FROM THE PRINCIPAL….

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome Back and General School Information

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2012 School Year and especially those new to our school community and I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday break. I would also like to welcome new staff to the school this year; Angela Monardo (Prep), Derrick Benjamin (3/4) and Jason Sergi (ICT). I am delighted to announce that that Georgina Tragus (Art) and Joshua Iacono (Integration) have continued their association with the school.

Over the summer break staff have worked very hard to set up the school for a smooth start to the year. What you perhaps won’t see immediately has been the planning and organisation by the staff to enhance and provide a better and more interesting learning environment for all students. Already specialists lessons have started and the students and staff are settling into their new classes. To assist in this process, for the next two weeks all classes will be conducting a special ‘Start Up Program’ to establish, working routines and individual class and student goals and expectations of class behaviour. I believe it will be a very interesting and exciting year ahead and wish everyone a wonderful, happy and successful time. Next week a 2012 Yearly Planner will be put up onto the school website outlining the school events.

Over the holidays there were extensive works in the ground floor of the Speight Street building with administration and corridor areas being upgraded with the relocation of the photocopier so we can create a new meeting/office space. Two new class rooms have been created for the 5/6 area of the school and fitted out with furniture and interactive white boards. The St David Street Building has had extensive refurbishment and has been painted internally and new pin boards, blinds and air conditioners installed. Congratulations to everyone involved in achieving these improved facilities as it has been through parent fund raising efforts and willingness to contribute to the School Building Fund that has enabled these to occur.

School Structure for 2012

The structure for this year has 23 classes 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, four 5/6 year and two 5 level classes (see table below).

School Structure for 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preps</th>
<th>Year 1/2</th>
<th>Year 3/4</th>
<th>Year 5/6</th>
<th>Specialist Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>*Sue Losada</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>* Steve McArthur</td>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Rosemary Hughes</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Anne Graham</td>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Rebekah Husk</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Helen Iliadis</td>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Angela Monardo</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Louise Young</td>
<td>3/4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>David Alls .3</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Kim Chau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kay Landgren .2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Renee Patkas</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Derrick Benjamin</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Professional Learning Team (PLT) leader
Wales St PS 120th Anniversary Book & Celebrating 120 Years of Music at Wales Street DVD
The Wales Street Primary School 120th Anniversary Book and Celebrating 120 Years of Music at Wales Street DVD are still available for $20 from the school office.

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 is separate, and additional to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

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

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/

School Fete Saturday 24th March
The Fete committee has been meeting regularly over the past year now will need lots of support for our School Fete this term on Saturday 24th March. I encourage all parents to get behind the committee to make this a truly successful and enjoyable event. Please contact the school office and leave your details if you are interested in assisting. The committee is planning to meet every Wednesday at 8pm in the Staffroom, starting next week until the fete is held.

Picking up Students After School
A reminder to parents to please organise specific arrangements with their children about collection after school. Staff are on duty from 3.30-3.45pm and will then lock the school boundary gates apart from the main school and after care gates in Speight Street. Staff will instruct students who have not been collected by 3:45pm to go to the School office. If for whatever reason you are running late, or alternative arrangements have been made, please contact the office as soon as possible so class teachers can inform your children.

General School Information and Newsletter
The School Newsletter comes out each Thursday and is the key to the school community communication so there is an expectation that people will read and keep abreast of school news and information. The school office emails a newsletter link and uploads it to the school website. If you haven’t already done so please notify the School Office of your email details so you can be added to the school distribution list (if you zap an email to the school & ask to be added it’s the easiest way to get on the distribution list). There are also limited hard copies available at the school office after school on Thursday if you do not have email access.

Happy Chinese New Year and the Year of the Dragon
Chinese New Year commenced on the 29th January and 2012 is the year of the Dragon. Under Chinese traditions each year is represented by one of twelve animal zodiac signs representing twelve different types of personality. The zodiac traditionally begins with the sign of the Rat, and there are many stories about the Origins of the Chinese Zodiac. The following are the twelve zodiac signs in order so you might like to work out you birth year sign.

