Hello everyone. Welcome to the latest edition of the linkletter. There has been some great learning activities happening around the school and I have enjoyed the many students visiting my office to share their wonderful work samples and success stories.

Our year 5/6 students have been hard at work preparing, planning and developing their upcoming 5/6 Bazaar. This will take place on Wednesday 27th November. As a compliment to their recent inquiry unit the students have researched charitable organisations and then developed business plans to raise funds in support of their chosen charity. The whole school is encouraged to bring along some money to enjoy the wonderful stalls of fun and learning that the 5/6 students have developed. All money raised will be directed to the various charities of student choice. This is a wonderful learning process and a great way that our students and the school can contribute to those less fortunate.

In amongst this the 5/6 students are also keenly preparing for their annual camp. This year the students will head to Lady Northcote camp in Bacchus Marsh to enjoy the adventure based experience. The camp is from Monday 2nd December – Friday 6th December.

Our grade 6 students are also preparing for their exciting night of Graduation. We look forward to a wonderful night of celebration and acknowledgement of their primary years as we wish them well into secondary college. The Graduation will be held at the Watsonia RSL on Monday 16th December.

Throughout 2013, Watsonia Heights has shown a regular commitment to fundraising for various charities and organizations. As Christmas looms on everyone’s calendar, I ask all families to consider supporting one last special and important cause for 2013 - Diamond Valley Foodshare. The Diamond Valley Foodshare was established over 15 years ago.

It provides emergency food to people in the local area who need a helping hand. Voluntears distribute food parcels from the Foodshare base in Henry Street Greensborough every weekday between 1-3pm. Foodshare also provides Christmas hampers for singles and families. It estimates that it supplies about 40,000 meals per year.

At the moment Foodshare is low on supplies. Donations in the following would be greatly appreciated.

- Cans of soup
- Boxes of cup a soup
- Instant noodles
- Cans of crushed tomatoes
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Cans of baked beans and/or spaghetti
- Cans of legumes or vegies – like corn, beetroot, chick peas, four bean mix
- Cans of tuna (all sizes, plain is best)
- Cans of fruit
- Sweet and dry biscuits
- Breakfast cereal
- Dry pasta
- Toiletries like toothbrushes, shampoo or conditioner, women’s sanitary items

We will be collecting all donations in the front office from Monday 25th November until
Wednesday 18th December. Any donations would be greatly appreciated

Family Fun Night
With the end of the year fast approaching we are excited about the opportunity of coming together as a school to celebrate a great year. Please mark Friday 13th December on your calendars at home. From 5.30-8.30pm the community is welcomed to the school for some music, drinks, food and fun! Please keep an eye out for the flier that will be coming home soon.

Prep breakfast
Last week our Prep students enjoyed a lovely, healthy breakfast at school. Our year 5/6 leaders played host and waiter/ress to the Preps. Thanks to the students who helped and staff who made this such a fun experience for our Prep students.

Carpark
Please be reminded that the staff carpark is for staff only and the entrance to this carpark is NOT a safe place for any drops offs, pick-ups or turn arounds. We have had some recent near disasters with parents using this entrance and reversing across the pedestrian crossing. This is highly dangerous. Please do not use this area.

2014 Preps
Our team of Preps for next year have been enjoying their orientation sessions. The final orientation session for this year is next Friday the 29th November from 9.30–11.45am. Our new students have already made a wonderful start to school.

Transition Sessions
As we look towards 2014, students have commenced some transition activities to provide children with the chance of embracing imminent change that comes with each school year. Staff have planned some engaging activities for students during these sessions.

Prep excursion
On Monday our Prep team will head off on excursion to the Lego Education centre. Apart from the excitement of catching a bus and travelling away from school for the day, our Preps will enjoy the hands on learning experience that this excursion provides.

Digital Masters
Our 3/4 students recently attended the Melbourne Arts Centre – Digital Hub. The students had a great day exploring the insights of multimedia production. Each student had the opportunity to record their stories composed in class and edit them. The excitement continued when students got to add background noises and event sound effects to enhance their pieces.

Library
It’s that time of year again where we commence chasing all of our library books! If you have any at home (even under the couch) please send them back to school so our resources can remain strong and other students can gain the benefits. We are asking that ALL library books be returned by Wednesday December 5th. Any damaged or Non-returns will incur a cost of $10 to recover.

Swim Swim
Our Prep-2 students continue to enjoy their swimming lessons at Yarra Swim school. Thanks to the parents who have been supporting this program. We appreciate your involvement.

Montmorency Music
Today our student had the opportunity of enjoying a short concert performed by the Montmorency Secondary College school band. This was a fun experience and a great way to inspire our young musicians and performers.

Reporting
Staff have been working extremely hard over recent times in preparing and compiling student’s reports. These will be sent home in the final week of school.

2014 Grades
During this time of year we look ahead to 2014 and have commenced our transition programming. Any parents whom have any requests for 2014 grade placements are asked to put these in writing addressed to the Principal. Classroom teachers are not the port of call for such requests. Thanks for
following this process. Similarly if you are planning on leaving the school for any reason please let me know asap.

