Hello everyone and welcome to the final linkletter of 2014. What a wonderful year it has been at Watsonia Heights. Our students are to be congratulated on the fantastic year they have had. We are very proud of our school and our students and we enjoy celebrating their achievements throughout the school year. As a school we work extremely hard to ensure the highest quality learning for all students. This manifests in fantastic educational experiences in and out of the classroom. Our students have positively engaged in all that’s on offer at WHPS.

In particular I’d like to say congratulations to our Prep and Year 6 students. Our Preps have now completed their first year of schooling! A great achievement and all our Preps have made a wonderful start to their formal education. It has been fantastic to see the growth and development of our youngest students. Well done also to our Prep staff and team for making the year so successful for our students. Similarly to our exiting Year 6 students. You should feel very proud of your accomplishments this year and indeed across your primary years of schooling. It was a pleasure to share in the recent Graduation ceremony held at Watsonia RSL. This was a fantastic night to reminisce and celebrate the journey through Primary School. You have accomplished great things along the way and are well equipped for the next stage of learning and living through secondary school. We wish you all every success and happiness at this exciting time of your lives.

A real highlight of this night was the farewell video messages sent form our Preps to their buddies. Special thanks to Ms. Rancie and Ms. Buckingham for their fantastic effort in organising and coordinating such a memorable experience for our Graduating students.

As was my message on the night. Our students come through WHPS equipped with the skills and values to succeed in secondary school and beyond. By Striving for the Heights our students can reach the loftiest of goals and ambitions.

In supporting our Year 6 students through their learning journey, as we do for all our students, the staff are to be congratulated on their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm within which they teach, support and guide our students. We are lucky to have such a wonderful staff whom work together so cohesively as a team. This includes our wonderful OHSC staffs who continue to provide a dynamic and engaging program for those students involved in Out of Hours School Care.

Similarly, I say a BIG thank-you to all of our parents who continue to support the school. Your input is a vital component to ensuring the ongoing success of your children. We appreciate the manner in which parents have helped and supported us throughout 2014. We look forward to a continued positive relationship in 2015.

Vale Mark Thompson
It is with great sadness that this week we farewelled a wonderful educational leader in Mark Thompson. Mark was a colleague and Principal of Eltham Primary School. Mark’s passing has left the Education fraternity stunned. Mark spent a short time teaching at Watsonia Heights early in his career in the 1980’s. Our deepest sympathies and thoughts are with Mark’s wife Lynn and his children Matt, Vanessa and Emma. May you rest in Peace Mark.

Reports
I hope you all enjoyed reading the end of year reports. It is a great time to reflect on the progress of each individual student. Progress takes many forms and the academic progress is significant as well as the social and emotional development of our students.

Thanks to the staff for the many hours spent compiling these.
Fun Night
Thank-you all of the parents and students whom attended our recent Family Fun Night. This was a very enjoyable night, providing the opportunity to come together and enjoy some food, fun and dancing. The band was outstanding and everyone enjoyed the chance to sing along or bust a few moves. Special thanks to Ms. Thompson and the school choir who performed some lovely Christmas tunes.

Thanks Anne
Today we farewell our Elder Street crossing supervisor Anne Thwaites. Anne has been involved with the school for 20 years! An amazing effort and contribution. Anne, we thank-you for ensuring the safety of our students and the positive manner in which you have welcomed students to and from school. We wish you every happiness and health for the future. Hopefully we might see you on the odd occasion replacing crossing supervisors.

Prep Excursion
The Prep children had a great day at The Melbourne Museum last Friday. We learnt all about olden day toys with museum staff and saw dinosaur bones, a giant squid, a rainforest and much more. The children enjoyed asking questions and writing some amazing museum reports. Thank you to the parents who came along and helped make the day a success.

Instrumental Music Soiree
Well done to all of our Year 3-6 students for their instrumental music soiree today. It was great to share in their skills and celebrate their development across the year. Special thanks to Ms. Mooney for her hard work in co-ordinating, teaching and leading the program this year. Thanks also to Adam Roach, Karen Doyle and Charlie Elul for their tuition throughout 2014.

Music
It was wonderful to see so many parents and friends come along and support our Prep – 2 students at their Christmas sing along. The students did really well in front of a very supportive audience. Well done and thanks to Mrs. Langlands for her hard work in co-ordinating this event.

Tennis
Recently our Year 3-6 students have been enjoying their tennis clinics. These have been held here at school and have provided the students with the chance to either; try tennis for the first time, or further hone their skills on the court. Great fun!

