Hi everyone and welcome to the latest edition of the linkletter.

I trust that your children are continuing to enjoy all that the school has to offer. Our Prep students are coming to the end of their first month of school and we will welcome them as full time students as of next week. Congratulations to all of our Preps for their wonderful start to life at school.

As you know we have some wonderful programs being offered at WHPS this year. Some of those being offered include:

- Chinese languages classes (Mandarin)
- Science program
- Health and physical education classes
- Art program
- Music classes
- Instrumental music classes
- Gardening club
- Social skills club
- Smiling Minds group
- Perceptual Motor Program for Preps
- Buddy program
- Interschool Sports Program

This year we have enhanced the Library program and all students are enjoying the space and the program. Kathryne Campara has done an amazing job in establishing this space and in developing the learning program in conjunction with the staff. Similarly, all of our educational support staff have done a wonderful job in setting individual learning programs to support the WHPS children. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and skilled team.

Therefore I ask that you support the staff and the learning focus across the school.

We have very dedicated and committed staff whom are constantly working hard to provide our students with wonderful learning opportunities. Whilst we encourage and welcome the ongoing communication with parents, I ask that parents please try to keep all corridors and buildings clear during our pick up times. We value the learning time that we have with your children and hope to maximize our day until 3.30pm. I ask you to please wait for your children outside our buildings until the bell rings (not if it’s raining of course!). Similarly the start of the school day is a vital time for teachers. We often have staff meetings and commitments occurring prior to 9am. Therefore if you require a meeting time please consider crucial teacher times and negotiate a mutual time with your child’s teacher.

In addition, we have also added a new learning focus in 2016. Discovery learning provides a unique and engaging learning environment where students can create, think, collaborate and explore their passions. This program develops many interpersonal skills alongside building a range of skill sets. This is an innovative way to embrace lifelong learning whereby students have the ability to ‘think outside the square’ and ponder and create what might be possible.

Please see the attached general information sheet about discovery learning and Makerspaces. This is well researched and provides a wonderful way to embrace the innate curiosity in children and develop progressive learners.

Specialist Newsletters
Attached to this newsletter is some further information from our specialist team. This will provide you with some insight into our curriculum provision.
Swimming
Well done to all of our representative swimmers who participated in the Division Swimming Carnival at Wartermarc last week. All the students competed to the best of their ability and it was great to be there to share in the team spirit. Great to see so many parents, friends and grandparents in attendance. This was a big help it spurring on our swimming stars. Watsonia Heights came third in the overall standings; a great achievement for our school size. Some students have now made it through to represent the school at the next stage of competition at the district swimming carnival which will be held next Wednesday, 2nd March. Good luck to all those students involved.

Our Year 3-6 intensive swimming program commences on March 4th.
There has been a slight change to our swimming dates. The 6 sessions will take place on the following days: March 4th, 8th, 10th, 17th, 22nd and 24th.
All classes will be held at Yarra Swim School (walking distance from school).

OHSC – Out of Hours School Care
As we look ahead to planning for remainder of the school year. We have identified our upcoming curriculum days. We have the opportunity of running OHSC for the whole day on these dates. However, we will only run this service if there are sufficient numbers to make it viable. We will be sending out an expression of interest in coming days. Keep an eye for it and please return it so we can make an informed decision.

Watsonia Heights School Council
Thank-you to the parents who have nominated to join our School Council. Further documentation about our group will be circulated in the next newsletter. Anyone interested in nominating, are asked to obtain a ‘nomination form’ from the school office or get in touch with me.

2016 School Fair 19th November!
This is an exciting event on our calendar! WHPS has not conducted a school fair/fete before so this is a unique opportunity to make an amazing event for our school and wider community. We are looking for lots of volunteers and are holding a morning tea for those parents whom may be interested to hear more about it and perhaps join a working committee. This is a great way to help out our school!! We REALLY need you help and support. Come along to our morning tea on Friday 4th March at 9am to join the conversation!!

Parliament House
On Thursday the 25th February, all of the school leaders and I went to Parliament House. The reason we went was because we were watching my petition get tabled. I created the petition against ‘illegal puppy farms’ and was able to get 116 signatures. Colin Brooks (our State Member for Parliament, Bundoora) invited us to witness my petition get tabled in the Lower House. I was very excited to be there, yet surprised at how much arguing there was in the chamber! While we were at Parliament House, we did a few different things; we sat in the chamber and watched the petition get tabled, we had a tour of the lower/upper house, we went into the library and we had afternoon tea with Mr Brooks in Parliament Cafe. We had lots of fun, I learnt quite a lot of things and it actually surprised me how much I learnt. The visit was a once in a lifetime experience!

