FROM THE PRINCIPAL…. 

Dear Parents and Guardians,

School Council Election Results
After the nomination period closed last Friday there were 3 nominations received for the 4 Parent Member vacancies on School Council: Natasha Kinsman, Lincoln Kern and Phillip Papastamatoulos. I am pleased to announce therefore that they were successful in their nomination to School Council. This means that there is still 1 Parent vacancy on School Council and this position will now be readvertised. There were no Staff nominations received for the 2 Staff vacancies and these will also be readvertised.

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. Currently there is 1 Parent and 2 Staff vacancies. I have included information in this Newsletter that outlines the role of school council, the various categories of membership 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 Wednesday 7th March. If an election is called ballot papers will be distributed on Monday 19th March. The ballot will close at 4 pm on Monday 26th March, with the counting of votes and results declared on Monday 26th March after the close of the ballot.

Thursday 1st March Notice of School Council vacancies and calls for nominations
Wednesday 7th March Closing Date for School Council Nominations
Thursday 8th March Notification of School Council Elections
Monday 19th March Display a list of candidates, nominators and seconder outside Office.
Distribution of ballot papers by mail if necessary
Monday 26th March Close of ballot at 4:00 pm.
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>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>ONE</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- **Events:** 7.00 pm Mondays
- **OHSC:** 7.00 pm Fridays
- **Finance:** 7.00 pm Tuesdays
- **Facilities:** 7.15 pm Tuesdays
- **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>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
Wales St News

Saturday 24th March 2012
11am to 4pm

From the Fete Committee

3 Weeks to FETE Day!

KEY DATES

This week: 27 February
CALLING ALL LUCKY JARS!!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOW until FETE DAY</th>
<th>Drop off Hamper items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drop off Clothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drop off Bric-a-Brac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drop off Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drop off Chocolate Blocks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

27/2 Lucky Jar Week

5/3 Cans of soft drink donations please

7/3 Deadline to return Volunteer Request Slips

14/3 Collection of Hamper Donations ends.

18/3 Sunday WORKING BEE
Drop off for LARGE BRIC-A-BRAC as well as books, clothing, toys, etc.

19/3 Monday Cake boxes distributed to students

23/3 Friday Bring to School:
• Cake Stall Donations
• Plant Donations
• Preserves

Funds Raised For...
This year our fundraising efforts will go towards continuing the implementation of our school Masterplan. Specifically, upcoming projects will include the veggie garden, asphalt marking in the P-2 area and maintenance of the playground equipment.

VOLUNTEER!! AND SUPPORT YOUR CLASS
Make sure you fill out your volunteer slips and return them to school ASAP. Feel free to sign up for more than one time slot!!!!

Fete Collection Boxes
Fete Collection Boxes – outside your child’s classroom – Please bring in your HAMPER THEME ITEMS, CHOCOLATE BLOCKS, LUCKY JARS, CANS OF DRINK, CLOTHING, BOOKS, TOYS, MORE, MORE, MORE... We can use ALL of your donations. THANK YOU.

Fete Committee Members
Maria Romnios 0407 999 270
Joanne Tzouroutis 9246 5453
Peter Carton 0418 313940
Lauren Rizzacasa 0438 818 480

Wales St News 4
HELP!
We are still looking for volunteers with RSA certificates for the bar. Please contact a Fete Committee Member if you are willing to give it a go.

LARGE ESKYS NEEDED for LOB-A-CHOC …
Do you have a large esky preferably with wheels that we can borrow for use on Fete Day at the Lob-a-Choc stall?
Please contact Kate on 0411 042 035.

CALLING ALL TOYS!
Wales Street needs them!
games, stuffed toys, puzzles, dolls and all your plastic fantastic!
- clean them all out
- give them a basic once over and check they are in working order THEN
- leave them in the Fete Collection Boxes OR
- Contact 0407 999 270 to arrange drop off, if you have a large quantity.

SILENT AUCTION
We have already received some fabulous donations for the silent auction from school families and local businesses.
Thank you very much!

Please contact Sarah Williams:
sarah.hwilliams@optusnet.com.au
or 0410 557 357 if you would like to make a donation to this year’s auction.

BOOK STALL
We are looking for donations of books of all types – Fiction, Non-fiction, Adults, Children, Hardback, Softcover, Magazines, etc.
Please leave all donations in the fete shed.