Year 6-7 orientation day
Our Year 6 students recently enjoyed an orientation day at their secondary school of choice. It was pleasing to hear of the positive experiences shared by all and to note the nervous excitement about heading to secondary school.

Staffing
As the year comes to a close we do say farewell and thank-you to some of our 2014 staff. Farewell and thank-you to our music and cultural studies teacher Mrs. Libby Langlands. We appreciate all of her hard work and the sense of fun that she brought to the program over the second half of the year.

Thanks also to Ms. Jessica Comtesse whom has worked in supporting our students as an integration aide this year. We appreciate Jess’ contribution over her time at the school.

We thank Mr. Michael Younger for his teaching of Year 1/2 this year. Mick is moving on to further employment at Strathmore PS and we wish him all the very best for the next stage of his career.

Thanks also to Jennie Roach-Pierson for her teaching and contribution to the school over 2014. Jennie returned from retirement this year in teaching 1/2WP on a part time basis. We appreciate all your work Jennie.
Jenny Mc-Donald-Price has announced her retirement from WHPS. Jenny has been the Business Manager for the past 13 years and has contributed greatly over her time here. Over my 5 years at the school Jenny has fulfilled many roles within the office. Her experience and expertise has supported the staff, students, parents and school council over many years.

Thank-you Jenny; for all that you have done for Watsonia Heights and it’s community. Your support over the years in helping the school through varied moments of difficulty, enjoyment and celebration will always be remembered and cherished.

On behalf of the school I wish Jenny all the very best for the next stage of her life. Amongst many varied hobbies, this time provides an exciting opportunity to fulfill her Nanna duties.

Additionally, next year we will welcome some new staff to the team.

We welcome:
Han Hung who will lead and facilitate our languages program. Han has experience in teaching Madarin to various age groups and schools. We look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead for our languages program and indeed the participating students.

We also welcome Ms. Lisa Davison and Mrs. Kathryne Campara to our Educational support team. Both come with varied experiences in education and have a vast range of experiences that will support our students and strengthen our team.

In 2015 Mr. Shawn Greet will join the WHPS teaching team. Shawn comes with many life and teaching experiences that will enhance our teaching team. Shawn will be teaching in our year 3/4 team.

Curriculum
In 2015 we are excited to be commencing our Languages program via a focus on Chinese Mandarin. This will be a welcomed addition to our suite of specialist programs.

Our specialist programs for 2015 are:
Foundation (Prep) – Year 6 – Health and physical education
Foundation – Year 6 – Science
Foundation – Year 6 – Languages (Mandarin)
Year 3 – Year 6 – Art
Foundation – Year 2 – Music (1 semester)
Foundation – Year 2 – Art (1 semester)

Staffing for 2015
We are pleased to announce our staffing and grade structure for next year. We look forward to another wonderful year of fun and learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade / Role</th>
<th>Staff Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Ally Clarke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Jenny Humberstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1/2</td>
<td>Amy Esposito</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1/2</td>
<td>Mary Stanton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1/2</td>
<td>Trudi Waterfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1/2</td>
<td>Jamie Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3/4</td>
<td>Shawn Greet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3/4</td>
<td>Lana Buckingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5/6</td>
<td>Jessica Rancie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5/6</td>
<td>Chantelle Mooney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension and Support</td>
<td>TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership Support</td>
<td>Catherine Trethowan (returning term 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6 Art</td>
<td>Sally Beran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P-2 Music / Art</td>
<td>Bev Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade / Role</td>
<td>Staff Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Cathy James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages - Mandarin</td>
<td>Han Hung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aide Support</td>
<td>Kylie Emmenegger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aide Support</td>
<td>Izzy Cahill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aide Support</td>
<td>Debbie Nichols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aide Support</td>
<td>Joanna Bovell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aide Support</td>
<td>Lisa Davison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aide Support / Office</td>
<td>Vivienne Degran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Kathryn Campara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leah Amos</td>
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</tbody>
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For your calendar at home:
The school term dates for 2015.
Term 1: 29 January to 27 March
Term 2: 13 April to 26 June
Term 3: 13 July to 18 September
Term 4: 5 October to 18 December

2015 start
School commences on Thursday 29th January (Preps 9-1pm and full day for Years 1-6).

Book Packs
ALL 3-6 students will receive bookpacks on the first day of school next year. Please note these bookpacks are a startup pack as further resources will be purchased to ensure all curriculum provisions are made throughout the year. Prep-2 students will receive their required resources via the classroom program throughout the year.

