Dear Parents,

The Process of Class Formations for 2013
Thank you to all the parents who have provided information about their child/ren’s friendships or relationship issues to help assist in the class formation process that the staff will begin shortly. As I noted last week, to request to have a specific teacher for your child/ren it is not something that I can accommodate as staffing is a completely different process. Staffing and role allocations will be completed by the end of the year after class formations have been completed.

End of Year Reports
The Australian Education Union has placed a work ban on its members providing comments on school reports. Most teachers at Wales Street Primary School will only be reporting on VELS progression points and will not be providing written comments in this report cycle. These reports will only contain the A-E marks for each subject area. 12 month progression marks and an effort/behaviour scale. If your child’s teacher has chosen to follow union bans a note will also be included with your child’s report. However, your child’s portfolio is a comprehensive document that shows what they have achieved over the course of the year. Portfolios will be available in early December.

Reflection on 2012 and the Work of Steven Covey
We are reaching that time of year when there is a sudden realization that the next month is December and the end of the year is upon us. At the moment staff are completing student assessments and there is much reflection and planning commencing for 2013. In such a busy time I find it often useful to revisit the work of Steven Covey the USA self-help guru and his most well-known work on the 7 and later 8 Habits of Highly Effective People. I always find it helps me to focus myself on the important aspects of my life both professional and personal as I reflect on the year and consider ‘where to next’. As I know that many people are also very busy and in the same situation as myself I thought it might be useful to therefore share his key messages in case you had not come across his work (or to revisit if you have). It’s mostly really just good advice (common sense) but as he often pointed out not common practice.
Habit 1: Be Proactive

Your life doesn't just "happen." Whether you know it or not, it is carefully designed by you. The choices, after all, are yours. You choose happiness. You choose sadness. You choose decisiveness. You choose ambivalence. You choose success. You choose failure. You choose courage. You choose fear. Just remember that every moment, every situation, provides a new choice. And in doing so, it gives you a perfect opportunity to do things differently to produce more positive results.

Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind

So, what do you want to be when you grow up? That question may appear a little trite, but think about it for a moment. Are you - right now - who you want to be, what you dreamed you'd be, doing what you always wanted to do? Be honest. Sometimes people find themselves achieving victories that are empty-successes that have come at the expense of things that were far more valuable to them. If your ladder is not leaning against the right wall, every step you take gets you to the wrong place faster.

Habit 3: Put First Things First

To live a more balanced existence, you have to recognize that not doing everything that comes along is okay. There's no need to overextend yourself. All it takes is realizing that it's all right to say no when necessary and then focus on your highest priorities.

Habit 4: Think Win-Win

Think Win-Win isn't about being nice, nor is it a quick-fix technique. It is a character-based code for human interaction and collaboration. Most of us learn to base our self-worth on comparisons and competition. We think about succeeding in terms of someone else failing--that is, if I win, you lose; or if you win, I lose. Life becomes a zero-sum game. There is only so much pie to go around, and if you get a big piece, there is less for me; it's not fair, and I'm going to make sure you don't get anymore. We all play the game, but how much fun is it really?

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

Communication is the most important skill in life. You spend years learning how to read and write, and years learning how to speak. But what about listening? What training have you had that enables you to listen so you really, deeply understand another human being? Probably none, right?

Evaluating: You judge and then either agree or disagree.
Probing: You ask questions from your own frame of reference.
Advising: You give counsel, advice, and solutions to problems.
Interpreting: You analyse others' motives and behaviors' based on your own experiences.

Habit 6: Synergize

To put it simply, synergy means "two heads are better than one." Synergize is the habit of creative cooperation. It is teamwork, open-mindedness, and the adventure of finding new solutions to old problems. But it doesn't just happen on its own. It's a process, and through that process, people bring all their personal experience and expertise to the table. Together, they can produce far better results that they could individually. Synergy lets us discover jointly things we are much less likely to discover by ourselves. It is the idea that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw

Sharpen the Saw means preserving and enhancing the greatest asset you have - you. It means having a balanced program for self-renewal in the four areas of your life: physical, social/emotional, mental, and spiritual. As you renew yourself in each of the four areas, you create growth and change in your life. Sharpen the Saw keeps you fresh so you can continue to practice the other six habits. You increase your capacity to produce and handle the challenges around you. Without this renewal, the body becomes weak, the mind mechanical, the emotions raw, the spirit insensitive, and the person selfish.

