FROM THE PRINCIPAL…..

Dear Parents,

Congratulations on the ABC Music Concert and Night Market
Congratulations to everyone concerned for both the ABC Music concert and the Christmas Shopping Market. Both were successful events and congratulations to the organisers and everyone who participated.

Bushwahzee
Next Monday 12th December the Bushwahzee incursion will be held for all students during the day and that evening starting at 6pm they will demonstrate their new skills. So come along and bring your picnic tea, a blanket and ‘dancing shoes’ and take the opportunity to relax and enjoy Christmas 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.

Last Day of Term 2011 – students will be dismissed at 1.00pm
This year the last day of term will be Thursday 22nd 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.

Financial assistance for parents/guardians with students commencing Prep or Y7 in 2012

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to low-income families to help with education-related costs.
If you have a child under 16, and hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is split evenly between the parent and the school, and is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.
The parent portion is often used for uniforms and excursions, while the school portion may be used for expenses such as textbooks, stationery and special programs. You can elect to have the parent portion of the EMA paid into your nominated bank account or receive a cheque.
In 2012, the total annual amount is $235 for primary students and $470 for secondary students – these amounts are split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

School Start Bonus:
The School Start Bonus is provided by the Victorian Government to assist low-income families with the costs associated with their child starting Prep or Year 7 at a government or non-government school. If you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a foster parent, and you have a child starting Prep or Year 7, you may be eligible to receive this one-off $300 payment.
The School Start Bonus will be paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) into your nominated bank account in late January 2012. The School Start Bonus is separate, and additional to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

How to Apply: Contact the school office to complete an application form for the EMA/School Start Bonus.

Closing Date: Parents/guardians with prep or year 7 children commencing in 2012 need to lodge an EMA/School Start Bonus form before 15 December, 2011. For late enrolments, applications will be accepted up until 29 February 2012. For more information about the School Start Bonus and the EMA, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/financial/
**Education Tax Refund**
The Education Tax Refund is a Commonwealth Government tax refund to help with the cost of educating primary and secondary school children. Eligible parents, carers, legal guardians and independent students can be reimbursed for half the cost of items such as computers, educational software, textbooks and stationery. For more information about the Education Tax Refund, visit [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au).

**School Structure for 2012 and changing timetables**
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 1.30pm Lunch start time to be brought forward to 12.50pm (see table below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session No</th>
<th>Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>9.00 - 9.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>9.50 - 10.40</td>
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<td>Recess: 10.40 - 11.10</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>11.10 - 12.00</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>12.00 - 12.50</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>1.50 - 2.40</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>2.40 - 3.30</td>
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**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

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**Sick Bay Linen Duty**
09/12/11 - Sharyn Petrevski
16/12/11 - Anna Mathioulakis

**FROM THE LIBRARY...**
Please return all library books ASAP.

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**Term Dates 2012**
02/02/12 – 30/03/12 (Preps begin 3/2/11)
16/04/12 – 29/06/12
16/07/12 – 21/09/12
08/10/12 – 21/12/12

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**Education Maintenance Allowance 2012**
(Pension Card & Health Care Card Holders)

If you have a Pension Card or Health Care Card (must be valid on 1st February 2012) you will be eligible for the Education Maintenance Allowance 2012.

You will receive a total of $117.50 per child per year, 70% will be paid in the first instalment in Term 1, and the remaining 30% will be paid in the second instalment in Term 3.

Please come to the office with your card to fill in an application form, applications close 29/02/12.

