

Friday 23rd June 2023  
Issue 9

# LINK LETTER



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**Michael Kent - PRINCIPAL**

Hello and welcome to the final newsletter for Term 2!

Firstly a huge congratulations to all of our amazing students on their progress over the first semester. We are proud of all of our students and what they've achieved so far this year. Yesterday you will have received your child's semester 1 report and I'm sure you will share in the celebration of their success throughout the half year. These reports provide a comprehensive snapshot of what has been covered this year, the learning progressions that have been made and also some areas for future focus.

A big thank-you to our staff whom have been working extremely hard to complete these assessments and reports over recent weeks.

Also, a HUGE thank-you to all of our parents, carers and guardians for your support over the course of the term and the semester. We are grateful to have such a supportive community whom value education and support our students in every way.

I also thank you all for your ongoing patience in supporting our building program. The progress for this build has been slow but steady and we look forward with anticipation for a completion date at the end of Term 3. This will hopefully allow us to move into the space in Term 4. At this time will no longer have the temporary fences and can re-instate some of our landscaping, playgrounds and sustainable gardening program, I do realise the impact, disruption and frustration that these works can cause. Your patience and support is greatly appreciated!

*Thank You*

I wish every member of our community a restful and healthy holiday break. As you are aware the recent months have been challenging with many health impacts sweeping across the community with COVID, gastro, colds and flu keeping our people away from school. I hope that upcoming holidays provide an opportunity to for everyone to take some well needed time to rest, recover and enjoy the holiday period.

TheirCare will be offering our usual school holiday program and families are welcomed to enrol via the TheirCare website. The team have developed a great suite of activities and excursions over this time and I'm sure those involved will have a wonderful time until school resumes.

School will commence for Term 3 on Monday July 10 and we look forward to reconnecting with everyone.

## 2023 Term 2

- **Friday 23rd June  
END OF TERM  
Final Assembly 1:30pm &  
students will be dismissed from  
their classrooms after assembly**

**HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY  
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

- **Term 3 commences  
Monday 10th July**

## 2023 Term Dates

**Term 1: January 31 – April 6**

**Term 2: April 24 – June 23**

**Term 3: July 10 – September 15**

**Term 4: October 2 – December 20**

## Year 3 Camp

I was fortunate enough to attend the recent year 3 camp at Lady Northcote Camp in Bacchus Marsh. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to continue their learning experiences outside of the classroom and away from home. The students enjoyed a range of adventure based activities over the two days. It was so wonderful to see everyone engaging with the challenges whilst developing their personal skills and confidence in strengthening relationships and forming new ones!

Special thanks to the amazing staff team whom always show such care, teamwork and dedication to our students and school.

Thanks to: Ms. Massa, Kylie, Ben, Mr. Hannon, Mrs. Wise, Mr. Ryan, Ms. Rigoni and Hannah.

We are excited to look ahead to the year 4 camp that will be happening in week 4 of next term; (August 1st – 2nd)

## Congratulations



Congratulations to the students whom have recently been proactive in supportive various causes. It is so fantastic to see our students having a strong voice in advocating for the many community organisations and raising awareness and funds for these non-profit organisations. This includes the recent bake sales and big freeze beanie day. It was also wonderful to have the year 2 students persuading, convincing, and pitching to me about the desire to wear their pyjamas at school today. their persuasive writing was amazing and I couldn't help but agree that a 'PJ Day' was a great idea! Hopefully, you all get to enjoy a few more of these over the holidays!



## Wellbeing Activities

In addition to our whole school approach to promoting positive physical and mental health practices we have recently offered some value added wellbeing opportunities for our students and parents.

Kids ROAR has been a hugely successful incursion that promotes positive body image, informed body knowledge and protective behaviours. Our year 1/2 parents also enjoyed the recent Zoom meeting focussed around the same content.

We have also welcomed Victoria Police who came and spoke to our year 5/6 classes about cyber safety and being positive and proactive digital citizens.

## Baby Time

Congratulations to Mrs. Lee (Serina) as she and her husband Nik recently welcomed their second child. Little Mina decided to mark the first King's birthday long weekend by making an early appearance! Mina and the family are doing really well and settling into routines and life as a growing family.



We also look ahead to next term when Mrs. Cordwell is expecting her third child. Lana will be with us for the first week of term 3 before commencing her maternity leave.

We welcome Ms Kristy Bedford to the school as she will be replacing Lana as our teacher of the Arts. Kristy come with a breadth of experience and has taught across many schools and in various roles including art and performing arts.

Kristy will be a great asset to the staff team as we look forward to our school concert in Term 3.

The concert promises to be a wonderful opportunity for our students to have fun in learning and celebrating the performing arts.

Throughout next term we will be supporting students in their acting, singing and dancing skills, building up to showcasing this at our concerts.

The concerts will be held over 2 nights at Plenty Ranges Convention Centre.



## Library Fund

A reminder to all of our friends and families of WHPS that we have an established Library Fund that allows for tax deductible donations. This provides an opportunity to make direct donations to our school library. All funds provide direct support to our school and students and also allows for tax benefits for every deposit. Leading into the end of financial year, this may be something that appeals to your family and helps the school. To make this easier you will find a payment option in the '**Course Confirmations**' on your child's Compass page.



## Literacy

As we head into the holiday period, I urge all our students to maintain their connections to their reading. Whilst there's a range of learning opportunities that present each day, reading is a proven priority for learning and provides the platform for lifelong success.

