Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the linkletter.
I hope you are all settling back into the routines of school life as smoothly as your children seem to be. All the students have made a wonderful start to the year. As we come to the end of week 3, things are certainly happening in and around our school. Our year 1/2 students have recently participated in a local walks excursion to observe our local community surroundings, our year 3-6 students have commenced their inter and intra school sports competitions, our instrumental music classes commenced this week, our wonderful specialist learning programs have also commenced with loads of fun and learning. Our students have the opportunity of experiencing great extra-curricular lessons in health and physical education, science, art, music and languages.

Happy Valentine’s day to everyone and a special thank-you to the families who came along to ‘share the love’ at our working bee this afternoon. I greatly appreciate the support and our students will benefit from your help and commitment.

Thank-you to the parents who took the time this week to come in and meet your child’s teachers. The information that you provided through the touch base forms and through these interviews is invaluable for teachers to get to know you and your child. Most importantly it is helpful for teachers to be able to plan engaging and challenging learning programs for each individual. I hope that you found the new online booking system to be helpful and easy. As part of the touch base forms I requested any feedback of ways that we can improve and enhance our school. Thank-you to those whom provided feedback, I appreciate your time and insights.

Should anyone have any further feedback at any time please make contact with me. WHPS is a great school, but it’s your school and we are always looking for ways to get better at what we do and improve the spaces within which we teach and learn. I urge you to invest in the school, just as I urge you to invest in your child’s learning and development. Further parent teacher interviews can be requested at any time.

At our school assembly this week we had the pleasure of acknowledging and presenting our 2014 student leaders. Every student in our school has a role to play in being a leader. To lead your own learning, expressing yourself, following rules, showing initiative, supporting others, sharing and welcoming others, displaying choices of a positive intent – are all aspects of good leadership. However within the school we also have some more formal roles for our senior students.
Elected by the staff our school captains and vice captains are bestowed with role of representing themselves, their peers and the school in differing ways throughout the year. This is a great honour to be named in these roles and I know our elected students will do a terrific job in their roles.

Congratulations to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Captain</th>
<th>Riley</th>
<th>Bailey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice Captain</td>
<td>Finley</td>
<td>Eboni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

House Captains and Vice Captains are elected from students by students. Our year 6 representatives from each house had the opportunity of talking to their house and outlining why they think that they would be good leaders for their respective houses.
As a result we congratulate the following students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Banksia</th>
<th>Wattle</th>
<th>Boronia</th>
<th>Warahtah</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>Raymond</td>
<td>Miki M</td>
<td>Declan</td>
<td>Miki E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Captain</td>
<td>Ben F</td>
<td>Ryan A</td>
<td>Fletcher P</td>
<td>Monique D-C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have so many wonderful learning opportunities to look forward to this year and the staff have put in considerable hours of planning time in order to ensure a dynamic, engaging and challenging curriculum for all students.

In term 1, our school inquiry unit focus is on Community. Each team and each classroom has a specific focus on integrating our curriculum around this school based concept. Each year level has this concept focus and work towards answering some essential questions.

**Prep**
By recognising my class as a community I will learn the importance of my role as an individual as well the importance of being an active member of a community.
How can I get the most out of being a member of my classroom community?
How can I help make my classroom community the best it can be?

**Year 1/2**
If I have a good understanding of the elements of my community and how they work together, I can get the most out of living in it.
How could I use the services and systems in my community?
How can I contribute to order in my community?

**Year 3/4**
Through learning about the values and beliefs of different cultures within our community we can develop and show respect towards EVERYONE. What can we gain by deepening understanding of communities that differ from our own?
How might we ensure that interactions between communities always have positive outcomes?

To enable us to be effective democratic citizens we need to understand the values and principles of democracy that guide the communities in which we live.
Where and how does democracy feature in my life?
Are all groups within our community treated as equal?
Is there such a thing as a bad law and how could you get it changed?

In addition to focussing above on learning programs will also be focussing on:
- Ensuring students feel safe, connected, respected and valued
- Establishing class routines
- Getting to know each individual learner and their needs
- Building relationships
- Develop a shared understanding of the school values and school code of conduct
- Understanding the learning process and the components for successful learning
- Understanding the brain and how to maximise its use, healthy bodies, healthy diets etc...
- Understanding individual learning styles
- Goal setting and reflective practices
- Learning all about Me!

