FROM THE PRINCIPAL….

Dear Parents,

School Structure for 2012
As I have mentioned in recent Newsletters, next year the school structure will change from 21 to 23 classes. The classes will be grouped into 5 Professional Learning Teams (PLT’s). There will be four straight Prep classes, seven 1/2 Year level classes, six 3/4 Year level classes and six 5/6 year level classes. To cater for these changes we have also decided to alter the way school day has been divided from five 60 min sessions to six 50 minute sessions. The students will receive the same instructional time of 300 minutes per week. It will also allow the current 1.30 Lunch start time to be brought forward to 1.00pm (see table below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session No</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9.00 - 9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.50 -10.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recess 10.40 -11.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11.20 - 12.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>12.10 - 1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lunch 1.00 -1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.50 - 2.40</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.40 - 3.30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Parent Opinion Survey
Each year the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) conducts a Parent Opinion Survey and last term a random sample of 75 parents received the survey. It is a very important annual survey where parents are asked to comment about various aspects of schools and I have just been informed that the survey data is now available. I would like to thank all the parents who completed their surveys, unfortunately, this year a survey response rate of only 51.67% was returned. This was disappointing after 80% was returned the year before. The key measure of the survey, the Parent Satisfaction, was also down on the previous year from 5.75 to 5.37 (see table below). The staff and I will now further examine the data and focus on this in 2012 as it will greatly help in trying to improve the school as it is an indication of what things are working well and the areas of concerns for parents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Parent Satisfaction</th>
<th>No of Surveys distributed</th>
<th>No of Surveys Returned</th>
<th>Survey Response % Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>5.07</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>46.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>5.75</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5.37</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>51.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABC Music Concert and Night Market and upcoming Events.
Next Monday (5th December) after school there will be a music concert for those students who learn instrumental music with ABC and also a Christmas Shopping Market run by the Events Committee. The following Monday (12th December) the Bushwhazee incursion will be held for all students followed by an evening performance and participation by the whole school community.

Student End of Year Reports, School Staffing & Class Allocation Information
Student End of Year reports and information about school staffing and grade allocations will now be finalized by Monday 19th December. As I have indicated in earlier newsletters class formations is a very complex process in balancing all of the different priorities.
Last Day of Term 2011 – students will be dismissed at 1.00pm
This year the last day of term will be Thursday 22rd December. Parents and Guardians please note that the students will be dismissed at 1.00pm.

The school will recommence for students in Year Levels 1- 6 on Thursday 2nd February 2012. School begins for Preps the following day on the 3rd February and there will be a Parents Welcome Morning tea at 9.15am in the Hall.

Proposed School Council and Committee Dates for 2012
School Council at its Meeting last night approved the following 2012 dates for School Council and Committees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENTS</th>
<th>FACILITIES</th>
<th>POLICY &amp; STRATEGIC PLANNING</th>
<th>OSHC</th>
<th>FINANCE &amp; GOVERNANCE</th>
<th>SCHOOL COUNCIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13th Feb</td>
<td>14th Feb</td>
<td>15th Feb</td>
<td>17th Feb</td>
<td>21st Feb</td>
<td>29th Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th March</td>
<td>13th March</td>
<td>14th March</td>
<td>16th March</td>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>28th March AGM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th May</td>
<td>8th May</td>
<td>9th May</td>
<td>11th May</td>
<td>15th May</td>
<td>23rd May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th June</td>
<td>5th June</td>
<td>6th June</td>
<td>8th June</td>
<td>12th June</td>
<td>20th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Sept</td>
<td>4th Sept</td>
<td>5th Sept</td>
<td>7th Sept</td>
<td>11th Sept</td>
<td>19th Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th Nov</td>
<td>13th Nov</td>
<td>14th Nov</td>
<td>16th Nov</td>
<td>20th Nov</td>
<td>28th Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* 3rd Dec</td>
<td>* 4th Dec</td>
<td>* 5th Dec</td>
<td>* 7th Dec</td>
<td>* 11th Dec</td>
<td>12th Dec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ Special Joint School Council Professional Development Meeting
* Meeting if required
** Fete committee is meeting every February Monday at 7pm up to the Fete on the 24th March

- Events: 7.00 pm Mondays
- Facilities: 7.15 pm Tuesdays
- OSHC: 8.00 am Fridays
- Policy & Strategic Planning: 7.15 pm Wednesdays
- School Council: 7.00 pm Wednesdays

School Council Committees and Project Activities for 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENTS</th>
<th>FACILITIES</th>
<th>OSHC</th>
<th>POLICY &amp; STRATEGIC PLANNING</th>
<th>FINANCE &amp; GOVERNANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fete &amp; Fund Raising</td>
<td>ICT infrastructure Master Planning implementation Veggie Garden Water &amp; Sustainability</td>
<td>Before and aftercare programs. Holiday programs. Staff qualifications</td>
<td>Strategic Plan &amp; Annual Improvement Plan (AIP) Reports (AGM) School Policies School yearly Planner School Council PD</td>
<td>Budget monitoring Annual Budget Planning School Governance &amp; risk management Website*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Community Activities eg:</td>
<td>Fete, Music &amp; Arts Festival</td>
<td>Annual Magazine &amp; Publications</td>
<td>Alumni Association 120th Anniversary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Transfers for 2012
Apart from Year 6 students, could parents/guardians who currently have students attending Wales Street and are planning to transfer at the end of this year please notify the school office as soon as possible. It is vital that we have accurate information as it greatly influences planning of class numbers and staffing for next year. Class Formation, Staffing and School Structures will be organised over the next month in preparation for 2012.