Each of the 12 animals are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zodiac</th>
<th>Year of Birth</th>
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Road safety and Parking around the School
Unfortunately this week I have had a letter from a local resident concerned about parking and traffic around the school and student safety, which seems to always is a problem at the peak times of drop off and pick up. I am a local who has lived around the corner from your school for the past 4 years. Whenever it is drop-off or pick-up time at the school I am unable to drive down Speight Street for fear of an accident. Without exception, every time I have driven down there during those times one or more of the following things has happened: a driver has pulled into a park without indicating (usually parking on an angle), a driver has pulled out of a park without warning, doors are flung open on the road side by driver, child or both, parents stand on the road while getting their kids out - thereby blocking the road to traffic, parent and children walk or run across the road in front of oncoming traffic.

It is a serious concern for everyone so could people please be very mindful of road safety around the school.

Accident Insurance Arrangements for Parents and Guardians
This week I was instructed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) to remind parents that schools do not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are also to be reminded that they are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students and that student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers.

Calls for School Council Vacancies and Elections 2012
Each year approximately half the members on school council face election as part of a process to ensure mentoring and renewal of this body. The council members facing elections this year as their current terms have expired are: Militsa Toskovska, Natasha Kinsman, Lincoln Kern, Phillip Papastamatoulos, Trevor Robinson and Ben Cunningham (DEECD category). I have included information in this Newsletter that outlines the role of school council, the various categories of membershiphip election and calls for nominations for the 2012 election. If the number of nominations exceeds the vacancies then an election is conducted for members of the School Council of Wales Street PS. Before considering standing for School Council please consider the time commitment as it is an expectation that as a School Council member that you will also be a member one of the sub committees. If you have not had extensive committee experience before I would urge you to consider going onto one of the Sub committees for 12 months first to gain the background which is necessary to be effective in the role of a School Council member.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school from Monday and must be lodged by 4 pm on Friday 24th February. If an election is called ballot papers will be distributed on Thursday 15th March. The ballot will close at 4 pm on Thursday 22nd March and the counting of votes and results declared on the Friday 23rd March.

Thursday 9th February Notice of School Council vacancies and calls for nominations
Friday 24th February Closing Date for School Council Nominations
Monday 27th February Notification of School Council Elections
Thursday 15th March Display a list of candidates, nominators and seconder outside Office
Distribution of ballot papers by mail if necessary
Thursday 22nd March Close of ballot at 4:00 pm.
Friday 23rd March Counting of votes and declaration of the poll
Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2012 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014</td>
<td>FOUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2012 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014</td>
<td>TWO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

4. “DEECD employee” -
(a) means a person employed for eight hours or more per week in either an on-going capacity or for a fixed term of at least 90 days -
(i) under the *Teaching Service Act 1981*; or
(ii) by the DEECD under the *Public Sector Management and Employment Act 1998*; or
(iii) by a school council of a State school; or
(iv) under section 5 or 5A of the *Education Act 1958*; or
(v) under more than one of the paragraphs (i) to (iv) above, and
(b) does not mean a person employed, under a contract for service or the employees or the contracted personnel of such a person.

5. Votes may be posted to the principal or placed in the ballot box at the school on any day up to the closure of the ballot. Further details on how votes may be lodged will be provided when ballot papers are sent to the electorate of the school.

### School Council and Committee Dates for 2012

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

+ Special Joint School Council Professional Development Meeting
* Meeting if required
** Fete committee is meeting every Wednesday at 8pm up to the Fete on the 24th March

- **Events:** 7.00 pm Mondays
- **FACILITIES:** 7.15 pm Tuesdays
- **OHSC:** 8.00 am Fridays
- **Policy & Strategic Planning:** 7.15 pm Wednesdays
- **Finance:** 7.00 pm Tuesdays
- **School Council:** 7.00 pm Wednesdays

### School Council Committees and Project Activities for 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENTS</th>
<th>FACILITIES</th>
<th>OHSC</th>
<th>POLICY &amp; STRATEGIC PLANNING</th>
<th>FINANCE &amp; GOVERNANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
School Council

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council? There are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category. Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members. Wales Street under its current School Council membership schedule does not have any positions under this category.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important? Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved? The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider standing for election as a member of the school council encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council? No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election? The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination. If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Please ask at the school office for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do. It is also a very good idea to consider initially going onto a School Council Committee rather than School Council itself as a way of ensuring that you are not over committing yourself and are clearly about what is involved as a School Council Member. However, please do consider standing for election to Council and if elections are required be sure to vote. Contact myself for further information.