Within the term 1 learning program another major focus for our staff and students is understanding the school values and the behaviours that display the positive modelling of our values.

The school values are: **Respect, Tolerance, Co-Operation, Honesty, Integrity, Equality, Good Manners and Work Habits**.
In supporting us it would be fantastic if you could continue to have conversations with your child/ren about these values and how we can continue to model and display them.

**Prep – 2 Incursion**
On Monday 24 February, Brainstorm Productions will be presenting ‘The Human Race’ at WHPS, a show about bullying and cultural diversity. This is a humorous and entertaining way to help children understand that although we are from different cultures and have different abilities, human beings all have feelings and need to be accepted and respected for who we are.
The message is clear: **DON’T TEASE OR BULLY - IN PERSON OR ONLINE!**

For more information on the company follow this link or go to [www.brainstormproductions.edu.au](http://www.brainstormproductions.edu.au)

*The cost of this activity has been incorporated into your family school fees for 2014.*

**Family fun night**

On Friday 28th February the school will be holding an Open/Fun Night.
The school will OPEN to all families and friends of the school from 5-6pm. This will be a chance to showcase our classrooms and for students to share their learning spaces with their family and friends. Then at 6pm we will officially welcome our 2014 Prep students and enjoy some social time with families and friends of the school.

**Welcome to our new staff members**

This week we welcomed two new support staff to Watsonia Heights. Mrs. Joanne Bovell and Ms. Jessica Comtesse were recently successful in our application process for teacher support roles. Both ladies come to the school with vast experiences in working with students. Their impact has been immediate as we continue to support all students at WHPS.

**Watsonia Heights School Council**

**Are you interested in joining our School Council?**

This is a great way to get involved in the school and leading the way in our policy development and school management.

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Watsonia Heights Primary School.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Principal and must be lodged by 4pm on Friday 21st February, 2014.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Term of Office</th>
<th>Number of Positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the date after the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the 2016.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the date after the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the 2016.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Every day counts – school attendance**

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

For any extended break from school, develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

**Labour Day Monday – Eltham Bunnings BBQ!**

We need parents to help out for this event. It raises a lot of money for the school which we will use to help with our growing number of buildings and grounds projects. We need a minimum of three adults to help.
at Bunnings Eltham from 8am – 5pm on Monday 10th March. If you can spare an hour please let us know via the school office.

Relay for Life
Watsonia Heights Primary School is pleased and honoured to announce that we have entered a team in this year’s Relay for Life. This fundraiser of the Cancer Council of Victoria is a hugely popular and worthwhile event. Teams obtain sponsorship and walk the track at Wilinda Park (Greensborough, near Montmorency Sec Coll.) throughout the evening of Saturday March 29th March. The event commences at 12.45pm and runs through to 1pm on Sunday 30th March.

One of our students Aleesha has been working hard to generate support for this great cause. Her Mum, Cathy Williams has agreed to be the co-ordinator of the team. If you are interested in getting involved simply register online at www.relayforlife.org.au if you search ‘WHPS’ under the 2014 Diamond Valley event OR email Cathy at: cathy@cmddesigns.com.au

School Injuries and Insurance
Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund.

The Department of Education and Training does not hold accident insurance for school students.

Is other insurance cover available? Yes.

The Department is aware of two insurers, JUA Underwriting Agency Pty Ltd and Willis Australia Ltd, that provide accident insurance policies for students. These policies provide specific benefits for students who are injured in accidents for a reasonably low cost. Other insurers may also do so.

EMA - Education Maintenance Allowance
Applications must be received in the office before 28th February. If you have been granted EMA in the past you must apply for it each year, it does not automatically carry over. Please see the office staff if you have any questions.

STAFF Carpark – Do not Enter!
Please refrain from entering the staff carpark entrance. This is allocated for staff only. Your assistance in respecting this space and helping to ensure a safe environment for our students, is greatly appreciated.