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**Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/12/11</td>
<td>Bush Wahzee Bush Xmas Workshops</td>
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<td></td>
<td>&amp; Concert 6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>14/12/11</td>
<td>Parliament Exc: 56A/56B</td>
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<tr>
<td>15/12/11</td>
<td>Magic Show Incursion: Gr 1/2</td>
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<tr>
<td>19/12/11</td>
<td>Grade 6 Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>21/12/11</td>
<td>Funfields Toboggan Park Exc: Gr 5/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>22/12/11</td>
<td>Last Day of Term – students will be</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dismissed at 1.00pm</td>
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</table>

**2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/02/12</td>
<td>School Begins for Grades 1-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/02/12</td>
<td>School Begins for Preps</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting Dates & Times**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/12/11</td>
<td>SAC (OSHC) 8:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>14/12/11</td>
<td>School Council 7:00pm</td>
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Aussie Farmers Direct
Every six months, our school receives a donation from Aussie Farmers Direct. This is based on a percentage of their sales to Wales Street Primary School families. So far it is over $2,000 that they have donated. If you a customer of Aussie Farmers, please let them know you are a Wales St Primary School family so that they can add a percentage of your sales to our donation. Thanks! Wales St Primary Events Committee

Roll on Sunscreen
If you would like to buy some sunscreen for your child's bag, please support our school and buy it from the uniform shop - we receive all profits from sales. The sunscreen is Australian made, nano free and is only $5 per bottle. Events Committee, WSPS.

Xmas Shopping Market
This year’s Xmas Shopping Market held on Monday the 5th of December was a successful and fun night !!! There was a great range of denim & linen clothing, silk scarves and household items, children’s books, clothes, toys, creative works, lotions and candles. Beautiful pieces of clay, silver, felt, glass, semi precious crystal jewellery, and nature contained in glass domed terrariums!! Plus lots of other fabulous pieces.
Over 1,600 dollars worth of beautiful items were donated back to Wales St Primary by stall holders. The goods will be utilized as raffle and auction items at our Fete in late March 2012.

Thank you to the stall holders. Also, thank you to all the families’ friends and members of the community who helped make the market a successful event. A big thank you to all who helped to set and pack up, to David Gullotti for the constant flow of fabulous art work.... Helping to spread the word !!! To events committee members for their ongoing input and support in organizing fun money raising activities.

A Humongous Thank You goes to Leah Taylor for running the Xmas Market for a third year running Super job well done !!! Looking forward to an even bigger and better Xmas market in 2012

Maria Romnios - Events Committee
REMINDERS

FEES
We are fast approaching the end of the school year, with only just over 2 weeks left! All accounts must be settled by **Monday 19th December.** If your account is not paid by the above date, your child will **not be included in the program until the debt is settled.**

2012 ENROLMENT
To ensure that you don’t miss out on a place, bookings and enrolments forms need to be filled out and returned by **Friday 16th December** for processing. If you do not return an enrolment form then the program will assume that no care is required for 2012.

EARLY FINISH ON THURSDAY 22 DECEMBER (last day of term)
The Before and After School Age Care program will be available for children who need care on the last day of Term 4.

The After Care program is available from 1.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Bookings & cancellations for Friday 22nd December are essential. Families who have a regular Thursday permanent booking and do not require care on the last day of term will need to cancel that booking or a non cancellation fee will apply to family’s statements. Alternatively families who need care for the last day of Term 4 will need to notify the program to ensure staff/quotas are maintained.

The cost of the early finish is $13.00 less with CCB & CCR.

FEE INCREASE FOR 2012
New fees will be as follows from 2nd February 2012.
Before Care $10.00
After Care $14.00
Early Finishes $16.00

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

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.** Reasonable rates for both places. **Contact Louise on 0421 469 266.**

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** or call **0438 346 120** 20% discount for Wales Street families.


Carols in All Nations
Hello Everyone,

I was at the Doctors last week with my youngest and his sore ears....after his lovely Doctor prescribed the required antibiotics, we got to chatting about Christmas day and the afternoon shift he would be working. Apparently this is the time it gets busy because of ...food poisoning! Yes, there are other ailments reported, but food poisoning takes a fair chunk of them. We have the combination of hot weather, lots of food, busy hosts, over-full refrigerators...and kabam! ....it’s all over.

We had Australian Food Safety Week back in early November-where the Food Safety Information Council put out a media release full of information. Here are some salient parts:-

“According to Australian Bureau of Statistics’ data, in the past 20 years the number of Australians over 63 years old increased by 13.6% and those over 85 years old increased by 170.6% to 398,200. In just the 12 months to 30 June 2010, the number of children aged 0-4 years increased by 38,500.

