FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Celebrate Harmony Day on Thursday, 20th March
The message of Harmony Day is ‘Everyone Belongs’. It is a day to celebrate Australia’s diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and make it a better place. Harmony Day is an Australian Government program and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Parent Morning Tea – Homework
Thank you to the parents who attended the first ‘Parent Morning Tea’ for the year about ‘Homework’ on Wednesday, two weeks ago. The session was a big success with approximately 30 parents in attendance. I am hoping to run a repeat session at night, as a number of parents wanted to attend but couldn’t because of work commitments. Details will be advertised in the newsletter.

Parent/Teacher Interviews – Online Appointments
Parent/Teacher Interviews will be conducted in the week starting the 24th March. Parents are reminded that they can book an appointment with their child’s teacher on-line. The booking site went live at 8.00pm on Friday 7th March and will close at 8.00pm on Friday 21st March. A parent information sheet is available on our web site and explains the simple process for booking a parent/teacher interview.

Parking across Driveways - REMINDER
Thank you to all our parents who drive and park safely near the school during pick up and drop off of students. We are all very aware of how busy it is in school zones and also how difficult it can be to get a parking spot. However, a small number of parents have been parking across the driveways of our neighbouring houses. This is dangerous and causes distress to these residents when their driveway is blocked and they need to leave. Please be considerate of our neighbours!

Maxelle Matthews

P&C Meeting & Annual General Meeting
TONIGHT!
Tuesday, 18th March
7.30pm in the Staffroom
All Welcome!
FROM THE DEPUTY

Learning Support

Many thanks, to the team of parents who are supporting the school’s Multi-Lit and Reading Programs. With their generous assistance, numerous students from Years 2 to 6 are receiving extra help with their reading and literacy skills. Results from last year were very positive and we are looking forward to further improvements this year.

Teachers are also planning additional stage based interventions for the students needing additional support in the classrooms with some exciting projects being finalised over the next few weeks.

Parents wishing to support Multi-Lit or other learning support programs are asked to contact the school to receive more information.

Gifted and Talented (GAT) Programs

While programs have been established to support students needing learning assistance, a mentoring program aimed at enriching the learning of our gifted students has also made an exciting start over the last few weeks.

The GAT Science Mentor Program has sparked the interest of many of our budding scientists with participants blogging their scientific ideas and theories and setting up some experiments in the school’s shadehouse.

A GAT Mathematics Mentor program is also being planned. More information about that will be included in up-coming newsletters.

ICAS Competitions

As part of our GAT Program, the school participates in competitions run by the University of New South Wales. These competitions provide an opportunity for students in Years 2-6 to be challenged in an examination-type format. The program also allows parents and students to gauge their level in comparison to talented students across Australia.

A permission note is included in this newsletter.

Ride to School

Tomorrow will be the National Ride to School Day where the benefits of riding a bike will be promoted along with the responsibilities that such a privilege entails. Students 10 years and older interested in riding to school are asked to visit the office to receive a bike license application.

Principal’s Morning Tea

Students who have received honour awards this term for 50, 100 or 150 merit certificates will soon receive an invitation to the Term 1 Principal’s Morning Tea, which will be held on Monday 7th April at 10:30 am. Children who have accrued the above number of merits are encouraged to submit their awards as soon as possible to ensure they are included in this term’s celebrations.

Year 2 Cross Country Runners

The Primary Cross Country Carnival is scheduled for Wednesday 9th April and the year 3-6 children are busy training for this challenging event. In an attempt to extend our talented athletes, parents of students in year 2 who are turning 8 this year and who have the potential of being competitive in the 2km event at a district level are encouraged to contact me at school to organise entry into this year’s carnival.

Winston Winners

Congratulations to Harley Briggs, Zac Stewart and Ben English for making the District Rugby League team, Hayley Silver-Holmes for reaching the district level in cricket and Liam Connelly for being chosen in the District AFL squad. Well done kids!!!

Ian Short

CELEBRATE HARMONY DAY AT WINSTON HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL ON THURSDAY, 20TH MARCH

Harmony Day is a day to celebrate the cultural diversity of Australia. This gives us the opportunity to share the importance of diversity with others in our school and community and to promote the message "Everyone Belongs". On Thursday, 20th March, (not 21st because of PSSA sport) we would like to encourage all students to wear one ORANGE item of clothing to celebrate harmony in our school. Ideas might be orange socks, an orange head band, an orange shirt or an orange hat. The remainder of the uniform will stay the same with only one item being replaced by something orange. We will also be running a variety of activities in the classrooms to celebrate diversity, belonging and harmony in our school.

Have a look at the Harmony Day website for more information:

http://www.harmony.gov.au

SCHOOL WEBSITE UPDATE

Our website has recently been revised and is now fully updated. To view current newsletters, access notes or keep up to date with what's going on visit our page.


Winston Hills Public School has joined Facebook

facebook.com/winstonhillsps

To keep up to date in what is happening at Winston Hills PS - go and like our Facebook page.