Learning technologies are a powerful resource!
With an ever increasing growth on the use and importance of learning technologies in education (and indeed life) the school has bolstered its infrastructure and resources with some welcomed additions. We have added to our server capacity with the introduction of some new wireless access points to increase our network capacity. In addition we have purchased and increased our bank of laptops and tablets. As we look to continue providing the latest and greatest learning tools, our 1:1 tablet program has commenced in our 5/6 team and our 3/4 team is trialling a 1:1 laptop and tablet program. These devices are most beneficial when used in a 1 to 1 situation. Meaning each child has their own device.

Whilst the benefits of tablets are varied and increasing, they present a new set of learning for schools and educators. Immediately lifting engagement of students, tablets are maximised when used as a learning tool for individual students. Amongst other aspects, this is enhanced when staff and students have the opportunity of:

1. Customising the apps for purpose and individuals
2. Having access and exposure to immersion and exploration of the device and its capabilities
3. Understanding that just like laptops, tablets are a tool for learning and not a game/toy.

These technologies DO NOT replace the fundamentals of ensuring students are literate and numerate. We still practice handwriting and spend a significant amount of our learning time in written form as well as utilising the technology. As a staff we ensure our teaching and learning philosophies are reflected in the use of such emergent technologies. A very important and significant aspect of our learning at WHPS is teaching students about safe online behaviours.

Anniversary of the National Apology
Thursday 13 February 2014 marked the sixth anniversary of the National Apology to the Indigenous peoples of Australia given in the Australian Parliament on 13 February 2008. The National Apology is a significant event in Australia’s history and is included in the content of the AusVELS History curriculum.

We remember
I do hope that the extreme weather and recent fires have not impacted on any immediate families of our school. Uncanny that Friday 7th February marked the fifth anniversary of the Black Saturday bushfires that claimed the lives of 173 people and many properties.
To mark this anniversary, and to honour all those affected by the Victorian bushfires in February 2009, our Australian National Flag was flown at half-mast during that day. At WHPS we employ our heat policy on any days of extreme weather, keeping students inside, away from the elements.

**Are you being Sunsmart??**

As in line with the schools policy, term 1 is a sunsmart term. This requires all students to have the appropriate black wide brimmed hat. These sunsmart hats are to be worn during all outside activities during term 1.

**Languages**

Co.As.It.-Italian Assistance is a non-profit Italian organisation that services the Italian community. The Education sector of Co.As.It. has for many years greatly supported and promoted the teaching of the Italian language and culture in our schools. Co.As.It is offering an Afterhours Italian Program for students from Prep to Year 12. It could provide an opportunity for students to build on the language on their regular school program already offered.

Co.As.It Afterhours Italian Program
44 Univeristy Street, CARLTON, 3053
For queries involving enrolment please contact Rosemary at Co.As.It. on 9349-9000

**Children and Hot Cars. No Exceptions. No Excuses.**

On hot days, it is important to remember that children should never be left alone in a car. The temperature inside a car on hot days begins to rise as soon as the door closes and within minutes the temperature inside can be double the temperature outside. Leaving children in hot cars – even for a moment – can result in injury or death. Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks. Victorian legislation makes leaving a child unattended in a car a criminal offence, with penalties ranging from fines of $2165 or three months in prison. If you are travelling with a child in a car and you need to get out, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.

For more information, see: [Kidsafe Victoria](http://www.kidsafevic.com.au)

**House Points**

On enrolment at WHPS each student is allocated a house. There are four houses, Wattle (Yellow) Banksia (Blue) Boronia (Green) and Waratah (Red). These houses are used for a number of purposes. Mainly they are used as a positive reward system across the school. Students are continuing to enjoy earning points for their house. The current standings for this term are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Wattle</td>
<td>1,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Banksia</td>
<td>1,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Boronia</td>
<td>935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Waratah</td>
<td>485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Clean Up Australia Day 2014**

Do your bit for the environment. Last year, there was a fantastic response from volunteers across the nation with over 593,400 individuals donning their Clean Up gloves at 7,363 Clean Up sites, removing an estimated 16,243 tonnes of rubbish from our environment. Banyule Council encourages volunteers to take part in Australia’s largest community participation event, Clean Up Australia Day, on Sunday March 2. To join a group, please check our Banyule website, [www.banyule.vic.gov.au](http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au) or Clean Up Australia Day website [www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au](http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au) to find a local spot.