Christopher Sexton
Principal

China Café
The 2011-2012 Wonky Dragons invite you to our next China Café. We would love to see you there. Our last Café was amazing. Thanks for your support in getting our China Trip organised.
Where: Assembly Hall
When: Next Thursday 1st December, 3.30-5.00pm
What: Spiders, milkshakes, tea and coffee, yummy treats
Sick Bay Linen Duty
02/12/11 - Evelyn Gebhart
09/12/11 - Sharyn Petrevski
16/12/11 - Anna Mathioulakis

ABC Music
END OF YEAR CONCERT

Wales Street Primary School in association with the ABC Music cordially invites parents and relatives to come along to our “End of Year Concert” for the keyboard students.

This is an opportunity for our students and teachers to show all their hard work and achievements during this year. The concert will be held on Monday 5th December @5.30pm at the school hall.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Megan & Melissa - ABC Music Teachers

LOST UNIFORM

V-Neck school woollen jumper. Clearly labelled ‘Kate Bastian’

Please return to the office if found. Thank you.

SCHOOL AGE CARE (SAC)

FEE REMINDER: Can I remind families who have not settled their account that they need to be settled by Monday 19th December.

PRE PREP AFTERNOON PLAY IN THE PARK

THIS SATURDAY - 3rd DECEMBER from 2 - 4 PM AT JOHNSON PARK, BASTINGS ST NORTHCOTE. BRING A PLATE TO SHARE. SIBLINGS WELCOME. Thanks, Magio Konidaris

WSPS Facebook & Twitter

Wales Street now has a facebook page and a twitter account! We are looking to use social media to inform and engage Wales Street families. Comments and questions aligned with the Wales Street values of empathy, respect and integrity are welcomed and encouraged.

The Wales Street Facebook page can be found by searching "Wales Street Primary School (Official)". Alternatively, you can follow the link from the home page of our website. You can also follow us on twitter @wsps3139.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/12/11  China Café 3:30-5:00pm
5/12/12  ABC Music Concert 5:30pm
           Xmas Shopping Market 6:30pm
12/12/11 Bush Wahzee Bush Xmas Workshops & Concert 6:00pm
14/12/11 Parliament Exc: 56A/56B
19/12/11 Grade 6 Graduation
21/12/11 Funfields Toboggan Park Exc: Gr 5/6
22/12/11 Last Day of Term – students will be dismissed at 1.00pm

2012

02/02/12 School Begins for Grades 1-6
03/02/12 School Begins for Preps

MEETING DATES & TIMES

5/12/11 Events 7:00pm
6/12/11 Facilities 7:15pm
7/12/11 Policy & Strategic Planning 7:15pm
9/12/11 SAC (OSHC) 8:00am
14/12/11 School Council 7:00pm
SAVE THE DATE
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING MARKET
WSPS in the WALES STREET BUILDING
Monday 5 December 2011 from 6.30pm

The market stalls are filling fast and this year’s event promises tonnes of great Christmas gift ideas. Lots of jewellery, handbags, soaps and skin creams, crafts, cards, candles, cakes and accessories. All of the stallholders will donate back to the school, so the more you buy the more we will get back for the kids.

The market is on the same night as the ABC Instrumental Concert so we encourage all the parents who are coming to watch the performances to also check out the market while you are at the school. Of course if you are not coming to the concert, please come along to the market with your shopping bags at the ready.

We would appreciate a gold coin donation on entry.

For any questions or to have a stall, please contact Leah Taylor on leah.taylor@straightshooter.com.au or call 0403 576 925.
Hello Everyone,

Pinch, punch, first day of the Month!!! Don’t you just love December? The smell of Christmas, merriment and anticipation. I’ve put my Christmas tree up already – it’s too good to wait for.

Around this time of year I’m noticing lots and lots of tired children. (And adults too!) It’s the end of a very full year, lots of learning, and lots of fun …as we near the end the bones are dragging a bit…so here is where I once again talk about sleep. It’s so important. To our health, to our ability to heal, function, think and so much more.

Within a website titled “Generation Next-Understanding the unique health and wellbeing challenges facing our young people and how they can be met.” I have found a very interesting article that looks at a recent study “Sleep Duration or Bedtime? Exploring the relationship between Sleep Habits and Weight status and Activity Patterns” that was published in SLEEP. Here is an excerpt from it:

“It seems that it is not how long or how much sleep a young person gets but rather when they go to bed that is important.

