FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome Back
Welcome back to a new school year at WHPS. We hope that your family had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday. A special welcome is extended to our new students and their parents.

2015 Classes – Term 1 Only
2015 classes will be formed tomorrow. Teachers and class names are listed on page 4 for your information. However, the school is one student short of forming a new class. Parents need to be aware that if we receive any new enrolments before the end of Term 1, we will re-form classes. I will keep parents updated through the newsletter regarding this matter.

School Calendar 2015
Accompanying the newsletter today, you will receive a copy of the Term 1 school calendar for 2015. Parents are asked to check the fortnightly newsletter for updates and confirmation of school events, in case of any changes.

Parent Information Nights & Free Parent BBQ
Parents will be invited to information sessions over 2 evenings on Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th February. Details of classes/stages and times are included in a note that is accompanying this newsletter. This year, we are having a parent BBQ after each class session. Please complete the return slip on the accompanying note and return by 18th Feb.

Swimming Carnival – Congratulations!
Congratulations to all our students who had a great day at yesterday’s school swimming carnival. A big thank you to all the parents who came and supported their children on the day. Finally, thank you to Ms Johnston and Ms Russell for a huge effort in organising the swimming carnival.

2015 - Change to Term 2 School Development Day
A reminder to all parents/caregivers that this term, the teachers at Winston Hills PS have the opportunity to attend a one day workshop on ‘Dyslexia’ with one of the foremost authorities in Australia. The presenter’s name is Dr Amanda Tucci. To attend this course, requires us to again change the date of our Term 2 school development day in 2015. As these changes will affect the days that children will be at school, we hope that this advanced notice will give parents plenty of time to organise for child minding on the changed days.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no more or less school days in 2015, only a change in the date for Term 2.

This would mean the 2015 dates for SDDs would be:

Term 1 Week 8 – 16th March (replacing Term 2)
(No students)

Term 2 No SDD (Students attend school)

Term 3 SDD (No students)

Maxelle Matthews
FROM THE DEPUTY

Welcome Back to 2015
Welcome back to another year at Winston Hills. The children have certainly returned with their usual gusto and with 2015 shaping up to be a year of exciting programs in CAPA, sport and technology, the children will need their heightened level of enthusiasm. I am looking forward to once again working with the amazing Winston hills community.

Awards System
Already students have greeted me at my office with piles of certificates to collate or news of receiving some merit awards in the first few days. Just a few helpful hints in how the merit award system works. Merit awards are handed out by class teachers for safe, respectful and responsible behaviour and accrued over time by the children. When children reach one of the milestones listed below, they can bring the last 10 merit awards, with their last honour certificate, to their teacher or my office. Please ensure certificates are submitted at least a day before the assembly to ensure that certificates and awards are ready on time.

**Awards Levels**
- 10 Awards = Honour Certificate
- 20 Awards = Honour Certificate
- 30 Awards = Small Banner
- 40 Awards = Honour Certificate
- 50 Awards = Bronze Medal & Morning Tea with the Principal
- 60 Awards = Honour Certificate
- 70 Awards = Honour Certificate
- 80 Awards = Large Banner
- 90 Awards = Honour Certificate
- 100 Awards = Silver Medal & Morning Tea with the Principal
- 110 Awards = Honour Certificate
- 120 Awards = Honour Certificate
- 130 Awards = Small Banner
- 140 Awards = Honour Certificate
- 150 Awards = Gold Medal and Morning Tea with the Principal

**Be Safe and Respectful- Share our Playground**
The year 3-6 students returned last week to see a new addition to the Primary COLA. A new net has been installed that can divide the court into two playing areas. This has allowed for more games to be played under the COLA with fewer interruptions from adjacent activities. To help teach the students how to use this new play-space, teachers are continuing to focus on rewarding students who are sharing the playground responsibly, by issuing our famous Winnie awards.

**Scripture – Starts on 19th February**
Scripture classes will start in week 4 for all Year 1 to 6 students. The scripture classes on offer include Anglican, Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Muslim weekly lessons. Alternative activities are organised for students who do not attend these classes. Parents who have not already nominated a religious education preference are encouraged to contact the school so we can update our records.

**Library**
The 2015 Library program will be ably led by the enthusiastic team of Ms Bronwyn Grant and Mrs Catriona Wood. These teachers have planned an exciting year in the library. An overview of the skills that will be taught as part of this valuable program are included in this newsletter.

Ian Short

REMINDER! UNIFORM CHANGES – COMPULSORY IN 2015

A reminder to parents that the uniform changes listed below will become the compulsory school uniform from the beginning of 2015.

