FROM THE PRINCIPAL….

Dear Parents,

FOUNDING WEEKEND 22nd and 23rd October 120th CELEBRATIONS
Well the big weekend of the 120th School Anniversary Celebration has finally arrived. The Alumni Association has held a number of events and activities in the lead up to this school foundation weekend the 22nd and 23rd October and to officially mark the school’s 120th Year. We invite everyone to join in the celebrations. I have outlined below the events that will run over the course of the weekend.

Saturday 22nd of October, 2011 Open Day - Venue: Wales Street Primary School Time: 2pm to 4pm
To include: School Tours, Open Classrooms, Display of the School’s Photographic Collection dating back to 1891 and Afternoon Tea in the School Hall.

Sunday 23rd of October, 2011 Family BBQ & Fun Day - Venue: Wales Street Primary School
Time: 12.30pm to 4pm. Food & Drink Stalls, Live Bands & Entertainment, Games for children, Display of the School’s Photographic Collection dating back to 1891 and the School will officially commemorate its 120th year with the laying of a Time Capsule and launch of the 120th Celebration Book. BYO drinks (adult) and food is allowed, food will also be provided and available to purchase.

So come along everyone and enjoy the occasion and it is a once in a lifetime event (and hopefully in 30 years time at the 150 celebrations someone will remember where the time capsule was buried!).

Children’s Week 22nd – 30th October
Next week is Children’s Week a national program recognising the talents, skills, achievements and rights of young people. It is based on the articles expressed in the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child, highlighting play, wellbeing and protection.

The Department of Education Employment and Training (DEECD) works in partnership with local governments, Victorian schools and early childhood services to host activities during Children’s Week that focus community attention on the needs and achievements of children and young people as they thrive, learn and grow. The activities are based around the theme of A Caring World Shares.

Children’s Week will be celebrated from 22 to 30 October 2011, with Universal Children’s Day on Wednesday 26 October 2011. For general information or other enquiries, please email: childrens.week@edumail.vic.gov.au or phone (03) 9947 1894.

For information about the Children's Week Launch Event including performance and activity times, see http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/childrensweek/launchdetails.htm

Celebrate World Teachers’ Day Friday 28th October 2011
This year World Teachers’ Day is on Friday 28th October and is becoming a wonderful opportunity for parents and students to acknowledge the dedication and work of the teaching staff. Celebrated in over 100 countries, World Teachers’ Day was inaugurated on 5th October 1994 by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to commemorate the 1966 joint signing of the UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. In adopting this recommendation, governments unanimously recognised the importance of competent, qualified and motivated teachers in society.

Internationally World Teachers’ Day is celebrated on the first Friday in October. However, as this is usually during Australian school holidays, Australia celebrates the day on the last Friday in October of each year. World Teachers’ Day acknowledges the efforts of teachers in an increasingly complex, multicultural and technological society. It is a day on which students, parents and community members can demonstrate their appreciation for the contributions that teachers have made to their community.
Wales Street House Swimming Carnival

The Wales Street House Swimming Carnival will take place next Tuesday 25th October at the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre. The event will run from 10am till 2pm. Students will walk to and from the event. Students from year levels 3-6 have been invited to swim for their House teams. The swimming carnival is also an opportunity for students to be timed in preparation for the 2012 district swimming sports, as well as the 2011 district triathlon.

Any student wishing to participate must be able to CONFIDENTLY swim 50m unassisted. Students will be allowed to choose which events they compete in, however, parents/guardians must complete and sign the permission slip. Students not participating in House Swimming Carnival will remain at school.

Students will have the opportunity to swim Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly. As we will be recording each student’s time we are asking for parent helpers to assist with this task. We will need as many parent helpers as possible on the day to ensure accuracy when recording the students’ times, so any time you can spare would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Anna de Vos at school on 9484 3949, or fill out the return slip with the notice sent home today.

Staff Planning for 2012, Class Lists and Student Reports

Next year as we are expecting approximately 535 – 540 students to be enrolled at the school we will conduct 23 classes. Currently, there are 506 enrolments with 21 classes. The Prep orientation program begins this week and the organisation of Class Formation, Staffing and School Structures will be organised over the next two months in preparation for 2012.

As I indicated in last week’s newsletter I am currently involved in advertising and interviewing for staffing positions for next year. Unfortunately, this will take some time to occur but I am hopeful of having all appointments completed by the end of this year. I also plan to have classes and Student Reports completed by the 16th December.

