**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

**P&C Meeting – TONIGHT**

Our first P&C Meeting for the year is being held tonight, Tuesday 17th 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 2014 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 and Free Parent BBQ – Next Week**

Parents have been invited to information sessions over 2 evenings next week on Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th February. Details of classes/stages and times were included in a note that accompanied our first newsletter.

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.

This year for the first time, we are having a parent BBQ after each class session. Please complete the return slip on the note sent home with the last newsletter and return by 18th Feb.

**Parent Morning Tea – ‘Anti-Bullying’**

Parents are invited to attend the first ‘Parent Morning Tea’ for the year on Wednesday 4th March from 9.15 – 10.45 in the school hall. In response to our end of year parent survey, where parents were asked to suggest topics, we have decided to run a session on ‘Anti-Bullying’. In preparation, please read the accompanying article with this newsletter called ‘What bullying isn’t, and what to do if it happens’. Parents who are planning to attend are asked to RSVP to the school office on 9639 8518 by Tuesday 3rd March. All welcome!

**Parent Volunteers – Working with Children Check**

A form must be filled out and signed by all volunteers who work as parent helpers in the classroom or accompany students on excursions. The 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.

**NEW Procedures for Exemption & Student Leave**

Parents are asked to read the column on page 2 regarding changes to exemptions and student extended leave.

Maxelle Matthews

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Page 2: Deputy’s Report, New Procedures for Exemptions and Student Extended Leave, Assemblies, Vacation Care – Coming!

Page 3: P&C, Band, Uniform Shop, Book Club, Fundraising

Page 4: Swimming Carnival

**CALENDAR**

**Week 4**

- Tuesday 17 February P&C Meeting 7.30pm
- Thursday 19 February Scripture Starts
- Thursday 19 February SRC Induction 2-3pm in the Hall
- Friday 20 February Summer PSSA Starts

**Week 5**

- Monday 23 February School Swimming Scheme (All Week)
- Tuesday 24 February Parent Information Night & BBQ Stage 1 & 2, Support Class
- Thursday 26 February Parent Information Night & BBQ Kindergarten & Stage 3
- Friday 27 February Clean Up Australia Day

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

**Week 8**

- Monday 16th March SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY No Students

**WHAT’S DUE?**

- Friday 20 February Book Club Due
- Friday 27 February Parent Working Bee reply
- Friday 27 February Bollywood Infusion Note
- Friday 27 February ALL Excursion Permission Notes and payment
- Friday 27 February Term 1 Accounts Due

**ACCOMPANYING NOTES**

- ‘Bollywood’ In-School Performance K-6
- Year 1 & 2 Excursion – Bicentennial Park
- Stage 3 Excursion – Australian Reptile Park
- Support Unit Excursion - Australian Reptile Park
- Parent Working Bee
- Term 1 Accounts – going out this week

**Community Notices (email only)**

- Parenting Ideas Article - 'What bullying isn’t, and what to do if it happens'
- Model Farms High School Open Night
- Muirfield High School Information Night
- Northmead GAT Test
- Winston Hills Netball
FROM THE DEPUTY
Student Leaders for 2015
Over the last few weeks, both the teachers and students have been finalising the elections of the 2015 student leaders. The positions on offer included 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 this Thursday at 2:15pm. Invitations were handed out last week.

Student Leadership Conference
Our prefects will also be celebrating their new position by attending a Student Leadership Conference on the 4th March. 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.

High School Information
Over the next few weeks many of the local high schools will be holding information nights and disseminating information related to programs on offer in 2016. Model Farms’ Open Night will be held on Tuesday 3rd March at 6:30pm. Muirfield High School will be holding their information sessions on February 26th from 5:30-7:00pm. Northmead High School are conducting Higher Ability Selection Tests (HAST) for placement into their Year 7 GAT class, 2016. The test will be held on Thursday 26 March 2015 at Northmead CAPA High School in the school hall. This test determines selection into the GAT academic stream. Interested parents are asked to contact Northmead High School and complete the form which will be emailed to all parents. Further details of the above opportunities will also be emailed to Winston hills parents this week.

Learning Support Team (LST)
The dedicated group of teachers and executive who are on the LST 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 along with ‘Corrective Reading’ and ‘Rip It Up Reading’. By combining these programs with systems that support teachers to individualise education programs and provide the appropriate accommodations for all students, the students at Winston Hills receive the necessary support to meet and exceed their expectations.

Clean Up Australia – Friday 27th February
The annual Clean-Up Australia will be returning to our school on Friday 27th 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.

