Dear Parents and Guardians,

Before and After School Arrangements

An issue has come up recently regarding students not being picked up after school at 3.30 pm. Unfortunately, with the recent changes to the licensing arrangements of the School-Aged Care (SAC) program a student that doesn’t have a current enrolment form cannot be sent to the program. Under the terms of the licence all students attending the program must be registered or otherwise the school is in breach. As a result we will need to update our current policy and this will be undertaken by the School Council Policy and Strategic Planning Committee for School Council approval. I will inform you of the outcome when this is completed. In the meantime if you are ever anticipating that you may need to send your children to SAC, please register ASAP.

I have also noticed recently students in the school yard before school who are not in the SAC Program. Teaching staff do not take up yard supervision duty until 8.45am, therefore if you need your children to be at school early please use the morning SAC Program.

The Victorian State Budget

The 2012-13 State Budget was announced this week and there was very little good news in regard to education funding initiatives. Instead there has been a general winding back of educational initiatives and programs and a further cut to the staff of the public service. As part of the cutbacks families will no longer receive the school start bonus of $300 when their children start primary (preps) and secondary school (year 7) from next year.

Although I understand the State revenues are down the Corrections Minister, Andrew McIntosh has also announced the government will build a 500 bed prison which will then require 580 ongoing staff positions. That is a staffing ration of more than 1:1 and as Wales Street has 538 students I would love to run Wales Street with 500 staff. Imagine what we could do. The capital commitment to prisons in this Budget is $670 million whereas schools have been allocated $200 million. Sometimes it’s interesting to reflect where, as a community, we place our priorities and resources. For full details of the Budget, see the Victorian State Budget website: www.budget.vic.gov.au
2012 Education Week 20th-27th May

Education Week for this year will be held on the 20th – 26th May and is an opportunity for the community to visit the school. The theme this year will be on Inquiry learning through the Primary Years Program (PYP) at Wales Street. Events that have been organised include an Open Morning 9.15-10.40am on Thursday 24th to see Wales Street in Action with student tours. In the evening there will be a parent information night on the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program. The Preps will also be holding a Prep Happy Hour from 2.30-3.30pm on Friday 25th May, however, this will be in the Clyde Street building rather than the school hall.

A Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea has also been organised for parents/carers/guardians on Thursday 24th May (Open morning) from 10.30-11.30am. The organisers will need help in providing the morning tea, in setting up the tables/chairs, and to clean up. This Morning Tea is a fundraising event for the Cancer Council. Those attending will be asked for a gold coin donation to join in the morning tea. If you are able to help please contact: Anne Beech 0438 203 031 / 9484 8330.

Prep Enrolments for 2013

The enrolment process for next year has commenced this term and prep school tours are held on Mondays and Tuesdays up until the 31st July from 9.30-10.30am. Contact the School Office if you wish to take up this opportunity for a tour or pass this information on to families who you think will be interested.

Parents who have an existing child/ren at the school please note after the 31st July enrolment applications will be restricted to only those children where Wales Street is the closest school regardless of whether you currently have a child at the school so please enrol by this date.

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2012

NAPLAN tests are scheduled for the mornings of Tuesday 15th May, Wednesday 16th May and Thursday 17th May and all students in Years 3 and 5 are expected to participate in the assessment program. All schools across Australia complete the tests on the same days. If students are absent on the test days wherever possible, we will organise for individual students to complete a catch-up test at another time during the week. Students who are absent on test days can only sit tests until Friday 18th May.

Parents/Guardians of student in years 3 and 5 this week will receive an information pamphlet explaining more about the program. NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by class teachers. Tests will be marked by expert, independent markers. If your child is involved in the testing program you will receive a NAPLAN report which is issued later in the year to the school (usually mid September). Your child’s results are strictly confidential. Further information can be found on the NAPLAN website http://www.naplan.edu.au/

Christopher L. Sexton
Principal

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Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Parents and friends of Wales Street Primary School are invited to a morning tea to raise money for the Cancer Council. Join us in the school hall on Thursday 24th May, 10.30-11.30am. Gold coin donation on entry - but all other donations welcome too!