Christopher L. Sexton
Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/02/12</td>
<td>Nominations for School Council Close 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29/02/12</td>
<td>EMA/SSB Applications close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/03/12</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>24/03/12</td>
<td>SCHOOL FETE</td>
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</table>

MEETING DATES & TIMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13/02/12</td>
<td>Events - 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>14/02/12</td>
<td>Facilities - 7:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>15/02/12</td>
<td>Policy &amp; Strategic Planning - 7:15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17/02/12</td>
<td>OHSC Committee – 8am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/02/12</td>
<td>Finance Committee – 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29/02/12</td>
<td>School Council – 7pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Term Dates 2012

Term 1: 02/02/12 – 30/03/12
Term 2: 16/04/12 – 29/06/12
Term 3: 16/07/12 – 21/09/12
Term 4: 08/10/12 – 21/12/12
Saturday 24th March - 11am to 4pm

Remember how much fun you and your kids had at the Fete last year.....
Well, it's that time of year again!!

From the Fete Committee

While months of preparations have already taken place for the 2012 Wales St Fete, with 6 weeks to go, we now hand over to you, our school community, to ensure its success.

Over the coming weeks, each family at Wales St will be asked to volunteer in some capacity towards the successful running of the Fete. We will provide plenty of options and suggestions for your involvement so please help out as much as you can.

Last year the fete continued to raise funds to be used for the implementation of our school Masterplan. You may have noticed the landscaping/seating for the West End Playground which was among the completed projects.

This year our fundraising efforts will go towards establishing a veggie garden, maintaining the playground equipment and marking the asphalt in the Prep-2 area.

Further Fete Information will be coming home in a note with your child/ren next week – please look out for it...

Many hands make light work.

There are many ways YOU can help...

1. We are still looking for volunteer stall coordinators for Toys, Souvlaki and Popcorn. Please contact Maria Romnios on 0407 999 270 if you are willing to give it a go. You will be well supported.

STALL Coordinators Meeting: Please put in your diary Wednesday 22nd Feb in the staffroom 7pm

2. Throughout the holidays we have been contacting local business owners who may be interested in sponsoring the 2012 Wales St Fete either through financial support or the donation of goods / vouchers for raffle prizes.

If you have any suggestions for sponsors or donations, please contact a fete committee member – details below.

Fete Committee Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Romnios</td>
<td>0407 999 270</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mariaromnios@optusnet.com.au">mariaromnios@optusnet.com.au</a></td>
<td>Joanne Tzouroutis</td>
<td>0425 772 158 <a href="mailto:joanne.tzouroutis@csl.com.au">joanne.tzouroutis@csl.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Carton</td>
<td>0418 313940</td>
<td><a href="mailto:p.carton@optusnet.com.au">p.carton@optusnet.com.au</a></td>
<td>Lauren Rizzacasa</td>
<td>0438 818 480 <a href="mailto:masr64@optusnet.com.au">masr64@optusnet.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Saturday 24th March- 11am to 4pm

3. Finished the vegemite or jam? Keep the jar and fill it with treasures and treats for the Lucky Jars game.

4. Mark the date on your new 2012 calendar and ask your family & friends to save the date – Saturday 24th March.

5. Ensure that you assist your grade by filling volunteer timeslots for the stall allocated to your class and by donating goods towards your grade’s Hamper Theme.

Fete Donations can be placed in the cardboard fete collection boxes outside your child's classroom starting Tuesday, February 14th. At this stage we can accept the following: books, toys, clothes, hamper theme items (once allocated), glass jars/lucky jars and small bric-a-brac items. Please ensure that items are clean and in working order.

Large bric-a-brac will be accepted 1 week before the fete, starting from Sunday 18th March. (We are short of storage space.)

And Please…. DO NOT leave items in the office foyer. Put items in the collection boxes outside your child's classroom.

The HANDCRAFT STALL is looking for donations of craft/sewing materials. Any fabric, buttons, zips, yarn or other odds and ends would be greatly appreciated. Please pop your donations in a bag labelled Handcraft Stall, and put them in the donation boxes outside your child's classroom.

