All things come to those that wait…or so the saying goes! Well we now have the resurfacing complete of our ‘quad’ or the area under the COLA.

It looks fantastic and has certainly been worth the wait. The concrete area has been completely transformed with beautifully laid out areas for hand ball, hopscotch and play in general. We even have a volley ball court marked out which was incorporated into the design. Our school logo and social skills have also been incorporated into the resurfacing area. The social skills will serve as a gentle reminder to everyone of the importance they play in shaping everything we do and say in our beaut school.

A big thank you to the P&C for their generous support.

Please pop in and have a look!

Only four weeks until the end of term! We have a short break for Easter (28th March – 1st April). School commences back on Tuesday 2nd April. The end of term holidays commence on Monday 8th April and conclude on Friday 26th April. School does not resume until Wednesday 1st May for Term two. Yes, there is an extra day for Staff Development this year that has been put in place for all NSW DEC Schools.

Westport Mobile Phone Website

Remember our new mobile phone website.

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 and locate Westport Public School on a map.

Today as we write the school news we are reminding students that this Friday ‘Bullying No way…. Time to take a stand’ we continue our message that bullying and violence have NO place in our school and community. All students receive this message daily and in class - their teacher teaches strategies to students on how to deal with behaviour against them that is unsafe, disrespectful and irresponsible.

“In the last few decades parents in many parts of the world have enthusiastically followed the positive parenting path constantly showering with praise. But for some giving praise for a job well done has become like a nervous tic.

“You finished your meal. What a guy!”

“That’s the best work I’ve ever seen!”

“You are such a clever little swimming girl!”

“You used the toilet. Let’s ring grandma and tell her what a clever girl you are.”

Most parents are well aware of the notion of praise but are we going too far? Parents and teachers can praise children so much that it becomes a little like water off a duck’s back and so lack any real meaning.

Children gain their self-esteem from the messages that they receive and through their interactions with the world. The main developmental tasks for under tens is to work out what they can do and how they fit into the world. Am I a chump or a champ? Is a question that concerns many children.
Praise has been promoted as the predominant parental tool to boost children’s self-esteem. But like any tool, it can be overused so that it becomes ineffective. Too much praise can be demotivating. If a child is told everything he does is FANTASTIC then how will he ever really know when he has done something that really is fantastic.

Sometimes mediocrity needs to be recognised for what it is – mediocre - rather than boosted to another level. Alternatively, the more we praise some kids the more they expect it. And they soon become addicted to praise. If they don’t get a regular fix of praise they wonder what’s wrong.

**Encouragement versus Praise**

Encouragement is a far more powerful esteem-building tool than praise and it doesn’t have the adverse side effects. The differences are slim but important. Encouragement focuses on the process of what a child does whereas praise focuses on the end result. Encouraging comments focus on effort, improvement, involvement, enjoyment, contribution or displays confidence whereas praise concerns itself with good results. An encouraging parent gives children feedback about their performance but they ensure the feedback is realistic and they work from positives rather than negatives.

An encouraging parent will note a child’s efforts in toilet-training and recognise that mistakes are part of the learning process so they are not too fussed about the results. Praise however is saved for a clean nappy and a full potty. Encouragement recognises that a child is participating and enjoying a game while praise focuses on winning or a fine performance. Okay, the differences are academic and it may seem like splitting hairs but the results on the potty, in a game or even at the kitchen table should concern children more than they do adults.

As soon as we become more concerned about results than children we move into areas of children’s concern and out of areas of our concern. In short, praise is about control and encouragement is about influence.

**How to encourage kids**

Encouragement is a skill that can be learned. For it to be effective it needs to be applied consistently. Encouragement and positive expectations go hand-in-hand. Encouraging parents expect to kids to succeed, not necessarily straight-away, and not necessarily with ease. Encouraging parents recognise that kids will be anxious at times but they have faith in their ability to cope. They also value kids as they are, not for who they are going to become. Here are four ways to encourage kids:

1. **Practise empathy & show faith in them:** Parents need to recognise kids’ genuine anxieties and fears but also demonstrate faith in their ability to cope. When parents give kids real responsibilities ranging from handing in a note at school to being home on time as a teenager they are indicating they have in their ability to handle responsibility, self-regulate and be independent. If parents discover their faith is not warranted then they need to renegotiate the guidelines with their kids.