Also, good quality small to medium boxes would be appreciated for displaying books.
Many Thanks,
Pauline and Sophie

Please Thank our SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

Century 21 Northcote
David Gullotti Creative
Colour Factory
Amalfi Giftware
Autobarn - Preston
Barbara Juzva-Evans
Belinda Newick
Big Dish
Bulleen Art and Garden
Catherine Acton
Dear Someone
Eden & Stone
Fat Mummas
Floral Creations of Tullamarine
Found
Freedom - Preston
Jenny Francis
John Cascone - Green Water
Plumbing Service
Karen Dinh
Kate Gabb
La Mama Theatre
Louise Young
Merrily Hurst
Middy’s Electrical
Narelle Stone
National Storage Northcote
Norquay - Whitford Family
Orchard by the Sea
Owl & Pussycat Cafe
Pearl Oyster
Psarakos
Retravision - Preston
Spotlight
starashan
Swell
Tania Chandler
Ted’s Cameras - Northland
Telechoice Plenty Valley
The Big Dish
Toorallie
Tracy Dalla-Zuanna
Treading Gently
Tupperware
Wonderland Fun Park
Yogaville
Zak Surfboards
School Hours Care Report

FEE PAYMENTS
Can I remind all families who attend regularly to pay fees on a weekly/fortnightly basis; statements are in the receipt/statement box beside the “sign in/out attendance roll”.

PREP TRANSITION
Commencing from Monday 5th March, the prep children who attend Before Care will commence to make their own way to their class in the morning, the staff/educators will “buddy” prep children with older children to assist them in the school ground and then accompany them to the “line-up” area.

Prep children attending the “After Care program” will also commence making their own way at 3.30pm to the program each day. The children will walk with other children in their classroom in groups together. The Prep teachers have a list of children’s names and their days of permanent bookings and will instruct these children to make their way to the portable building.

Prep children who have permanent bookings and may need to swap days or require extra days for after care need to let their child’s teacher know of the changes so as the teacher can instruct them to go to After Care.

Parents/guardians need to remind their children daily that they are booked for After Care.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
The practice of teaching and caring for children in our services is guided by a number of policies and procedures. A full copy of these procedures is on display at the service in the families’ resource library which is shelved under the: information sign in/out disk”.

REVIEW OF ALL POLICIES
Over the first part of the semester, educators and SAC sub-committee and families will be reviewing and developing the ever changing nature of education and the changes in research and practice in accordance with the National Quality Frameworks.

Families input into policy reviews allow families to have a voice and understand the expectations about what happens in our service. The policies will inform and guide daily practices, so they need to be clearly written, current and easily assessable to all service users.

If you would like to contribute any ideas or feedback on these policies, please see Cangie or Vanessa.

Currently we are reviewing the “Fees”, “Booking & Cancellation” and “Late Collection of Children” policies. Once these policies are finalised we will then forward the changes to School’s Policy Committee who then forward these changes to School Council for approval.

MISSING ¾ GUITAR in black soft case, from 34D room, Monday 3 weeks ago (6 Feb). Belongs to Jorden Giacomi. Please contact Karen 0408 613 403 or return to grade 3/4 Geoff.

THORNBURY HIGH SCHOOL. Information Evening, Thursday March 15, 7pm. To book a school tour with the Principal. Peter Egeberg, please call 9480 4066

BANYULE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION in conjunction with Yarra Valley Hockey Club, is offering New starter and more comprehensive programs (incl games)for Juniors. Own mouth guard essential. Wed evening sessions from 5pm & Saturday sessions from 10.00am. Register now at bha@yarravalleyhockey.com.au

PRINCES HILL SECONDARY COLLEGE. An Information Evening will be held in the College Theatre on Tuesday 1st May 2012.at 4pm and again at 7pm. Tours are held each Wed and Thurs at 8.50am & 9.30am from Wed 14th March until Wed 2nd May. Further info at www.phsc.vic.edu.au. Tour bookings, contact General Office on 9389 0600

NORTHCOTE/THORNBURY AUSKICK 2012 McDonell Park, Clifton Street, Northcote (behind Northcote swimming pool) Season: Sat 21st April - Sat 25th August, 9.00-10.30 am. Register & pay online now www.aflauskick.com.au Cost: $65.00 per child. Registration Day: Sat 31st March at McDonell Park, Northcote, 9.00 -11.00am. Bring online receipt to collect Backpack full of footy stuff and enjoy a Free Sausage Sizzle! Coaches and Volunteers Information evening will be held on Friday 23rd March from 7pm at the Club Rooms, McDonell Park, Clifton St, Northcote. Email: northcote.auskick@gmail.com Our website.http://www.sportingpulse.com/assoc_page.cgi?client=1-7242-0-0-0

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