By Shaylee
Genius Hour
As part of a ‘Genius Hour’ project last year, former student Ella wrote and collected signatures from the community for a petition she felt strongly about, Marriage Equality. Ella sent her petition to Jenny Macklin, the member for Jagajaga who tabled it in Parliament late last year. Since that time Jenny Macklin presented Ella with a framed certificate in recognition of the work Ella has done and in working towards Marriage Equality. We would like to acknowledge Ella for her achievements and are very proud of how she has pursued an issue she feels passionate about.

Relay for life
As you will have read in previous newsletters, WHPS is again committed to the ‘Relay for Life’ fundraising campaign. This is a wonderful cause to raise money for those effected by cancer. It’s quite uncommon these days to know of anyone whom hasn’t been touched by cancer in some way over their life. The Relay for Life initiative requires us to put together a team of people to participate in a 20 hour relay around Willinda Park athletics track in Greensborough. There are lots of fun activities throughout the afternoon and evening and it’s also a great way to meet new people and work together for a great social service. **To support this great cause we are conducting a ‘casual clothes’ day on Friday 18th March. Students are able to be out of uniform for that day and are asked to bring along a gold coin (or even more if you like) donation.** Further details around the WHPS Relay for Life team, including how to register through [http://www.relayforlife.org.au](http://www.relayforlife.org.au), are attached to this newsletter.

Many thanks to Pierre Scotney who is our nominated team captain for 2016!

Grace Park playground launch
Last year the school had some representative students participate in the planning and development of one of our local parks. The Banyule City Council conducted workshops to review the pre-existing playground at Grace Park (Cnr of Henry and Louis St). as a result of this work the student submissions were considered and enacted in the re-development of this park. As a result we will be sending some students to represent the school and official playground opening to be held next week. This will be a fun filled day that will consolidate the school’s and the students voice within the local community.

School Open Night and Family Fun Night
On Friday 4th March we will open the school from 5.30-6.30pm. This is a chance to share in your child’s learning environment and class work. Following this from 6.30-8.30pm, we will enjoy our Family Fun Night. This provides the school the chance to welcome our 2016 Prep students and for families to reconnect with some old friends and make some new ones as well!

- 5.30-6.30pm – All classroom spaces open
- 6.30pm – Assembly area – Presenting our 2016 Preps
- 6.45-8.30pm – enjoy some social time with friends

Hope to see you all there!

Working Bee
Please be reminded of the upcoming working bee on tonight February 26th from 4pm. If you can spare some time to help, it would be greatly appreciated. We will have a sausage sizzle and icy poles for families, friends and students to enjoy whilst we complete a few jobs in around the school. Your support will enhance the physical environment for your children to enjoy.
We hope to see you all there!!

Baby time
We had some exciting news recently with the announcement that our Out of Hours School Care Coordinator, Kathryne Zwolak is expecting her first child. Congratulations to both Daniel and Kathryne. We wish them all the very best at this exciting time. In further exciting news we congratulate Lana Buckingham who has recently become engaged to her partner Joel! We wish them all the very best for the build up to the big day.

Year 3-6 Summer Sport
Our interschool summer sports fixture continues, if you have some free time to spare, we would love to see you come along to support our sports stars! Fridays 9-11am!

Camps Sports and Excursions Fund - CSEF
Eligible families are welcomed to apply for funding support supplied from the government. A payment of $125 per primary school child is availed to those eligible parents/guardians. Please see the attachment for further details.

Ride to school
Riding to school is a great way for students get some physical activity prior to the school day. Physical exercise is a great pre-condition to learning.
A reminder to any students riding to school that we have some very clear requirements for students choosing to ride.

- All students must wear a helmet
- There is to be no riding of any vehicles in the school yard
- Bicycles and scooters are allowed to be ridden
- No skateboards allowed
- Parents are responsible for their children’s safe travel to school
- All vehicles are to be parked in the storage area behind the dance hall

**PATHS program**

As previously shared, Paths lessons will be given to students in classes from Prep-Year 6, 2-3 times a week with a focus on one or more particular skills. However, the skills learnt will be integrated into the learning environment in the classroom throughout the day. During PATH'S time, students will be taught how to give and receive compliments. Depending on the classroom organisation, a student may be chosen to be the PATH’S kid for the day/week. All classes will perhaps have different ways of recognising the “P.A.TH.S. KID” but the purpose and expected outcome will be the same in all classes. This student will be an important person in the class. Each student in the class will have the opportunity to be the special person in the class. At the completion of this role, students in the class will have the opportunity to give the PATH’S KID compliments.

