17 February 2016

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

WELCOME PICNIC
Tomorrow, 18 February, we are holding our annual Welcome Picnic. There will be sporting activities run by the staff and Giselle, one of our parents along with music. There will be a sausage sizzle and a limited number of chicken kebabs as well as icy poles and drinks available for sale until sold out. Or, if you prefer, you are welcome to bring a picnic dinner and drinks.

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<tr>
<th>MENU</th>
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<tr>
<td>SAUSAGES IN BREAD</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHICKEN KEBABS</td>
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<td>ICY POLES</td>
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<td>DRINK</td>
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<td>Available from 5:00pm Until Sold Out</td>
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2016 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT - Grades 1 to 6
Also on Thursday night we are holding the Parent Information Night. This is an opportunity for parents to meet the teachers of each grade level and hear about the plans for the year.

The first part of the session will be held at the Discussion Steps near the Foundation (Prep) area. The staff will be presenting the information in a single session. Parents will then have an opportunity to visit their child’s classroom and chat to the teacher. This revised approach has come about after feedback from parents in our community and we are hopeful it will be of assistance.

LUNCHTIME CLUBS
We are expanding and altering our Lunchtime Clubs this year. The children will have a choice of Lego Club, Sporting Club, Chess Club and Drama Club. We are waiting for all the material to come in to begin. iPad Club is no longer operating.
MOTHER’S DAY FEEDBACK

Each year we put on a Mother’s Day event and have tried a few different events such as a Morning Tea and Dessert Night. Although each time we have had positive feedback we would like some fresh ideas from parents. Just click the link below to put forward your ideas.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R5D3LZS

PERMISSION FORMS PACK – Thank you
Thank you to all the families who have returned the permissions pack. Please ensure that the forms are sent to the school by the end of the week.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

It is School Council election time again. This year there are three (3) parent vacancies and one (1) staff vacancy. Nominations open tomorrow, Thursday 18 February and close Thursday, 26 February at 4:00pm.

Nomination forms are available at the office for those parents who would like take up a two year term and be part of the council. If you have any questions regarding school council please ask a current school councillor or contact us in the office.

We have been very fortunate to have a number of very vibrant and active members on the council over the years which have enabled the group to be dynamic and effective. I would like to thank those people who have come to the end of their terms some of which are eligible to stand again. They have made amazing contributions over the years and we are very thankful.

COMMUNICATION

Good communication is always a challenge for any organisation and as we all know communication is a two way process. During 2015 a Communications Subcommittee of School Council was formed to consider the communications methods we are using and the recommended timelines.

This committee consisted primarily of parents who had responded to our request for volunteers to take part in the committee. There was a considerable amount of corporate expertise bought to group which was greatly appreciated. The methods and timelines the committee developed will be implemented this year.

We also thought it would be helpful if parents knew of the many forms of communication that are used at Whitehorse Primary.

NEWSLETTER – Available on the school website each fortnight. Alerts can be sent to your email by going to the school website and subscribing to the newsletter. Go to www.whitehorseps.edu.au

WHAT’S ON @ WHITEHORSE – This is a summary of the upcoming events that is sent out in paper format on the alternative week to the newsletter. It is also available on the school website.

HOME BOOKS – Each child has been provided with an exercise book which is individually contacted by the parents. This is for direct communication with your child’s teacher and is check each day. The children are required to bring the book to school each day and take it home each night. You will also find notices in the book.

PEERMISSION/OTHER FORMS – There are many types and reasons for these paper documents to go home. They may be for incursions or excursion or other events that require written permission. These are sent home as required and contain all the details regarding the events. It is a good idea to return the permission section and keep the section with the details for your information.

WEBSITE – You will be able to locate newsletters, What’s On @ Whitehorse and information about many aspects of the school. Go to www.whitehorseps.edu.au

SMS – From time to time we will send SMS messages with information, requests or reminders. The message will have a precursor of WPS.

FACEBOOK – We have a Facebook page which is updated regularly with events at the school and interesting information and news for parents. It may be helpful for you to LIKE our page so that you become part of our news stream. Just go to www.facebook.com/WhitehorsePrimarySchool to see what’s happening!

SANDWICH BOARD – Occasionally, we place a sandwich board outside the office area with reminders for current events and requests for assistance. This is just done in support of other communication methods.

‘GETTING TO KNOW YOU’ INTERVIEWS - Grades 1-6
These interviews are scheduled for Tuesday 1 March. This is an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and share any information that you feel would be helpful for the classroom teacher to know.

Appointments can be booked through PTO from Friday 19 February at 3:30pm and will close Monday 29 February at 9:00am. The link will appear on the School website in time for the booking to commence and instructions will been sent home tomorrow.

Kerry Wood
House Cross Country

Our House Cross Country will be run on Wednesday morning, 16 March. We will be combining this with the School Run 4 Fun ‘Fun Run’ as our major fundraiser. All students in the school will participate. Children from Grades 3 to 6 will be training over the next few weeks during Friday sport and some have mentioned that they intend to do some training in their own time as well. The 4yr old Kinder children will also be accompanied by older students to run a modified course. All parents/grandparents are very welcome to come and support their children. We will be looking for some parent helpers to help set up and support staff in supervising the children around the course. If you are able to help, pop in and see me before/after school.