Also if you are a crafter of any persuasion - Knitter, sewer, patchworker, scrapbooker, soapmaker, embroiderer, etc., and would like to volunteer a small amount of time or a sample of your work to make our Handcraft Stall wonderous, please contact Deb Allen ph: 0422 915416 or email: dearsomeonemail@gmail.com

Fete Committee Members
Maria Romnios 0407 999 270 mariaromnios@optusnet.com.au
Joanne Tzouroutis 0425 772 158 joanne.tzouroutis@csl.com.au
Peter Carton 0418 313940 p.carton@optusnet.com.au
Lauren Rizzacasa 0438 818 480 masr64@optusnet.com.au
IT’S TIME TO GET JAMMING!

The Wales Street Fete is only 6 weeks away (24th March), so now is a great time to turn any surplus fruit or vege’s into profitable preserves for our school. Jams and tomato - based chutneys/sauces are always great sellers.

If you need any jars/labels or have any: surplus produce (particularly lemons for home-made lemonade), great recipes, clean jars with labels removed, want to volunteer for the stall roster, want to drop off preserves for storage, or have any other queries, please contact Cath Chamberlain on 94805035 or 0428 921 271.

And if anyone would like to take on coordinating the preserve stall we’d love to hear from you 😊

Sick Bay Linen Duty

PREP PARENTS: We are asking Prep parents to volunteer once a year to do the sick bay linen. This means that everyone gets 1 turn at washing the linen during their time at Wales Street. Parents are asked to collect the linen from sick bay Friday afternoon, launder over the weekend and return to school Monday morning.

Could you please visit or contact the Office or email us, wales.street.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au to be placed on the roster. Thank you 😊

FRESH FRUIT TUESDAYS

Wales Street Primary School is a Go For Your Life School!!!

As part of this government initiative and to encourage healthy eating, Wales St. receives yearly funding to provide each classroom with a once a week “Fruit and Vegie” treat!

This year we will be providing the fruit and vegie treat on Tuesdays. We need 6 or more parents/carers to volunteer about an hour of their time to exercise their “expert” fruit chopping skills from 8.50am till 10.15 sharp! so students get their fruit snack before recess.

Please leave your name on the volunteers list at the school office or contact Maria Romnios on 0407 999 270. Please come along.

MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS

John and Julie the school crossing supervisors, wish teachers, students and parents a great 2012. a special welcome to all our new preppies.

A reminder to all as to how the school crossings work..

(1) All children and adults should stand at the yellow line indicated at the footpath.

(2) Supervisor proceeds to the centre of the school crossing. When all traffic stops, the school crossing supervisor blows two whistles enabling children and adults to cross. Children and adults cross the road. Running, roller blades, scooters or bikes should not be used on the school crossing. Remember to stay within the lines.

(3) As indicated on parking signs, NO PARKING on the school crossing between the times of 8.15am- 9.15am and 3pm – 4pm.

Education Maintenance Allowance & School Start Bonus 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. If you have a child starting Prep you will also be eligible for the School Start Bonus Payment.

You will receive a total of $117.50 per child per year for the Education Maintenance Allowance, 70% will be paid in the first instalment in Term 1 ($82.25), and the remaining 30% ($35.25) will be paid in the second instalment in Term 3. The School Start Bonus Payment is a one off $300 payment, you will receive this with the first EMA instalment.

Please come to the school office with your card to complete an application form.

Applications close 29/02/12.
Hello Everyone,

Welcome back to the start of yet another exciting year of learning and fun. Welcome especially to our new fresh little preppies. They have been seen on tour of our lovely school, looking most animated and interested in everything. It’s always a pleasure to see such excitement.

As we all settle in to new faces, new friends, teachers and routines, set aside some time for yourself to review your child’s medical history. If they have asthma, anaphylaxis, allergies, diabetes, epilepsy or any medical history of note, then an Action Plan is required by our school. This is to help ensure best practice when your child is present at school. I will leave Asthma Plans at the office for you to easily grab on your way. Other plans can be obtained through myself in First aid.

I love all the Allergy, Epileptic, Asthma Plans and Anaphylaxis Plan updates that have already arrived on my desk- you are all so organised! It’s most impressive.