We encourage you to share the compliments that are given to your student. To reinforce the special compliments given:

1. We encourage families to take the opportunity to add to these compliments given.
2. Ask “Who was the PATHS Kid?” and allow the student to talk about the compliments that were given to the particular student.
3. Discuss why the compliments were given.

Begin a compliment time in your home after dinner, before bed. Compliments are sometimes not so easy to give or to receive. Children’s self-esteem and feelings of competence are vital for both their personal growth and their educational success. Children who feel that they are respected and feel good about themselves are likely to learn more and behave better in the classroom. Furthermore, if children feel good about themselves and about school, they are more likely to be motivated and persistent in their schoolwork.

**Staff Carpark**

Parents are reminded to please not park in the staff carpark. This is still growing issue that needs to be avoided. We are also having some problems with congestion in and around the school. Unfortunately we don’t have great parking facilities however, this can be improved through everyone’s awareness, consideration and patience. I have been informed that the council will be active in issuing infringement notices in coming weeks. On a similar topic, thank-you to everyone for reverse parking in the visitors carpark.

**Labour Day**

Please be reminded of the upcoming Labour Day holiday. School will not be open on Monday 14th March and we have scheduled a Curriculum day (student free) on Tuesday 15th March. Students will not be required back to school until Wednesday 16th March.

**Being aware of Potential Dangers**

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 a stranger 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 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 ('ucky' 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.

Warm regards,

Michael
What is Discovery Learning?

Discovery Learning was introduced by Jerome Bruner, and is a method of Inquiry-Based Instruction. This popular theory encourages learners to build on past experiences and knowledge, use their intuition, imagination and creativity, and search for new information to discover facts, correlations and new truths. Learning does not equal absorbing what was said or read, but actively seeking for answers and solutions.

The 5 Principles of Discovery Learning Model

The Discovery Learning Model integrates the following 5 principles:

Principle 1: Problem Solving.
Instructors should guide and motivate learners to seek for solutions by combining existing and newly acquired information and simplifying knowledge. This way, learners are the driving force behind learning, take an active role and establish broader applications for skills through activities that encourage risks, problem-solving and probing.

Principle 2: Learner Management.
Instructors should allow participants to work either alone or with others, and learn at their own pace. This flexibility makes learning the exact opposite of a static sequencing of lessons and activities, relieves learners from unnecessary stress, and makes them feel they own learning.

Principle 3: Integrating and Connecting.
Instructors should teach learners how to combine prior knowledge with new, and encourage them to connect to the real world. Familiar scenarios become the basis of new information, encouraging learners to extend what they know and invent something new.

Principle 4: Information Analysis and Interpretation.
Discovery learning is process-oriented and not content-oriented, and is based on the assumption that learning is not a mere set of facts. Learners in fact learn to analyze and interpret the acquired information, rather than memorize the correct answer.

Principle 5: Failure and Feedback.
Learning doesn’t only occur when we find the right answers. It also occurs through failure. Discovery learning does not focus on finding the right end result, but the new things we discover in the process. And it’s the instructor’s responsibility to provide feedback, since without it learning is incomplete.

The Discovery Learning Model Techniques

The discovery learning educational sessions are well-designed, highly experiential and interactive. Teachers use stories, games, visual aids and other attention-grabbing techniques that will build curiosity and interest, and lead learners in new ways of thinking, acting and reflecting.

The techniques utilized in Discovery Learning can vary, but the goal is always the same, and that is the learners to reach the end result in their own way. By exploring and manipulating situations, struggling with questions and controversies, or by performing experiments, learners are more likely to remember concepts and newly acquired knowledge.

The Discovery Learning Model Key Advantages

Discovery learning has many key advantages, such as:

- It encourages motivation, active involvement, and creativity
- It can be adjusted to the learner’s pace
- It promotes autonomy and independence
- It ensures high levels of retention

We are excited by our Discovery Learning program and using our Maker Space.

Makerspace is a general term for a place where people get together and make things. Makerspaces may focus on electronics, robotics, textiles, woodworking, sewing, laser printing, programming or a combination of these things.

Makerspaces are not about the tools; they’re about enabling making.