2. **Recognise effort & improvement:** It’s easy to recognise jobs well done or completed tasks such as winning a contest, earning a badge at school or making a bed really well. How about kids who struggle? Focus your comments on effort and improvement. Help them set realistic goals in line with their capabilities and interests. Learning five new spelling words a week maybe more realistic than 20 words that his school may require.

3. **Focus on strengths & assets:** Fault-finding can become an obsession for parents, particularly when they have teenagers. Sometimes kids can have strong traits, which at first seem like liabilities. Kids who are determined to have their own way may seem rebellious and stubborn. They can be labelled difficult kids. But these qualities and behaviours have a positive side. Dogged determination to succeed is a valuable asset in any field of Endeavour and is usually applauded. Rather than criticize, step back and recognise the value of these characteristics. Similarly, focus on the interests and abilities that children possess in all areas rather than what they can’t do. If music is their forte rather than academic success don’t spend all your time pointing out the liability. Celebrate the strength instead. Often when we focus on kids strengths, assets and abilities in certain areas they improve in other areas as well. Confidence has a snowball effect impacting on all areas of life.

4. **Accept of mistakes and errors:** We live in a society that celebrates success and achievement. Perfect marks, immediate results and getting things right seemed to be highly valued. We forget at times that mistakes are part of the learning process, just ask any golfer. We tolerate errors in adults, but often we don’t in children. View errors as valuable learning experiences, rather than something to be avoided. Low risk-takers and perfectionists will often do anything to avoid making mistakes. Your ability to accept their well-meaning efforts in any area of endeavour, irrespective of the results, will go a long way toward to determining their attitude to mistakes.

Don’t get me wrong. I am not suggesting we don’t praise or recognise fine performances in any area of life. We just need to practise some restraint. Just as a child who gorges himself on lollies will soon lose interest in something that was once a treat, a child who is praised for every little deed will eventually need a veritable phrase of positives to motivate him.”

Michael Gross

Principal
Dean Sneddon

*****COMING EVENTS TERM 1 WK 8******

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 26th March 10am</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 26th March 6pm</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting see article below</td>
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<td>Wed 27th March</td>
<td>Closing The Gap Day</td>
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<td>Thurs 28th March</td>
<td>Didgeribone Visiting Performance</td>
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<td>Fri 29th March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Mon 1st April</td>
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<td>Fri 5th April</td>
<td>All District Chess Tournament</td>
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<td>Friday 12th April</td>
<td>Last day of school term 1</td>
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**Westport Public School Award Winners**

**Merit Awards:** Term 1, Week 7

Bingdjaura Binge, James Lee 12MB; Aaron Cook, Jack Gough 12KB; Cameron Waters, Erin Curry 12S; Tristan Higham, Miela Clarke KR; Isabel Starr, Ziggi Roggensack KL; Miranda Weston, Douglas Toomey, Jaydyn Angus, Skie McDonald 23FT; Sachin Heath, Matthew Strumolo 340; Jake Dunn, Indigo Graham, Dakota Lockery, Tiana Lambert 34B; Mikayla Beard, Casey Munn, Connor Gordon 45M; Kyle Binge, Lachlan Kirkwood, Harry Butlin 56P.

**NORTH COAST CRICKET**

Congratulations to Brock Larance who made the North Coast Cricket Team. Well done Brock!
ICAS 2013

ICAS Competition Notes went home last Friday. Please return notes and money to school by 12th April.
Nicole Osborne

STEWART HOUSE

Support Public Education’s Charity of Choice ‘Stewart House’ this year by purchasing a High Bounce handball. The cost of these balls is $3.00 each. If you wish to purchase a ball you will need to pre-purchase it by giving the money to Mrs Lawes (KL) before the order is sent away. The money raised through the sale of the High Bounce balls goes to help Stewart House continue its work with children in Public Schools. Children from Westport Public School are assisted by Stewart House each year. You will need to place your order with Mrs Lawes before Thursday 28th March 2013. Thanking You for Your Support.
Toni Lawes

MAD MUFFIN DAY

Selling after Easter Parade – Tuesday 26th March. Junior and Senior Choirs – plan your baking so that we have lots to sell on this day. Muffins, cakes, biscuits, slices are all popular – bake now and freeze. Money raised goes toward the Senior Choir’s trip to the Opera House.