Student Transfers for 2012

Apart from Year 6 students, could parents/guardians who currently have students attending Wales Street and are planning to transfer at the end of this year please notify the school office in writing by Friday 28th October. It is vital that we have accurate information as it greatly influences planning of class numbers and staffing for next year.

Policy and Process of Class Groupings

This year I will again be following the process that has been developed over the past few years of class grouping arrangements to ensure the transition of students from one year and class level to another is as positive and beneficial as possible.

As part of this process parents are now being invited to write to me by Friday 4th November to indicate information and aspects such as friendships or relationship issues that should be taken into account by staff in forming classes. Please address the letter to me Christopher Sexton Principal Wales Street Primary School and headed “Parent Request for Student Placement Considerations 2012”. Please do not leave it until after the cut off date as information will be too late to be considered by staff.

After the closing date for submissions the staff will then commence the process of class formation. Decisions will reflect our best professional thinking and judgements, as well as taking into consideration parent information; in making the most appropriate class grouping for your child/ren. It will also be linked with the deployment/employment of staff in line with their experience and school priorities.

It is a very complex and careful process and next year there will be 23 classes. Staff take into account not only parent and student friendship group information/desires but also academic skills and gender balance as well as existing relationship issues between students. It is very much a balancing act at times to create the best match ups and class groups within the school at all levels.

School Production DVD

A reminder that pre orders for the DVD - Celebrating 120 years of Music at Wales Street PS - are still being accepted. Please return order form and payment to the school office. Production of the DVD is currently taking place, thanks to Jenny Deeble and her son Cameron….. I think you will all be pleased with the quality of the production.

Commencement of an After School Chinese School

I am pleased to be able to announce that the After School Chinese School commenced on Tuesday 18th October. This term the lessons are being offered free of charge and run from 3.45-5.30pm. This is a trial service in our school and from Term 1, 2012 charges will apply to use the program.

Lessons for this program will be conducted in the ‘Reading Room’ in the Wales Street building. With the reintroduction of Mandarin as one of our LOTE programs this year, this is a wonderful opportunity to support the school’s curriculum.

Christopher Sexton
Principal
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>22/10/11</td>
<td>120th Celebrations Open Day 2-4pm</td>
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<td>23/10/11</td>
<td>120th Celebrations Family Fun Day 12-4pm</td>
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<td>24/10/11</td>
<td>Prep “Wild Action” Incursion</td>
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<td>27/10/11</td>
<td>Life Skills Program: Grade 3/4</td>
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<td>28/10/11</td>
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<td>28/10/11</td>
<td>Tea Towel Orders Due</td>
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<td>01/11/11</td>
<td>Melbourne Cup Day</td>
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<td>03/11/11</td>
<td>Life Skills Program: Grade 3/4</td>
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<td>16/11/11</td>
<td>Traffic School Exc: 12A/12D/12E</td>
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<td>17/11/11</td>
<td>Traffic School Exc: 12B/12C/12F/12G</td>
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<td>14/12/11</td>
<td>Parliament Exc: 56A/56B</td>
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**MEETING DATES & TIMES**

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<tr>
<td>21/10/11</td>
<td>OSHC 8:00am</td>
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<td>25/10/11</td>
<td>Finance 7:00pm</td>
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**SICK BAY LINEN DUTY**

21/10/11 - Jackie Chalker  
28/10/11 - Sarah Hamilton  
04/11/11 - Anna Mathioulakis

We need another 6 prep parents to volunteer for sick bay linen duty - please leave your name at the school office if you can help. Thank you 😊

**LOST PROPERTY**

V-Neck Woollen school jumper, labelled, belonging to “Astrid”. Lost Tuesday 18/10/11 near the sandpit or prep building. Please contact Sarah Hamilton 0408 920 022 / 9495 1505.

**P.E. NEWS**

**SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS**

Thank you to everyone who has dropped off their Coles sports for schools vouchers over the past few months. The promotion finished 18th October and I will be sending our vouchers in to be counted by the end of next week, so any remaining vouchers need to be returned by Wednesday 26th October. Thanks again for your contributions, they will go to some great new sports equipment for our students.

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Next Tuesday 25th October, we will be having the Wales Street House swimming carnival at the Northcote Aquatic Centre. Students in grades 3-6 who wish to participate will have the opportunity to swim freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly and earn points for their team. As we will be timing students in preparation for the 2012 district swimming, any parents or family members who are able to help out would be greatly appreciated. Due to safety concerns any students not participating will remain at school.

