FROM THE PRINCIPAL

P&C Meeting – TONIGHT
Our first P&C Meeting for the year is being held tonight, Tuesday 18th February at 7.30pm in the staff room. At the end of the meeting, a short presentation will be made by Mr Short on our 2013 NAPLAN results. There are a number of new parents at our school and we would like to extend to you and to all our parents an invitation to attend. It would be great to see some new faces at the meeting as well as our very faithful regulars.

Parent Information Evenings – Next Week
Next week we are holding information sessions for parents. At these meetings teachers will provide details of class routines, homework, student expectations and general curriculum information. Details of times and venues for the Parent Information Evenings were included in our previous newsletter.

Canteen Procedures – Students without Lunch
Sometimes students forget to bring their lunch to school and we need to ask the canteen to provide lunch for them. If your child receives lunch from the canteen, parents will receive a note informing them of the cost. You are asked to send the money back to the office (not the canteen) in an envelope clearly marked with their name and amount.

Parent Morning Tea - Homework
Parents are invited to attend the first ‘Parent Morning Tea’ for the year on Wednesday 5th March from 9.15 – 10.45 in the school hall. I will be running the session on ‘Homework’ and during the workshop I will be:

• presenting the results of the parent survey in 2013
• looking at the research and Department’s policy guidelines
• present and discuss the use of ‘homework grids’ at our school in 2014
• discuss parent expectations for homework

Parents who are planning to attend are asked to RSVP to the school office on 9639 8518 by Tuesday 4th March. I am looking forward to discussing these issues about homework with parents at the workshop. All welcome!

Parent Volunteers – Working with Children Check
A new form must be filled out and signed by all volunteers who work as parent helpers in the classroom or accompany students on excursions. The new forms can be collected from the office or classroom teachers. A copy has also been included on the newsletter email. Parents will also be required to provide Proof of Identity which meets the 100 point check. The completed form and proof of identity must be taken to the office for photo copying. Thank you for your support.

Maxelle Matthews
FROM THE DEPUTY

Student Leaders
It is that time of year when our kids start thinking about what leadership opportunities they may choose to explore. The positions on offer include the roles of Technology Leader, Sport leader, Band Captain and Student Representative Counsellor. While these positions involve year–long responsibilities that are aimed at stage 3 students, in particular Year 6 children, other jobs such as Library monitor (Years 3-6) and Green Team (K-6) duties are offered to the children for a term at a time to ensure as many children as possible have a chance to take on a leadership role. To celebrate the election of the year-long leaders, an induction service will be held in Week 6. Invitations will be handed out this week.

Young Leaders Conference
Our prefects will also be celebrating their new position by attending a Young Leaders Conference next week. This is a chance for them to learn about the responsibilities and opportunities being a school leader demands and offers as well as discovering how prefects in other schools tackle their new found responsibilities. Permission notes will be handed out to the captains and prefects this week.

Rugby Union Gala Day
As part of our continued efforts to give as many kids as possible an opportunity to participate in competitive sport, we have registered for a Rugby Union Gala Day. Mr MacSporran started trials with a group of very enthusiastic kids last week and permission notes will be sent home shortly. Good luck kids!

PBL -
Over the last two weeks, I have heard lots of praise for our new canteen and have also heard just as many positive comments about the great manners being displayed by our kids when they order their food. To acknowledge and encourage such good manners, we will be trying to catch kids lining up correctly at the canteen and displaying good manners and give them a Winnie. I don’t think it will be too hard to find some kids doing the right thing!

Learning Support Team
The dedicated group of teachers who are on the Learning Support Team have been working hard to get the ball rolling on some important interventions that will support children having trouble accessing the curriculum. Multi Lit will be starting up again soon and a new reading program aimed at Stage 2 students will also commence this term.

Parent Morning Tea
This term’s parent morning tea is on Wednesday 5th March and it will give parents a chance to mingle with other parents as well as find out about the school. This term Ms Matthews will be talking about some new directions we are heading in, in regards to homework. Please come along, relax and catch up with other members of our friendly community.

Clean Up Australia
The annual Clean-Up Australia will be returning to our school on Friday 28th February. It will be a chance to clean up our school grounds and participate in this national project. More information will be sent home next week.