We would like to ask parents to remember this is an administration page to inform you about what is happening and not an opportunity to ask teachers questions. This site is monitored by the site administrator and not the teaching staff. Should you have any questions or concerns, as always, please direct them to your classroom teacher.

We look forward to working with you on Facebook!!!!!!

FROM THE LEARNING AND SUPPORT TEAM

Last week we started the MULTILIT program with selected students in Year 2. Thank you to all our parent volunteers for their ongoing support, the students loved reading and working with you throughout the week.

We are still looking for more helpers Wednesday to Friday. Please let the office know if you are able to offer some assistance.

Some Year 3-6 students have also started CORRECTIVE READING this week. We are looking forward to working with these students throughout the year.

Learning and Support Teachers

Michelle Rose & Lucia Schimanowsky
SCHOOL NEWS

PSSA

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<tr>
<th>Round 3</th>
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<td>Friday, 7th March</td>
<td>Friday, 14th March</td>
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**Cricket**
- Jnr's Vs North Rocks PS lost 1/31 – 1/56
- Snr's Vs North Rocks PS won 64 – 31

**Softball**
- Snr Boys Vs Winston Heights PS lost 0 - 7
- Snr Girls Vs Winston Heights PS draw 7 – 7

**T-Ball**
- Jnr Boys Vs Winston Heights PS lost 3 - 26
- Jnr Girls Vs Winston Heights PS won 19 – 16

**Touch Football**
- Jnr Boys Vs Jasper Rd PS lost 0-5
- Jnr Girls Vs Jasper Rd PS won 8-0
- Snr Boys Vs Jasper Rd PS lost 2-4
- Snr Girls Vs Jasper Rd PS lost 2-4

**School Cross Country**

**Wednesday, 9th April**

The school cross country will be held on Wednesday 9th April commencing at 9.15am. All children in classes 3-6 are expected to compete in one of the following events:
- 8/9 yrs 2000m
- 10yrs 2000m
- 11yrs 3000m
- 12/13yrs 3000m

Students are encouraged to wear something to indicate their House colour (eg T-shirt, ribbons, socks, coloured hair spray)

**PSSA Winter Trials**

A series of mini selections trials will be held during lunch time over a number of days leading up to Friday Week 9. Coaches will ask students to self-nominate for a PSSA sport. Students can try out for more than one sport. Trials will be announced by the coaches at the morning assembly for interested students to attend. The final eliminations will occur Friday 28th March (Week 9).

Successful players will be issued with a contract, code of conduct and a permission note on Friday 28 March. Contracts and payments must be returned to coaches no later than Wednesday 2nd April (Week 10) to secure their selection in the team.

Winter PSSA sports include Netball, Newcombe Ball, Rugby League and Soccer.

**PSSA Congratulations**

- Congratulations to Zac Stewart 5/6T, Harley Briggs 5/6P & Ben English 4/5B who have been selected to represent CHPSSA at the Sydney West Regional Rugby League Trials. This will be held on Wednesday 2nd April at Ched Towns Reserve, Glenmore Park.
- Congratulations, Caitlin Carpenter 5/6S who has been selected to represent CHPSSA at the Sydney West Regional Touch Football Trials. This will be held on Tuesday 1st May at Penrith Touch Fields, The Kingsway, St Marys.

**Training**

- Girls Touch Football – Thursday 8.15
- T-ball – Thursday lunch time
- Boys Touch Football, Softball and Cricket – Friday mornings at 8.15am

**K-2 Easter Parade**

**Thursday, 10th April**

10am

Primary Shadeport.

Children may wear colourful play clothes (mufti).

ALL WELCOME!

**Book Club News**

**Issue 2**

Everyone should have now received their orders from the first issue of book club. If you have not or have any questions regarding your order please contact me via email at sarah.johnstone@iinet.net.au.

Orders for the second issue will be taken on Friday 21st March from 8.40-9.15am. 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 March.

Sarah Johnstone
Book Club Coordinator
SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Kindergarten Assembly
Kindergarten will commence their assemblies in week 1 of next term. KA will host the first assembly on Wednesday 30th April with KJ showing examples of their work. Parents are welcome to attend!

Stage 1 Assembly – Awards
Mrs Wood and Mr Short will be hosting the Stage 1 Award Assembly on Wednesday, 19th March in the new hall at 2pm. Parents welcome!

Stage 2 & 3 Assembly – Combined Awards
The next primary assembly will be a combined Stage 2 & 3 awards assembly which will be held on Thursday, 10th April in the new school hall from 2.10 – 3pm. Parents are welcome!

PRIMARY CHOIR 2014

As we were not selected for the Primary Proms Program this year, we have combined the Junior and Senior choirs to make the WHPS Primary Choir.

As such the choir will be prepared jointly by myself, Mrs Russell and Ms Frank.

Auditions have been held and children selected to participate in this Choir. We are already preparing for our first performance for the Anzac Day Service.