And here’s even more awesome quotes about Makerspaces:

“… [A] space where kids have the opportunity to make – a place where some tools, materials, and enough expertise can get them started. These places, called makerspaces, share some aspects of the shop class, home economics class, the art studio and science labs. In effect, a makerspace is a physical mash-up of different places that allows makers and projects to integrate these different kinds of skills.” Dale Dougherty, The Maker Mindset, in Design, Make, Play

“Even if you don’t have access to expensive... hardware, every classroom can become a makerspace where kids and teachers learn together through direct experience with an assortment of high and low tech materials.” ~ Gary Stager and Sylvia Martinez in Invent to Learn
“What do you do in a makerspace? The simple answer is you make things. Things that you are curious about. Things that spring from your imagination. Things that inspire you and things that you admire. The informal, playful atmosphere allows learning to unfold, rather than conform to a rigid agenda. Making, rather than consuming is the focus. It is craft, engineering, technology and wonder-driven.” *Thinkers and Tinkerers*

“The most important quality of a makerspace is that it encourages creativity. This can be done with a space full of hand tools, materials, and finished projects. The culture in a space should support the idea that anything is possible.” *3 Key Qualities for a School Makerspace*

“Makerspaces provide hands-on, creative ways to encourage students to design, experiment, build and invent as they deeply engage in science, engineering and tinkering.” Jennifer Cooper, *Designing a School Makerspace* (Edutopia)

“Makerspaces are collaborative learning environments where people come together to share materials and learn new skills... makerspaces are not necessarily born out of a specific set of materials or spaces, but rather a mindset of community partnership, collaboration, and creation.” *Library as incubator project*
February 2016
Friday 12th - Gr 3 - 6 Inter-School Sports - Away @ Watsonia PS
Wednesday 17th - Preps day off
Wednesday 17th - Gr 3- 6 District Swimming Trials - Water Marc - Times TBC
Friday 19th - Gr 3 - 6 Inter-School Sports - Home v Greensborough PS
Wednesday 24th - Preps day off
Friday 26th - Gr 3 - 6 Inter-School Sports - Away @ Watsonia North PS
Friday 26th - Twilight Working Bee

March 2016
Friday 4th - Gr 3 - 6 Inter-School Sports - Away @ St Mary’s PS
Friday 4th - Family Fun Night – 5.30-8.30
Monday 7th - Gr 5/6 Government Visit Incursion
Friday 4th - WHPS Fair, Committee morning tea @ 9am
Friday 11th - Gr 3 - 6 Inter-School Sports - Home v Streeton PS
Friday 11th - Gr 5/6 Government Visit Incursion
Monday 14th - LABOUR DAY - Public Holiday - No School today!
Tuesday 15th - Curriculum Day - No school today!
Friday 18th - Gr 3 - 6 Inter-School Sports - Home v Bundoora PS
Wednesday 23rd - Gr 3 - 6 Inter-School Sports - FINALS - TBC
Thursday 24th - Last Day of Term 1!! SCHOOL FINISHES @ 1:30PM

April 2016
Monday 11th - First day of Term 2 - 9am Assembly Start
Thursday 14th - School Photo Day

STUDENT BANKING

Every Tuesday.
To open a student bank acct. please collect a pack from the office.

UNIFORM SHOP

Open 8.30-9.00am every Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon.

Order forms available from the office stand and the schools website.

To place an order, please complete order form and submit to the office.

Orders are completed every Tuesday for collection on Tuesday afternoons at the office.
You may also email your order request to Leah or Juanita at watsonia.heights.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
## Summer Inter-School Sport Fixture 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round 1</th>
<th>Round 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greensborough v Streeton</td>
<td>St. Mary’s v Watsonia Heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundoora v Watsonia North</td>
<td>Bundoora v Watsonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watsonia v St Marys</td>
<td>Norris Bank v Greensborough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norris Bank v Watsonia Heights</td>
<td>Watsonia North v Streeton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round 2</th>
<th>Round 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary’s v Bundoora</td>
<td>Watsonia Heights v Streeton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watsonia V Watsonia Heights</td>
<td>Greensborough v Bundoora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greensborough V Watsonia North</td>
<td>St. Mary’s v Watsonia North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streeton V Norris Bank</td>
<td>Norris Bank v Watsonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round 3</th>
<th>Round 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; March</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streeton V St Marys</td>
<td>Streeton V Watsonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watsonia Heights v Greensborough</td>
<td>Watsonia Heights v Bundoora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watsonia North v Watsonia</td>
<td>Greensborough V St Marys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundoora v Norris Bank</td>
<td>Watsonia North V Norris Bank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round 4</th>
<th>Finals Wednesday 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; February</strong></td>
<td>Note: No make-up rounds due to short term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watsonia V Greensborough</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watsonia North v Watsonia Heights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary’s V Norris Bank</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bundoora v Streeton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VENUES 2016