FUNDRAISER – SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Another fundraiser for the Senior Choir’s trip to the Opera House is our ‘$1 Easter Squares’ Numbered squares are available to buy for $1. Numbers selected will choose from our huge selection of Easter Eggs. Squares can be purchased from the special table set up before school or at lunch time. Drawn Wednesday 27th March. Don’t forget your money!
Debbie Jenkins

PSSA SOCCER TRIALS

Brock Larance and Bailey Spokes will be playing in the Lower North Coast Soccer Trials on 26th March representing Westport Public School. Good Luck boys!

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Betty Wright who donated an urn to the Mingaletta Room.

YEAR 6 SHIRTS

The designs are in and the children are in the process of selecting the design that they would like to have on their Year 6 shirt for 2013. The Year 6 shirts are the same style as our school shirts but with the yellow inserts replaced by white. The Year 6 design is printed in white along with the names of all our year 6 students. Shirts are the same size as our current school shirt. A note will go home regarding orders for these shirts later this week. We would like to have all orders placed and paid for by the Wednesday of Week 11 – 10th April. We will then submit the order to the printers and hopefully the shirts will be ready early in term 2. This will give the students the rest of the year to wear their shirts. Any enquiries please see Mrs Bradtke.

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Club

If you wish to order from Issue 2 please return the order forms with payment in a sealed envelope the Office by WEDNESDAY 20th March 2013. We are unable to accept orders received after this date. Payment can be: in cash (correct amount please), by cheque made payable to “Scholastic Australia” or by credit card over the phone or internet and completing the credit card payment form.

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.

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

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen Roster Week 8

• Tues – Help needed
• Wed – Justine
• Thurs – Help needed
• Fri – Kelly, Help needed
• Mon – Libby

Next week we will be having a Bilbies and Bunnies Day on Wednesday 27th. We have a fantastic deal with a sausage in a roll, a cupcake, a zooper dooper and any drink for only $5. In each lunch bag there will also be a surprise!

We are after a volunteer for Thursdays until the end of term. If you can work either one day or all four; then contact myself (Imogen) or Kelly at the canteen.

Don’t forget that you can always phone your child’s lunch order in before 9:30am and send the money the following day. The phone number is 65838506.

This weeks Wacky Wednesday Meal will be a toasted ham, cheese and tomato sandwich a medium muffin and any drink for only $4.

VISITING PERFORMANCE – Thursday 28th of March

DIDGERIBONE SPECTACULAR with Tjupurru

Tjupurr is a Queensland based international performer and is a descendant of the Djabera Djabera Tribe of the Western Australian Kimberley. He first learnt to play the Digeridoo through a vacuum cleaner hose as a child at school.
A very skilled and gifted musician, Tjupurru has toured extensively throughout Australia for performances and school workshops. He plays an instrument called the Didjeribone which is an Australian made and designed instrument fusing the elements of the didjeridoo and trombone.

Students contribute as he interacts with them using his ‘Face Bass’ seismic microphone headpiece to create ingenious and innovative songs that blend traditional with contemporary.

Students are introduced to the amazing world of modern musical technologies.

**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)

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**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**PHYSICAL CULTURE**

Enrolments are still open for 2013. Cost is only $6 per lesson. Contact Cheryle on 65854224 or 0408231253. All are welcome – come along and bring a friend!

**AUTISM DAY PORT MACQUARIE 2013**

**Purpose:** To create awareness about Autism in the Port Macquarie/Hastings area, to provide opportunities for Networking and to provide families facing Autism with additional support and exposure to services available in the area.

**What will be available:**
- Seminars for the Adults
- Display tables of services in the area
- Child care and activities for the children

**Date:** Sat 6 April 2013, in support of World Autism Day on 2 April 2013. **Time:** 10:30 am – 1:00 pm. **Venue:** St Columba Anglican School; 3 Iona Ave (off Major Innes Rd) Port Macquarie. **Bookings:** Tickets are free. Book through the link on [www.sensorysmartot.com.au](http://www.sensorysmartot.com.au) or [www.hastingsautism.org.au](http://www.hastingsautism.org.au)

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**ICE AGE 4: Continental Drift (PG)**

Westport Park, Port Macquarie

Entertainment from 5.30pm, movie from sunset Friday 22 March