PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT

Monday 2nd February 2015

Welcome back to all our students and families who are returning to Westport, or are starting at Westport Public School for the first time. I hope you have had a great break and are looking forward to the new year. It is a privilege to be the Principal of Westport Public School and have the enjoyable task of meeting the students, staff and parents of this beautiful school. I was most impressed with the positive attitude the students displayed last week and enjoyed discussing the various activities they got up to over the holidays.

As usual we are very busy finalising classes to give our students the smoothest transition to the school year. It takes a few weeks for numbers to be finalised, after which, we will review class structures to determine whether adjustments are necessary. We endeavour to keep disruptions to a minimum. An enormous amount of time and care is given to class placements in terms of learning, social and emotional needs.

Our teachers are always happy to discuss your child’s needs and provide them with the best possible education. Our school values are: to be safe, to be polite, to be cooperative and to be fair. These will constantly be reinforced throughout the school year and we would appreciate your cooperation encouraging the school values at home.

Staff for 2015 are as follows:

Teaching Staff
Mr Tony Johnston Principal
Mrs Nicole Osborne Assistant Principal and Mrs Jessica Coleman 5/6CO
Mr Craig Ainsworth Relieving Assistant Principal 5/6A
Mrs Pip Riordan Assistant Principal 1/2R
Mrs Pamela Smith Assistant Principal Learning and Support
Mrs Kerry Bendall KB
Mrs Toni Lawes KL
Ms Amy Harland 1/2H
Mrs Merche Benson 1/2B
Mr Jake Rundle 3/4AP
Ms Clare Walton 3/4W
Mrs Rebecca Drury and Mr Mark Littlefield 4/5D
Mrs Sarah Burke and Mr David Whiteoak 5/6WB
Mr Barry Pepper Speciality Programs
Ms Tania Collis Relieving Learning & Support Teacher
Mr Phil Von Schoenberg Learning & Support Teacher
Mrs Alison Youngblutt Reading Recovery
Ms Bernadette Cassidy Library
Mrs Marilyn Donovan Aboriginal Education Officer
Mrs Debra Jenkins Student Well-Being Teacher
Mrs Lisa Burton Music

School Learning Support Officers
Dennis Grant        Kyle Schofield
Sue Winship         Brittni Wade
Lavella Conran      Brian King
Jackie Thorogood    Natalie Hunt
Amanda Shaw         Donna Page
Sharlene Ingebro

Administrative Staff
Kim Kennedy         Mavis Saunders Heath
Susan Nitschke      Michelle Birrer
Counselling Team
Erik Carrasco District Guidance Officer
Rob Grant School Counsellor

Grounds
Justin Burke Groundsman

Cleaning Staff
Kerry
John

School Times
Morning Session 9.05 - 11.05
Lunch 11.05 - 12.00
Mid-session 12.00 - 1.45
Afternoon session 2.00 - 3.05
Please note: All students should be at school ready for the morning session by 9.00am.

Attendance at School
Attendance at school is compulsory and it is vital that families get into the pattern of school attendance being regular and consistent. Missing days of school and frequently arriving late for school is most disruptive to the student’s learning as they can miss the introduction to important concepts taught and also disrupt the lesson that is taking place by arriving late.

Late Arrivals – Students arriving late after 9.05 am must be accompanied by a parent and signed into school at the office stating the reason for being late and collect a class pass to hand to their teacher.

Early Leavers – Students being collected early must also be signed out at the office and parents must first call at the front office to collect a pass out in order to collect their student from the classroom.

Tony Johnston
Principal

******COMING EVENTS TERM 1 ******

Tue 3rd Feb – West Tigers Visit – 10.40 to 11.10 at school.

P&C Meeting
Our first P&C meeting for 2015 will be this Wednesday 4th February at 6pm in the staffroom. It will be a short meeting to welcome everyone back and to get to know our new Principal for this year.

Community Awareness
Please advise the school office if you should notice any unusual or out of the ordinary activity outside our school premises during or around school commencement and finishing times so that we are able to take appropriate action.

Canberra Excursion 2015
Canberra 2015 is up and running for Yr5 & Yr6. If your child has not received an expression of interest note and you would like your child to attend please ask at the office or your child can get one from their teacher.

Expressions of interest need to be returned to the office with a $100 non-refundable deposit. There are only 60 places available.

Costing for the excursion is still being finalised with the cost to each student being approximately $550.00. Payments can be made during 2015 with the excursion being held Week 9 Term 3, 2015.

Mr Pepper

Canteen News

Roster:

- Tues 3rd: Sharon, Dylan
- Wed 4th: Richelle, Amanda, Trudi
- Thurs 5th: Richelle, Krystal, David
- Fri 6th: Richelle, Donna
- Mon 9th: Kelly, Jess

Welcome back to all our students and parents we hope you had a lovely holiday.

The canteen requires a dedicated volunteer to run the canteen every Monday with other helpers. If you are able to volunteer your time please contact Richelle at the school canteen on 6583 8506 (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday).

You will find the new menu for this term with this newsletter.