**The four items that have changed are:**
- The hat will change from yellow to green
- The boys’ shirt will change from white to green & gold and match the grey pants
- The boys’ and girls’ sports shirt will change from a yellow polo to a green & gold microfibre polo shirt
- A black multipurpose / hybrid shoe will be the uniform shoe to be worn every day

Parents are asked to purchase new uniform items in readiness for 2015, when the new items will be compulsory. A reminder, that BOTH SCHOOL SHOES AND SPORT SHOES MUST BE BLACK IN 2015.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The black school/sport shoes should be all black ie. No coloured laces or coloured trim.

NEW FLASHING LIGHTS FOR OUR SCHOOL ZONE

The NSW Government has provided funding for the placement of school zone signs with flashing lights at all schools by the end of next year to alert motorists of the 40km speed limit required during school drop off and pick up times.

Installing these flashing lights in schools zones has been shown to improve driver awareness of the need to drive at a lower speed to ensure the safety of children and others coming and going from the school area.

Roads and Maritime Services is delivering this safety initiative and plan to install signs outside Winston Hills Public School on Hillcrest Ave the week beginning Monday 9th February 2015 outside of 40km school zone hours. Work will take up to two hours to complete, weather permitting.

Lights are installed on pre-existing poles or new poles are put in place if needed.

Partial lane closures may be in place while work is carried out to ensure safety of road users and workers. There will be some noise associated with this work, but every effort will be made to minimise these impacts.

For more information about the flashing lights program please visit the Centre for Road Safety website at www.roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe (go to the schools section) or you can contact our team on 1800 726 958 or flashinglights@rms.nsw.gov.au.

**HOMEWORK STARTS FOR**

**Years 1 to 6**
**in the week beginning**
**Monday 16th February**
SCHOOL NEWS

‘END OF YEAR SURVEY’ RESULTS

At the end of 2014, parents were asked to complete an ‘End of Year Survey’ asking for their opinions on a range of issues for possible change in 2015.

The results of the first 3 questions in the survey are as follows:

1. The school has subscribed to Mathletics for the past 3 years. It should continue in 2015 at a cost of $10 per child.
   - Decision – Mathletics will continue for $10 in 2015
   - YES – 76.5%, NO – 23.5%

2. Parent/Teacher Interviews should be held after the Semester 1 Student Reports (not at the end of Term 1 as is currently the practice).
   - Decision – Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held after the Semester 1 Student Reports are received
   - YES – 83%, NO – 17%

3. The ‘Homework Grid’ combines both practice of academic skills at home and values out of school activities that are included on the grid. It should continue in in 2015.
   - Decision - The ‘Homework’ Grid will continue in 2015
   - YES – 81.5%, NO – 18.5%

The teachers were also consulted and each of the above decisions has been supported by the staff.

SCHOOL BANKING

Welcome back to School Banking for 2015. Banking will recommence in Week 3, Tuesday 10th February. Banking will finish the second last week of Term 1.

Last year the School Banking Team raised over $1000 for the school so a huge thank you to all the families who have participated and especially to our wonderful volunteers who process the deposits. We are looking for 2 new volunteers for the banking team as some of our current team has returned to work, so if you’re interested and have 1 hour to spare on a Wednesday morning- every second week, we’d like to have you on board- no experience necessary!

To participate in the School Banking program, parents open a Youthsaver account with the Commonwealth Bank and students bring their deposit to school in their deposit wallets, every Tuesday morning and hand to their class teacher.

We encourage students to complete their own deposit slips but please ensure all details are completed. All new students will receive their student number for banking the first time they bank at WHPS. Please ensure all students have their new 2015 class written on the front of their deposit wallet.

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
schoolbankingWHPS@gmail.com

TAXI BAY RULES - UPDATED

In order to provide a safe pick-up and drop-off zone for our students, parents are asked to take note of the following rules for using the Taxi Bay area.

- No students to be dropped off in the morning before 8:30am.
- A member of staff must be present before children are allowed to leave vehicles.
- Only students from the Support Unit can be dropped off in the Taxi Bay between 8:30-8:45am. Other students may be dropped off between 8:45-9:00am.
- Only students in the Support Unit may use the Taxi Bay in the afternoons.
- Due to ongoing issues with traffic congestion creating unsafe conditions, taxis transporting students from the Support Unit will leave the Taxi Bay at 2:50pm each afternoon.
- When walking through the Taxi Bay area please stay on the footpath and do not walk across the driveway.
- Parents need to stay in their cars in the Taxi Bay at all times. A staff member will walk your child to your car.
- All students must enter and exit cars on the kerb side only
- When dropping off your child in the morning, wherever possible please have their bag in the car so they can remove it themselves. If it is necessary to have bags or other belongings in the boot, staff will remove them. Parents are to remain inside their cars at all times.
- No overtaking other cars in the Taxi Bay unless directed to by staff.
- Please note that as with all of the school’s routines and procedures we seek to promote independence in children wherever possible. Therefore students are expected to open car doors and retrieve their belongings independently. If there is a child-proof lock on your car door, please indicate this to staff and they will open the door for your child.