Ian Short

ANNUAL SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our School Swimming Carnival was held at Parramatta Swimming Pool on Monday 3rd February. All four houses were pumped up for the day and the students looked superb dressed in their house colours. The House Captains did a fantastic job of motivating their troops for the ‘dance off’ and enthusiastically cheering on their houses throughout the day. All students were keen to participate in the pool.

While some students participated in competitive events, others competed in a water tabloid session. Attendance and participation rates again increased this year.

Thanks to all students, staff and parents for making the carnival a success. Congratulations to swimmers who received ribbons. Good Luck to those swimmers who qualified to represent WHPS at the CHPSSA Zone Carnival to be held at Waves Swimming Pool Baulkham Hills on 11th March 2014.

Melissa Johnston

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

Term 1 Accounts
Firstly, thank you to the families who have forwarded their Term 1 payments already. For those who haven’t paid yet, I would like to take this opportunity to advise that all school accounts will need to be finalised by the due date – 28th February, 2014. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, you need to contact the school office immediately.

5/6T – Invoice
We have just been alerted to the fact that due to technical glitches on our system, some students in 5/6T were not invoiced for the ‘City Excursion’ which will be taking place on Monday 17th March. A note went home to these parents advising them of this incident. The charge has now been added to your account and will be required for payment before 28th February.

School Contribution – Technical Glitch
Another ‘glitch’ found, was the double charge of the School Contribution. How many families this affects is unknown. With almost 500 statements being produced, we unfortunately do not have the resources to check for human errors nor technical glitches. In any instance where you feel your account is incorrect, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused. Please be assured that whilst we endeavour to ensure that all accounts are correct at the time of sending them to you. Technical problems are beyond our control.

Judy Jones – School Admin Manager

P&C Meeting - TONIGHT
Tuesday 18th February

7.30pm in the Staffroom
All Welcome!
SCHOOL NEWS

‘MULTILIT’ 2014

Last year, Stage 1 students we had great success with the MultiLit program and wish to continue it again this year. The program is developed by Macquarie University to aide students with their reading skills. We are seeking parent, caregivers, grandparent and community support to help continue the MultiLit program. If you can help us please fill out the attached ‘Parent Helpers’ letter attached this week.

SCHOOL BANKING

URGENT: Volunteers needed

We are looking for 2 new volunteers for the banking team as some of our current team have returned to work and study. So if you’re interested and have 1 hour to spare on a Wednesday morning - once a fortnight, we’d like to have you on board. It’s good fun and no experience is necessary. All training is provided!

New Rewards System

The Commonwealth Bank is implementing a new rewards system this year and for every 10 deposits a student makes via school banking, they are entitled to a reward. The new system will order the rewards automatically and they will be distributed with the banking each week. We will keep the star cards to enable students to track how many deposits they have made via school banking.

Also keep an eye out for regular School Banking updates in the School newsletter throughout the Term, check out the Commonwealth Bank website: https://www.commbank.com.au/personal/youth-students/school-banking-program.html or email us if you require further information.

Micaela & Lynelle
School Banking Co-ordinators
schoolbankingWHPBS@gmail.com

Year 6 Fundraiser

Crazy Hair Day!!!

Tuesday, 4th March

• Come to school with crazy hair!!!
• Gold coin donation
• Multi clothes (non-uniform day)
  Don’t forget to wear sensible shoes and bring a hat!
• Canteen Fun Food Day

Thank you from Year 6!

PARENT SESSION – HOMEWORK

All parents are invited to the first ‘Parent Morning Tea’ for 2014

• TOPIC - Homework
• WHEN - Wednesday 5th March
• TIME - 9.15am to 10.45am
• WHERE - The School Hall
• PRESENTER – The Principal
  Ms Matthews

Morning Tea provided
ALL WELCOME!
BOOK CLUB NEWS

Issue 1
Scholastic Book Club is a great way for the school to obtain free resources throughout the year. The school earns reward points based on the amount spent in each brochure and the more reward points the more free resources for the school.

Twice each term your child will receive brochures for Book Club which are appropriate to their grade. If you wish to purchase any books please fill out the order forms and bring them to the old hall on the date stamped on the back. Please do not give your orders to teachers or the school office as they will not be able to process them.