The 8th Habit: From Effectiveness to Greatness

Moving from being effective to being great – Finding your voice and inspiring others to find theirs. Aspects here include: Searching for Meaning, Taking Charge, Starting Within, Creating the Dream, Teaming with Others, Overcoming Adversity and Blending the Pieces.
STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The blue and white absence book must be filled in by parents/carers, for all late arrivals and early departures. A parent or carer must fill in all details, sign the absence book and send the white slip with the student to class. School starts in the classroom at 9am and first bell goes at 8.57am, when students need to make their way to their lines. School finishes at 3.30pm.

If your child is away for a full day, please note that all hand delivered notes, emails and phone calls regarding absences must include Name of child, class and reason for absence.
MOBILE MUSTER

Dear Parents and Friends,

A big “Thank You” to all those parents and friends that placed their old mobile phones in the school’s Mobile Muster collection boxes. We collected over 30 mobile phones. We recently mailed all the phones, batteries and chargers to Mobile Muster for recycling.

In 2013 Wales Street Primary School will continue to support and participate in the Mobile Muster program. As such, if you have any old mobile phones lying around the house, please ask your child to bring them to school and drop them in the box at School reception or outside the teachers’ office in the Clyde Street Building. Also, talk to your friends, colleagues and other family members and encourage them to clean out that bottom drawer and donate their old mobiles.

Further information can be obtained at www.mobilemuster.com.au.

Wales Street Qualifies for the State Chess Championship!!

The Chess Victoria Primary Open Semi-Final was played on Friday, 29th October, at Club Tivoli in Windsor. Almost 200 players from 27 schools competed. The atmosphere was electric! The pressure was intense and the excitement indescribable. With Chess pieces clicking and clocks ticking, it was admirable seeing so many young people trying their best and performing as a team.

Although Wales Street ended up in 20th place with a fine combined score of 16 points from 7 rounds, the result belies our playing strength - many games were very close and the final score could well have been dramatically different. So, I am very happy with their performance.

Congratulations to our 6 talented Chess Stars: Stavros Vlahopoulos, Bradley Shears, Chris Anastasiou, Harry Loulakis and Ari Koutsoubos.

Special recognition for our youngest players (Chris and Harry, both in Grade 3) for taking part in this (daunting) event. The “battle-hardening” experience will stand them in good stead for future tournaments!

Well done team!

Jim Cannon - WSPS Chess Coach

Lost: WSPS Navy Zip up Hooded Windcheater

Navy zip up hooded windcheater, near new. Hoodie is named (Nathan Kunnumpurath). Please check labels and return to the school office if your child has taken it home by mistake. Thanks.

Christmas Shopping Market
Tuesday 4 December 2012 - from 6.30pm

Things are getting exciting as we head closer to this year’s market. We already have 20 stallholders and new enquiries are coming through each day. Thanks to those who have emailed me with contact details for stallholders. I appreciate your help.

This weekend I will be checking out local markets for more stallholders so there are lots of options for Christmas gifts for all the family. Next week I will include a list of our fabulous stallholders so you can start planning your purchases.

Thanks also to those who have offered to help me out on the night. If you can spare some time to volunteer either helping to set up stalls, during the market or assisting with the pack up, please send me a quick email to offer your support.

As always, if you have any questions about the market, please send an email to: leah.taylor@straightshooter.com.au or call 0403 576 925.
Hello Everyone,

Wow! What a fantastic eclipse! I think I saw all of a vague shadowing?????

Of course if we were in Cairns.....a wee bit North of Melbourne, we would have been treated to an intergalactic spectacular. Still- it was interesting trying out the “mirror onto board technique” viewing platform... and I did love the website with all its eclipse information...I hope you did too!

Today I’d like to tell you about an exciting new initiative from St. Johns Ambulance Victoria. They have launched a free community program to equip school aged children across Victoria with “vital first aid skills that could help save a life.” This program is called the “First aid in Schools Program”.

FIRST AID IN SCHOOLS
SEPTEMBER 13, 2012: ST JOHN LAUNCHES ITS LATEST COMMUNITY PROGRAM FIRST AID IN SCHOOLS

The St John First Aid in Schools Program aims to deliver free First Aid training at no cost to school or parents to 67,000 Victorian school children in 2013.