**Fresh Fruit Friday**

In 2014 we will continue to offer fresh fruit to all students each Friday. The school had previously received funding for this program however this is now funded from school money. If any families would like to make a donation towards the sustainability of this initiative please send along your contribution to the school office. Fresh fruit Friday is a great way to promote healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle. Also if there are any parents who have a few minutes to spare on a Friday morning, we would appreciate your time to help cut up and prepare the fruit for our students.
Schools are regularly informed of potential issues and dangers that surround our students when out of school hours. Whilst we haven’t had any reported incidents, I remind everyone to be vigilant in considering your awareness. As a school we are focussed on providing a safe and secure learning environment and our care extends beyond the school grounds. Families are reminded of the regular need to continue educating our students of issues such as being safe around our streets. This includes being aware of traffic dangers (using crossings), stranger danger and being cyber safe.

Below are some helpful hints when considering what to tell your child about a stranger:

- Students need to know not to converse with unknown people.
- Tell your child not to listen to or be near a stranger—rather to move away or back inside.
- Tell your child to never ever go with a stranger—no matter what the stranger says.
- Tell your child that strangers may make up sad stories, like looking for a lost pet, needing help with a sick child, or needing directions.
- Tell your child that strangers should never be believed, no matter what they say.
- Tell your child that strangers may offer treats, gifts or lollies for ‘helping’.
- Tell your child that you will never send a stranger to collect them. Make a list of the only, known people, you would send to pick them up.
- Ensure your child know the routines of arriving and departing school safely and notify them of any changes to the ‘normal’ arrangements
- Tell your child to find a safe adult (a policeman or a mum with a stroller) or a safe spot (if they are fearful) such as a school, shop or safety sign. However, don’t tell your child that all uniforms are safe as some predators may be wearing a uniform.

**A healthy balance**

- Assure your child that most adults are loving, caring and trustworthy.
- Discuss good, safe and friendly people in the world, to avoid fear of all adults.
- Remind your child of helpful adults, like firemen, teachers, police, doctors, etc.
- Remind your child of ‘good’ adults in their world, who can be trusted.
- Protect them from over exposure to graphic news stories.
- Telling
- Encourage your child to ’tell’ if they even think they came across a stranger.
- Encourage your child to ‘tell’ if they felt scared, unsure or uncomfortable (‘yucky’ with any adult).
- Affirm that you will be happy and praise them for ‘telling’—that they won’t be in trouble.
- Affirm that you will listen and believe them.

**Basic protective safety for parents**

- Always know where your children are.
- Keep your kids within your sight or supervision.
- Be alert to other people around you, but not paranoid.
- Be alert to Internet threats—research shows predators are increasingly luring more mature children through the Internet, such as online, through forums, chat lines, and message systems.
- Always keep young children’s computers within your vision (not in their bedrooms), and under your supervision.
- Install a 'Net-Nanny' or Parental Control Software program on your computer.
- Teach your child to never ever give out personal or private information.

Hopefully this will help to promote discussion at home.

**Active, protective behaviour**

- Role play or practise a variety of strategies or other scenarios.
- Try a test in a safe environment at home, such as an unfamiliar friend at the front door trying to entice them outside to look at a sick, cute rabbit.
- Research shows that kids often ‘forget’ after a period of time. Thus a yearly family refresher course is very worthwhile.
## February 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Fri 14<sup>th</sup> | Interschool Sports - Away Game  
Watsonia v WHPS          |
|        | 4-6pm WHPS Working Bee                                                |
| Mon 17<sup>th</sup> | School Council Meeting                                                 |
| Wed 19<sup>th</sup> | No Prep Attendance - Testing                                          |
| Thur 20<sup>th</sup> | Police Visit Grades 1-6                                               |
| Fri 21<sup>st</sup>  | Interschool Sport - Away Game  
St Marys v WHPS            |
| Mon 24<sup>th</sup>  | Brain Storm Incursion P-6  
District Swimming Gdes 3-6                                             |
| Wed 26<sup>th</sup>  | No Prep Attendance - Testing                                          |
| Fri 28<sup>st</sup>  | Interschool Sports - Away Game  
Watsonia North v WHPS                                                  |
|        | Family Fun Night/Open Night                                           |