- **Bundoora Primary School:** Cricket played at Telfer Reserve. All other sports played at school grounds.
- **Greensborough Primary School:** Cricket and rounders played at War Memorial Oval. Basketball and bat tennis played at school.
- **Watsonia Primary School:** All sports played at school grounds. **No Rounders team**
- **Watsonia Heights Primary School:** Cricket played at Central Oval, Glenice St. All other sports played at school grounds.
- **Watsonia North Primary School:** Cricket played at Warrawee Park. Jacqueline Rd (10 minute walk) All other sports played at school grounds. Away cricket team should get dropped off at Warrawee Park by bus.
- **St. Mary’s Primary School:** Cricket played at Whatmough Park, Greensborough. All other sports played at school grounds.
- **Streeton Primary School:** All sports played at school grounds.
- **Norris Bank:** Sports played at school grounds or across road (short walk) Greenhills Rd, Norris Bank Reserve. **No Cricket team**
## WHPS Student of the Week

### For Week beginning 22ND of February 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bailey Kyan</td>
<td>PC</td>
<td>For being such a great classroom helper all the time. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For all his fantastic alphabet practice and rainbow writing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laily</td>
<td>PW</td>
<td>For being an amazing helper in our classroom. What a great start to Prep. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brodie Mitchell</td>
<td>1/2 E</td>
<td>For his wonderful reading. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For being a wonderful reader and teaching the Grade 2’s how to use Mathletics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthias Dylan</td>
<td>1/2 S</td>
<td>For his fantastic effort at working counting by fours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For being a helpful and friendly classmate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rory</td>
<td>1/2 T</td>
<td>For his focus and persistence with all tasks. Well done and keep having a go!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ava</td>
<td>3 R</td>
<td>For always listening carefully and following instructions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ori Zeki</td>
<td>3/4 A</td>
<td>For creating a highly convincing persuasive text on ‘computers are better than ipads’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For creating a fantastic advertising poster for his new product ‘strawberry fanta’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liam</td>
<td>3/4 G</td>
<td>For his hard work in the classroom, particularly in Mathamatics. Great job Liam!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>5/6 M</td>
<td>For being a proactive learner and asking for assistance when needed – Well done Madi!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean</td>
<td>5/6 L</td>
<td>For displaying kindness towards his peers when they are feeling unwell, and for showing pride in his work and moving his name on the class ‘emotional chart’ to proud!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prep Fun At School!
Our Prep children have settled in well and are enjoying many different aspects of school life. Have a look at some of the fun things we have been up to so far this term.

Library Time!
The children were able to visit the new school library for the first time last week. They learnt about the library rules, listened to some stories and got their photo taken borrowing their very first school library book. Photos will be displayed in the library soon.

Gardening Club!
Some of the Prep children have been participating in the gardening club that runs on Fridays at lunchtime. Take a look at some of our up and coming green thumbs.

“We are planting beans so we can climb up to the giant’s castle and get gold” - Sean

Ambulance Incursion
The Prep children were lucky enough to have a visit from Ambulance Victoria. The children were able to meet Stretch the teddy, dress up as a paramedic and explore inside an ambulance. They especially loved hearing the sirens and seeing the flashing lights!
Our Wonderful New Library
A big “Hello!” from our wonderful new WHPS Library and our beautiful new space is now in full swing! Over the last two weeks your children have enjoyed all it has to offer and it has been inspiring to see them explore it with much enthusiasm and excitement.
Not only have they enjoyed the joy of traditional storytelling and borrowing; they have also embraced it as a space filled with unlimited new horizons that nurtures both the magic of books and the importance of literacy.

Student Library Club
In Term 1 Student Library Club will be open weekly for students in year 1-6 on the following designated lunchtimes:
Year 1 & 2 Monday from 1:45pm
Year 3 & 4 Wednesday from 1:45pm
Year 5 & 6 Thursday from 1:45pm
Some activities will include book readings and book discussions, guest readers, library craft projects and displays and book reviews for submission to Oz Kids Magazine book review page.
Prep students will have the opportunity to attend Library Club in Term 2 once they have settled in to their routines.

Smiling Minds Relaxation Club
Every recess all WHPS children are invited to join us in the library for our Smiling Minds relaxation club. The club will expose children to varying guided meditations each recess. These 15mins sessions have proven very popular with students from all year levels.
Here are some of your children enjoying the club and the chance to relax in their busy day.
Premier’s Reading Challenge:
Our children are invited to participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge each year. In order for students to successfully complete the challenge they must read and record online (or for younger children, share with an adult) 30 books for students in prep to year 2 and 15 books for students from year 3 – year 6. The majority of the books must be from the pre-approved list. Consent forms for the Premier’s Reading Challenge will go out to all families Monday and you can find more information about the program at http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc/Pages/students.aspx.

Returning books:
Please remind your children to return their library books weekly so they do not miss out on borrowing and bringing home new books each week for your family to share.

