**FROM THE PRINCIPAL….

Dear Parents,

**FOUNDING WEEKEND 22nd and 23rd October 120th CELEBRATIONS**

Congratulations everyone on a fantastic Foundation Weekend to celebrate the school’s 120th Anniversary. Past and current students and their families really got behind the activities and created a wonderful atmosphere. On Saturday we held an Open Day from 2pm to 4pm with School Tours, Open Classrooms, Display of the School’s Photographic Collection dating back to 1891 and Afternoon Tea in the School Hall. This was very well attended with well over 100 people taking the opportunity to visit the school. The major focus of the weekend, however, was the Sunday where from 12.30pm to 4pm there were Food & Drink Stalls, Live Bands & Entertainment, Games for children, Display of the School’s Photographic Collection dating back to 1891.

It was very moving to have past students officially commemorate the 120th year with the laying of a Time Capsule and listening to their recollections of their personal experiences at Wales Street.

The weekend also saw the launch of the 120th Commemorative Book which is a wonderful outline of the history of the school and provides great insight into Wales Street. Congratulations to Lucy Thornton in particular for bringing this book to a reality. I also wish to thank and acknowledge the work of Olga Galacho, Maddy Maitri, Helen Johnson and Ann-Maree Duncan for assisting in writing and editing and Heath Bate for his wonderful design and layout of the book.

There are many parents and staff to thank, in particular, the Events Committee headed by Maria Romnios together with Natasha Kinsman, the Alumni Committee headed by Lucy Thornton (together with Richard Legge and Frank Beale), Facilities Committee and Tim Phillips, School Council, our Specialist Teachers headed by Sherrill Liberi together with Amy Cecil and the rest of WSPS staff. I would also like to thank all the parents who volunteered their time to help set up and run the activities/stalls, without you this wouldn’t be a successful event.

**Children’s Week 22nd – 30th October**

This 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.

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**

Tomorrow is this year’s World Teachers’ Day and is 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/IL0 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 occurred this week on Tuesday 25th October at the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre. It was a very successful day and thank you to Anna for organising the event and for the staff and parents who supported and helped out. Congratulations to Clyde House who won from Speight, St David and Wales. The Swimming Carnival results will also be used for the 2012 district swimming sports, as well as the 2011 district triathlon.

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 next 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/wishes 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 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.

After School Chinese School Free Program this Term
I am pleased to be able to announce that the After School Chinese School commenced on Tuesday 18th October. This term, however, 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. Information about the program is available at the school office.

The Day Before Melbourne Cup Day - Monday 31st October, 2011
Since Department of Education Employment and Childhood Development (DEECD) has mandated the dates for school curriculum days (and did not include the Monday before Melbourne Cup Day) the staff and I have noticed that there are a very high number of student absences on this day. I do realise that often work places take the day off and many parents are making it a long weekend and therefore last year we had as few as 6 students in some classes.

I have, therefore, written and ask parents if they are intending to absent their children this year on the Monday before Melbourne Cup, Monday 31st October, so I can better plan for the day.

If the indications that there will be a very high student absence rate I will then use this opportunity to run a modified program for the day and provide professional development for the staff.

Please complete and return the attached slip to your child’s class teacher by Friday 26th October.

Christopher Sexton
Principal
Day before Melbourne Cup Day – Monday 31st October 2011

I will not be sending my child to school on Monday 31st October 2011.

Child’s Name: _____________________________________________________________ Class:___________

Parent Name: ___________________________________________ Parent Signature:_________________________

Please complete & return to your child’s class teacher by Friday 28th October.

(Parents: Please return a signed slip for each child that will be absent from school on this day)

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<tr>
<th>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>28/10/11 World Teachers Day</td>
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<td>28/10/11 Tea Towel Orders Due</td>
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<td>01/11/11 Melbourne Cup Day</td>
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<td>03/11/11 Life Skills Program: Gr. 3/4</td>
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<td>10/11/11 Mango Orders Due</td>
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<td>14-18/11/11 Book Fair</td>
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<td>16/11/11 Traffic School Exc: 12A/12D/12E</td>
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<td>17/11/11 Traffic School Exc: 12B/12C/12F/12G</td>
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<td>14/12/11 Parliament Exc: 56A/56B</td>
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<td>19/12/11 Grade 6 Graduation</td>
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<td>21/12/11 Funfields Toboggan Park Exc: Gr 5/6</td>
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<th>MEETING DATES &amp; TIMES</th>
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<td>02/11/11 School Council: 7:00pm</td>
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<td>14/11/11 Events 7:00pm</td>
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<td>15/11/11 Facilities 7:15pm</td>
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<td>16/11/11 Policy &amp; Planning 7:15pm</td>
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<td>18/11/11 OSHC 8:00am</td>
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<td>22/11/11 Finance 7:00pm</td>
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Sick Bay Linen Duty
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 SCHOOL JUMPER
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 or 9495 1505.

LUNCH ORDERS & Cup Day
Due to Melbourne Cup Day holiday on Tuesday Nov 1, there will be no lunch orders next week.