**Share in the Learning**
As the end of year reporting process is under way, parents are invited and welcomed to attend our end of year 3 way conferences. These will be held in the week December 9-13 with an evening of conferences on Tuesday 10th December. This is a great way to share and celebrate your child's successes over the 2013 school year. Students will present their portfolios and articulate their learning, reflect upon their goals and share their success!

**Instrumental Music**
On Friday 13th December from 9am we will celebrate and enjoy the talents of our instrumental music program at our annual Soiree. Parents are invited to attend the performance in the GP room. Further details will be in the next linkletter.

**Year 7**
On Tuesday the 10th December our year 6 students will spend the day at their chosen secondary colleges for 2014. The orientation day will be a great chance for students to familiarize themselves with their new schools and to meet staff and students.

**Book fair**
Thanks to Vicky for conducting the recent Book Fair and thanks to all the students and families who added to their personal library for students enjoyment. The book fair sales allows the school to be able to purchase further resources for our school library.

**House Points**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Banksia</td>
<td>26,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Wattle</td>
<td>26,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Waratah</td>
<td>24,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Boronia</td>
<td>22,390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Being aware of Potential Dangers**
There have been no reported incidents to alert for stranger danger. However, any day is a good day to remind students about being safe and to educate them of protective behaviours. I remind everyone to be vigilant in considering your awareness.

As a school we are focused 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 knows the routines of arriving and departing school safely and notify them of any changes to the ‘normal’ arrangements
- Tell your child to go immediately back inside and ask someone they know if unsure.
- Practice makes perfect

Having explained 'stranger danger' or protective behaviour you might breathe a big sigh of relief. However, let's not relax just yet. Research shows that kids often can quote what mum or dad said very well, but when placed in the situation, they more often still give in.
At home, role play certain situations with your child, such as pretending mum is sick and that a new person needs to take them home.

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.

Active, protective behaviour
- Teach your child never to wander off or go out of sight.
- Teach your child to always walk with and stay with friends—to never go alone.
- Teach and practice saying NO loudly and repeatedly, if they are unsure.
- Teach your child to yell HELP, as loudly and repeatedly as possible, until they are heard. Predators hate noise and attention.
- Teach 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.

Enjoy the weekend ahead!

Warm regards,

Michael
STUDENT BANKING

The last student banking day for 2013 is Tuesday December 10th. This year we have had an increase of bankers which results in more children saving and commission going to the school. Well done!

A HUGE thanks goes to Glynise M, our parent banking coordinator. Glynise has done a wonderful job each Tuesday and we look forward to working with her again in 2014.

CRE Thank you!

On behalf of the CRE teachers we just wanted to say ‘thank you’ for the wonderful year we have had at WHPS.

I’m finishing up teaching CRE after 7 years. It’s been a real pleasure. Sue is finishing up after 3 years and Jo is having a baby but would like to return if all goes to plan.

We do have another teacher lined up but if there’s anyone interested to teach next year please call or email the school office.

Kind regards

Julie-Ann Laird
CRE Co-Ordinator

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 25th</td>
<td>Prep Lego Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 26th</td>
<td>Ipad Parent Workshop @ 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 27th</td>
<td>Prep-2 Swimming Grade 5/6 Mini Bazaar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 29th</td>
<td>Prep Orientation #3 9.30am-11.45am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

December 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 2nd</td>
<td>CRE Christmas Celebration Grade 5/6 Lady Northcote Camp bus departs @ 9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 4th</td>
<td>Prep-2 Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 6th</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Campers Return ETA by 3.15pm. Creativity Expo Prep-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 9th</td>
<td>Grade 6 Graduation practice @ Watsonia RSL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 10th</td>
<td>Year 7 Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 11th</td>
<td>Prep – 2 Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 12th</td>
<td>School Council Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13th</td>
<td>Grade 3-6 Musical Soiree Family Fun Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 16th</td>
<td>Grade 6 Graduation Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 18th</td>
<td>Prep – 2 Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 20th</td>
<td>Talent Show End of Term 4 – Dismissal 1.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### For Week beginning 11th November 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hayley-Lee</td>
<td>Prep H</td>
<td>Improving her listening and trying hard with her work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jake</td>
<td>1/2T</td>
<td>Being a good sport at the grade 1 dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex</td>
<td>1/2T</td>
<td>Being a co-operative helper at the grade 2 sleepover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janelle</td>
<td>1/2S</td>
<td>Being a thoughtful and enthusiastic student at the sleepover.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel</td>
<td>1/2S</td>
<td>For trying hard with all her work and being a willing helper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elleanor</td>
<td>3/4N</td>
<td>Challenging herself with original ideas in writing and being creative in her plot development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaylee</td>
<td>3/4N</td>
<td>Good work habits through her increased focus independent tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-Neal</td>
<td>3/4R</td>
<td>Working really hard on her storyboard. Keep up the great effort T-Neal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia</td>
<td>5/6B</td>
<td>Dedicating her creative skills to help produce a wreath for Remembrance Day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>5/6R</td>
<td>For improved work habits and being punctual to class.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### For Week beginning 18th November 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bailey</td>
<td>Prep H</td>
<td>Being friendly and helpful to everyone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leo</td>
<td>Prep H</td>
<td>Trying hard to improve his listening and do his best work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eysha</td>
<td>Prep W</td>
<td>Being such a kind and helpful classmate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristen</td>
<td>Prep W</td>
<td>Being such a great helper during our kinder visit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chanel</td>
<td>1/2T</td>
<td>Trying her best in Maths. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper</td>
<td>1/2T</td>
<td>Trying his best with his writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashla</td>
<td>1/2S</td>
<td>Being a willing helper and trying hard with all her school work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack</td>
<td>1/2S</td>
<td>Trying hard to complete tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>3/4N</td>
<td>For clarifying questions and striving for accuracy during work tasks. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>3/4R</td>
<td>Being a wonderful role model and always demonstrating the school values.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry</td>
<td>3/4R</td>
<td>Working really hard on his writing. Keep up the great work Harry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madelin</td>
<td>5/6B</td>
<td>Representing the school at Watsonia RSL for Remembrance Day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradman</td>
<td>5/6R</td>
<td>For displaying excellent sportsmanship and encouraging all teams in SEPEP.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Creativity Expo

