FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome Back
Welcome back to a new term. I hope that you had a great holiday and enjoyed the wonderful weather over the break.

Easter Parade – Thank You
Our Easter Parade was held on the Thursday before the holidays. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the day. I am sure that you would agree that our children were outstanding in wearing the hats that they had made. I would like to thank:
- The teachers and students for the work they put into preparing the event.
- Mrs Gail Hawkins and the Stage 1 teachers for their organisation.
- Mr Short and the SRC for the wonderful morning tea of hot cross buns & tea and coffee.

2014 Australian Principals’ Korean Cultural Experience Program
I have just returned from an amazing trip to Korea during the Easter school holidays with a group of school principals from NSW, Victoria and ACT. This program has been running since 2010 and aims to facilitate Australian principals’ engagement with the history, culture, education and people of Korea. I will be presenting a short talk and slide show of my experiences on this study tour at the next P&C Meeting on Tuesday 20th May. All welcome!

NEW Parent Online Payments
We have now launched a new online payment portal linked to our school’s website to make it easier for parents to pay for school accounts and related payments. This is a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. This payment method will go live on Wednesday 30th April. Log onto our school website at www.winstonhl-p.schools.nsw.edu.au and click on ‘$Make a Payment’. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. More details are available on page 3 of this newsletter.

Entertainment Books
Stocks are available for the Entertainment Book covering Parramatta/Hills area ($65) as well as a combined special edition of Sydney North/Sydney ($70). This year, you have the choice to purchase the book as you always have done or digitally! We have limited stocks of the hard copies available from the office. If you would like to order your copy of either book, please return payment to school or call into the office. All proceeds raised from the sale of the books are used towards educational programs at Winston Hills Public School. Thank you to Mrs Judy Jones for organising this fundraiser for our school.

Maxelle Matthews

CONTENTS
Page 2: Deputy’s Report, School Accounts, Online Payments
Page 3: Easter Parade, Mother’s Day Breakfast, Cross Country
Page 4: Parent Tips, School Assemblies, Anzac Day
Page 5: Combined Swimming Carnival
Page 6: Article – Helping students get ready for NAPLAN tests
Page 7: P & C News
Page 8: Classes of the week 2D & 2HB

CALENDAR
TERM 2

Week 1
Tuesday, 29th April  K-2 Gymnastics begins
Thursday, 1st May  Uniform Shop open 6 - 7pm
Friday, 2nd May  Winter PSSA Sport Round 3 starts
            (not Week 2 as advertised)

Week 2
Thursday, 8th May  Mother’s Day Breakfast 8:15am
                    Mother’s Day Stall

Week 3
Tuesday, 13th May  NAPLAN – Years 3 & 5 Language and Writing
Wednesday, 14th May  NAPLAN – Years 3 & 5 Reading
Thursday, 15th May  NAPLAN – Years 3 & 5 Numeracy
Friday, 16th May  NAPLAN catch up day
                    Book Club due

WHAT’S DUE?
- All Term 2 Excursion notes are now OVERDUE
- Term 2 Accounts – Friday, 2nd May (this week)
- Mother’s Day Breakfast note & payment – Tuesday, 6th May

ACCOMPANYING NOTES
- NAPLAN letter to parents – Years 3 & 5 only
- Online Payments brochure
- Kindergarten – Term 2 Overview

Community Notices (email only)
- Go 4 Fun
- Scout – Promotion Day
- Wesley Family Centre
- Kid’s Club – Northmead UC
FROM THE DEPUTY

NAPLAN
From the 13th -15th May, Years 3 and 5 will be completing the NAPLAN tests. On Tuesday 13th May, the students will complete the Language Conventions and Writing tests and on Wednesday 14th May, the Reading test will be undertaken. The Numeracy test will be tackled on Thursday 15th May. Wherever possible, children absent on one or more of these days will be able to complete the missed tests on Friday 16th May. More information is included with this newsletter and an article on page 6.

Be Responsible - Recycle
This week the students will continue to discuss recycling as a PBL focus area. Teachers will be conducting mini-lessons during class time explaining the recycling procedures at Winston Hills and the importance of protecting our environment.

Learning Support Projects
This term each stage will be establishing some new Learning Support projects aimed at assisting students needing extra teacher support in the classroom. Early Stage 1 will focus on oral language this term, while Stage 1 are continuing Multi-Lit and Reading Recovery, as well as commencing a phonetic program. Stage 2 will be providing sessions focusing on mathematical problem solving skills in addition to the existing Corrective Reading Program, while Stage 3 will be running writing skills workshops.

In addition to the quality teaching that is provided to all our students every day, the above learning support projects support the varying learning needs of all our children.