Lost or damaged books:
We understand that occasionally library books will become damaged or misplaced. Damaged books should be returned with a note and we can determine whether the books have to be replaced or not. If books have been outstanding for a few weeks, a notice will be sent home asking you to search for the books and let us know via return note whether the books are lost or just hiding. Another notice requesting payment for the replacement cost may then be sent home. Please see me if you have any questions regarding lost books, otherwise please forward the notice and payment to the office.

Scholastic Book Club – THANKYOU!!!!
A BIG thankyou to all WHPS families who have purchased books through the Scholastic Book Club so far! Not only are you purchasing wonderful books for your children and families, you are also helping us build resources for our beautiful new library.
We have raised a fantastic amount in Scholastic reward points from the last 2 book club issues which will help us purchase wonderful new resources for your children to enjoy.

Volunteering in the Library
We are grateful for anytime you are able to offer to assist and we are very thankful to all the parents that have already volunteered tirelessly in the Library over the last 2 months during our move and set up. There are many ways you can assist us within the library program and if you are able to help please email me at radcliffe.kathryne.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

So “Welcome Back!” to our returning students and families and “Welcome!” to our new students. The library is now located within the Jan Bobin Learning Centre so if you have not already done so, please come in and introduce yourselves and take a little browse at what your children are enjoying.
Welcome back everyone I am really excited to be teaching the Visual Arts once again. All students have made a wonderful start to the year and our Preps have settled into the Art room routine really well. Throughout the year all students will have the opportunity to participate in a one-hour lesson each week. The Visual Arts program is skill based and focuses on the artistic elements of art including colour, shape, line, pattern, texture, space and form. The elements are taught through the media of painting, drawing, painting, print-making, collage, threads and textiles, ceramics and construction. This program also includes the study of art in history and its place in world cultures. Through their work students are encouraged to explore real, imaginary and abstract ideas as well as cultural and historical issues. They are given the opportunity to experiment with ideas, concepts and feelings and are encouraged to use their imagination and perception to create their artworks. These are often linked to the integrated units currently being studied in their classrooms. This helps to enhance the unit of work and to draw upon the meaningful experiences and observations of each student. These artworks are often displayed in classrooms and around the school for others to observe and enjoy.

ART SMOCKS

We endeavour to keep school uniforms as clean as possible and so the wearing of an art smock is essential. So it would be great if all students can provide a clearly named art smock.

RECYCLED MATERIALS

If you have an abundance of newspapers, margarine containers or ice-cream containers we are always keen to collect these in the Art room and would greatly appreciate them.

Term 1 Visual Arts Program-

Our Preps will have the opportunity to explore and experiment with various Marks they can make using pastels and water colour paints as they create their own special artworks. Our grade 1 / 2 students will be able to extend their knowledge and understanding of how to create a portrait while observing the famous MONA LISA by
LEONARDO DA VINCI. They will have time to experiment with drawing and painting techniques and create their own special artworks. Our grade 3 / 4 students are also concentrating on creating Portraits based on the MONA LISA. They have been experimenting with various drawing techniques and procedures and had lots of fun sketching an upside down portrait. Grade 5 / 6 students are also extending their knowledge of drawing portraits, concentrating on the correct proportions of the face. They have also been involved in developing their observational skills and had fun discussing and answering specific questions about artworks.

We nurture students to develop their own individual style and encourage them to be creative thinkers. I look forward to working with your students this year.

Mrs Sally Beran
Visual Arts Teacher

Here are some of their practice upside down sketches-
Hello! I'm Ms. Lee. I am delighted to have the opportunity to teach Mandarin at Watsonia Heights Primary School this year. During the first term I will be working with students to consolidate basic terms and phrases that are commonly used in the Mandarin classroom. This is to encourage students to make it a habit to ask questions and for help or to make common statements in Mandarin. We also started the year off consolidating and expanding students' knowledge and understanding of the most important annual traditional Chinese festival – Chinese New Year.

This term, I have been introducing students from prep to grade six to the Accelerative Integrated Method (AIM) of language learning.

“AIM is a unique, multi-faceted program in that it uses gestures; a specifically researched ‘pared down’ language; with stories and music to rapidly develop students’ fluency”

http://www.aimanz.com/what-is-the-aim/

Using gestures and the target language – Mandarin, students will learn a story through songs, chants/raps and many other activities. These activities help to build language skills, knowledge and understanding in a relevant context.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandarin Term One Overview</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I am looking forward to taking the students further on their journey of learning Mandarin and building their intercultural knowledge and understanding!

Students 3-6 are asked to download the free dictionary app Pleco Dictionary.