Children who go to bed early and get up early seem to be more active and spend less time as a whole in front of electronic media. This is the findings of a recent study, Sleep Duration or Bedtime? Exploring the Relationship between Sleep Habits and Weight Status and Activity Patterns, that was published in SLEEP.

Lead researcher, Carol Maher research fellow at the Australian Research Council, based at the University of South Australia, said “We don’t know if it’s their sleep patterns have knock-on effects to the kinds of activities they do or if their activities affect their sleep patterns.”

“All we can say is it’s clear from our study the kids who have that early to bed, early to wake up sleep pattern are doing better and are less likely to be overweight or obese.

“It kind of goes against some wisdom we have heard that teenagers’ sleep patterns are biologically different and it’s normal for them not to go to bed early and be waking up late.”

The researchers took 2,200 young people from states all across Australia and aged between 9 and 16 year olds. They were then divided into 4 groups:

1. early to bed, early to wake
2. early to bed, late to wake
3. late to bed, early to wake; and
4. late to bed and late to wake.

The average early bedtime was 9.20pm while early wake ups were 7am. Late bed times were around 10.40pm and late wake ups 8.20am.

After 4 nights it was observed that children in both the groups early to bed/early to rise and late to bed/late to rise were getting the same amount of sleep (about 9 ½ hours), however the ‘lATESTops’ were more likely to be obese.

They were nearly twice as likely to be physically inactive and three times as likely to spend long periods in front of computers and TV screens. ‘LATESTops’ spent nearly an hour longer watching TV, playing computer games or being online each day, mainly between 7pm and midnight.

The early to bed/early to rise group spent more than an hour a day being more physically active than ‘lATESTops’.
The study concluded that “Late bedtimes and late wake up times are associated with an unfavourable activity and weight status profile, independent of age, sex, household income, geographical remoteness, and sleep duration.”

Writer Helen Splarn. Editor Dr Ramesh Manocha.

Source: Olds TS; Maher CA; Matricciani L. Sleep duration or bedtime? Exploring the relationship between sleep habits and weight status and activity patterns. SLEEP 2011;34(10):1299-1307”

So, what do you think? Early nights are the great healers! Until next week,

Have some zzzzzz's - take a double dose......go on, you know you want to!

Catherine Fisers - School Nurse

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**CLASSIFIEDS** School council accepts no responsibility for goods / services offered here

**School Holidays by the sea or in the mountains**

**Maranoa in Sorrento** - Two bedroom apartment available from 16th January. 5 minutes walk to quiet, safe bay beach and less than 10 minutes drive to Sorrento shops and back beach. Apartment has all cooking facilities, including barbecue on East facing deck, bathroom, carport and spacious garden. Sleeps up to 6 with queen bed, double bunk and 2 singles.

To view apartment go to www.STAYZ/Sorrento/apartment/Maranoa

**Sun Peaks in Bright** - Two bedroom house available from 2nd January. All cooking facilities, bathroom and beds for 7 with queen bed, 3 singles and double sofa bed, bathroom, barbecue on deck with spectacular views over surrounding valley and hills of Bright. 5 minutes walk to the main street. Less than an hour's drive to the mountains. Family activities in the area include swimming, bike riding, bush walking, micro light flying, touring wineries or sampling local farm fresh produce.

To view the Bright house online go to [http://sunpeaks-bright.blogspot.com](http://sunpeaks-bright.blogspot.com)

Reasonable rates for both places. Contact Louise on 0421 469266.

**FOR SALE**

Trampoline in excellent condition but missing safety pads, 2570 x 1640 x 700, suits younger kids. $25.00 – pickup from Thornbury.

Flute with case for beginner student, Largo Australia brand. $35.00. Call Andy 0403 792 687 or Diana 0403 792 687.

**CHRISTMAS TREES**


**Holiday House**

Wales St family has a holiday house for rent at Ventnor Phillip Island. Ideal for 2 families, sleeps up to 12 in 5 bedrooms. Large, fully fenced, pet friendly yard ideal for children. More info [www.orchardbythesea.net](http://www.orchardbythesea.net) or call 0438 346 120 20% discount for Wales Street families.


**Carols in All Nations**


**Victorian School of Languages….LEARN A LANGUAGE**

The Victorian School of Languages is a **non-profit Government School** which offers 45 languages in 45 locations throughout Victoria. The Victorian School of Languages strongly believes that it is important for primary and secondary school students to study a language.

Our centre situated at **Collingwood College** provides tuition in Portuguese, Lithuanian, Spanish and Vietnamese from prep to year 12 (VCE). The VSL is still enrolling school age students. The **cost of the language classes is minimal**- $70 for prep –year 10, $85 for VCE. Enrolments can be completed on: [http://www.vsl.vic.edu.au/enrolment/index.php](http://www.vsl.vic.edu.au/enrolment/index.php) Classes are generally held on Saturdays from 9.00 to 12.20 pm during the school year, with the first session taking place on 11th February 2012. **Additional enquiries can be directed to**: Area Manager Venetia Kefalianos on 9416 0641 venetiak@vsl.vic.edu.au