Gymnastics
The biennial Gymnastics program will be starting today and tomorrow for all K-2 classes, 2/6P and 1/5G. It is suggested that students wear their sports uniform on their respective days.

Mothers’ Day Breakfast
On Thursday 8th May at 8:15 Winston Hills’ mothers and carers are invited to attend our annual Mother’s Day Breakfast. This is an enormous event and a great opportunity to have a bite to eat and a chat with other parents at the school. We usually see hundreds of mothers at this event and are expecting an even bigger turn-out this year so please pencil us in your diary.

Winston Winners
Congratulations to our wonderful prefects who coordinated yesterday’s ANZAC service. A big thankyou to all who brought in flowers for our ANZAC monument. Congratulations also to Liam Connelly who has been chosen in the Sydney-West AFL team- A huge achievement!

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS – DUE FRIDAY
Welcome back to Term 2! Families are reminded that all outstanding school accounts must be finalised by this Friday, 2nd May, 2014. Early next week, we are required to confirm with the venues, the number of students attending the excursion. Therefore late payments may result in your child not being able to attend an excursion.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact the school as we may be able to provide assistance.

Judy Jones – Administration Manager

MAKE ON LINE PAYMENTS – NEW!
It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card from Wednesday 30th April. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting $ Make a payment.

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students, sport and creative and practical arts activities (these include choir and dance). There is also a category called ‘Other’ to cover items not covered in the previous headings. ‘Other’ can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the $ Make a payment you must enter:
• the students name, and
• class and (reference number – not required) OR
• the students name, and
date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number if you are aware of them, these are optional fields.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school. You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school. For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Office.

Ian Short
SCHOOL NEWS

MOTHER’S DAY BREAKFAST – THURSDAY 8th MAY

Celebrate Mother’s Day by joining your child/children at school on Thursday 8th May for a delicious breakfast.

Cost: $7 per Family
Time: 8:15am – 8:45am
Where: Primary Quadrangle

Please fill in the form that accompanied the last newsletter and return it by Tuesday 6th May. We are looking forward to sharing this special breakfast with all the Mums and Carers.

WHPS ANNUAL 3-6 CROSS-COUNTRY

The Winston Hills Annual Cross Country was held on Wednesday the 9th of April on the school grounds. Thankyou to Ivan for setting up the course on the day!

The children all looked fantastic as they ran the course in their house colours – Red, Blue, Gold or Green.

The winning house was Laver.

Congratulations to the top 6 plac e getters in each age group. They have qualified to represent WHPS at the CHPPSA Cross Country Zone Carnival to be held on the 19th May 2014, at the Masonic Oval Baulkham Hills.

Thank you to all the staff and the parent helpers for their support in the running with the carnival. Without it, the carnival would not have been such a great success.

Melissa Johnston
PARENT TIPS

Managing Screen-time
Helping kids find the right balance between activities, homework and screen time is a challenge that only gets harder as they grow older. Common Sense Media has lots of useful resources to help – from movie and game ratings to articles like this one on setting screen time limits that are realistic enough that your children will actually follow them. Read the article here: [http://bit.ly/1pBIfmk](http://bit.ly/1pBIfmk)

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)
If your child is currently in Year 3, 5, 7 or 9, they’ll sit NAPLAN tests this May. And despite what you may have heard, there’s no reason to panic or start an intensive study schedule for your child. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/all-about-naplan](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/all-about-naplan)

School A to Z app
Do you struggle to understand your child’s homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments? This free homework helper app provides maths and English glossaries, assignment starters and more. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z)

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Kindergarten Assembly
Kindergarten will commence their assemblies in week 3 of next term. KA will host the first assembly on Wednesday 14th May with KJ showing examples of their work. Parents are welcome to attend!

Stage 1 Assembly – Awards
Mrs Wood and 1W will be hosting the Stage 1 Award Assembly on Wednesday, 7th May in the new hall at 2pm. Parents welcome!

Stage 2 & 3 Assembly
To be advised in the next newsletter.

PSSA CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations - Liam Connelly 5/6R
Liam been selected to represent SWPSSA, at the State Carnival. This will be held from Tuesday 20th May – Thursday 22nd May at Macquarie University, North Ryde.

Congratulations - Lilly Rossettin 5/6R
Lily been selected to represent CHPSSA at the Sydney West Regional Girls Softball Trials.