李老师 (lǐ lǎo shī)
Our Preps have made a fantastic start to the year in Science. They have explored what’s in the science room and have begun on our unit of work this semester – The Senses. We are studying sight, touch, taste, hearing and smell in both humans and animals. There will be lots of fun experiments for the students to test and explore throughout the term.

Grade 1/2’s are studying Living Things. We will be observing the behaviour and features of small animals where students will get a glimpse of the diversity of animal life. Students will be observing the external features of animals leading to a better understanding of how their features help them survive in their habitats. Through investigations we will learn how animals move, feed and protect themselves. The students have made their own mini-greenhouses and will observe these over the coming weeks.

The Grade 3 / 4’s will also be studying Living Things. Through hands-on activities the students will explore how living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things. We will study the seven criteria necessary for something to be classified as living. We have been viewing lots of interesting things on our interactive microscope for this unit including a brown snake, a snapper, yabby shells, live yabbies, plants, flowers and insects.

The Grade 5/6’s will be studying the Human Brain. This unit will provide an opportunity for students to develop an understanding of the importance of the Brain, the different areas and how we can best look after it. We will study what foods are classified as super foods for the brain and taste test some of these. Students will also have an opportunity to investigate and view a sheep’s brain later in the term.

There is always such wonderful discussion in the Science room as to what’s happening in relation to research and new discoveries. It’s so exciting to see the students enthusiasm for
this. Only this week we have been discussing the discovery of Gravitational Waves in Space. Just today I had one of my students show us a signed letter he received from Dr Karl for one of his great invention designs!

Some photos from the first few weeks......
Physical Education

It has been an exciting start to the year in Physical Education and our students have been busy. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet and teach all of our students for the first time this year.

Our Prep to Year 2 students have been developing their fundamental motor skills and focusing on basic movement exploration through a range of modified games. In particular we have examined effective running technique and explored throwing, catching and balancing skills.

Students in Years 3-6 have begun the year with a tennis focus. As part of this unit we have focussed on basics such as racquet grip, hand-eye coordination and ball control. We have also examined the forehand and backhand strokes and how to break these down into skill components. Activities to develop throwing and catching skills have also been incorporated into this unit.
Sport:
During week two many of our year 3-6 students participated in our WHPS Swimming Trials. Based on some terrific performances, 26 students were selected to represent the school at the District Swimming Carnival. It was fantastic to see our students striving hard and supporting their schoolmates. From this group, 14 students were successful in making it through to the Divisional Swimming Carnival. This is to be held at Northcote Swimming Pool on Wednesday March 2nd. We congratulate these students on this achievement and wish them all the best.

Our 3-6 students have also begun participating in Friday morning sport. Our school is represented by basketball, bat tennis, cricket and rounders teams competing in interschool sport. We also have other students enjoying a range of sporting activities at school during these times.

Our 3-6 Intensive Swimming Program is due to begin in next week on Friday. This is a great opportunity for students to develop swimming and survival skills, derive health benefits and have fun. The dates of the programme are: Friday March 4th, Tuesday March 8th & 22nd, Thursday March 10th, 17th & 24th.

I am looking forward to assisting our students to develop their skills in Sport and Physical Education this year and helping them in becoming healthy and active citizens.

Tony Ryan
Health, Sport and Physical Education Leader
Discovery Learning Centre

Welcome to Discovery Learning. The Discovery Learning Centre has been created to engage student curiosity and allow students to be hands on makers. We have many exciting technologies available to support the students in unleashing their creative potential including:

- 3D printer and 3D pens
- Lego Mindstorm (robotics)
- Media studio, for video and audio recording, including greenscreen
- Raspberry Pi (mini computer for programming)
- Intuos pen and tablet (digital artwork)
- Makey Makey (electronic invention tool)
- Sewing machine
- LED lights
- Virtual Reality goggles

The Preps will begin their Discovery Learning through STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) activities. Initially creating their own display spaces through art and mathematics combined, working with quarter circles. They will also be looking at bridges and their engineering, creating then testing the strength, durability and aesthetics of each design.

Grade 1/2’s will begin their Discovery Learning journey with a focus on building, town planning and essential services in the community. Working in conjunction with classroom time and in groups, students will produce a three-dimensional streetscape that includes fire, ambulance and police services, as well as community facilities, street names and odd and even house numbers. These projects will be presented in the classroom with feedback given.

The senior grades will begin their Discovery Learning with a selection of ‘Taste Tester’ tasks. Students will be able to select from a smorgasbord of small activities for each technology to ‘dip their feet’ and see the potential future projects that might further their learning. These initial tasks will require students to work through the design process (ask, imagine, plan, create, improve, present,) and produce a planning document to be self and teacher assessed. Some of the tasks include:

- Create a pair of glasses with a 3D pen
- Design and produce a stand for your iPad using the 3D printer
- Create a super hero cape, with lights.
- Replicate gravity in Scratch using Raspberry Pi
- Create a weather or sports report for WHPS, use the greenscreen to make an appropriate background.

