8 May 2013

Term 2

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Open Day—Education Week

On Monday 20th May we have Kathy Walker speaking at the school from 7:00pm.

We encourage you to take the opportunity to hear Kathy speak. She is renowned internationally. Her topic is Resilience and Self-Esteem and the following statement comes from her website.

"Success isn’t all about a score at VCE or University. Being able to bounce back, take a risk, have a go and solve problems are important life skills for children and adults. Resilience helps us to take on life’s challenges and to have some independence and confidence as we proceed through life. To be resilient helps us to reach realistically for our goals and dreams and to tackle the difficult times. The presentation provides strategies to help build a positive self-esteem in your child and resiliency skills."

Tours of the school will also be available during that evening.

The school will also be open on the morning of Wednesday 22nd May from 9:30am to 12noon for those who wish to see the school and kindergarten in action. Tours can be arranged in the afternoon by appointment.

Working Bee

The Working Bee on Sunday was an absolute joy! There was so, so much achieved and it was wonderful to work alongside such lovely families. By lunchtime the stairs to the oval were completed, non-slip stripping had been placed on the interior stairs, old furniture was cleaned out, lavender and geraniums (kindly donated by Michelle Schokman) were planted around the roses,
sand and mulch were moved along with extensive weeding and sweeping just to name a few things. There is a full report attached with a very special story! To all the families who came, our heartfelt thanks. We already have some more projects on the way so please join us at our next working bee.

**Mother’s Day Stall**

Parents of Whitehorse (POW) are holding a Mother’s Day Stall on Friday 10th May in readiness for that special day. Items will be priced from fifty cents—$5.00. Please remember to send along a plastic bag to take purchase home in.

**Mother’s Day Morning Tea**

POW is holding a Mother’s Day Morning Tea on Friday 10th May from 10:00am to 11:30am. All mum’s, Grandmother’s and special women in your child’s life are very welcome.

**Mother’s Day Raffle**

Don’t forget to return raffle ticket butts and money to the school office no later than 9:00am on Friday so you don’t miss out on the chance of winning the wonderful prizes on offer.

**House Cross Country**

Also on Friday 10th May we are holding our House Cross Country from 11:30am. We encourage everyone to wear their house colours and cheer on their teams. The House colours are:

- **COWAN** – Green
- **WOOD** – Red
- **HOLLOWS** – Blue
- **DUNLOP** - Yellow

**Divisional Tennis**

Our warmest congratulations to Briget who is our District Champion! Last week Briget competed at the divisional level and although she didn’t win she played well. We are very proud of her.

**NAPLAN**

Next week we will be undertaking the NAPLAN testing as required. If any parents have any questions or concerns about NAPLAN please feel free to ask your child’s teacher or myself. In answer to some queries, as a result of media attention, it is true that parents are able to choose whether or not their child sits the tests, however, the request for exclusion must be in writing.

**Twilight Fair—22nd November 2013**

**Mark this date in your diary!**

We are holding our Twilight Fair again this year and it has been scheduled for Friday 22nd November. After such a successful event last year the Fair Committee had conducted a debrief session to ensure this year’s event would be quicker and easier to organise. We are about to re-establish the Fair Committee and schedule all the tasks that need to be undertaken. We are looking for people to join and/or assist this dynamic team. There will be a notice coming home shortly so you can let us know how you can help.

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**KITCHEN REVIEWS**

**Golden Potato Salad**

I took a bite out of one of the potatoes. It was a bit peppery but it passed. The crispy skin was very crunchy and slightly burnt but as it mixed with the potato flesh inside my mouth it created a nearly perfect meal. The thing that would have made the dish perfect is bit of salt. As a final thought, I think that the golden potato salad was rather nice.

Charlotte H
Whitehorse Chefs
Join a committee. Make a difference.

Did you know that our School has six committees that provide advice to School Council and help with work that needs to be done around the school?

Each of our committees is formed as a subcommittee of the School Council. Some operate for a set period whereas others are on-going. Each committee has a “Terms of Reference” describing what it does. All provide reports and recommendations to School Council meetings, with the Council still having final responsibility for decision-making.

Our committees are open to anyone and new members are always welcome. Committees are a really great way to get involved in your child’s school and to make a wonderful contribution. Volunteering helps show your child how much you value their school.