**JUMP ROPE FOR HEART**

Anyone who still has Jump Rope for Heart money could you please return it to Pina in the office by Wednesday 26th October.

Thanks,

Anna de Vos - PE Coordinator

**WSPS FAMILY DAY CAKE STALL**

There will be a small cake stall for people to enjoy sweet treats this Sunday at the Wales Street Family Day. If you would like to bake something delicious, or alternatively help out on the stall, please call Candy 0407 204 345.
Out of School Hours Care

2012 ENROLMENT FOR BEFORE & AFTER “SCHOOL AGE CARE” (SAC) formerly OSHC

We have reached that time of the year again where we need to re-enrol families who currently use the program for 2012.

All existing families who use the program will be required to fill out a new annual enrolment form and booking slip for 2012. License conditions set out by Children's Policy and Regulations require an annual enrolment which will take place at the end of each year for the following year. This is essential that the program has up to date information about your child, especially contact numbers for parents and emergency contacts and up to date information on authorised people who are able to collect and care for the child after an accident, injury, trauma or illness. Reg 31

To enable data to be processed and for planning, you need to ensure that all sections in the enrolment forms are filled out with appropriate details and returned with your $10.00 (per family) Enrolment administration fee (cash only).

You can collect your 2012 enrolment form and booking slip from (SAC) staff/educators from Monday 31st OCTOBER.

Current Families who will be adding younger siblings (new Preps) may have already filled out an enrolment form for (SAC) in their “Prep School Package”. If families have older siblings who also currently use the program and also need to be enrolled for 2012 will have to fill out a separate enrolment form for that child. Under the Children Regulations each child must have their own current enrolment form. Families who have returned their enrolment form for next years Prep child/ren and need to re-enrol an older sibling/s will need to come into the program and collect a separate enrolment form for this child.

BOOKINGS FOR 2012

To ensure that you do not miss out on a place for both Before and After Care, a “Booking Slips” must be filled out for next year, you still need to re-book day for 2012 even if the days you require are the same as this year.

If you do not know which days you will require for 2012 then a booking slip will need to be returned as early as possible in the New Year when school commences in February to secure a place.

Before & After Care attendances for this year has been high and it looks like this trend will continue for next year and if places are not immediately available for both programs, then children will be put on a waiting list and “child Care Priority of Access” from Department of Education and Employment Workplace Relations (DEEWR) will be implemented.

Please Note that while all effort will be made for your child to attend the program on your preferred days, the completion of this booking form does not guarantee this place.

If families do not re-enrol for 2012, then the program will assume that you will not require care for next year.
Hello Everyone,

On the odd occasion, my mum sends me cut outs of newspaper articles she finds that are relevant to schools and health. She has always done this for me and it’s terrific. (Thanks mum!) Recently she sent me an article from the Age titled “Exercise linked to higher test scores”. According to research by Professor Richard Telford (of the Australian National University medical school), “Primary school students who exercise regularly are more likely to have higher NAPLAN test scores in numeracy and writing”.

To elaborate :- “Primary schools with the top NAPLAN scores also have the highest level of physical activity among their students, including participation in after school sport” Another study shows that “children who are taught by specialist PE teachers have much higher NAPLAN test results in numeracy and writing, than students whose PE lessons are taught by generalist classroom teachers in primary schools” .The reasons for this include “Children in the specialist PE lessons spend more time on fitness related activities, including strength, balance, flexibility and group work. Lessons run by classroom teachers mostly used walks, runs and traditional games.”

These studies are further supported “by neurological research emerging from Germany and the US over the past 10 years. The use of brain imaging has found that exercise, especially fitness activities that involve hand-eye co-ordination, can improve brain function” 

“We’re now realising that there’s a mutual development process between the brain and other tissues like muscles”. Professor Telford says. “This mutual process seems even more evident in children. So if children are not exercising they may not have the optimum environment for growth of the body and brain”.

It’s fascinating stuff, and another good reason to get out there with our children. Our specialist P/E teacher Anna is more valuable than ever! If anyone would like to read the article in its entirety, please feel free to ask any time.

This week the gorgeous weather continues- a gentle reminder to label all your child’s hats with their name and to have all water bottles clearly labelled. There is a large box of unclaimed water bottles in the lost property area, just dying to be filled and drunk from!

Until next week-have fun swimming all you prep to Grade 2,s, it’s the start of Swimming for Term 4. Such an important skill to have.

