PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT

Monday 9th March 2015

Yet another busy week ahead at Westport Public School. I must say I am enjoying every minute of my time here. The happy and hardworking children, the professional and dedicated teaching and SASS staff, and the friendly and supportive parents and community members, make Westport Public School a great place to be.

Last year a great deal of discussion took place between staff and parents around the schools strategic directions for the next three years. The following is our first strategic direction.

Strategic Direction 1 - Strengthen school wide instructional practices.

This will be achieved through the development of processes to improve school and classroom planning underpinned by a framework that clearly describes effective practice across key elements of teaching and learning.

Teachers will be mentored with supervisors to ensure that each child is receiving personalised teaching and learning to suit their individual needs.

More to come next week.

Swimming

Congratulations to Taryn Vagg who competed in the regional swimming carnival at Lismore for butterfly. Taryn was 14th overall in her event. What a fantastic effort. Well done!

Hastings Secondary College Information Night

A successful night was held for our Year 6 students with principals from both campuses in attendance along with year 7 advisors and current year 7 students. The information for students planning transition into high school was a huge success. Parents were particularly impressed by the wide range of electives available to suit all student interests.

Westport PS Parent Information Night

This will be conducted in the school hall this Wednesday. First session will be for years K-2 from 5:30pm to 6:00pm. Yrs 3-6 information sessions will take place between 6:30pm and 7:00pm.

A sausage sizzle will be available between 6:00pm and 6:30pm kindly put on by our hard working P&C. Sausage sandwich $2.50

Tea, coffee and bottled water $1.50.

Stranger Danger

As reported on Prime television last week there was a suspected incident in Lake Cathie of a man approaching a student in his car. If your child walks to or from school please enforce stranger danger understanding.

Tony Johnston
Principal

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

Wed 11th Mar – Parent Info Evening – K-2 5.30 to 6pm
Sausage Sizzle 6pm to 6.30pm. Yrs3-6 6.30 to 7pm.
Mon 30th Mar – Assembly of Excellence
Tue 31st Mar – Easter Hat Parade 1pm – K to Yr2
Tue 31st Mar – Grandparents Day
Wed 1st April – K-6 Treat Day
Thur 2nd April – Last day of school
Mon 20th April – Teachers return
Tues 21st April – All students return to school
Tues 12th May – NAPLAN WEEK
**Term 1 – Week 6**

**Assembly Awards**
- **KL** – Mackenna Eyles, Thomas Corrigan
- **KB** – Sophie Blackmore, Harley Bamber
- **1/2B** – Braydon Stone, Isaac Dungay
- **1/2H** – Aliana Souter, Liam Jones
- **1/2E** – Poppy Graham, Flynn McWhirter
- **1/2R** – Lachlan Anderson, Matilda Hammond
- **3/4AP** – Alarna Wright, Brenton Harry
- **3/4W** – Hamish McWhirter, Jeremiah Linskey
- **5/6CO** – Lily Greenwood-Jubb, Zara Byron
- **5/6WB** – Skie McDonald, Joshua Smith

**Closing the Gap Visit**
Werrin Aboriginal Medical Centre will be conducting a day of fun at WPPS in celebration of “National Close the Gap Day” on Friday 20th March 2015.

**Land Council Youth Group**
Thank you to everyone that replied to the youth group invitations. They have now reached full capacity and can no longer accept further students at this stage.

**Personal Learning Plans**
All Personal Learning Plans for aboriginal students in K-2 have been organised for Thurs 26th and Friday 27th March. Letters will be sent home with students prior to this date with allocated days and times.

**Canteen News Roster:**
- **Tues 10th** - Sharon, Dylan
- **Wed 11th** - Richelle, Amanda
- **Thurs 12th** - Richelle, Rhiannon, Kimberly
- **Fri 13th** - Richelle, Donna, Jessica
- **Mon 16th** - Krystal, Jessica,
  (Kelly 8.15-9am)

**Easter Egg Raffle**
Tickets for the Easter Egg Raffle go on sale Monday 9th March. You can purchase tickets at the canteen (mornings only)
Tickets are $1 each or 3 for $2.
Thanks for supporting the P&C

**NAPLAN**
Year 3 and 5 students will commence NAPLAN on Tuesday 12th May with Language Conventions and Writing Tests – Wednesday is Reading and Thursday will be Numeracy. These dates fall in Week 4 of Term 2 2015.