Please also keep in mind that the Taxi Bay is neither the time nor place to have conversations with teachers. If you need to discuss your child’s progress please contact his or her teacher to make an appointment. Can you please also not ask staff at Taxi Bay to pass on messages to other teachers.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Support Unit Teachers

Parent Information Evenings & Parent BBQ

Tuesday 24th & Thursday 26th February

NEW All parents who attend, are invited to stay after the classroom session for a BBQ!

Sorry, adults only – no students
RSVP – Wednesday 18th Feb
(see accompanying note)
STAFF NEWS
We would like to welcome a number of new staff members to our school – Miss Krystle Babik, Mr George Younan and Miss April Kermeen (Classroom Teachers). Welcome back to Mrs Shellea Lorenz who has been on maternity leave.

CLASSES & TEACHERS 2015 – Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>TEACHER</th>
<th>CLASS NAME</th>
<th>TEAM LEADER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KINDER</td>
<td>Mrs Erin Rafferty</td>
<td>KA</td>
<td>Mrs Erin Rafferty</td>
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<tr>
<td>KINDER</td>
<td>Miss Krystle Babik</td>
<td>KB</td>
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<tr>
<td>KINDER</td>
<td>Mrs Jenny Chapman (M, - Th),</td>
<td>KCL</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mrs Shellea Lorenz (F)</td>
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<tr>
<td>KINDER</td>
<td>Mrs Hayley Kitchener</td>
<td>KH</td>
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STAGE ONE

| YEAR 1  | Mrs Rachael Frame                            | 1F         | Mrs Kerry Wood   |
| YEAR 1  | Mrs Laura Barnett                            | 1B         |                  |
| YEAR 1  | Mrs Elise Arcuri                             | 1A         |                  |
| YEAR 1/2 | Mrs Sue Buyruk                               | 1/2B       |                  |
| YEAR 2  | Mrs Kerry Wood                               | 2W         |                  |
| YEAR 2  | Mrs Claire Calabrese                         | 2C         |                  |
| YEAR 2  | Mr George Younan (M – W)                     | 2YB        | Mrs Ilana Shelton & Mrs Wendy Kayello |
|         | Mrs Kylie Brgudac (Th & F)                   |            |                  |
| YEAR 2  | Mrs Glenda Rooke (M – Th)                    | 2RH        |                  |
|         | Mrs Gail Hawkins (F)                         |            |                  |

STAGE TWO

| YEAR 3  | Miss April Kermeen                          | 3K         | Mrs Ilana Shelton & Mrs Wendy Kayello |
| YEAR 3  | Mrs Melissa Johnston                        | 3J         |                  |
| YEAR 3  | Mrs Ilana Shelton (M - W)                   | 3SJ        |                  |
|         | Mrs Amanda Jefferies (Th - F)               |            |                  |
| YEAR 4  | Mrs Katie Gardiner (M - W)                  | 4GB        | Mr David MacSporran |
|         | Mr Colin Booth (Th-F)                       |            |                  |
| YEAR 4  | Mrs Noeline Luther(M-W)Mrs Wendy Kayello(Th/F) | 4LK       |                  |
| YEAR 4  | Ms Tracey McDonald                          | 4M         |                  |

STAGE THREE

| YEAR 5/6 | Mrs Rebekah Stewart                         | 5/6S       | Mr David MacSporran |
| YEAR 5/6 | Mrs Caroline Kennedy                        | 5/6K       |                  |
| YEAR 5/6 | Mr David MacSporran                         | 5/6M       |                  |
| YEAR 5/6 | Mrs Stephanie Russell                       | 5/6R       |                  |
| YEAR 5/6 | Mr Steve Freney                             | 5/6F       |                  |

SUPPORT CLASSES

| YEAR K-6 IO/AUTISM | Mr Andrew Petersen                       | 2/6P       | Ms Sarah Spink   |
| YEAR K-6 IO/AUTISM | Ms Sarah Spink (M-Th)                    | 3/6SB      |                  |
|             | Mrs Carol Bryden (F)                      |            |                  |
| YEAR 3-6 IM   | Miss Lana Frank                           | K/3G       |                  |