If parents require information on Asthma, Healthy Nutritional ideas for Lunchboxes, Swim Safe stay Safe and Anaphylaxis. I have DVD’s you are most welcome to borrow. I also have information sheets on Nutrition from Nutrition Australia and much more in the way of First Aid Information.

I note the lovely broad brimmed hats on everyone’s heads- we are still in Summer, wearing hats is mandatory until Term 2 to keep those rays off the children’s heads. Please be aware of the ties on these hats – there needs to be a toggle attached so that if the hat were tugged then it would automatically loosen. This is a safety feature. Check your child’s hat (especially if it’s an older one) to ensure this safety feature is in place.

Just to let you know, Chicken Pox is once again out there in our community-several students suffered from chicken pox over the holidays. I have attached some information on the subject for you with this newsletter. (Courtesy of the Royal Childrens Hospital Fact sheets)

Every week you will find that I choose a relevant topic. Sometimes it’s a viral or bacterial infection, sometimes its preventive health measures, or the latest healthy exercise event happening in Melbourne. Sometimes I explore a topic to help us understand a little better what’s out there and many times I have responded to request to research and discuss a topic of interest. I also let you know what’s happening here in First Aid – giving you the latest and greatest! All that starts next week. Until then, have a fabulous week. Take care.

Catherine Fisers - School Nurse

**Scarlet Fever**

There has been a recent report of Scarlet Fever in the Prep area. A Streptococcal sore throat is the bacterial infection of the throat and tonsils. The symptoms include fever, sore throat, tender swollen glands in the neck. Rarely the bacteria make a toxin which can be carried around the body in the blood. This toxin can sometimes cause Scarlet Fever.

#the person becomes ill with a high temperature, sore throat, swollen tonsils and neck glands, lack of appetite, vomiting and a general feeling of being unwell.

#within 24hrs a fine red, raised rash appears on the neck, chest, under the arms, in the elbows and groin and on the inside of the thigh.

-the rash looks like sunburn and feels like rough sandpaper

-the face looks flushed with a pale ring around the mouth

-The rash lasts for about 2-5 days

-often the skin peels after the rash fades.

#often the tongue looks redder than usual and the lumps on the tongue are larger (like a strawberry)

Any child with these signs needs to see a doctor immediately. They are treated with antibiotics in order to prevent complications. They will need fluids, rest and pain relief. The child will be infectious until 24hrs after the antibiotics are started.
Library News

Welcome to 2012. This year each class will get a session of Library and a session of ICT during the week. Please make sure that your children have their Library bags washed and ready to go next week as Library borrowing will be in full swing. Preps will get a Library bag as part of their Government Welcome kit.

Library opening hours will change this year as I am working in the Office as well. I will have the Library open:

Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30am until 4pm, including the first half of lunch (closed 1.25pm-1.50pm)

Wednesday from 9.30am until 3.30pm including the first half of lunch (closed 1.25pm-1.50pm).

These times are subject to change during the year.

This year we will have all students participating in the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge. More information will be given in the coming weeks. In May, the Library will be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair and later in the year we will celebrate Children’s Book Week and have a Christmas/Holiday Book Fair.

Sallie McCleery

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

**THE GLOBAL EXPERIENCE – Live it at HOME**
In June-July 2012 students from over 20 countries around the world will be arriving in Australia to study at local high schools for 5 or 10 months. Opportunities exist for families to act as a host family, in a volunteer capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis. Host families help provide international students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To hear more about this opportunity or our student exchange programs out of Australia, Call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 1300 135 331 or visit [www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student](http://www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student)

**Anglicare Foster Care Information Session**
Have you ever thought about fostering children or young people? Come along to our information session to find out more, and have your questions answered. Tuesday 7th February, 7 - 8.30pm, 239 Murray Road, Preston. To book or to receive an information kit please contact Anna Jones on 8470 9951 or email anna.jones@anglicarevic.org.au

Register online at: [www.collingwood.basketball.net.au](http://www.collingwood.basketball.net.au) or attend Registration Day, Saturday 11th February, Collingwood College Gym, 10.30am – 3.00pm. New players welcome. Players must register and pay by February 19th to ensure a place in a Winter team. Enquiries: Megan Rouse 0417 106 490

**WSPS Girls uniforms for sale** - due to the fickle nature of fashion I have a dress and 2 t-shirts to sell. The dress is size 10 G and has barely been worn - $30. The t-shirts are the collarless variety, both size 10/3XS - $15 each. Call Linda 0412205057.