This year due to the closure of the Hills Centre, like the Sydney West Dance Festival, we have moved our venue to the Evan Theatre at Penrith. Whilst we appreciate it is a bit further afield, there is unfortunately no suitable venue in close proximity that will accommodate our festival – The Hills Performing Arts Festival. The Committee has thoroughly investigated all the given options.

Our performance date is 5th September 2014.
A note accompanies will be sent out later this week for you to sign and return to school as soon as possible.
As in the past, all details will be outlined to parents as they arise in coming months.

We hope that you will continue to support the performing arts in our schools and we look forward to preparing and participating in as many events as possible this year.

Noelene Luther
WHPS Choir Coordinator

RUGBY UNION GALA DAY

A Memorable Day!


We played 5 games throughout the day against very experienced and seasoned rugby union schools. For most of our boys it was their first experience playing the game and they should be very proud that they were undefeated at the end of the day – 3 wins and 2 draws!

A huge thank you to the parents for their support, particularly Gary Pethybridge who was technical advisor, coach and referee on the day. Well done, Gary!

The future of the Wallabies looks promising!
David MacSporran – Assistant Coach

LOST PROPERTY

This year there will be a different system for ‘Lost Property’. Clothing items will be sorted each week.

- Unlabelled items will be donated to the uniform shop.
- Items with names on them will be sorted into two piles, K-2 and 3-6. The K-2 items will be placed in a tub outside KJ's room (during school hours) and 3-6 items will be in a tub outside 3/6S's room.
- All containers (lunchboxes and drink bottles) will be emptied then displayed on the silver seats in the K-2 Shadeport for one week before being discarded (thrown in the bin!).

We hope this will eliminate the problem of an ever-increasing mountain of items. Thank you for your co-operation.

Jenny Chapman
Lost Property Coordinator

REMINDER TO PARENTS!!!

CHANGE TO SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

There will be no school on Monday, 31st March & Tuesday, 1st April as our school has swapped the SDDs in Term 2 & 3 so the teachers can attend a 2 day workshop.

Jenny Chapman
Lost Property Coordinator
BAND NEWS

2014 Band Captains

Congratulations to Isaac Obermaier and Arthi Sundaram

A word from our band captains -

Hi my name is Isaac Obermaier, I am in Year 6, I have been in band since Year 3 and I changed to the Tuba and I am really enjoying the challenge. The things I like most about band is that I can be with my friends after school and am not on the computer getting in trouble with my Mum. To me, being voted as band captain is an honour as it gives me a chance to represent my school and help other people enjoy band as much as I do.

My name is Arthi. I have been in band for 4 years and I play the flute. When I was told that I had been selected as a band captain, I was so excited and happy! I knew that being a band captain is not an easy job, but I will do whatever it takes and strive to do my best to make our school proud!

Performance Band Workshop

On Monday 10th March the Performance band participated in a workshop from the talented Mr Garry Clarke. This workshop was a grant that was awarded to the Intermediate Band of 2013 from the NSW UNI Band festival and was a very rewarding experience for all who participated.

REMINDER- NO BAND the week of 24th March- 28th March due to parent teacher interviews

Training Band rehearsals have commenced!

On Monday 10th March Training Band students commenced their band rehearsals. These rehearsals will be held every Monday from 3-4pm.

P&C - TONIGHT

AGM and P&C Meeting Tonight

Tuesday 18th March at 7:30pm in the Staff Room

Our P&C meeting tonight will include our AGM. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have not already done so, please bring 50c to the meeting for your Association membership.

If you have anything you would like to discuss at P&C, please phone me on 0403566654.

I look forward to again seeing a good attendance at tonight’s meeting.

Vincent Riordan
President

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Hours

Open during the school term - every Thursday morning’s 8.40-9.30am. 1st Thursday night of each month 6.00-7.00pm

New Uniforms
Raincoats $17, Scarfs $10

Rosters

- 27th March: Fiona West, Donelle Tamine
- 3rd April: Libby Davis, Karen Carpenter
- Evening: Jen Barclay, Jackie Mardling

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. Email orders can be delivered to your child’s class on Thursdays only.

SCHOOL BANKING

Reminder

- The last week of School Banking for Term 1 is next week - Tuesday 25th March.
- School Banking will recommence in Term 2, week 2, Tuesday 6th May.

Rewards

This year the new rewards system implemented by the CBA means rewards are ordered automatically on or after every 10th deposit.

Students should receive their reward roughly 2-3 weeks after their 10th deposit, depending on delivery times. Rewards will be placed in with the banking and distributed with the deposit books.

If your child hasn’t received their reward after this time please send us an email so we can check for you.

Micaela & Lynelle
WHPS School Banking Co-ordinators
schoolbankingWHPS@gmail.com
Swim Scheme 2014

This year 150 students in Year 2, 3, 4 and Support Unit had a wonderful time over a two week period, learning the fundamentals of swimming. There was lots of splashing, diving, kicking and floating. Everyone made great progress. Well done!