SUPPORT STAFF

| Release from Face to Face (RFF) & Part-time | Mrs Raeche1 Webb                         | Mr Ian Short |
|                                             | Mrs Carmen Bolst.(Th – Fr)               |              |
| ESL                                         | Mrs Belinda Harvey (Mon – Thurs)        |              |
| Reading Recovery/RFF                        | Ms Meagan Ta                              |              |
| Learning & Support                         | Ms Michelle Rose (M-T) Mrs Lucia Schimanowsky, (W-Th) |              |
| Teacher Librarian                          | Miss Bronwyn Grant (Mon – Fr)           |              |
|                                             | Mrs Catriona Wood (Th & F)              |              |
| SLSO Support Unit                          | Mrs Mary Castle, Ms Caitlin Lam,         | Ms Sarah Spink|
|                                             | Mrs Merryn White, Mrs Mel D’Anastasi    |              |
| SLSO Integration                           | Mrs Sabah Nahlous, Mrs Katherine Herrera, | Ms M Matthews |
|                                             | Mrs Jenny Dingli                        |              |
| School Counsellors                         | Mrs Julie Robinson (M), Mrs Mari Wilson (W & Th) | Ms Maxelle Matthews |
| Principal                                  | Ms Maxelle Matthews                      |              |
| Deputy Principal                           | Mr Ian Short                              |              |
BAND NEWS

Welcome new and existing band families to our band program for 2015.

Starting Dates for 2015 Include:

- **Wednesday 11th Feb - Lessons ONLY**
  A parent **must** be present during this first session to collect hire instruments, meet band committee and tutors etc. Please meet in the new hall 10 minutes prior to your allocated lesson time.

- **Performance Band - Monday 16th Feb 8-9am**
  Rehearsal - please arrive from 7.50 - 8am to collect your hire instrument.

- **School Band - Monday 16th Feb 4.15 - 5.15pm**
  Rehearsal

**Lessons Monday - 16th Feb**
A parent **must** be present during this first session to collect hire instruments, meet band committee and tutors etc. Please meet in the new hall 10 minutes prior to your allocated lesson time.

**Term 1 - 2015 Days/Times**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Band</th>
<th>School Band</th>
<th>Performance Band</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 3.15-4.15pm (from 2.3.15) Rehearsals</td>
<td>Monday 4.15-5.15pm Rehearsals</td>
<td>Monday 8-9am Rehearsals</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Wednesday 3.15-4.15pm Rehearsals</td>
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**Band Students**
For individual lesson days/times please refer to the email sent to all mid-January 2015. If you did not receive this email with your allocated day/time please contact me immediately.

**Dates for Your Diary**

- **Band AGM Monday 9th March 7pm.**

- 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.

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

Look forward to another great year!
Sue Bryant and Band Committee

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**P & C NEWS**

**P&C First Meeting for 2015 – Tuesday 17th February**

Welcome to a new year at Winston Hills. Our P&C is a friendly forum where we discuss issues relating to the school and the work of our sub-committees, which are involved in providing services to the school.

We have a very supportive volunteer base in our school. Our P&C meetings are held in Week 4 and Week 8. The first meeting for the year will be Tuesday 17th February at 7:30pm in the staffroom. Everyone is welcome.

Please bring 50c to the first meeting you attend this year for your Association membership.

If you have anything you would like to discuss at P&C, please email me on vincentlisa@optusnet.com.au or phone me on 0403556654 by the Friday before the meeting. This enables me to construct the agenda and complete any research required.

Vincent Riordan, President

**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 order online at www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or 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 20 February 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 20th February. All future Book Club dates will be advertised in the school newsletter and calendar.

Sarah Johnstone
sarah.johnstone@iinet.net.au
Book Club Coordinator

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**SCHOOL BANKING**

Starts on
Tuesday 10th February

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**FIRST P & C MEETING FOR 2015**

**Tuesday 17th February**

7.30pm in the Staffroom

All Welcome!
Help your child ACHIEVE!

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child’s teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.

1. **Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve**
   - Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.

2. **Keep your expectations reasonable and positive**
   - If your expectations are too high your teacher may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child’s school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. **Support your teacher’s expectations & activities at home**
   - One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. **Send kids to school ready to learn and on time**
   - Maximise your child’s chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It’s estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. **Inform teachers of your child’s challenges and changes**
   - Life’s not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child’s teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. **Skill children to work with others**
   - Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. **Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties**
   - Resist the temptation to solve all your children’s problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. **Participate in class & school activities**
   - There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child’s schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child’s teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. **Trust your teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience**
   - Your child’s teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids, and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. **Talk up what happens at school**
    - Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10-point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child’s teachers.

Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael’s NSW Parenting Ideas Club today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.

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parentingideas.com.au