUITION**

Kinder to year 10

- Individualised extension and remedial programs
- Problem solving and mathematical skills
- Creative writing techniques
- Scholarship preparation
- NAPLAN and ICAS preparation
- English as an Additional Language program

Scholarship program charged at $35.20 per subject per week

Developed in Australia by teachers
No enrolment fee

Enrol your child for tuition today & make a lifetime of difference!

Rowville Community Centre: Wednesdays 3:45 - 6:45pm
Rowville Uniting Church: Saturdays 1:15 - 3:45pm
Wantirna South - Church of the Nazarene
Tuesdays 3:30 - 6:30pm Saturdays 9am - 12pm

**CALL NOW TO BOOK A FREE ASSESSMENT**

8794 8809
ENQUIRIES@LYNNSLEARNING.COM

WWW.LYNNSLEARNING.COM.AU
CLASSROOM
CUISINE 2016

Classroom Cuisine our Lunch order service is available on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Starting from Monday 2nd February

We are very excited to announce that we will still be offering Lunch orders through the company Classroom Cuisine in 2016. They are a healthy food company.

They will deliver your placed order to the school by lunchtime.

You can either choose a TWO or THREE COURSE MEAL from 23 options within each course.

TO REGISTER AND ORDER ONLINE JUST VISIT

www.classroomcuisine.com.au

Even though you can order up until 8:30 am on the site we encourage you not to be in a 'last minute panic' - especially on the first day! Cut off is 8:30 am on the day of lunch orders. NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN. Order anytime! On the back of this notice is a menu sheet.

Orders will only be accepted online - we cannot phone/email/fax orders through the school office.
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