Spare Undies for Sickbay
We are out of spare undies (girls & boys) for Prep-2 aged children. If you have any spare/extra's we would really appreciate some donations. Please pass on to Cath in sick bay.

FAMILY DAY BBQ RAFFLE WINNERS...

1st Abbie Bowland 2nd Indigo Rowe 3rd Jackie Chalker
4th Monica Mason 5th Anna Denton 6th Andrew Boucher
POLICY UPDATE

The Policy and Strategic Planning Committee have been developing a new Inclusion Policy for our school. The policy has been developed to acknowledge the diverse family structures that exist in our school community and to create guidelines that support an inclusive environment for all students, staff and families. As part of the Policy ratification process, we are publishing our policy draft in the newsletter for community comment. If you would like to provide comments or feedback, please email the school, attention to Jenny Deeble, convenor of Policy and Strategic Planning Committee. Thankyou

Celebrating 120 Year of Education at Wales Street Primary School
Family Day BBQ 23/10/2011
A BIG THANK YOU!!

A big thank you goes to all the staff, students and their families, past and present, for attending the Family Day BBQ. Activities on the day included: The laying of the time capsule, the launch of the 120th Commemorative Book, a display of W.S.P.S historical photographs, current students musical performances, sporting games for young and old, and the raffle.

There was also great music provided by local bands; Shivering Timbers and One House Town. Delicious food including; sausages, veggie wraps and beautiful cakes were enjoyed by all.

It was a lovely day!!

A special thank you goes to the following businesses for their support: Croxton Roosters, Fruit Peddlers, Coffico and Crunch Cafe.

ALSO a super big thank you goes to all the wonderful volunteers who helped set up & pack up, sold raffle tickets, baked cakes & treats, served & cooked food, and to those who sold memorabilia.

Thank you to you all

LIBRARY NEWS…..

BOOK FAIR!
Our Christmas Book Fair is coming!

Monday 14th Nov to Friday 18th November 
8.30-9.30am and 3-4pm daily

During the week beginning Monday 14th November the Library will be holding a SCB Book Fair. Most of the commission earned from sales, will go to provide a little extra spending money for Library book buying in 2012.

We aim to provide you with a one stop shop for all those Christmas and holiday needs. A catalogue will be sent home in the preceding week, to show you a selection of available titles. Remember this fair is not restricted to children’s fiction and non-fiction books. You will find craft and activity books, cookbooks, diaries, greeting cards and books to interest everyone from the toddler to the discerning adult reader.
**P.E. NEWS**

Last week we had several students from grades 4-6 compete in the Northern Region Athletics day. It was great to see all our students represent the Darebin division. The relay team made the final and finished third and Maryellen Matsas did very well in hurdles and will now go on to compete in the State Championships in November. Well done to everyone who competed on the day!

Tuesday this week over 100 students competed in the Wales Street House Swimming Carnival. Students swam in Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly. Well done to everyone who had a go! The final results: Clyde (red) came first on 112 points, Speight (green) second on 71 points, St David (gold) 66 points and Wales (blue) 45 points.

Thank you to all the parents and family members who came to support the students in their efforts and a big thank you also to the staff who came along and ensured the event ran so well.

Thanks,

Anna de Vos - PE Coordinator

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**Garden Club**

I have started a garden club for children at lunchtime on Wednesdays. Any children can join and they spend time planting, weeding and discovering bugs too. They learn lots about nature through hands on activities. I would appreciate any help from parents or donated seeds or seedlings. Please send any seeds to LTC Room 3 or if you have some time, we will be in the old or new vegie garden at 1.40 to 2.05pm on Wednesdays.

Thanks,

Louise Young

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

**Spring clean your home Inside and Out!**
Have your house cleaned for you professionally on the outside (I use an environmentally safe water pressure machine) and/ or inside thoroughly. I do regular or once-off cleans, handyman repairs, small paint jobs, mowing, gardening and rubbish removal. Affordable prices. Call me before the busy Christmas season on 0402 441613 - Patrick.

**HALLOWEEN BLUE LIGHT DISCO**
You are invited to the Halloween Blue Light Disco on Friday the 28th of October 2011
At: Preston Town Hall
Time: Starts at 6.30pm and finishes at 9pm
Entry is $6. Ages 8-14 years old
Wear your scariest costume. Win prizes. Have lots of fun. It will be spooooooky. For more info contact Jo 0418144446

**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 sallylouisemoore@hotmail.com

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Thanks,

Louise Young
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.
School Nurse Report

Hello Everyone,

Recently I was sent a research article from one of our lovely parents - again with relevance to our children and the importance of exercise. We established last week from research that Specialist P/E programs in schools contribute to higher NAPLAN scores; and this week's research article shows us the huge importance recess is to our children's overall exercise levels, life skills, language and social skills development. Here is a brief excerpt - please feel free to borrow the whole article for your perusal.

"In view of concerns regarding children’s health, and the increasing prevalence in our urbanised societies of obesity and other lifestyle-related conditions, one researcher is scrutinising how children spend recess and lunch periods on school days.

Dr Nicola Ridgers is a Melbourne-based academic at the Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition Research at Deakin University.