Richelle
Canteen Manager

Library

Library days for 2015 are:

- Monday: KL, KB, 1/2R
- Tuesday: 1/2B, 5/6WB
- Wednesday: 1/2H, 3/4AP, 4/5D, 5/6A
- Thursday: 1/2E, 3/4W, 5/6CO

Please ensure that students have their library bags on these days so they can borrow from the library.

Please return any overdue books as soon as possible. Students are responsible for any books they borrow and will need to pay for any lost or damaged library books.

Book Club

Issue 1 will be handed out this week and orders are due back by Tuesday 17th February 2015. There are now 2 ways you can order:

1. Return your order form with payment in a sealed envelope to the office by 17th Feb. Payment can be cash (correct amount) or cheque made payable to ‘Scholastic Australia’. 
2. Use LOOP to order and pay by credit card before 17th Feb. You do not send the order form to school.

Visit scholastic.com.au/LOOP
Select NSW and enter Westport Primary School in the school name box. You will be directed to the ordering page which has information and a video on how to use LOOP.
- Select order from the top of the page
- You may need to select the school again
- Choose the issue and click order
- Click + to add your child’s first name and last initial e.g. Sam A
- Choose their class and click add
- Enter the item number from the catalogue
- If you have another child add their name and complete their order
- Continue to enter credit card details for payment

If you need help with ordering please ask at the library.
Books will be delivered to the school and you should receive your items about 24th February.

**Electronic Devices**

Any electronic devices are to be kept at home. The school takes no responsibility if they are lost or stolen. Please encourage students not to bring their devices to school. If your child needs to bring their phone they must sign them into the office in the morning and pick them up from the office before going home.

**Westport’s Skoolbag App**

Did you know if your child has been away from school you can send in an Absentee Note using your mobile phone?
First you need to have our school Skoolbag app on your phone. You can access this by going to your app downloader, type in ‘Westport Public School’ and install to your phone.

Then if you wish to send in an Absentee Note, all you need to do is find our school app on your phone. Click on it to open.
Scroll down to select Parent eForms.
Select Absentee Note and add details like, child’s name, class, reason for absentee.
Press Submit. This will be emailed to the school and passed onto your child’s teacher.
If you need any help in downloading or using our school app, please don’t hesitate to ask.

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**2015 REGISTRATION DAY**

Junior Hockey U7’s to U11’s and Women’s and Men’s Hockey
Port Macquarie Hockey Field (Crown Drive)
When: Sunday 8th February
Juniors: 3 - 4pm Seniors: 4 - 6pm (skill games)
Junior Fees $145 - $165 (includes playing socks)
(To be paid on the day, via credit card or visa debit card) No cash
BBQ and light refreshments provided
Bring your stick!

ALL NEW PLAYERS RECEIVE A VOUCHER AT SPORTSPOWER TO PURCHASE A HOCKEY STICK, SHIN PADS, MOUTH GUARD AND BALL

Another 2 rego days are also happening on Sunday 15th and 22nd Feb 3-4pm at the hockey field

Contact: 0427634745 info@portcityhockey.com
www.portcityhockey.com
www.facebook.com/PortHockey

**Enrich your home with a WEP exchange student arriving in July 2015!**

World Education Program (WEP) is looking for caring families who wish to experience another culture in their own home by becoming a volunteer host family. Browse through student profiles, and select a student who you think will fit best into your family and lifestyle!

**Who are the students?** Read over their profiles below:

**Olivier (17) from Belgium** loves getting outdoors and exploring nature. He is incredibly fond of animals, and tells us that snakes, spiders and crocodiles were part of his motivation for choosing Australia as his exchange destination. He also tells us that he is very social, and can’t wait to meet his new host family and share new experiences with them.

**Marta P (17) from Italy** is an athletic student, participating in Viet Vo Doa (a martial art). She also enjoys, reading, listening to music, cooking Italian dishes and playing the guitar. Marta is fascinated and excited to learn about Aussie culture, animals, nature and habits. She can’t wait to cook up an Italian feast to share with her host family.

**Cassie S (16) from the USA** enjoys reading, cooking, camping and canoeing. It has been a dream of Cassi’s to come to Australia for a long time, she can’t wait to experience new things, meet new people and spend time with her Aussie host family. “It would be an experience I would always remember and I want to learn of other cultures.”

For further information, please contact Sylvia Kelly (WEP Inbound Manager) on 1300 884 733, by email on info@wep.org.au or by visiting our website www.wep.org.au.
PORT UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB
Port United will be holding club registration days on Saturday 14th and 21st of February. Players can attend between 1-4pm at the clubs Dixie Park clubhouse on Hastings River Drive. United will field junior teams in all U6-U18 competitions. Registrations start at $110 for U6’s and all entry level players (U6/U7) will receive a free soccer ball and pair of shin pads. Players are also able to register online right now. Contact the club by email at portunitedfc@yahoo.com.au or via inbox on facebook to Port United FC for more information or to receive the clubs registration package.

WESTPORT TENNIS CLUB
Free Trial Tennis Lesson:
Classes after school or Saturday mornings.
Kinder to Yr3 Hot Shots.
Yr4 –Yr6 group classes.
Qualified coaches.
Westport Tennis Club
Woods Street
For more information please contact:
Mark – 6583 3053 or 0412 834 336