Regards
Robyn Humffray
P.E. Teacher

We’re having a Fun Run!

Whitehorse Primary School is teaming up with the School Run 4 Fun as a major fundraiser for 2016. The Fun Run will be combined with our Cross Country on 16 March.

Next week students will receive Fun Run sponsorship forms. Every student who raises $10 or more will receive an incentive prize for their efforts. The greater amount of sponsorship donations they receive the better prizes to choose from! The selection includes toy brands including Apple, GoPro, Razor, Star Wars, Monster High, Nerf just to name a few.

School Run 4 Fun will provide a FREE refreshing Berri Quelch Fruit Juice stick for every child at the end of the Cross Country Run, as well as a range of other fundraising incentives. Stay tuned for more information next week.

If you are interested in assisting with any aspect of the Fun Run, we’d love to hear from you. Please contact the School Office for more information.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

• $125 for primary school students
• $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
ICY POLE FUNDRAISER

Wednesday 2 March
Lunchtime

$1.00

BEGINNER BASKETBALL PROGRAM
Ages 6 - 12
Option 1:
Friday Program
4.30pm - 5.30pm
Every Friday from January 29 – March 18
Option 2:
Saturday Program
9am - 10am or 10am - 11am
Every Saturday from January 30 – March 18

$70 for the FULL term 1 2016
+ First time participants receive a FREE ball and T-shirt!
To register:
Paul Lankford: info@blackburnbasketball.com.au - 0431 559 893
All sessions held at SLATER RESERVE · Grosvenor St. Blackburn North

THE 7TH ANNUAL
Million Steps for SMA

Sunday 6th March 2016
at Casey Fields

160 Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne East
START/FINISH AT THE ATHLETICS TRACK
RUN: 1.30pm Start, WALK: 1.45pm Start
Single Person $25, Couple $40, Children Under 16 FREE
Book online at www.millionsteps.org.au/events

Proudly supporting Spinal Muscular Atrophy Australia Inc.
SMA phone: 03 9796 5744
email: reception@smaaustralia.org.au · web: smaaustralia.org.au
PARENTING INFORMATION FORUM
Supporting Parents, Grandparents and Carers

Preparing for Primary School

The transition from kindergarten to school is a significant stage in a child’s life. It is also an experience of mixed emotions for parents as they start their child on the path of formal education.

Many questions arise for parents such as:
• Is my child ready for school next year or should I wait another year?
• Won’t she/be bored with another year of kindergarten?
• Why do I have to think about this now when it is only March?
• Why do I need to go on school tours, why can’t she just attend the school on her own?
• What do I need to do to prepare?
• What does readiness mean anyway?

In this session Louise Currey will explore these questions and discuss the importance of the child’s social and emotional maturity. Practical strategies, including the importance of play will be discussed to prepare your child and family for a smooth and positive transition to school.

Louise has a long history of tertiary teaching including Swinburne, Victoria University and Deakin. She assisted in the establishment of the Warragul Bush Kindy and worked in the bush kinder setting for 2 years. Louise’s accessory workshops have taken her around Australia and you can be assured her presentation will be engaging and entertaining.

Date: Thursday 3 March 2016
Time: 7.30pm-9pm
Venue: Waratah Room, Whitehorse Centre, 307 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading (near of Nunawading Library)
Further Information: Please contact Council’s Parent Resource Officer on 9262 8175 or molly.brock@whitehorse.vic.gov.au
Cost: $2 gold coin donation payable on the night.

Other Information:
• There will be Auslan interpreters available at this forum if required. Please indicate whether you require Auslan interpreters through the online booking process.
• Please note we are unable to accommodate children in this forum.

2016 PROGRAM – RECONCILIATION, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES at ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH
57 Central Road, Blackburn.

Catholic children, in Grade 2 and above, are invited to enroll for R.E. instruction at the above church. These classes take place on Tuesdays from 4.00 to 5.00pm starting next year in February/March.

Children are given religious instruction throughout the year as well as preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

For enrolment please contact Fr. Terry Bowman or Mrs. Caren Garlick on 9878.0818 or please email blackburn@cam.org.au to register for this program.
On 27 February Friedo Ligthart, father of Zahlia in Grade 5/6A, will be swimming from Cottesloe Beach in Perth to Rottnest Island as part of a duo in the Rottnest Channel Swim. That’s a total of 19.7km in a straight line. Given currents, wind, tides and dodging the odd shark or jellyfish, the distance will most likely be more.

So far the pair have competed in two of their longest solo swims, the first 10km and the second 11.2km (from Frankston to Mornington).

How can you help

Using their super powers for good, not evil, they’re raising money for their chosen charity, Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect). Both swimmers are self-funding their trip to fulfil a dream to compete in this epic, world-renowned swim. They would love it if you were able to sponsor their team ‘Swimfari Duo’.

Anyone that donates as little as $10 to our cause will go in the draw to win a Swimfari t-shirt.

https://rottnestswim2016.everydayhero.com/au/swimfari

Other ways you can help include:

- Run a collection at your work
- Forward this email and tell your family and friends
- Follow or share our story on our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram pages
- Visit the Aspect website
- Follow our progress during the race and send an email, tweet or post of encouragement

For further details or to read their blog, head to www.swimfari.com.