Melissa Johnston

All students attended our school Anzac Ceremony on Monday, 28th April. The ceremony was led by our school captains and prefects. Mr Scott-Rogers (from the National Serviceman’s Association) was a special guest and bought along some interesting items to show the students. The School Choir and Band also performed.
**Combined Swimming Carnival**

On Wednesday, 19th March a team of 16 students from the Support Unit went to Cabarita pool to compete in the Combined Swimming Carnival where they came up against swimmers from 20 other schools from across Sydney. It was a great day and the efforts of all students were fantastic. Everyone tried their hardest in every race which showed in the results with all competitors placing in at least 1 event, many students winning multiple races and our team winning the small pool championship for the third year in a row. This year we also won the trophy for the best small school in the large pool events which is a tremendous achievement considering the small contingent which competed in those races.

A big thank you goes to Mrs Castle for her awesome ‘coaching’ in the water and we would also like to thank all the parents, grandparents and other family members who came along to support the students and to help with organisation. Congratulations must go to all students involved, not only for their tremendous results but also for their exemplary behaviour throughout the entire day.

**Our Team**
Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests

The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests. During the second week of May Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of this testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making.

The program first implemented in 2008 has drawn some criticism from a number of different quarters, particularly in regard to the use of the information gained through the NAPLAN tests. You’re probably heard a number of different viewpoints expressed in the media over the last few weeks.

One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests put undue pressure on children to perform in test situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it. The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle many situations. American psychologist Martin Seligman discovered more than a decade ago, through his research into children’s thinking styles, how closely a child’s explanatory style mimics that of the parent they spend most time around. Optimistic parents beget optimistic kids, just as anxious parents can beget anxious kids.

The impact of a parent’s explanatory style seems to be magnified somehow in small families where there are fewer voices to be heard. As a parent, it helps your child, if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It’s better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities to overcome any anxieties or nervousness that these tests may be bringing.

It’s also worth remembering that many children don’t stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about.

Whether your child stresses or takes them in his stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:

1. Take your cues from your child: If your child doesn’t worry about them then neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn’t exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the test.

2. Focus on doing their best and trying hard: Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. Avoid all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results.

The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.

3. Listen to any concerns they have: If your child confesses to some nerves then validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a “get over it” response. “Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary, but they get easier every time you take them.” Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts which starts with recognizing how kids feel.

4. Give them some relaxation ideas: Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

5. Help them relate in their perspective: One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an assessment is to ask what the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow regardless of how they did. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practice.

A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it’s going on school camps, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.
**BAND NEWS**

**Anzac Day Ceremony**
Welcome back to Term 2!
Thank you to all in the Performance Band who performed so well at the recent Anzac Day assembly. Special thanks to Mr Di Marzo for conducting us on the day and to the parent helpers. We thank you!

**Mentor Program**
This term we are introducing a mentor program. This program was open to all Year 6 students who are in the Performance Band. We were very fortunate to receive 5 keen applicants. These students will be attending the training band rehearsals and tutorials and assisting the students from the training band during these band times.


**Term 2 Lesson Timetable**
There have been a few slight time changes to some student's timetables. Please refer to the SMS or email sent to those who are affected by these time changes.

**'Hear Us Play' Afternoon**
Training band happily performed in their first mini performance to the parents in the last week of Term 1. I'm sure you will agree that they all looked and sounded fantastic. We can't wait to hear you all again perform at the band camp concert.

**Band Camp**
23rd-25th May 2014.

**Contact**
As I am away until week 3, I ask that you contact a band committee member via the email address. bandwhps@gmail.com or in person during the Monday and Wednesday sessions.

Sue Bryant
Band Committee

---

**P&C**

**Next Meeting - Tuesday 20th May at 7:30 in the Staff Room**
Our first P&C meeting for the term will be in Week 4 on Tuesday 20th May at 7.30pm in the staff room. Our principal will do a presentation on her recent study tour to Korea. If you have anything you would like to place on the agenda, please email me or phone me by the Friday before the meeting.

I can be contacted on 0403556654 or vincentlisa@optusnet.com.au.

Vincent Riordan, President

**UNIFORM SHOP**

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

**NEW UNIFORMS**
- Raincoats $17, Scarfs $10
- White long sleeve shirts – on sale $8.00
- The new winter long sleeve shirts will not be in stock until Week 3.

**Rosters**
1st May: Belinda Schuster, Janine Cameron & Jane Nguyen
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**

School banking recommences Week 2 on Tuesday 6th May.

Deposits can be as little as 5c & we encourage students to complete the deposit slips. Parents please double check deposit slips are completed correctly with all details & the money matches the amount written on the slip.

**Reminder:**
Every 10 deposits students make earns them a reward. Rewards are ordered automatically after the 10th deposit & take a few weeks to arrive. There will be new rewards in Term 2 so keep banking each week!

Micaela & Lynelle
School Banking Co-ordinators
schoolbankingWHPS@gmail.com
2D and 2HB have so much fun learning!