The new playground surface is certainly providing all the children with added interest in handball, games of all descriptions, hopscotch and it is also fast becoming a favourite for students to sit and chat with friends. There has also been a reduction in surround noise that was at times able to echo continuously off the COLA structure. We are very pleased with the result and look forward to the benefits the resurfacing will provide for all students in the months and years to come.

Tomorrow, Tuesday, is the PARENT AFTERNOON commencing at 5.00pm. Pop up and have a chat with your child’s teacher. Find out what’s happening in the classroom or just come along for the sausage sizzle which commences at 5.30pm. Everyone is very welcome! We would love to see as many families as possible.

You can always stay a little longer and come along to the P&C Meeting which commences at 6.00pm. P&C meetings usually last about an hour and are a great way to be informed about what is happening in our wonderful school. Aside from a few formalities it is also an opportunity to talk about current programs taking place and an opportunity to work towards a richer and more supportive future for our students. The contribution from P&C for our recent playground refurbishment is just one of many ways in which we work together for our students.

Over the next few weeks I will provide some articles by Michael Gross around coping strategies.

**Strategy 1: Laugh about it.** Help your child see a lighter or funny side of a situation. Have you ever noticed that when there is a major world crisis or tragedy that there is soon a spate of jokes in the public arena about the issue? It didn’t take long for September 11 jokes to spread through the Internet. These jokes help people deal with the anxiety caused by the situation. We are less likely to become depressed or feel helpless when we can laugh at a situation. Humour is a great coping strategy.

Encourage your kids to stand back and find a funny side to the situation they may be in. I am not suggesting that we trivialize situations, rather develop the ability to find some humour and hope in adversity. Humour is a powerful tool for resilience as it heightens feelings of control. It helps kids reframe a situation and gain some perspective. **This strategy requires kids to look for a funny side and not take themselves too seriously.**

What to say: “Come on, laugh it off. “Find the funny side.”

Principal
Dean Sneddon

-----COMING EVENTS TERM 1 WK 9-----

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 26th March 10am</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 26th March 5pm</td>
<td>WPPS Parent Afternoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 26th March 6pm</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 27th March</td>
<td>Closing The Gap Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 28th March</td>
<td>Didgeribone Visiting Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29th March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 1st April</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 2nd April</td>
<td>Junior Choir Garden Village visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 5th April</td>
<td>All District Chess Tournament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12th April</td>
<td>Last day of school term 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Merit Awards: Term 1, Week 8**

Tiara Hayes, Max Lockery KL; Chloe Day, Luika Eveleigh KR; Charion McManus, Chelsea Reams 12MB; Tyana Inglis, Sarah Hawkes 12KB; Jorja Schofield, Matteka Shiel 12S; Kirra Branch, Bradyn Foley 23TF;

**ICAS 2013**

**Sitting Dates and Entry Fees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
<th>Entry Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>21st May</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>5th June</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>17th June</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>18th June</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>31st July</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>14th August</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please return permission notes and money to school by 12th April.
Nicole Osborne

**GUITAR LESSONS**

Guitar lessons are held every Friday. **Juniors** 12pm and **Seniors** 12:30pm. Please remind your son / daughter to bring their guitar and music with them each Friday. Students, please remember to be on time for your lesson. There are still a couple of student's payments of $25 outstanding for term 1. Please pay before end of term. The success of the program at Westport is evident as shown by photo below. Cooper Herden is practicing his new skills to a captive audience.

**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. You 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.
Debbie Jenkins

**JUNIOR CHOIR NEWS**

The Easter Performance at Garden Village has had to be postponed due to ‘Electrical Maintenance’ at Garden Village (lifts do not work!) We will now be going on Tuesday 2nd April – 1st day back after Easter Monday. Remember to leave your Easter Hat at school!

**FUNDRAISER – SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE**

Another fundraiser for the Senior Choir's trip to the Opera House is our $1 **Easter Squares** (pictured). 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!

Some of the Easter Prizes

**MAD MUFFIN DAY**

To help raise money for our Sydney Opera House trip, the Senior Choir will be having a mad muffin day this Tuesday 26th, 2013. Our last crazy cup cake and mad muffin days were huge successes, so start cooking, baking and decorating!! Any tasty donations welcome.
Mrs Jenkins

**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

**CLOSING THE GAP DAY**

Aboriginal students from Years 3-6 will be attending the Birpai Land Council on Wednesday 27th March from 11am – 2pm for a meet and greet with community members as well as educational talks, games and a bbq.
FRIDAY NIGHT RUGBY

We are looking forward to another great season of Rugby Union. Last year, Westport Primary’s banner waved high thanks to the fantastic involvement and support of the community. We are hoping for the same this year. Could all players involved please return Registration Forms with $30 registration fee ASAP. We will be kicking off in term 2.