Dr Eyles says those Australians covered by these statistics are particularly vulnerable to food poisoning for valid scientific reasons including:

- No matter how fit and healthy, those older than mid-60s have less resistance to food poisoning bacteria.
- People suffering an illness or undergoing medical treatment, such as Chemotherapy, are likely to have compromised immune systems putting them at particular risk from food poisoning.
- Young children do not have fully developed immune systems until around 8 years of age.
- Pregnant women have reduced immune systems and their unborn babies are at particular risk of Listeria infection.

“Following the Council’s basic food safety tips is always a good idea for everyone but for those in the vulnerable populations it may be a matter of life or death,” Dr Eyles says.”

SPECIFIC FOOD SAFETY TIPS FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS ARE:

**CHOOSE:** Those with weakened immune systems, pregnant women and their unborn babies and older people are at risk from Listeria infection, which only causes a mild illness in the general population but can be fatal for the vulnerable. The best way to avoid Listeria infection is to avoid the foods Listeria bacteria can grow in: soft cheeses, Pate, cold sliced cooked meats, chilled ready to eat seafood like cooked prawns, soft serve ice cream, store bought vegetable and fruit salads. Don’t use cracked or dirty eggs, or any food after its use by date.

**CLEAN:** Scrupulously wash your hands in running water with soap for 20 seconds and then dry on a clean towel, before handling food, after handling high risk food such as meat or poultry and after using the toilet or changing babies’ nappies. Ensure your food preparation area, utensils and feeding containers such as baby bottles and teats, are absolutely clean. Wash chopping boards and knives with hot, soapy water, rinse with running water, and dry thoroughly to avoid cross contamination particularly when preparing raw meat or poultry and then salad, vegetables and other food that won’t be cooked. Ensure everyone washes their hands properly before eating. Don’t prepare food for others if you have vomiting, diarrhoea, or may have food poisoning, or if you have exposed infected wounds or sores on your hands.

**COOK:** Make sure food, especially poultry and minced meat or sausages, is cooked all the way through until juices run clear. Invest in a meat thermometer and check the thickest part of the meat reaches a safe temperature – over 70 degrees for minced meat and sausages, and over 74 degrees for poultry. The surface of fish and whole red meats is where bacteria lurk – ensure entire surface is cooked well. Eggs and egg containing dishes should be well cooked for at risk groups. Particular care should also be paid when making purees to ensure they are cooked thoroughly and refrigerated promptly and only used when fresh –two to three days. When preparing packaged foods including baby formula and nutrition supplements follow the manufacturers’ instructions, taking specific care with temperature control.

**CHILL:** Make sure perishable food is refrigerated at 5 degrees Celsius or below – use a fridge thermometer.

**SEPARATE:** Make sure that raw meat or poultry doesn’t come in contact with foods that won’t be cooked again such as desserts, fruits and salads. Cover food in the fridge and store raw meat and poultry at the bottom of the fridge.

….One more handy hint in this plethora of information;-  
- “Clean out the fridge so there’s plenty of room to store food.
- “Chill food well in a refrigerator set at 5o or below. The temperature danger zone – between 5 and 60 degrees – is where food poisoning bacteria grow best.
Whooping cough on the rise in 5-14 year olds

The number of children aged 5-14 years old catching whooping cough has increased dramatically in Victoria over the last four years.

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, is a highly infectious disease causing a severe, persistent cough. Whooping cough is spread by coughs and sneezes from an infected person. While most children and adults eventually recover, often after weeks or months of illness and household disruption, there is a serious risk if infected people pass the disease to young babies. Around one in every 200 babies under six months of age who catch whooping cough will die. Some babies will suffer permanent disability from brain and lung damage. Family members, including siblings and parents, are the main source of whooping cough infection in babies.