Experienced cleaner wanted - I'm looking for a reliable, thorough and trustworthy cleaner to clean a 4 br 2 storey house fortnightly or by agreement. Please call Linda 0412205057.

**Northcote High School Open Morning 2012**
Wednesday 18 April, 9.20-12noon Tour and talk. Information sessions are held at 10.00am, 10.45am, 11.30am, (repeat session at 7.00 pm for parents who were unable to make the morning). Contact the school for School Tour dates for Term1, 2012 (9488 2300) Tours are generally one hour. Select entry Advanced Curriculum Extension (ACE) Program caters for highly able students. In 2013, entry at Year 7 is only available for students who live locally to the school or who will have a sibling in the school. Eligible Grade 6 students are invited to participate in the NHS ACE Test Program. The cost of testing is $65, payable with registration. Applications Close: Tuesday 1 May, 2012. 1.30 pm. Test Date: Saturday 5 May, 2012

**Creative Arts AfterSchool Program with Judith Jackson Joyce.**
$90 for Term 1 incl. All supplies, held in the Wales Street Art Room on Mondays, 3.45-5pm. This course commences 13th Feb. Ph: 9480 1015 or email judithjacksonjoyce@y7mail.com. The program will incl. Craft, drawing and sculpture in a happy & safe environment.
Chickenpox - Varicella

Chickenpox is an infection caused by the varicella virus. It cannot be treated with antibiotics. Treatment is usually for the symptoms. It is easily spread by either having direct contact with (ie touching) the person who has chickenpox or from fluid droplets in the air from them coughing. Fever and a rash are the most common signs of chickenpox. A person with chickenpox is infectious to others one to two days before the rash develops and until the last blisters have dried up. Children and adults of any age can get chickenpox but it is more common in children. One in 5,000 patients develop brain inflammation (encephalitis) and three in 100,000 die. A chickenpox vaccine is recommended for children aged 18 months as part of their normal vaccinations. It is very effective, has few side effects and is free in Victoria.

Signs and symptoms: Mild fever, feeling tired and irritable, itching, Rash. The rash usually starts on the chest, back or face. It then can move to other areas of the body including inside the mouth. At first the rash looks like small pimples. These later become blisters full of fluid.

How it is spread: Chickenpox is very easy to catch (highly contagious). It can be spread by either having direct contact with the person who has chickenpox, from coughed fluids from their chest or by touching the liquid from the blisters. Children with chickenpox are infectious 1-2 days before the rash starts until the last blister has dried.

What to expect: The rash usually starts between 10 to 21 days after first being exposed to someone with the infection. This time between exposure to getting the rash is called the 'incubation period'. Children with a severe infection or with underlying serious medical conditions may be given anti-viral medication. Most children with chickenpox are unwell for about 5 to 7 days. Only a few need to be admitted to hospital. Treatment is about controlling the itching from the rash and other symptoms related to the viral illness. There are many medications and creams that you can get from your local pharmacy to help with the itching. Because chickenpox is a virus it cannot be treated with antibiotics. If your child gets large, sore, red areas around the rash, or becomes unwell, see your family doctor in case a secondary bacterial infection has developed.

At home care: It can be difficult to make sure children drink enough when they are unwell. Give sips of drinks and icy pops, soup and other fluids often. This helps prevent dehydration and helps control the fever. Children with chickenpox can feel tired and irritable. Taking paracetamol can help, do not give aspirin. Children with chickenpox should not go to school or kinder until the last blister has dried. A dry blister scab is not infectious. Tell the school if your child gets chickenpox. There may be other children who need to be immunised or treated. Someone with chickenpox is infectious to others one to two days before the rash starts until the last blister has dried up. Some members of the family may need to stay away from the child during this infectious stage. This includes people who are on chemotherapy or long term oral steroids, newborn babies and pregnant women who have not had chickenpox before. Most people cannot get chickenpox again if they have already had it. Children with chickenpox can usually be cared for at home and do not need to see a doctor. If you are concerned, see your family doctor or Maternal and Child Health Nurse.