Orders for this first issue will be taken on Friday 21 February from 8.40 - 9.15am in the old hall. Payment can be by cash, cheque (made payable to Winston Hills Public School) or by credit card. Credit card payments will need to be done online or by phone prior to Friday 21 February. All future Book Club dates will be advertised in the school newsletter and calendar.

Sarah Johnstone
Book Club Coordinator

PARENT TIPS

Helping with Homework
How much should you help your child with homework? When your child makes a mistake, should you fix it? Teachers talk about how parents can help kids take responsibility for their homework and avoid Thursday night meltdowns.


Back to School
Homework, hot weather and class sizes – here are some answers to frequently asked questions about going to a NSW public school.


Learning to Read
Learning to read is hard work and can be frustrating at times for parents and their kids. Watch the video to hear what these public school teachers have to say to help, with quick tips on how to make it easier.

Learning to read: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5Om77mluKU&feature=share

MUSLIM SCRIPTURE

To all Muslim Parents and Caregivers,

Did you know that all children in NSW Public Schools are entitled to a session of religious education every week? However, unfortunately not all Muslim children at Winston Hills Public School are receiving scripture due to a shortage of Muslim scripture teachers. These children are currently missing out on this invaluable opportunity to learn about the beauty of their faith.

Are you interested in filling this position? Scripture lessons are held on every Thursday 9:30am - 11am. All information and materials are provided by the Islamic Special Religious Education (ISRE) body of the Islamic Council of NSW. It’s easier than you think and is also extremely rewarding!!

In just 1 ½ hour per week, YOU can make a big difference to the betterment of our children.

Show our children how important Islam is to you and how vital it is for the development of our community. Your time and help will be greatly appreciated and immensely rewarding!

Please feel free to contact us on 9708 0880 (Mon-Fri 9:00am-3:00pm), or email info@isre.org.au for further details or interest.
P & C NEWS

BAND NEWS

Dates for your diary:
- Monday 3rd March Term 1 fees due
- Monday 17th March Band AGM 6pm

Many thanks - to the parent volunteers who have assisted us on both Monday and Wednesday afternoons. We appreciate your help!

Reminders
- Notes due back ASAP
- If you are willing to give up an hour of your time during your child’s band rehearsal/lesson please contact as aps.
- If you have a child in years 3 - 6 interested in joining the band program please contact us at bandwhps@gmail.com or on 0402623391.

URGENTLY Needed
We are seeking an experienced keyboard player for our performance band. If you have piano/keyboard experience and can play approximately grades 1.5 - 2 music, please contact us immediately.

Sue Bryant and Band Committee

CANTEEN

P&C

First Meeting for 2014 – Tonight!
Our P&C is a friendly forum where we discuss issues relating to the school and the work of our sub-committees involved in providing services to the school.

Our first meeting for the year is tonight at 7:30pm in the staffroom.

Everyone is welcome. Please bring 50c to the meeting for your Association membership. If you have anything you would like to discuss at P&C, please email me at vincentlisa@optusnet.com.au or phone me on 0403556654.

I look forward to seeing both old and new faces this evening!

Vincent Riordan, President

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Hours
- Open during the school term every Thursday morning’s 8.40-9.30am
- Also open the first Thursday night of each month from 6.00-7.00pm

New Uniform items
- Boys’ size 6, 8 &10 shirts are out of stock at present.

Rosters
- 20th February: Belinda Schuster, Janine Cameron, Jane Nguyen.
- 27th February: Fiona West, Michelle Ly, Donelle Tamine.

Alterations
For all alterations to school uniforms, please drop your clothes off at Uniform Shop on Thursdays. Finished alterations will be available for pick up the following Thursday. Thanks to Bernice Harker for this service who is also donating 10% of sales back to the school.

Uniform Shop Contact Details
Please email Kellie Bramble at kellie_irish@live.com to place an order or for any enquiries.

REMINDER TO PARENTS!!!
CHANGE TO SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

There will be no school for students on Monday, 31st March and Tuesday, 1st April as our school has swapped the SDDs in Term 2 & 3 so that the teachers can attend a 2 day workshop.
Fun Food Crazy Hair Day

Available at Recess & Lunch

Available from the canteen – items start at 50c

Tuesday 4th March