How can you help?

Donations!
I’m currently collecting small boxes (the size of a fruit box drink) and shoe boxes, small technology (watches, calculators, phone, etc. that are no longer needed) and the tubes (from the middle of paper towels, cling film, aluminium foil, etc.) Look for a donation box outside of the Discovery Learning Centre to drop of your items.

Woodwork Skills
I’m looking for an adult who is able to help me design and produce a tool board to hold our selection of tools for the students to use. If this sound like something you could help with, please stick your head in and have a chat.
Looking forward to seeing you all at the Open Night!

Catherine Trethrowan
Discovery Learning Coordinator
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Cancer Council Relay For Life

Watsonia Heights Primary School Relay Team

Hello! Are you interested in joining the fight against cancer?

The Watsonia Heights Primary School Relay team will be walking for 22 hours at the Cancer Council’s Diamond Valley 2016 Relay For Life on Saturday 19th March from 12:00 pm at the Willinda Park (Athletics Track), Beatrix Street, Greensborough. To participate in this memorable and rewarding family experience you only have to walk for a 1 hour stint but are welcome to do more. If you have never experienced the Relay before there is music, activities and fun that will keep you and your children entertained for hours.

The Relay For Life is a fun and moving overnight experience that raises vital funds for Cancer Council’s research, prevention and support services. Thousands of Australians participate in over 200 Relays across Australia each year. Some people Relay in memory of a loved one lost to cancer. Some do it to show how proud they are at having survived cancer. Some do it to show they are strong enough to beat cancer. And some simply want to be involved and make a difference. Whatever your reasons, you’ll never forget your first Relay experience!

Last year, under the captancy of Troy Hoffman, the Watsonia Heights Primary School Relay team raised an outstanding $3210! This year we are aiming for $4000.

If you want to join the team for this wonderful event:

- Register with the Watsonia Height Primary School Relay team at the Relay For Life website [http://www.relayforlife.org.au](http://www.relayforlife.org.au) see the next page for more details (registration costs $20 per person until 19th Feb, when it becomes $25, this includes a Relay For Life jumper which will be mailed to you).
- Print out a sponsorship form, available here [Please Sponsor Me Form](http://www.relayforlife.org.au) and start collecting sponsorship donations. Collected donation can be paid directly through the Relay For Life website.
- View the team roster here [2016 WHPS Relay Team Roster](http://www.relayforlife.org.au) and let me know at what time you would like to participate in the Relay. We can have more than one team member walking at the same time to give support but we need to fill every hour with at least one team member to keep the WHPS Cape moving.

If you are unable to attend the Relay please consider sponsoring a friend, student, parent or teacher that is doing the Relay.

I will be camping at the Relay with my family and you are welcome to bring a tent and join the WHPS Relay team. The Relay canteen has hot drinks and snacks available all night and BBQ bacon and egg rolls at breakfast. Also expect Team Kill Cancer to have their famous BBQ spit-roast going again this year!

If you have any questions about the Relay please email, text or call me.

Pierre Scotney (Watsonia Heights Primary School Relay Team Captain 2016)
email: pscotney@gmail.com  mob: 0400058729
Cancer Council Relay For Life
Watsonia Heights Primary School Relay Team

Where: Willinda Park (Athletics Track), Beatrix Street, Greensborough

When: Saturday 19th March from 12:00pm to 10:00am on Sunday 20th March 2016

To register with the WHPS Relay team go to http://www.relayforlife.org.au website. Select the “Register” tab and enter “Watsonia Heights Primary School” into the “Team” search tab and select “Search”:

Then select “Join” in the returned results screen:

and complete the on-line registration:

By creating an account and registering for this event, you are agreeing to Cancer Council’s Privacy Policy.
INVITATION - Messy Church is
- for children of all ages and their adults
- craft, music, Bible story and a delicious meal
- at Watsonia Uniting Church, 71 Devonshire Road
- on Sunday 28 February 4-6pm
Enquiries to Rev Margie Dahl, dahlmargie@gmail.com 0403 625 122
Find us on Facebook
See your child really improve in maths and English

Our qualified teachers create individual tutoring programs for your child, using proven Kip McGrath methods of tuition.

☑ Maths    ☑ English    ☑ Reading
☑ Spelling    ☑ Comprehension

Call today for a FREE assessment

WATSONIA • 9435 4321
Diamond Village Shpg Ctr Nepean St Watsonia
kipmcgrath.com.au/watsonia