## March 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>First Aide Incursion &amp; Division Swimming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Fri 7<sup>th</sup>  | Interschool Sports - Home Game  
WHPS v Greensborough                                                 |
| Mon 10<sup>th</sup> | Labour Day Holiday - Bunnings  
Eltham BBQ Fundraiser                                                |
| Wed 12<sup>th</sup> | Northern Region Swimming                                              |
| Tue 18<sup>th</sup> | Gdes 3-6 Swimming 1-3pm                                               |
## WHPS Student of the Week

### For Week beginning 3rd February 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lachlan</td>
<td>1/2Y</td>
<td>An outstanding effort settling in to your new class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordyn</td>
<td>1/2S</td>
<td>For being such an obliging and willing helper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elena</td>
<td>1/2W</td>
<td>Making a great start to your new school – Welcome to WHPS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liam G</td>
<td>1/2W</td>
<td>Being a super legend helper in the class room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan C</td>
<td>3/4T</td>
<td>For the respectful and hard working start to the year. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>3/4M</td>
<td>Producing excellent work in her writing recount of the holidays. Well done Georgia!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jemma</td>
<td>5/6R</td>
<td>For the excellent start to grade 6 in 2014. Well done Jemma!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bree</td>
<td>5/6B</td>
<td>Demonstrating a positive and cheerful attitude to the new year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### For Week beginning 10th February 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooper</td>
<td>Prep H</td>
<td>Being kind and helpful to other children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matilda</td>
<td>Prep H</td>
<td>Listening carefully and doing her best work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aiden</td>
<td>Prep C</td>
<td>For always being helpful at pack-up time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanesha</td>
<td>1/2Y</td>
<td>Making excellent efforts in helping set our classroom up and in all learning activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saoirse</td>
<td>1/2S</td>
<td>For her consistent effort with her work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy</td>
<td>1/2S</td>
<td>For helping the grade ones settle into school comfortably.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper</td>
<td>1/2W</td>
<td>Being such an awesome helper in our grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristi</td>
<td>1/2W</td>
<td>Trying hard with your writing – keep it up!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma</td>
<td>1/2E</td>
<td>Thinking of wonderful ideas about what good readers do!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erik</td>
<td>1/2E</td>
<td>Helping others to follow origami directions to make a pirate hat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam</td>
<td>3/4T</td>
<td>Being a fantastic role model and helper for the grade 3s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley</td>
<td>3/4M</td>
<td>Showing excellent teamwork and good sportsmanship by encouraging swimmers to the finish line at swimming trials last week. Well done Riley!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan</td>
<td>5/6R</td>
<td>For persistence during the school swimming trials. Well done Ryan!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David</td>
<td>5/6B</td>
<td>For excellent presentation of his class work.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DIAMOND VALLEY RELAY FOR LIFE

Our local Relay for Life is being held on Sat 29th-30th March at Diamond Valley’s Willinda Park Athletic Track.

This event is held annually as an opportunity to get together with our community to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost and fight back against cancer. If there is enough interest WHPS would love to register a team to take part in this family friendly event. Please let us know if your family would like to take part. There will be a collection tin placed in the office next week collecting donations for the Cancer Council.

Prep Fun At School

Lunch with our buddies

Kylie and Joanna help us

We had lots of messy fun in art!

We like playing with Mr Potato Head, the puppets and the building blocks!

BUDDIES

Our grade 5/6 buddies helped us decorate paper people and read stories to us. We had so much fun with them!
DIAMOND VALLEY RELAY FOR LIFE
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For further information contact:
Cassie Lobosco
T 0411 675 891
E dancefactor@netspace.net.au

Eltham College Of Education
1660 Main Road Research
Banyule Nets Stadium
2 Somers Avenue Macleod

www.dancefactor.net.au

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Classes also in Hurstbridge & Mernda Villages
Tanya Kirkright—Choreographer/Director of WHPS annual concert

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