For more details, please contact Anne Beech 0438 20 30 31.
In order to understand how the regulations govern and control the operations of Before and After School Age Care (SAC) I have included a brief overview of the Frameworks and Standards.

**The National Quality Framework**
The National Quality Framework aims to raise quality and drive continuous improvement and consistency in education and care services through:

- **A national legislative framework**
  - The national legislative framework is established through an applied laws system and consists of:
    1. the Education and Care Services National Law 2010 (The Act)
    2. the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012 (The Regs)

- **a National Quality Standard and a national quality rating and assessment process**
  - A Regulatory Authority in each state and territory will be primarily responsible for administering the National Quality Framework, including approving, monitoring and quality assessing services. In Victoria, we have been moved to the ‘Department of Education and Early Childhood Department’ (DEECD).

- **a new national body “Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority” (ACECQA)**
  - will oversee the National Quality Framework and ensure the consistent and effective implementation of the new system

**National quality standards**
The Australian Government has developed a new national system to ensure quality early childhood education across child care services called the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care. The National Quality Agenda will include a new set of strong quality standards and a quality rating system for long day care, family day care, kindergarten and **Out of School Hours Care**.

**Why do we need a National Quality Framework?**
The National Quality Framework puts in place national standards to ensure high quality and consistent early childhood education and care across Australia.

The National Quality Standard will improve quality through:
- New staff qualification requirements to ensure staff have the skills to help children learn and develop delivering a higher standard of care for children’s education, play, health and safety.

The National Quality Standard is divided into 7 Quality Areas, 18 standards and 58 elements.

**QUALITY AREAS:**
1. Educational program and practice
2. Children’s health and safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Leadership and service management

Our program is based on an emergent & play based curriculum guided by the School Age Care (SAC) Frameworks “**My Time, Our Place**” including the principles, practices and outcomes from this framework.
Quality Improvement Plan
The National Quality Framework requires all staff/educators to improve the services in the areas that impact on the child’s development and safety using the following support documents to guide educators/staff to improve the service outcomes and to provide quality care for children.

These are the support documents:

Currently all staff/educators are working on a continuous Quality Improvement Plan to meet the Frameworks and Standards which is part of the assessment process. The Quality Improvement Plan is available at the program in the “Information Parent Library” (sign in desk).

We welcome families input into the ongoing Quality Improvement Plan. Please see Cangie & Vanessa for further information. The NQF link is www.acecqa.gov.au

Education Maintenance Allowance
EMA cheques have arrived. Please collect from the school office.

MOTHER’S & SPECIAL PERSON’S DAY STALL – Thursday 10th May
Items will vary from $1 to $15-00 this year.
Volunteers and plastic shopping bags needed.

PREP 2013
School tours for prospective Prep 2013 families have commenced and will continue throughout Term 2, every Monday and Tuesday morning 9:30-10:30am, except May 21st and May 22nd. Please contact the school office for bookings.

Enrolments are now being accepted for 2013. Please pick up an enrolment pack from the School Office.

Enrolment forms must be submitted by July 31st.
Hello Everyone,

As we are now officially well into the footy/basketball/soccer etc season, I’m looking at preventative action we might take against injuries that unfortunately may occur. I have, in the past, looked at what to do if your tooth is knocked out, greenstick fractures and how warm up exercises are great to do pre-sport. (If you wish I can repeat these.) Today, Sports Medicine Australia has provided me with an excellent article on “Footwear for Safety” This article looks at tips for buying athletic shoes considering shoe torsion, flexion, midsole density and durability. I find this most reassuring as my knowledge was minimal at best! The article has been added to this newsletter as an additional pdf.

“Sports Medicine Australia is a national multidisciplinary organization committed to enhancing the health of all Australians through safe participation in sport and physical activity. Sports Medicine Australia achieves this through the provision of expert information, advice and leadership on a diverse range of sports medicine and related issues.”

“Smartplay” is the sport safety and injury prevention program within Sports Medicine Australia-this is where our fact sheet comes from.ie:  www.smartplay.com.au  an excellent website chock full of information and ideas.