Catherine Fisers - School Nurse

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

*The Westgarth Primary School Whopping Great Fete*

Rides, slideshow alley, home produce market stalls, music, Devonshire tea, vintage clothing, toys, books, Mediterranean food, and much more! Sunday 23rd of October, 10-4pm. Clarke Street, Northcote.

**GARAGE SALE – SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER** 9am - 12noon

259 Victoria Road, Thornbury (just near Darebin Road corner) Loads of kids toys and games (suit 0-8 year olds), tv, kitchen items…..

**SPROUT MARKET – 3-7pm on Thursday Nov 3rd**

Come along to Sprout and enjoy the local market, music, kids activities, tasty food, local wares and lots of great spring seedlings – all in the gorgeous Sprout garden surrounds. Also – Open Gate each non-market Thursday 1-4pm for Sprout fresh produce, seedlings, chai and preserves. Cnr Watt & Clapham Streets, Thornbury (Melways Ref 30F4), Ph: 9484-5565 for info or a stall.

**Northcote Town Hall Children's and Baby Market: 5 November, 9am - 1pm, 189 High Street Northcote 3070, Melway: 30 E9**

Northcote Town Hall's popular Children's and Baby Market is on again, with over 30 indoor stalls selling both hand made and second hand children's and baby goods including clothes, toys, accessories and equipment. Whether you're after that something special or that special bargain for the little folk in your life, this is the place for you!

‘Supporting Emotional Development in Children’ Presented by Cara Sheekey, Occupational Therapist

The Merri Creek Parent Support Group take great pleasure in inviting you to their upcoming workshop. All parents, educators and friends are welcome. Date: Tuesday 15th November, 7.30pm Venue: Merri Creek Primary School, Miller St, Nth Fitzroy. The workshop will include: *An overview of the stages of emotional development in primary school aged children, *An understanding of the importance of relationship-based strategies to support your child’s emotional health and well being, *An opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation. Gold coin donation. Please RSVP to Sally at sallylouise@moore@hotmail.com
Darebin Parklands Discovery Day
Enjoy a free day of family fun in Darebin Parklands on Sunday 13 November, from 2-5 pm. Free entertainment includes guided walks with Ranger Pete where you can learn about the park’s wildlife and history; performances by the Alphingtones and the Splinters and historical and photographic displays. The new parklands history, *Darebin Parklands: Escaping the Claws of the Machine* will be launched between 3-4pm by Rob Gell and author Dr Sarah Mirams will be signing books during the afternoon. The event location is near the Separation Street, Alphington entrance. Note that on-site car parking is very limited. Please walk, cycle or take public transport (the route 508 bus runs every 35 minutes and stops right out the front, and Alphington and Darebin train stations are a few minutes’ walk away).

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**Wales Street Primary School**

**120th Anniversary Celebration Family Fun Day**

12.15 *Yellow Steps, Wales Street Gate*
- Welcome and launch of Wales St Primary School Commemorative Book
- Laying of the Time Capsule

1.00 – 2.00 **Student Performances** (School Oval)

2.00 Everyone welcome to join in races on oval
- 3 legged race
- Balloon relay
- Egg & spoon
- And more…

2.00 Shivering Timbers (school oval)

3.00 Principal to draw raffle (school oval)

3.05 One House Town (school oval)

*From 1.30pm there will be a photographic display in the Wales Street Building*

*Thank you to all parents, students, staff, alumni committee, events committee and facilities committee for making this a special celebration.*

*A big thank you to the support from Coffico Coffee, Psarakos, Paul West, Crunch Café, and Candy “Cakes” Rothwell and her cake makers.*
WALES ST PRIMARY SCHOOL

FAMILY FUN DAY

120TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday 23rd October
12 – 4pm

An opportunity for all students, staff and parents to come along and celebrate the wonderful history of our school.

- Time Capsule ceremony at 12.15, Wales St Entrance
- Live Music: Shivering Timbers, One House Town, WSPS student performances
- Sausages, veggie wraps, cakes, Coffico coffee and drinks available to purchase
- Bring a picnic rug/food/BYO adult drinks
- Games for kids
- Historical photographic exhibition
- WSPS Memorabilia for sale: mug, tea towel, retro t-shirt, commemorative book

PARENT HELPERS URGENTLY NEEDED

To help make the day successful we need some fabulous volunteers!!

Things to do/setup: BBQ, Stage, Tables & Chairs, Sizzle Sausages, Serve & Assemble Veggie Wraps and Cakes.

Please volunteer some of your time. Fill out your details on the roster at the School Office, email the school, or call Maria Romnios on 0407 999 270.