Winston Winners!
Congratulations to Amelia Dooley, Patrick Dooley, Jake McArthur, Charlize McArthur, Mia Newcombe and Ava Wilson who recently completed the challenging ‘Weetbix Triathlon’ at Penrith Regatta Centre- A huge achievement!

Ian Short

NEW PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT EXTENDED LEAVE & EXEMPTIONS
From the beginning of 2015, family holidays and travels are no longer considered under the ‘Exemption from School Procedures’.
- Travel outside of vacation period is now counted as an absence.
- Travel is considered to be domestic or international travel for the purpose of a family holiday, family business, bereavement or other reasons, which should be specified on the application.
- Parents should consult with the principal about the intention of the travel.
- In the case of family holidays, parents are encouraged to take holidays with their child during school vacation periods. An E-ticket or travel itinerary is required to accompany the application.
- Where a principal considers that the travel is appropriate during school term, a ‘Certificate of Extended Leave’ is issued.

Please contact the school office with any questions regarding the new procedures.

Maxelle Matthews

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES
Kindergarten Assembly
- Kindergarten will commence their assemblies in Term 2.

Stage 1 Assembly (Years 1 & 2)
- Assemblies will start in Week 7 (11th March) due to ‘Special Swimming School’ in Weeks 5 & 6.

Stage 2 & 3 Combined Assembly (Years 3-6)
Fortnightly 2.10pm-3.00pm
- Thursday 19 February SRC Induction (NO Assembly)
- Thursday 5 March 5/6M
- Thursday 19 March 4LK/3J
- Thursday 2 April 5/6R

YMCA VACATION CARE –STARTING IN THE EASTER HOLIDAYS
Vacation Care is coming to Winston Hills Public School!
- YMCA will be operating Vacation Care in the April School Holidays from 7am to 6pm
- The children’s interests are the foundations of our programs. Activities are structured to include activities children choose to do, developing their independence and life skills. Our Vacation Care programs encourage children to be involved in a variety of activities, including art, craft, cooking, sport, dance and drama. We also go on excursions to exciting destinations.
- Forms will be available on the ymca.sw.org.au website in the coming weeks

Watch this space for more information!
BAND NEWS

Some band students attended their first lesson last week.
- Many thanks to Karen Fornari, Donna Alexandrou, Karen Seamos and the wonderful dedicated band parent Kylie Baker who assisted in a smooth running afternoon.
- Many thanks to the parent volunteers who have offered to assist on either Monday or Wednesday
- We appreciate your help!
- If you are willing to give up some of your time during your child’s band rehearsal/lesson please contact asap.

Dates for Your Diary
- Monday 2nd March Term 1 fees due
- Monday 9th March Band AGM 7pm
- Saturday 28th March-save the date, adults only social event…. More details to come shortly.
- Sunday 9th August NSW UNI ALL 3 bands.

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.

Sue Bryant and Band Committee

UNIFORM SHOP

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

New Uniforms
Don’t forget to get your new hats, Sports polo and everyday polo for boys.

Rosters
- 19th Feb: Julia Maguire, Melissa Thomas, Kate Salmon.
- 26th Feb : Belinda schuster, Melissa Zoeller, Samantha Hinchelwood.

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.

P&C

First Meeting for 2015 – Tonight 7:30
Tonight is our first meeting for 2015. Everyone is welcome so come along. Our P&C is a friendly forum where we discuss issues relating to the school and the work of our subcommittees, 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. Please bring 50c to this meeting for your P&C 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. This enables me to prepare an agenda and complete any research required.

Vincent Riordan, President

P & C FUNDRAISING

We are busy planning this year’s fundraising events. If you would like to get involved, our next meeting is Thursday 19th February at 2.00pm in the Living Skills Room (opposite Mrs Chapman’s Kindergarten room).

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Issue 1

You should have now received the first brochure for Book Club along with a sheet explaining how it works.

You can either order online by Friday 20 February or bring your order and payment to the old hall on Friday 20 February from 8.40-9.15am. Payment can be by cash or cheque (made payable to Winston Hills Public School).

Remember this 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.

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

P&C Meeting - TONIGHT
Tuesday 17th February

Including a 2014 NAPLAN Presentation

7.30pm in the Staffroom
All Welcome!
Our School Swimming Carnival was at Parramatta Swimming Pool on Monday 2nd February. All four houses were pumped up for the day and the students looked superb dressed in their house colours. The House Captains and Mrs Stewart did a fantastic job of motivating their troops for the ‘dance off’ and enthusiastic cheering their houses, throughout out the day. All students were keen to participate in the pool. While some students competed in competitive events, others participated 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 10th March 2015. This year there has been a change to the format of Zone Carnival. There will no finals night. Event placing will be based on times from the heats.

Melissa Johnston