St John trainers will visit schools throughout Victoria and empower students with First Aid skills so they are ready to save a life in the event of an emergency.

The program has 4 modules across primary and secondary schools. The First Aid learning is age-appropriate and integrates with the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) curriculum. The four education streams include:

- Module 1 (45mins) - Prep, Grade 1 & 2
- Module 2 (45mins) - Grade 3 & 4
- Module 3 (60mins) - Grade 5 & 6
- Module 4 (60mins) - Year 7 & 8

This free program, delivered by qualified St John professional trainers, is a great way to educate your students on the importance of First Aid and what to do in the event of an emergency.

Wales street Primary School is pleased to incorporate this program into our curriculum next year. All Grades have expressed their interest in the program and we are currently in the throes of organizing the best timetable fit.

Looks like I will have over 500 children vying for my job!

To illness- within our lovely community there has been gastro (still hanging about unfortunately) and whispers of Slapped cheek. Maintaining good hand hygiene will assist your children immensely when trying to prevent the spread of any disease. This may be a good time to remind our children to turn the tap off while we soap up our hands to bubbly frothiness and then wash off thoroughly.

Until next week, stay well.

Catherine Fisers - School Nurse (R/N)
CLASSIFIEDS School Council accepts no responsibility for goods / services offered here


**The Preston R.S.L Bulldogs Junior F.C. Inaugural Registration Day!** Sun. Dec. 2nd. Until 1p.m. BBQ, Jumping Castle, Meet AFL Footballers, & Sign up for season 2013! The club will be looking to grow quickly and will field sides in all age groups where possible in 2013. The club is looking to enter all age groups for the 2013 season, competing in the Northern Football League, from April 14th with home & away games on Sun. morn. Home games at W.R Ruthven V.C Reserve, Preston. The club has been reformed by a committed group of parents to give kids in the Preston & surrounding areas the chance to play football with their mates & to make some new friends along the way. Following the ethos that 'many hands make light work' parents, other family members and friends are all encouraged to be involved to ensure a fun and safe environment is created and maintained. **Auskick:** As part of the junior football program we will be launching an Auskick program which will be held on Friday nights. The Preston R.S.L Bulldogs J.F.C is receiving great support from the North Heidelberg Sporting Club and will be aligned to the North Heidelberg Senior Football Club playing in the Northern Football League. Please contact for more information. Rick Thornycroft on 0420 426 758, Len Gillett on 0418 591 034, James Brown on 0434 637 065, Kylie Stone on 0415 890 027.

Soccer is a great way to get fit, make new friends and have fun! Darebin Women's Sports Club is holding a free "Come and Try Soccer" Day for girls aged 4-11 years. Come down to our home ground, A.H Capp Reserve Halwyn Cres., Preston on Sun. Nov. 18th from 10.00am-12.00pm for a morning of soccer fun! Or please contact Jasmine Hirst jazhirst@yahoo.com.au or 0422991687 for further info.

**Chess Tournament.** Thomastown Library. Sat. 17th Nov. 9.30am-1pm All ages welcome. Come test your Chess skills and have a lot of fun at this family-friendly event. Cost: Free. Bookings required: 9464 1864 or [www.yrpl.com.au](http://www.yrpl.com.au)

**Free Exercise @ Wales Street Primary School - Wednesdays 9:00-9.50am.** Open to parents & guardians of students enrolled at WSPS. No bookings required


**Phillip Island holiday rental.** On offer for families of WSPS, is our holiday house in Cowes, Phillip Island at a discounted rate (15% Off) View on [www.stayz.com.au/62759](http://www.stayz.com.au/62759) Call Manoli on 0415085857

**Holy Name Primary School Fete.** Sunday, 18 Nov. 11am – 4pm. 12 Robb Street Reservoir. Enquiries: Ph. 9471 0883

**FOUND** Tues. night 13/11. Orange canary in backyard between Speight St. & Hammond St., Sings beautifully. Ring Kirsty 9012 3381.

**Northcote Town Hall Kris Kringle Night Markets.** Northcote Town Hall. Thurs., 5:30 – 10:00pm. Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 & 20th. Free entry