Damien Tedd

LIBRARY NEWS

Book Club

Clearance Sale order forms were handed out last week. If you wish to order please return the order forms with payment in a sealed envelope to the Office by THURSDAY 28th 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 credit card over the phone or internet and completing the credit card payment form.

Little Bookworms

Haley and Thomas with their creations.

When: Tuesday mornings 9am – 9.40am  
Where: Westport Public School Library.  
Who: Pre-schoolers 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

YEAR 6 SHIRTS

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 went home last week regarding orders for these shirts. We would like to have all orders placed and paid for by the Wednesday of Week 11 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 enquiriies please see Mrs Bradtke.

CRICKET REPORT

Last Thursday the Westport Cricket Team travelled to Beechwood Oval to take on Beechwood Public School in Round 1 of the Brian Taber Shield Cricket Knockout. After completing their innings with a score of 6/88 after the allotted 25 overs, Beechwood were set the challenge of chasing down the very makeable total at a run rate of just over 3.5 runs per over. This quickly became challenging as the Westport bowlers in an ‘Anaconda like display’ choked off the flow of runs with stump to stump bowling and a regular capturing of Beechwood wickets. All the bowlers bowled well with Grace Larance claiming 1 wicket and Ryan Bray 2 wickets. The spearhead of the attack was Brock Larance who claimed 6/7 which remarkably includes two hat tricks (3 wickets in 3 consecutive balls) twice in the Beechwood innings. The teams next opponent will be North Haven Public School in the very near future.

Craig Ainsworth

CANTEN NEWS

Canteen Roster Week 9

- Tues – Help needed  
- Wed – Tara  
- Thurs – Help needed  
- Fri – Public Holiday  
- Mon – Public Holiday

On Wednesday, we will be having our Bilbies and Bunnies Day with a special meal deal for only $5. Have a look at your flyer included with the newsletter. We are again recruiting for more volunteers for next term at the canteen. If you are able to give 3 hours in the morning either weekly, fortnightly or monthly – we would love to hear from you.

MOVE EAT LIVE WELL PROGRAM

Please note that the weekly fruit program will be suspended for this week. The program will recommence next week. Thank You.

Phil Von Schoenberg

COMMUNITY NOTICES

WEEBOPPERS

Music and Movement for Pre-school children (0-5 years) and parents. We are a group which promotes parents participation with children in enjoying and developing a love for music and movement. Where: Honour Church, Ruins Way, Port Macquarie. When: Tuesdays, 10:00am. We ask for a $3 donation per family and a small contribution to morning tea. Meet other parents and share a cuppa afterwards. All enquiries: Jenny – 65824545. See you there!

LAURIETON PS P&C STREET MARKETS

When: Easter Saturday 30th March 8am-1pm  
Where: Bold & Seymour Streets Laurieton  
(NOTE: Road Closure of Bold Street between Laurie and Seymour Streets, and Seymour Street between Bold Street and Lake Street.)

Enquiries: please visit Laurieton Public School website www.laurieton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au  
All Proceeds from the Laurieton Public School P&C Market Day support the education and development of students at Laurieton Public School.

PMJAFIL COME n TRY AFL & REGISTRATION NIGHT

When: Tuesday 26th March. Where: Wayne Richards Park AFL Ground Koala St PMQ. Time: 5pm – 7pm.  
Ages: 5 to 15 years all welcome to come and have a kick! A free BBQ will be held on the night for participants. 2013 Registrations will also be held on the night. Auskick (5-9) $70 participants receive AFL Auskick backpack full of goodies. U11,U13 and U15’s $80. For further information contact AFL Development Officer Rachel Lowe on 0457389504 Or email PMJAFIL at pmjall@hotmail.com
PMNC Children’s Services Vacation Care

Enquiries for our April 2013 Vacation Care program are now being taken. Please contact the Centre on 6584 2627 for information or packages can be downloaded from the PMNC Website – www.pmncinfo.org.au – follow the link to the OOSH and Vacation Care pages.

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 or www.hastingsautism.org.au