PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT

Monday 11th March, 2013

Mr Sneddon, our wonderful principal, is back at school today. During the past two weeks I have enjoyed working with the staff, students and their families in my role as Relieving Principal. Thank you to Mrs Burton for teaching 340 while I’ve been busy!

Regional Director Visit

Last Tuesday the Relieving Regional Director of Education, Mr Mark Youngblutt visited our school. He walked around our school grounds, visited several classrooms and discussed with staff the ongoing professional development they receive in Literacy and Numeracy. Mr Youngblutt also spoke with Jude our Student Wellbeing teacher about the valuable support she gives to our students, their families and staff. He was very impressed with what he saw and congratulated our school for continually striving to enhance the learning opportunities provided at Westport Public School.

COLA Resurfacing

The resurfacing of the COLA was postponed a week due to the inclement weather. Hopefully the installation will begin today! When it’s completed it will have been worth the wait....

PBL (Positive Behaviour Engaging Learners)

This week’s focus across the school in PBL is Be Polite in all settings: Use good manners – be an active listener, use the right voice, use the right words, keep the right distance, be honest.

School Hats

Our playground is looking very green at the moment due to all the rain. Thankfully our school oval is now dry enough to play on. It is very important that students get onto the oval and play and burn off their energy at lunch and recess. Please ensure that your child/children have a school hat to wear each day. The school Sunsafe Policy requires that all students must wear a hat to be on the oval. Hats can be purchased from the office or the Uniform Shop for only $7.

Relieving Principal

Nicole Osborne

*****COMING EVENTS TERM 1 WK 7******

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 13th March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 14th March</td>
<td>Community Afternoon Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 26th March</td>
<td>10am – Easter Hat Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 26th March</td>
<td>6pm – P&amp;C Meeting see article below</td>
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<td>Thurs 28th March</td>
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<td>Fri 29th March</td>
<td>– Good Friday</td>
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<td>Mon 1st April</td>
<td>– Easter Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12th April</td>
<td>– Last day of school term 1</td>
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Merit Awards: Term 1, Week 6

Once on your phone you can use the site to:

- Access links to contact school;
- Check important information about up and coming events.
- View an up-to-date school calendar.
- Read current and past school newsletters.
- Submit an absent or partial absence form to the school.
- Locate Westport Public School on a map.

**COMMUNITY AFTERNOON TEA**

Westport's first afternoon tea of the year will be held this Thursday 14th March at 2pm. All parents, carers and community members are invited to come and have a friendly, relaxing cuppa. It is a great opportunity to make new friends, get to know our school and become part of our school community. All enquiries to Donna Page: 0427 689 228 or the school office: 65 832944.

**P&C Meetings**

My name is Richelle and I am a mother of a kindergarten child at Westport. I attended the P & C meeting on Tuesday night 26th Feb, although I was a little hesitant as I was unsure what to expect. When arriving I was surprised to see only 5 other parents at the meeting. For a school of 300+ students it makes me think that maybe others are as hesitant and unsure what to expect, as I was, so I am hoping my story encourages others to come along!

When I originally heard there was a cost involved, I wondered if I would even bother “would it be worth it?” then I felt a little silly when I realised the cost is only $2 a year! Once a month I’m offered a tea/coffee and able to show my daughter that I am actively involved in her school, ‘I think that is $2 well spent’.

The meeting wasn’t scary; in fact it was surprisingly interesting. I found some exciting news regarding our school and felt when I contributed my opinion, my voice was heard.

The meeting went for about an hour and I was informed that in future if I am unable to find a carer for my children, I can bring them along with me. I am sure that there must be other Mums, Dads, Carers and Grandparents out there that are as excited and interested in their child’s schooling as I am. Understandably, it may be difficult to be actively involved in your child’s schooling with day to day life and outside commitments, but I hope that as a parent, I have answered some questions and really do encourage you to come along to the next P & C meeting on Tuesday 26th March 2013.

Thank you

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**LAKE KEEPIT EXCURSION**

Stage 3 parents

As you are aware your children have been invited to attend the excursion to Lake Keepit this year late in term 3. At this stage there are about 30 places still available, and the school needs to finalise numbers so that they can book buses, accommodation and start the organisation of the excursion. It is because of this that we ask you to please indicate whether your child will be attending. We may need to cancel the excursion if we don’t have a better response. The cost is $280 which is extremely reasonable. A deposit of $50 needs to be sent to the office as soon as possible to secure your child’s place.

Mr Pepper (camp coordinator)

**‘I GIVE A GONSKI’**

Register your support for ‘I give a gonski’. Parents and members of our school community are asked to register their support for this urgent campaign to pressure politicians to increase funding to public schools. An expert independent panel led by well-known businessman, David Gonski, recommended to the Australian Government in 2010 that government funding ought to be made fairer and should be increased over all. The ‘I give a gonski’ campaign is about getting politicians to give more funding to our schools. Please register your support by going to igiveagonski.com.au

**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Our school photo’s will be held this Wednesday 13th March. Please complete your order and return envelope sealed with correct money inside. A separate envelope for each sibling is required. Family envelopes are available at the office. All envelopes with payment will be given to the photographer on the day.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Little Bookworms**

When: Tuesday mornings 9am – 9.40am
Where: Westport Public School Library.
Who: Preschoolers and their carers
What: Listen to a story, craft activities and borrowing from the library.
Cost: Free. For more information ring the school on 65832944

Bernadette Cassidy
EASTER HAT PARADE

Our Easter Hat Parade will be held on Tuesday 26th March 2013 for all K – 2 students. All parents, grandparents, carers and friends are invited to come along at 10am to watch this colourful parade. Preschoolers also welcome to participate so start making your creations. All parents and friends are welcome to bring along a picnic lunch to share with your child when the parade is finished. The choir will be performing Easter songs for your enjoyment.

