6 March 2013

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Student Leadership

At assembly on Monday morning the Student Leadership team were presented with their badges by Dee Ryall MP. We congratulate all the students and their families on their selection to the roles. The School Leadership team is as follows:

School Captains: Alanna B and Andrew B  
Vice Captains: Jessica E and Gabriel K  
Hollows Captains: Claire J and Melissa P  
Wood Captains: Jayden H and Anjana K  
Dunlop Captains: Ashley B and Max C  
Cowan Captains: Blair P and Ryan H  
Environment Captains: Kiara E and Ella M  
Environment Team: Thomas W, Shady M, Joshua W, Dylan N

2013 School Council Elections

As we received only four nominations for the four School Council positions there is no necessity for an election. Congratulations to the following people who are on the Council for two years: Greg Robinson, Liesl Coulthard, Kacey Clifford, Rowan Lewis.

Darby McLeod and John Robertson have another year left in their tenure.

For those who are interested there are also opportunities to join the Sub-Committees over the next few weeks, so watch the newsletter.

We would like to thank Tony Clark and Michelle Arandall for their many years of service on both
Whitehorse and Nunawading School Councils. Their dedication and support to the school has been invaluable and they will be greatly missed.

The Leader in Me—Kids Matter Information Night

We had a number of parents attend the information evening where we discussed 'The Leader in Me' and 'Kids Matter' approaches. 'The Leader in Me’ approach has certainly gotten off to a very successful start and we are hopeful that after last night it will be an approach that is helpful to parents also.

iPad Information Session

We are holding two iPad Information Sessions for those parents who would like to learn more about the iPad or need some assistance. Our first session is this Thursday, 7th March, between 9:00am and 10:00am. We will also be holding an evening session on 21st March.

Divisional Swimming Competition

Whitehorse Primary was proudly represented by Holly T at the Divisional Swimming competition having placed second in the District competition. Holly placed fifth on the day which is a fabulous achievement. Congratulations Holly!

Ride to School Day—Friday 22nd March

In an effort to promote children's health and well-being there is an annual 'Ride to School Day’. This year it is being held on Friday 22nd March and we ask that parents consider having their children ride on that day.

Premier’s Active Families Challenge

As part of seeking to support the health and well-being of the community the Premier’s Active Families Challenge is conducted each year. The challenge starts this week and goes through until 14th April. If you would like any further information there are a limited number of pamphlets available at the office.

Parent Information Evening

Last Wednesday we held the Parent Information Evening for the Grades 1 to 6. The feedback has been very positive. If you would like to speak to your teacher individually please make a time through the Homebook.

Kerry Wood

KINDERGARTEN

4 year old group
We have shared an exciting week at kinder with a visit from the Wild Action Show - Rock Pool Discovery presentation on Thursday 28 February.

The children met a variety of sea creatures including: sea stars, a mud crab, a spider crab, sea horses, a baby Port Jackson shark, a baby ray shark, a hermit crab family, an elephant snail, sea urchins, a fairy penguin named Mr Purple and we met a 5 year old salt water crocodile! The children were very excited about the friendly penguin—a highlight of the visit! We had turns at touching the sea life and we learnt many interesting facts, most importantly we learnt how these creatures protect themselves from predators and how we as humans can take better care when we visit our beaches, such as putting all our rubbish in the bin when we leave the beach.

We also spent some time with the Grade 5 children last week, sharing special books together. The children enjoyed listening to stories that were written by the Grade 5 children. We plan to spend "Buddy" time together each month!

We wished Natalie a Happy 4th Birthday!
Looking forward to more adventures!

Annamaria, Narelle and Jude

3 year old group
Last week we warmly welcomed Lee to our 3yo group and this week Shae and Abbi will join us as they also celebrate their 3rd birthdays. We love to share these occasions at Kinder. We light birthday candles, sing, present a birthday certificate and ‘Rusty’ the birthday puppy goes home for a visit. As one parent noted on our 'Sharing Information between Home and Kinder' page, 'we like to take every opportunity to celebrate' and Jen and I thoroughly agree with this philosophy! A birthday is an occasion to make each child feel special!

The heat continues!! I am sure it won’t be long before we are complaining about the cold however, so let’s find the positives. We plan to get outdoors when we can this week with watering cans, buckets with water and paint brushes and some dolls for bathing. Indoors we will be looking at objects that ‘float and sink’ following a tip from a parent that their child has been noticing such concepts. We will introduce the easel to our painting experiences. As we adults know, sometimes just a small change in position or perspective can alter the way we look at things. Many ‘constant’ experiences continue such as playdough, book corner, the ‘making table’, blocks and puzzles - routines and consistency remain important within our program to ensure children have a sense of security in knowing what is available and what will happen next. Looking forward to another week of fun and learning!

Sally and Jen
Grade 6 students wrote wonderful stories for their Prep buddies.
The football season is approaching and once again Whitehorse PS is running a footy tipping competition. The competition is open to all WPS students and the wider school community, ie. mums, dads, brothers, sisters, grandparents etc. The more the better! The competition can be accessed through the Victeach website.


**Competition name:** Whitehorse Primary School  
**Password:** Whitehorse

Great prizes to be won for 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall plus prizes if anyone tips 9 winners in one round. (Note: If multiple tippers select 9 winners the points difference will be used.)

The first AFL round starts on Friday 22nd March so join the competition and get your tips in now!

Mandy Lewis

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**Giant of the Bay**

I will once again be swimming in the longest Australian open water swim, 'Giants of the Bay' (30km) on 9th March 2013 in a relay team of six swimmers. Like last year, we are raising funds to support Autism Victoria (Amaze). To sponsor me and our Monash team visit [http://www.everydayhero.com.au/monash_tritones_2013](http://www.everydayhero.com.au/monash_tritones_2013)

Any contribution is gratefully appreciated no matter how small. Even if you aren't able to donate this time around you can still follow our progress on the day via Facebook. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Friedo Ligthart

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**Parents of Whitehorse**

**Morning Tea & Annual General Meeting**

**Monday 18th March 2013**

After Assembly in Stadium

Join us for morning tea and our AGM.

Meet some Whitehorse Primary parents and hear about the wonderful work POW does for our School Community.

Babies and Toddlers Welcome

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**Lucky Door Prize**

One lucky parent at the AGM will win a “Coffee Indulgence” Hamper.
Habit 1 — Be Proactive.  
You're in Charge

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

Habit 2 — Begin with the End in Mind.  
Have a Plan.

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school’s mission and vision. I look for ways to be a good citizen.

Habit 3 — Put First Things First.  
Work First, Then Play.

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.
Habit 4 — Think Win-Win. Everyone Can Win.

Habit 5 — Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood. Listen Before You Talk.
I listen to other people’s ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

Habit 6 — Synergize. Together Is Better
I value other people’s strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people’s ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than anyone of us can alone. I am humble.

Habit 7 — Sharpen The Saw. Balance Feels Best.
I take care of my body by eating right, exercising and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I find meaningful ways to help others.

Franklin Covey Education