**K-2 Science Day**
On Wednesday 19th August (term 3) our school is hosting a Science fair for all Infants students from K-2. This is going to be an exciting and interesting day full of a variety of science activities. Hastings Secondary College (Westport Campus) Science faculty and students will be assisting us on the day. We would love to have the help of our infant’s parents to assist with a class of students for the day with the class teachers. We are looking for a minimum of 6 parents. If you can help please let your child’s teacher know. Preparations are well under way for this great event.

**Fleur Eichler**

**Book Club**
Issue 2 will be handed out this week and orders are due back by **MONDAY 16th March 2015**.
There are now 2 ways you can order:
1. Return your order form with payment in a sealed envelope to the office by 16th March. Payment can be cash (correct amount) or cheque made payable to ‘Scholastic Australia’.
2. Use **LOOP** to order and pay by credit card before 16th March. You do not send the order form to school.

Visit [scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://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 eg 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

Books will be delivered to the school and you should receive your items about 25th March.

**Westport Safe Riders**
At Westport students from Years 3-6 who ride their bikes or scooters to school must remember to wear a helmet. Bikes and scooters should be locked onto the bike racks at the school entrance and walked down the path to and from the footpath. Please remember to take extra care at 3pm around the parents and pre-schoolers at the front gate. Please also remember to walk your bike or scooter across any roads you cross. Stop, Look, Listen, Walk. Be safe!

**P. Riordan Assistant Principal.**
2014 Splendour in the Hall DVDs
We now have the DVDs of last year’s Splendour in the Hall available for purchase at a cost of $5. These can be purchased from the Office.

BAND RECRUITMENT
All our students in Year 3-6 enjoyed listening to our Westport School Band playing their repertoire to fellow students, parents and staff. It would be lovely to see more students involved with the band and often our talented guitar players join them for a jam. The cost is $50.00 per term with a professional music teacher. Band is held in the music room at 12.30 each Friday. If your child brought home an expression of interest please return to the office.

Westport’s Skoolbag App
Did you know we have our own ‘School App’? If you have a smartphone you can download this by going to your app provider, Type in ‘Westport Public School’ and install to your phone. You can find: Our Weekly Newsletter, Calendar of Events, News articles, Absentee Notes or School Contact details.

Canberra Excursion
Canberra 2015 for Yr5 & Yr6 is off and running. We only have 7 seats left on the bus if your child is interested. Costing for the excursion is $580.00. Payments can be made by instalments at the office during the next 6 months with final payment due on 28th of August. The excursion leaves at 10pm Sunday night 13th September.

Mr Pepper

2015 International Competitions & Assessments for Schools

ICAS Timetable
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 19th May</td>
<td>Digital Technologies (computer skills)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 3rd June</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 28th July</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 11th August</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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Again this year our students will be participating in the ICAS program. If your child is in Years 3 – 6 and wishes to participate please return the note to Mrs Osborne with the fee for each subject before the closing date Tues 31st March.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

McWilliams’ Quality Meats
Shop 30 Settlement City
Phone: 6583 4600

North Coast Herpetology Group
REPTILE EXPO
Sunday
March 29th 2015
10am - 3.30pm
Entry: $5.00 (over 12)
Children under 12: 50c
Children under 4: Free

Range of live reptiles on display
Native reptiles, enclosures, equipment and supplies for sale on the day!
Port Macquarie Panthers Club
1 Bay St, Port Macquarie NSW 244

Author Peter Birch along with Critter Cam will be attending with displays

Lucky door prize every hour — There will be a reptile in the auction at 1pm along with reptile related goods
The lucky door prizes are family passes to Australian Reptile Park (2 adults/2 children)
**Port Macquarie Hastings Hockey Association**

“COME TRY HOCKEY” Days

Junior Hockey - Boys and Girls - Ages 4-11 all welcome

**When:** Saturday – March 14, 21 or 28 – 9am-10am

**Free:** All equipment supplied

**Where:** Hockey Complex, Ocean Drive (entrance via Hockey Place)

New players receive a voucher for a free Stick, Bag, Shin Pads, Mouth Guard & Ball

For More Information – 0423609720

Email any questions to: Derek.Arnberger@optus.net.au