She believes that school recess and lunchtime provide daily opportunities for children to engage in physically active behaviours, and has taken a close look at how this time is actually spent in terms of physical activity. With colleagues, she undertook a study, which was published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine earlier this year, examining levels of physical activity levels among children, using data from two longitudinal studies.

As well as assessing the amount of physical activity undertaken by the study participants at both recess and lunchtime, these levels of activity were also assessed in terms of their contribution to the overall daily physical activity of the children.

The findings were stark: physical activity levels in children decrease from an early age and continue declining over time. The largest decreases in physical activity coincided with the transition from primary to secondary school.

However, despite the decline in activity at school playtimes, Dr Ridgers found that these times were increasingly important contributors to overall physical activity levels. This is because as children became less active outside of school hours as they got older, the physical activity taking place at school playtimes increased as a percentage of the overall daily activity levels.

"Children can get up to 40% of the daily recommended physical activity levels in recess and lunchtime combined," says Dr Ridgers.

"Recess and lunchtime make up about 15–20% of the school day and we need to recognise the value of that time. It is a ‘use it or lose’ it proposition,” she says.

Interestingly she also comments on the topic of natural environments for school play... She also cites the growing popularity in the United Kingdom of ‘Forest Schools’, which draw upon the importance of providing children with direct access to natural settings.

"Studies in Norway have shown that in schools with natural woodland settings, children are more active. Natural environments provide opportunities for challenging and diverse play,” she says.

I've noticed articles in various newspapers over time discussing the benefits of natural settings and play. I know when my children and I go on walks along Merri creek or in bush settings; they love the diversity and explorative nature of their play. Have a look on the Parks Australia website for extensive information on these lovely parks and natural settings of ours www.environment.gov.au/parks/ – there is also a link to the Healthy Parks Healthy People website www.hphpcentral.com if you would like to learn more about the health benefits associated with nature.

Thank you again to our lovely parent for this information. There is always something interesting out there isn’t there?

Until next week, enjoy your park and play experience.

Catherine Fisers - School Nurse

Wales street has had a couple of incidents where children have been stung by this tiny caterpillar called the Gum Leaf Skeletonizer Caterpillar. Children have been seen to remove them from leaves and play with them. We ask for all children to refrain from touching these caterpillars due to their ability to sting. Provided is this succinct Information leaflet from a New Zealand website for your perusal. Please read this attached Information brochure carefully

Wales St News
WSPS Chess Club – Term 4

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

When? Tuesday Lunchtime 1.30pm

New to Chess Club? Try two classes FREE OF CHARGE. Parents welcome.

Coach: Jim Cannon - Qualified teacher and Chess Coach. Jim has two sons –
David Cannon – 2011 Australian Champion (U10)
Jonothan Cannon – Current U19 Victorian State Champion and Chess coach

I would like my child ___________________________ in grade ___________ to participate in Chess Club in Term 4, 2011, commencing Tuesday 11th October at 1.30pm till Tuesday 13th December. Please note fee increase: $45.00 [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 / /

If you have not already provided these details, please complete the following:

Name of parent / guardian ______________________________________________________

Phone: Home___________________________ mob___________________________

Email _______________________________________________________________________

Please leave completed form and payment at the office. Thank you.
Parvovirus B19
(Slapped Cheek or Fifth Syndrome)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There have been reports of Parvovirus (slapped cheek) in the school.

Slapped cheek syndrome is a viral infection caused by the parvovirus B19. It is also called fifth disease or erytherma infectiosum. It usually affects children between the ages of 4 to 10 but can happen at any age, even in adulthood. Six out of ten people in the population have had the virus by the time they are adults. It is not life threatening and complications are rare.

Signs and Symptoms
- It may be between 4 to 14 days after getting the virus before any symptoms begin
- Symptoms are mild. Many people don’t even know they have had the virus.
- The first symptoms can include fever, headache, stomach upsets, aches and pains. This is the time when the virus can be spread to others.
- A bright red rash appears on the cheeks 3 to 7 days later. The cheeks look like they have been slapped.
- Your child may also have a different rash on the chest, back, arms and legs. It looks like a pink lace pattern on the skin. The rash can come and go for several weeks, especially if the skin is exposed to sunlight or after exercise.

Causes
Slapped cheek is caused by a virus called the human parvovirus B19. This is different from the parvovirus that is seen in cats and dogs.

How it is spread
By touching or breathing in the coughed or sneezed fluid drops from an infected person.

Treatment
Most children do not need any treatment except for resting and allowing the body to fight the infection. Antibiotics will not work as it is caused by a virus.

Exclusion from school
No exclusion.

High Risk groups
Pregnancy: - Pregnant women need to see their Doctors if exposed to this virus. The risk is low as most women will have had the infection before pregnancy.

Compromised immunity: - those people being treated for cancer/severe asthma or Hiv/Aids need to see their Doctors for review.

Blood disorders:-ie: sickle cell anemaia, thalassaemia .people with these disorders will also need review.

Parents of children in Grade 3/4: Please contact the school nurse ASAP if your child has a confirmed case of Slapped Cheek. Thank you.