Our current committees are as follows:

**Strategic Partnerships**
The Strategic partnerships subcommittee identifies and cultivates potential partnerships with government, community and special interest organisations. In the past 12 months the group has worked with Whitehorse City Council on local issues such as traffic flow and parking, as well as reaching agreement to relocate the North Blackburn Maternal and Child Health Service to our school from 2014. The school has also established relationships with local sporting clubs and successfully negotiated out-of-hours leases for the gym. The subcommittee meets as required, with meeting dates advertised on the school website.

**Buildings & Grounds**
The Buildings & Grounds subcommittee plans the maintenance and improvement of the school’s facilities. In the past 12 months the group has planned the development of all aspects of the school grounds that were not included in the school build. They have coordinated the construction of stairs to the oval, the planting and fencing of the school’s orchard and new plantings around the school. The group have also mobilised teams of volunteers to clean and maintain grounds at regular working bees. The subcommittee generally meets prior to the School Council meeting. Dates are advertised on the school website.

**Parents of Whitehorse**
The Parents of Whitehorse subcommittee is a parents and friends group that aims to foster community spirit and engagement and fundraise for the school. In the past 12 months the group planned and ran a range of fundraisers - including the popular annual pie and mango drives - which raised nearly $2400. The annual Mothers and Father’s Day stalls provided children with a wonderful opportunity to proudly choose their own gifts to give their parents. The subcommittee also assisted with social events for children and families alike, with a successful school disco, Mother’s Day morning tea and a welcome picnic for new families in 2013. The subcommittee meets as required, with meeting dates advertised on the school website.

**Marketing & Promotions**
The Marketing & Promotions subcommittee supports internal and external marketing and promotional activities for the school. In the past 12 months the group has assisted with Open Day, the school Opening and Twilight Fair, as well as the school’s participation in external community events, Whitehorse Spring Festival and Global Fiesta. The group helps with advertising, PR and event planning. The group generally meets once a month, but more often closer to large events. Meeting dates are advertised on the school website.

**Twilight Fair 2013**
NEW! This is a new subcommittee for 2013. It’s an opportunity to be involved in making our big November community event – the Twilight Fair – a great success. Last year’s inaugural fair was a huge hit and a lot of fun. Please see details provided by Kerry in this edition of the newsletter.

Our school community is wonderfully diverse with so many ideas, skills and talent to offer. If you are interested in joining a committee (or to simply learning more about what one does) you are welcome to contact the School Office or speak to a member of School Council. No particular experience or skill level is needed – just enthusiasm!

Liesl Coulthard
School Council President
Level 2 Excursion to Schwerkolt Cottage

On Thursday 2\textsuperscript{nd} May the Level 2 Students spent the day at Schwerkolt Cottage in Mitcham. They participated in many activities including games from the past, a tour of the Cottage and some charcoal sketching. All the students had a wonderful day exploring life in the past.

MOTHERS DAY STALL

Friday 10 May
Professional Suites
(in Kinder building)

Gifts range from 50c - to $5

Please bring a plastic bag for purchases

Thank you to everyone who has returned completed stickers sheets and stickers. Please keep collecting the stickers, as the more we collect the more resources we get to choose for the school.

There is be a clearly labelled box in the office foyer for completed point sheets and any stickers.
Last Sunday 19 families attend our Working Bee. The yard was swept and tidied and an enthusiastic group planted and neatened the garden beds at the rear of the school. There were many other tasks completed in preparation for our Open Week beginning May 20th.

Thanks to the Stair Crew (too many to mention) for a job well done. This project has been running for over four Working Bees. It was started as part of the transitioning process and we think with over 500 Named Pavers in position, and plenty more to come, it’s a worthwhile project.

Again all the work was well rewarded with a sausage sizzle.

Greg Robinson
& Tanya Burton

A **HUGE** thankyou to all the families who attended, including some new families:

Robinson, McLeod, Nelson, Robertson, Coulthard, Burgess, Corigliano/Schokman, Martin, McCrohan, Armstrong, Trevorah, Fincham, Wright, Wood, Munro, Menger, Karunasagara, Holt and Burton.
ANZAC DAY

To celebrate and honour the tradition of ANZAC Day, the grade 5/6 students had an ANZAC Day Special. The whole day prior to ANZAC Day was dedicated to learning more about the ANZAC spirit and traditions.