Special considerations: Anyone who is taking long term oral steroids and anyone who is immune compromised (on chemotherapy or after an organ transplant), pregnant women or newborns should see their doctor if they think they have been exposed to chickenpox, as they may need treatment to prevent chickenpox. People with skin problems like eczema may also need to speak to a health professional for advice on which creams they can use for the rash. Children with chickenpox should not be given aspirin.

Key points to remember: Chickenpox is very easy to catch. Antibiotics will not cure chickenpox. Treatment is usually for the symptoms, such as rash, not the infection. The rash usually starts between 10 to 21 days after first exposure to chickenpox. Chickenpox is infectious 1-2 days before the rash starts until the last blister has dried.

For more information: Talk to your family doctor, paediatrician, Maternal and Child Health Nurse or pharmacist. Department of Human Services (DHS) Immunisation Fact Sheets: Chickenpox (Varicella) immunisation information Department of Infection Control (RCH), Tel: (03) 9345 5740 For your doctor: Clinical Practice Guideline / Kids Connect

Developed by the RCH Dept of Infection Control Department and the Emergency Department. First published 2006. Update November 2010.
Dear Parents and Students,

The ABC Music would like to invite any new students at Wales Street Primary School to enrol on the **KEYBOARD or GUITAR Lessons in Term 1, 2012**.

Lessons will start on Thursday 16th or Friday 17th of February.

**PROGRAM FEATURES**

♫ 30 minute group keyboard or guitar lessons

♫ Keyboard & Guitars are provided for each student during lessons

♫ Parent/Guardian will be invoiced for the cost of the lessons and forwarded a copy of the enrolment conditions

Keyboard & Guitar Group Lessons $125.00 per term *(plus one off books $19.95 - $34.95)*

*Current students are automatically re-enrolled this year! If you would like to cancel the lessons for 2012 please email to schools@abcmusicgroup.com.au ASAP!! Thank you the ABC Music Team!!*

--- **CUT HERE** ---

**KEYBOARD & GUITAR LESSONS TERM 1 2012**

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<th>Students Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade (in 2012)</td>
<td>F □ M □</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent/ Guardian Name</td>
<td>Mr/Mrs/Ms/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email address</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Phone</td>
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<td>Mobile Phone</td>
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**Important Note!** Please include your mobile number & Email address as all our communication and invoices are send through these methods

**PLEASE SELECT OPTION**

- [ ] Keyboard &Guitar please circle instrument
  - $125 per term *(up to 4 students per group for 30 min)*
  - Individual Lessons are available / $33 per 30min lesson

**DECLARATION**

I wish to enrol my child into the music program with the ABC Music Group and request that he/she be released from the care of the school into the care of the music teacher for the duration of the lesson.

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<tr>
<th>Parent/Guardian Signature</th>
<th>Date ……/……/2012</th>
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CHESS 2012

✓ Think
✓ Concentrate
✓ Gain confidence
✓ Make friends
✓ Have FUN!

White to play and checkmate in one move!

Puzzle by David Cannon
(see below)

Coach: Jim Cannon – Qualified teacher (Dip Ed, UMelb). Jim has two sons –
David Cannon – 2011 Australian Champion (U10)
Jonothan Cannon – U19 Victorian State Champion (2010) and Chess coach

WHEN:  Rookies: P/1/2/3: Tuesday lunchtime.  Advanced: Tuesday lunchtime

New to Chess Club? Try two classes OBLIGATION FREE. Parents welcome to sit in.

Reserve your spot! Preregister now!

I would like my child ___________________________________________ in grade ___________ to participate in Chess Club in Term 1, 2012, commencing Tuesday 14th February till Tuesday 27th March.

I enclose $50.00 (Cash, cheque (payable to J.F.Cannon) or direct deposit (JF Cannon, Westpac, BSB + A/C#: 037-138 56-4211. Thank you)

Signature of parent / guardian ___________________________ Date / / 

Name of parent / guardian ____________________________________________

Phone: Home_________________________ mob___________________________

Email _____________________________________________

* Please leave form with payment at the school office