Talking of feet…. “Walk to school Day” is coming up on Friday May 18th

“WSTSD promotes the vitally important message: Active Kids are Healthy Kids. The event encourages parents, carers and their children to build regular walking to and from school into their daily routine, because children need a minimum of 60 minutes, regular physical activity per day. It also encourages parents to drive less and walk more, aiming to decrease dangerous vehicle congestion around schools and reduce carbon emissions from idling cars.

The objectives of WSTSD are:

- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
- To promote the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age.
- To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
- To help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
- To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
- To promote the use of Public Transport.
- To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.
- To reduce the level of traffic congestion. “

Cath Fisers – School Nurse

Our Library Scholastic Book Fair will be open on:
Tuesday afternoon May 15, at 3pm, and will run daily, 8.30-9.30am and 3-4pm
until Monday May 21.
Please put these dates in your diary. A brochure will appear in coming weeks...
See you there….. Sallie McCleery

VICTORIAN PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations on an 87% participation rate at Wales Street.
Visit the School Library or Public Library to find a book on the reading list.
Meet Billie B Brown’s creator, Sally Rippin. Preston Library. Wed. 12 May, 4-5pm (for School kids, 5-12. Parental supervision is required). Book online at [www.spongeclub.com](http://www.spongeclub.com) or call 1300 655 355

Darebin Police have launched a Facebook page to provide the community with timely information, request your assistance with solving crime in your area, highlight the good work that is performed by our police officers and inform our community of police involvement in local events. We encourage you to please follow along and we can be found at: EYEWATCH – DAREBIN POLICE SERVICE AREA

SPROUT MOTHER’S DAY & SPECIAL TWILIGHT MARKET, 3-7pm on Thursday MAY 3rd, Cnr Watt & Clapham Streets, Thornbury Special twilight Mother’s Day market. Enjoy the vibrant local market, live music, kids’ activities, truly tasty food, local wares and lots of great seedlings to plant at home. Sprout exists to support the wellness and recovery of people recovering from mental health issues and to encourage community strengthening and diversity. Ph: 9484-5565 or zwaldstein@mindaustralia.org.au for info or a stall


BLOOD AND GUTS. CSIRO Double Helix Club. After School Science activity at Ivanhoe Primary School. Students from neighbouring schools are welcome to join what we hope will be the first of many sessions. 17 May, 4-5pm at Ivanhoe PS, 122 Waterdale Rd, Ivanhoe. Cost $16 for Double Helix members & $20 for Non-members. Bookings are essential. Parents are welcome to stay! Book via CSIRO Double Helix website – [www.csiro.au/VicHelix](http://www.csiro.au/VicHelix)

Westgarth Baseball Club. Sat. May 5 is our first of a five week t-ball program taking place at Merri Park, Northcote (Melways 30 C9) from 9am to 10am. It’s aimed at students aged 4 to 9 yrs. Tee-ball is open to boys and girls. Contact John Peterson 0430 340 786 or email WestgarthBaseballClub@hotmail.com. More info at [www.westgarthbaseball.com](http://www.westgarthbaseball.com)

GARAGE SALE. Saturday 5 May. 13 Wilmoth St, Northcote, 9-2pm. Clothes, antiques, bric-a-brac & much more.

LOST school jumper. Rachel Adam has lost her labelled school jumper and jacket (size 6). Return to the Office.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER HOST FAMILY. World Education Program (WEP) is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student from Italy, Belgium & The Netherlands arriving in July 2012. Contact: Chantel Woods, Ph: 1300 884 733, Email: wep@wep.org.au, Online: [www.wep.org.au](http://www.wep.org.au)


Catherine Manuell Design. Warehouse Clearance Sale. 189 Grange Road, Fairfield VIC. 2 Days only THIS WEEKEND! Saturday 5th of May, 9am til 4pm and Sunday 10am til 3pm. Up to 80% off!

Painted Ladies Painting Service - We are a WPS family and are painting in your area. A 10% discount available for all other WPS families. Call Angie or Peta now on 0424 546 182