Friday, December 9th

1/2T and 3/4E- 11:30am
1/2S and 3/4T- 12:30pm

Held in the Jan Bobbin Learning Centre

Join students from grades prep to 4 in celebrating their projects made during our 'Creativity' inquiry topic this term. Some of the magnificent pieces on display will be puppet shows, eBooks, story writing and models. We can not wait to share our learning with you!
3/4 Phillip Island Camp

‘Camp was great! We ate yummy food like pasta. I had the best cabin mates. There were fun activities like Flying Fox and Giant Swing. I went 12 metres high for the Giant Swing. The flying fox went really fast, They even had a fun obstacle course made of ropes, wire, old hoses and a couple of other stuff. Two days really weren’t enough.’ – Georgia Morris 3/4T

‘Two weeks ago grade 3/4 went on camp. My favourite part was when we went to see the penguins. They took a while but when they came it was all worth it. Those little penguins were so cute. It was a very sad day when we left but it was a great memory.’ – Joel Romano 3/4T

‘We sat on the stands waiting for ages when finally they came. Me and my friends could see the tiny blue Fairy Penguins walking in from the water then we saw more and more. They were under our feet at one point, when we were walking back, they were so cute. Finally the penguins came to a stop. We had to leave, but it was the best camp ever!’ – Charlotte McMurray 3/4T

Two weeks ago the Grade 3/4’s went on camp. Our favourite parts were getting to sleep in cabins and the giant swing. We were in the same cabin and Connor got the top bunk and Riley got the double bed! We even did no hands on the Giant Swing. We had a great time! ©️ - Riley Vercoe & Connor Maclean 3/4E
The giant swing was really fun and I felt like I was flying!- Rian Webster 3/4E
The giant swing was really high and scary! I liked eating with all my friends in the dining hall. - Jarvis Thorne 3/4F ©️
The Road to Recovery

We would love if you could come along to help us raise money for Katie Maggio (formerly Wilkins) and family which will help to assist with her road to recovery.

7pm Friday 6th December 2013

West Preston Football Club
Corner Gilbert Rd & Edwards Street, Reservoir

$25pp includes finger food and entry into door prize draw (drinks at bar prices)

TICKET SALES CONTACT - Nicole Dematos
(Joshua’s Mum in Prep W)
on Mobile 0408 301 182 by November 29th 2013
The Orange Pigeon

Spreading Her Wings of Hope, Care & Compassion
Providing Comfort to Seriously Ill Adults

The Orange Pigeon is a symbol of hope, care and compassion for adults with chronic, life threatening or terminal illnesses by granting them a wish to make a dream come true and to bring comfort into their lives.

Whilst we can't cure the illnesses that these people have got, making their dreams become a reality or providing a bit of luxury or comfort in their lives can really improve their quality of life, especially for those in the last few months of their lives, if only just for a moment of time. Every moment is precious.

The Orange Pigeon’s goal is to bring some joy into the lives of these courageous people. A little bit of joy can bring so much happiness to people who are holding on with all they have got.

To Register, Nominate a Recipient or for Further Information

www.orangepigeon.com.au

- Email info@orangepigeon.com.au
- Call 0401 076 706

To Make a Donation
- Bank: Westpac
- Account Name: The Orange Pigeon
- BSB: 033 121 • Account No: 356741
- ABN: 39 155 797 231

Non Financial Donations
PO Box 964 Melton Vic 3337 or call The Orange Pigeon on 0401 076 706

*Donations over $2.00 are tax deductible

Nadine Webber had her dream come true by attending the 2011 Toyota AFL Grand Final