Timely immunisation offers the best chance of preventing the spread of whooping cough. Whooping cough vaccine is provided free for children at two, four and six months, at their fourth birthday, adolescents in Year 10 of secondary school and parents of newborn babies. The two month vaccine can be given early at six weeks to start protection earlier.

Parents are urged to ensure their children are vaccinated on time and to consider their own whooping cough vaccination needs. Vaccination is recommended for all adults caring for or working with young children, including school teachers, as well as all health care workers.

Parents should talk to their doctor or nurse if they have questions about the whooping cough vaccine.

For more information search ‘whooping cough’ on www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

“Have plenty of ice in a container so drinks don’t need fridge space. Getting drinks out of the fridge has huge benefits. There will be more room in the fridge to store perishable foods, and the cold air circulates to better maintain the required temperature.

“Also, the fridge door will be opened less often, and the drinks container filled with ice can be strategically placed to minimise the kitchen traffic - fewer people underfoot allows the cook to be less hassled and therefore more likely to follow the basic food safety tips.”

(Please forgive my HUGE word count - as you can see...what could I have left out?????)

The DEECD have also documented in our newsletter an article about “Whooping cough Immunizations”-please take the time to read this as its very important to all our health.

Until next week... stay fresh!

Catherine Fisers - School Nurse
FROM THE PRESTON POLICE STATION...
The Darebin area has recently had a number of what we call aggravated burglaries, which means that an offender has entered a house while people are at home and steal what they can. These offenders target homes that have unlocked doors while people are sleeping. This type of offence tends to increase during summer, as many people like to have fresh air in their homes, so they tend to leave doors and windows open. Can I please urge you all to make sure you lock your doors and windows at night. The MFB also urge you to make sure that keys are in the door lock from the inside so as not to create an issue should there be a fire. Protect your family and your property by following this simple safety tip.  Jo Parissis - Darebin Youth Resource Officer

HOME for XMAS
Prep Mum, Angela Miezis is having family come for Christmas and is looking for a house for them for a few days (Alphington, Fairfield, Northcote, Thornbury). Dates are 24-27/12 but she is happy to feed animals and water plants for a few more days. Family is non-smoking, tidy couple, two teen girls and a five year old girl. Contact her on 0434 344 297 if you are able to help.

Garage Sale
Saturday 10th December at 95 Darebin Road, Thornbury 9am to 4pm. Lots of fantastic treasures, kid's and women's clothes, bric-a-brac and tools. Grab some things for Christmas.

Baby Guinea Pigs
5 weeks old. Short haired - colours are white, caramel and ginger/brown 'tiger' stripes. Both males and females available. $10 each
Debbie 0422 915 416

Melbourne Playgrounds is a free on-line guide to thousands of Melbourne activities for the entire family! Activities cover playgrounds (more than 2800 reviewed with photos), Play Centre's, Aquatic Centre's, Skate Parks, BMX tracks, miniature train rides, sport and recreation, nature activities, museum & science, educational pursuits, indoor activities, hobbies and cultural activities such as music and dance. Melbourne Playgrounds is unique in that it provides reviews, ratings and photos of activities. There is also an extensive list of family activities outside Melbourne covering all of Victoria which is useful when planning a day trip or longer holidays within the State. The website is: http://www.MelbournePlaygrounds.com.au

Nestoras Greek College
Mondays: ThomastownSecondary College 4.45-8.15
Wednesdays: Doncaster Secondary College 4.45-8.15
Fridays: Thornbury High School 4.45-8.15

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.

Introductory Basketball Clinics
The Ivanhoe Knights are running introductory Basketball clinics on Saturday 10 December designed for kids who haven't played before.
Girls in grades 1, 2 & 3: 8:50 – 9:35 am
Boys in grades 1 & 2: 9:45 – 10:30 am
Girls in grades 4 & 5: 10:40 – 11:25 am
Boys in grades 3 & 4: 11:35 am – 12:20 pm
Venue is Banksia Secondary College, Banksia Street (opposite Wadham Rd), Ivanhoe, Melways 31, E4.
Places are limited, to register email Benedict: website@ivanhoeknights.org

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