Uniform Shop
Will be open for sales on Tuesday the 27th January from 10am – 12pm. Alternatively you may be able purchase uniform each day over the 1st week back.

Canteen
Please note that in 2015 we will have a change of canteen days. The canteen will open on Wednesdays and Fridays for lunch orders and counter sales. The canteen will be closed on a Monday.

Thank-you all once again for your ongoing support of your children and the school.
I wish you all a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year break. We look forward to seeing you all again in the new year.

Have a great break!

Michael
House Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Wattle</td>
<td>19,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Waratah</td>
<td>18,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Boronia</td>
<td>16,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Banksia</td>
<td>12,060</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We added together the points earned throughout the year and the winners for 2014 were Wattle! House Captains and Wattle House members celebrated their efforts on Thursday with a sausage sizzle and sports hour. Well done to all the houses on their fantastic efforts this year, modelling the school values and demonstrating good sportsmanship. Congratulations Wattle and good luck to everyone in 2015!

Library Poster Competition

Congratulations to this term’s Library competition entrants.

We had many great entries in which the students designed a poster promoting their favourite book from our Library. The entries were wonderful and we appreciate the time and care the students put into creating them.

Congratulations to the following runners up who each received 200 house points...

Aaron, M 1/2E  
Jessica, K 1/2S  
Sabrene 5/6B  
Ely, H 1/2W.P  
Mia, L 5/6B  
Ella De Beer and Jordan 1/2S  
Ebony Amos 5/6R  
Lily Bishop 1/2Y  
Fox 1/2W.P  
Chanel 3/4T

And a big congratulations to our winner Ava Nankervis from Prep H who won a $15 book voucher. Her poster on the book “The Singing Mermaid” by Julia Donaldson and Lydia Monks was divine.

Thanks  
Joanna and Izzy
BACK TO SCHOOL 2015

School Uniform purchases can be made on Tuesday 27th January from 10am – 12pm

Grade 3-6 Bookpacks will be handed out to all students on the Thursday 29th January.

School resumes back for all students on Thursday 29th January 2015

The first two days for Preps are: Thursday 29th Jan and Friday 30th 9am - 1pm.

During February Prep students will not attend school on Wednesdays. Preps are to attend school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Fridays in February from 9am – 3.30pm.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2014

Fri 19th End of Year – dismissal 1pm

January 2015

Tue 27th Office Staff return
Wed 28th Teachers return
Thu 29th Grade 1-6 return
      Preps 9am – 1pm
Fri 30th Preps 9am – 1pm

February 2015

Tue 3rd Grade 3-6 Swimming trials
      Student Banking commences
Fri 13th Family Fun Night
Fri 20th Twilight Working Bee
3-6 Cultural Studies

This term in Cultural Studies we have covered a wide range of countries throughout North and South America including: the USA, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Peru and Chile.

Student project work has focused on researching a landmark in the USA and producing a presentation in either the iMovie app (Grade 5 & 6) or Pages app (Grade 3 & 4). Our ‘American Roadtrip’ gave each class an insight into some famous (and some not so well known) landmarks across the vast country that is the USA. Some of the landmarks students explored included: The Statue of Liberty, The Grand Canyon and The Alamo (in Texas).

Other highlights throughout the term have included a Halloween craft session for the 3/4s and pumpkin scones for the 5/6 students in celebration of Halloween.

WHPS will enter a new phase in 2015 with the introduction of Mandarin. I wish all students well with their new language!

Merry Christmas!
This term has been a busy one with lots of fun activities, experiments and observations. Thanks to Judy, Ashley’s grandmother we have had the opportunity to view silk worms throughout their life cycle. To see them spin their silk and make their cocoons has been fascinating. We are still waiting for the moths to emerge. The students have made gliders, experimented with magnets and iron filings. They have discovered all different types of forces that make things move. The Preps had a lot of fun experimenting how their toys actually work. This term the 3 / 4’s have looked at heat conduction and retention, while the 5 / 6’s made periscopes and tinkered with electrical circuits.
Visual Arts

This term has been another busy and exciting term. Our Grade five and six students have discovered how easy Fabric Painting can be and have created some lovely designs on calico bags based on the delightful elephants from Thailand. They have also been able to demonstrate their creativity while discovering the wonderful techniques of Batik. I wish our departing grade six students a very successful first year in high school and hope they will be able to build onto the skills and techniques they have explored throughout their time in primary school. Remember Art plays an important role in helping students to become contributing, well-adjusted members of society. It expands the boundaries of learning and encourages creative thinking and a deeper understanding of the core subjects, which are language, math, science and social studies. (Zart Art)

Our grade three and four students have been learning about the magnificent Terracotta Warriors from China and had lots of fun modelling their own Chinese warriors using silver foil and model magic. Then to complete the term they have investigated the intricate artwork of Gustav Klimt and explored working with gold paints and black paper to create their own beautiful Tree of Life.