In the afternoon the junior choir will also be performing their Easter songs and parading their Easter hats at Garden Village Nursing Home (a separate note will be given to these students).

Debbie Jenkins

PARENTS/CARERS – STUDENTS IN 5/6B

I would like to let the parents and caregivers of all 5/6B students know that the children have been given a project to be completed by Thursday 28th March. (just before the Easter long weekend). The children will require family assistance for this project as it is about their family tree, a “Who do you think you are” type activity. Notes about the project were given out last week. Please let me know if your child has not received this note. Homework has been handed out each Monday for the past 4 weeks with the students asked to return completed homework by Friday. They will receive homework today but I will not be giving out any in the following 2 weeks so that the children can focus on their projects. Please contact me at school if you have any concerns. Thank you for your support.

Debbie Bradtke

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen Roster Week 7

- Tues – Help needed
- Wed – Tara
- Thurs– Larisa, Tara
- Fri – Kelly E, Tara
- Mon – Libby

This weeks Wacky Wednesday Meal is a sausage roll, medium muffin & a drink $4.00

Our coffee morning went very well last week, with several parents coming to see what happens in the canteen. We have had a parent volunteer to slinky apples on Thursday and Friday lunchtimes. It will be 60 cents for an apple or if you bring your own, 10 cents to have it “Slinked”

STUDENT BANKING

Get your child involved in a fun way to learn how to save money. Student banking is every Tuesday morning between 8.45am and 9.00am at the banking window near the library stairs. Look for Pat the dog. An information pack went home with your child last week. Applications can be made on line, in person at the Commonwealth bank or collect an application form from the banking co-ordinators on Tuesday morning. Happy banking.

Donna & Michelle

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOP

Stage 3 students participated in an environmental workshop with Jackie from Clean up Australia.

We learnt how to keep the environment clean and to put food scraps in the green bin. We played a compost game and learnt how to keep compost moisturised. I thought it was really cool Ayden Thompson 5/6B

HIGH SCHOOL ORIENTATION EVENINGS

Port Macquarie High School

Year 6 to 7 Orientation Evening
Tuesday 12 March 2013
5.30 – 7.00pm
Multi Purpose Centre

All Year 6 students and their families are welcome. Displays of student work, performances, school tours and sausage sizzle.

Please contact the school on 6583 1844 for more information.

Westport

High School

Year 6 to 7 Orientation Evening
Wednesday 13 March 2013
6.00 – 8.00pm
Multi Purpose Centre

All Year 6 students and their families are welcome. Displays of student work, performances, school tours and supper.

Please contact the school on 6583 6400 for more information.

SMARTIES KIDS CLUB

Church of Christ 81 Clifton Drive, Port Macquarie. Thursday 3.00 – 4.45pm

Bus transport available from school and home. Afternoon tea provided. Supervised games, stories, singing and craft.

For further details contact Jack Begnell 65812514 or Church office 65811554.
COMMUNITY NOTICES

JOEY & CUB SCOUTS
We are gearing up for an exciting and fun filled Autumn & Winter, with canoeing, hiking, abseiling, games, activities, craft and more. If you are 6 or over, come and enjoy the thrill of scouting. We meet each week at 1st Port Macquarie Sea Scouts Hall in Buller Street. Ring Rhonda on 6582 0674 or Brian on 0417 685 150.

PORT UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB
Port United still has some vacancies in most junior age groups for the 2013 season. The club will be fielding squads in all age groups from U6’s to U18’s as well as 5 senior squads. All U6 and U7 players will receive a free soccer ball and pair of shin pads. For more information and a registration package, please email the club at portunitedsoccerclub@yahoo.com.au or request on facebook via PortUnited FC.

TENNIS LESSONS
Free trial lesson. After school and Saturday morning.
Westport Tennis Club, Wood Street.
Phone mark 0412 834 336 for more details.

MINI Hoops
Kindergarten /Year 1 - Tuesday afternoons 3.45-4.30
Year 2 - Thursday 3.45-4.30
Venue: Port Macquarie Indoor Sports Stadium
Cost: $20
Duration: 6 weeks
Players please bring their own ball if possible.
Please note players must be registered with Basketball New South Wales… new players will have an additional cost of $15 for 12 months rego.

Debbie Burghardt
Mob:0413144466 Home:65822708

NEWCASTLE PERMANENT – Cinema under the Stars
Friday March 22nd
Ice Age 4: Continental Drift
Westport park, Port Macquarie
Entertainment from 5.30pm
Free Entry