The students began the day with a story which included some personal experiences, followed by researching the different aspects of ANZAC Day. The students went on to explore the different locations our Australian men and women have been deployed, whether it be for disaster relief, peace keeping and/or war.

The day culminated with the whole senior school been treated to a special talk by Mr Vin Elder and Mr David Howell, from the Caulfield RSL. Mr Elder is the grandfather of Kiara (5/6A) and Deanna (3/4A) and last year he donated poppies for the students on their visit to the War Memorial in Canberra. The gentlemen, on behalf of the RSL, offered all the students a poppy, in honour of the men and women who have and still do represent our country. The talk explained to the students other aspects of the ANZAC tradition and the effects of war. All the students were truly captivated by what they had to say.

A BIG thank you to Mr Elder and Mr Howell!

LEST WE FORGET!

WPS FOOTY TIPPING

Round 5
Congratulations Alastair H. Both Alastair and Cheryl tipped 9 winners in this round. However, Alastair had the lowest points difference for the Essendon vs Collingwood match. Alastair has won a HeraldSun AFL DVD.

Round 6
In this round 18 tipsters selected 9 winners!!! Remarkably, Cheryl and Dylan N from 5/6A both guessed the winning margin to within one point for the Collingwood vs St Kilda match. Fantastic tipping! Dylan N is currently leading the competition with a total of 46 correct tips. These Essendon supporters have won some Essendon stickers!

LOTE PROGRAM

The LOTE Program requires the following items throughout the year:

- Thick cardboard paper
- Icy-pole sticks
- Cotton balls
- Cotton wool
- Glad-wrap or foil cylinder rolls

Donations of these items can be delivered to the LOTE room and are appreciated at anytime.

Thank you,
Hea Lim
SCHOOL CANTEEN NEWS

As the weather is getting colder, and the idea of nice, warming food is becoming popular, we have decided to change a few items on the menu. A new winter menu will be available to families in June, but for now, the following changes will take effect from this Thursday 9th May.

**Fruit salad, Garden salad and Pasta salad will be taken off the menu.** We will offer a couple of different seasonal fruit pieces that can be purchased at morning recess and lunchtime.

As our pasta dish with meatballs is popular, we will keep this as a menu item and add a yummy meatball sub (long roll with meatballs in a tomato sauce with a sprinkling of tasty cheese).

**Muffins - Chocolate** $1.00
**Cookies - Colourful Choc Button** $1.00
**Meatball Sub** $3.50

We hope you enjoy the new additions to the menu,

Katherine Clarke and Kathy Zouglakis

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KINDERGARTEN

4 year old group

We've had a very busy time at kinder exploring and discovering changes such as changes in the weather. We have discussed and shared our knowledge about Autumn, looking closely at the changes we see outside on the trees around us. Some children have shared leaves they have found outdoors and together we've discussed colours, shapes, sounds and textures. We've extended these discoveries through art, music, story telling - adding leaves to our pasting trolley, using textures such as sand and shaving cream.

We've also welcomed 8 fluffy baby chickens to kinder and we are learning about the life cycle of a hen from egg to chick. The children were fascinated and curious about how the chicks hatch, what they use, what they eat. We have enjoyed cuddling them, feeding them and making sure they have water to drink too.

We are busy preparing for our Mother's Day/Special Person's Morning Tea this Thursday at 10.30am at kinder. The children have made special gifts and we will be performing some special songs for our loved ones. We will share a delicious Devonshire Tea together too.

Annamaria, Narelle and Jude

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3 year old group

Over the last two weeks we have been developing our fine motor skills in the kindergarten. The group has been enjoying having a go at cutting and are learning how to hold the scissors. The children are doing very well transitioning from a two handed cut to using one hand. We have begun our library visits to the school. The children really look forward to borrowing from their special section each week and enjoy a story together before we leave. In discussion times this week we have been having lots of beautiful items brought in by the children, this has sparked lots of discussion that we want to start having a show and tell schedule so each child can share something special which we hope will develop the groups oral language and confidence.

Belinda and Jen
Family Fun Day

SATURDAY
15 JUNE
11.00am - 2.00pm
Box Hill Library

Beat the winter blues & get the family out of the house!
Come along to Box Hill Library for a day of free activities and events.
No bookings required.

enjoy...

Live children’s performance by Carp Productions 11-11.45am
Sausage sizzle 11am-2pm
Balloon animals 12-2pm
Face painting 12 -2pm

“It’s out of this world!”