Our grade one and two students were very proud of their constructed castles where they used cones, cardboard boxes and plaster. Later these were painted and decorated with sparkles and lustre paints.
Our Preps have investigated the artwork from the Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh. They have been able to develop their observational skills and later experimented with textural painting techniques to create their own sunflower paintings. They have also enjoyed experimenting with weaving techniques and had fun creating their own bug on a rug. It has been really inspiring to see these students develop their imagination and creativity through each unit of work. And it is always a pleasure to watch them develop and grow over the year. They should be very proud of their achievements and I wish them all a happy and safe holiday.
Physical Education Report

Well another year has come to an end with much physical education & sport taken place.
The children in grades 3 to 6 thoroughly enjoyed the SEPEP program that ran for all of Term 4.
The children did a fantastic job organizing their teams, coaching, refereeing, scoring and encouraging all team members.
Congratulations to the winning team, # Base Runners, they now have the honor of having their team’s name being placed onto our prestigious trophy!

The children in Prep to 2 finished off the term with some great hitting, kicking, throwing and base running.
All children in Prep to 2 have had the chance to experience the new Ga Ga pit, which has been a great hit. The children’s dodging and awareness skills have really come to the fore.
The 3/4 camp to Camp Rumbug was a real highlight. I have received very positive feedback from the students, parents and the staff from Rumbug. I received a letter from Rumbug stating that, “The students from Watsonia Heights PS were an absolute delight to have on camp as they positively involved themselves in the program.” It is always lovely to hear such great feedback about our students.

The 5/6 Camp to Anglesea was equally as successful. So much so that we have rebooked the camp for 2016.

Wishing all students and their families a safe and happy Christmas. Keep being active and healthy over the holiday break.

Cheers Bev Brooks PE / Sport Coordinator
SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS PROGRAMS AT WATSONIA TENNIS CLUB

XMAS HOLIDAY CLINIC

MONDAY 22ND AND TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER

Lunch, snacks and drinks provided
$35 per session..... discounts for families
Tennis from 10.00AM – 1.00PM each day
Venue and kids will be supervised from 9.30 – 1.30 each day
All standards welcome

January Holiday Programs

All details same as above

Wednesday January 7th
Tuesday January 13th
Friday January 16th
Monday January 19th
Thursday January 22nd

FOR BOOKINGS OR FURTHER ENQUIRIES TO THE ABOVE EVENTS CONTACT CAMERON ON 0417 149 161
Watsonia Heights PS OSHC | 12th December 2014

End of year – already!!

This year has gone by so quickly! We have had a fantastic year in OSHC and we look forward to 2015! OSHC staff would like to wish you and your families and very Merry Christmas, a happy new year and a well deserved break!!

Just a couple of reminders for next year -

BOOKINGS FOR 2015:

Camp Australia Head Office will automatically roll over all Permanent bookings from Term 4 to Term 1, 2015. These bookings will commence automatically from the first week of Term 1 next year. Parents do not need to complete a new Enrolment form or confirm their bookings if they need the same days/sessions next year. If you are a permanent user and wish to make changes or cancel your booking for 2015, you can use the Parent Portal or call/email the Customer Service Team (1300 105 343).

MEDICAL CONDITIONS:

If your child has a medical condition (allergies, asthma, anaphylaxis) we MUST have an up to date action plan signed from the doctor before they start for the year. Along with this action plan, any medication the child requires must be labelled by the pharmacist with the child’s name and dosage (over the counter medication included). We must be provided with this medication &/or any equipment to keep in the service (epiPens may be brought across from the classroom when required). Due to new policy, if we do not have this medication we are required to refuse care. A copy of the policy is available upon request.

NON ARRIVAL OF BOOKED CHILDREN TO BOOKED SESSIONS:

Please make sure that you inform OSHC staff if your child/ren is not going to attend a booked session (a text message will do! Our direct mobile number is: 0423 872 488). Due to new policy, if your child does not arrive and we are unable to contact you or any of the emergency contacts, your child will be classed as a missing person and the police will be contacted.

JOIN THE FUN

Don’t forget about the Camp Australia Holiday Clubs these school holidays. Use the Holiday Club Finder on the website to find the nearest program:


we make kids smile

www.campaustralia.com.au
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