When reading with your child, here are some practical ways that you can support your child's comprehension:

1. Before reading, help your child access relevant prior knowledge. This activates their existing schema or network of knowledge and concepts on the topic and gives something for any new learning to 'latch' on to. Simply ask them what they know about the topic, setting or things that might happen in the text before they start reading.
2. Regularly engage your child in discussion about their reading. Ask them to retell what has happened, explain the main ideas and to find important facts and details. Go deeper and help your child to infer about character feelings, motivations, or major themes. Make sure you refer children back to the text to explain how they worked this out.
3. As a capable reader, model how you find information in a text. Demonstrate how you take note of important info by making a mental note, rereading a section, or summing up things up to yourself.
4. Help your child monitor their understanding by articulating what has happened at the end of a section or chapter in their own words. This reinforces that the purpose of reading is to make meaning and that if they don't understand, they need to go back and reread.
5. Support your child to identify and define key new vocabulary.
6. Make sure children are reading a 'just right' book that is not too difficult or easy for them.

## Canteen

Please be aware that some of our canteen suppliers have increased their prices on some of their stock and with food prices also escalating (including that of potatoes) we have had to slightly increase some of our canteen prices. Please know that we only do this to ensure our canteen is viable. Compared to neighbouring schools, our price list is positively comparable.

Please see the term 3 canteen menu and price list attached to the newsletter.

Similarly, to ensure the viability of our canteen, we rely heavily on the volunteers of our community. If you are able to help out, PLEASE reach out to our canteen manager Cara.



### ATTENTION PLEASE

It has come to our attention that a nearby school had a recent incident whereby a young male driver had invited a student to enter his car, offering to drive her to school. The student declined and everyone arrived safely to school. However, this is a timely reminder to ensure safe practices and procedures when travelling to and from school; also to remind ALL students to be vigilant in not accepting any such offers and to report any types of similar incidents. The safety and wellbeing of our community is most valuable to us all.

### Being aware of Potential Dangers

Schools are regularly informed of potential issues and dangers that surround our students when out of school hours. 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 ('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.

KEY DATES  
Term 3

Monday 17th July - WHPS Grades 3-6 House Athletics  
Monday 31st July & Tuesday 1st August - Grade 4 Camp  
Tuesday 1st August - PREP 100 Days Celebration  
Monday 7th August - Curriculum Day  
Thursday 10th August - Grade 1 Dinner  
Wednesday 23rd August - District Athletics  
Thursday 24th August -Book Week Parade  
**Thursday 27th August - Student Led Conferences'**  
Wednesday 30th August - WHPS P-2 Mini Aths Day  
Friday 1st September - Mens Breakfast  
**Tuesday 5th September -CONCERT - day practice & CONCERT NIGHT #1**  
**Wednesday 6th September - CONCERT NIGHT #2**  
Friday 15th September - Last Day of Term 3

Enjoy the school holidays!

Warm regards,

Michael





# **ACROSS THE AP'S DESK.....**

**Tony Ryan - Assistant Principal**



**Hello WHPS Community,**

I hope this finds everyone well and that you're managing to stay warm. Student Semester 1 reports were released yesterday via Compass. This is always a busy time for our teachers and I hope that our Parents/Carers have found the reports to be comprehensive and insightful regarding the progress of students.

## **Happy Campers:**

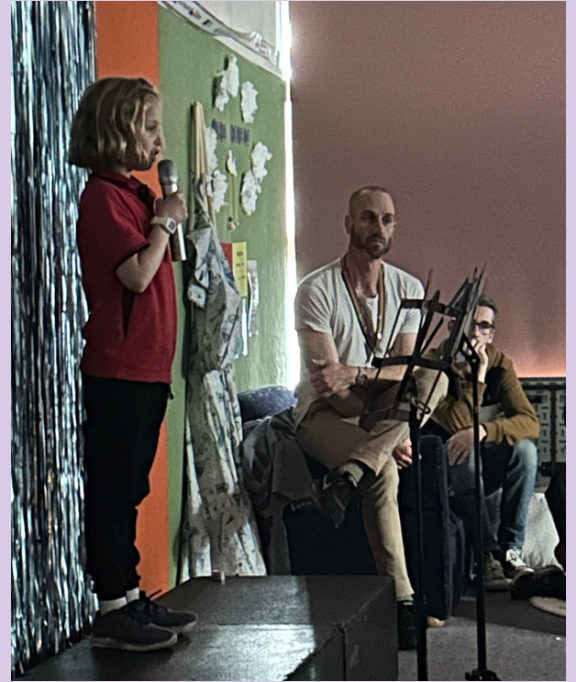
Our Year 3 students attended their school camp at Lady Northcote last week and we had a great time away. It was fantastic seeing our students build their confidence and friendships in a different context and engage in great activities such as canoeing, archery, bike riding and the giant swing. The behaviour and attitude of our students was fantastic. A big thank you to our staff who attended and greatly supported our students.





# **ACROSS THE AP'S DESK.....**

Tony Ryan - Assistant Principal



Our year 3 and 4 students conducted their Poetry Slam performances across Tuesday and Wednesday this week as a culmination of their inquiry and english learning this term. Hearing our students present so confidently and passionately in front of a live audience was amazing. Thanks to those parents and family members who supported our students by attending in person or online. Thanks also to our 3/4 for their organisation and coordination of this learning opportunity.

## **5/6 Cyber Safety:**

Our 5/6 students also participated in an incursion this week focusing on safe online behaviours and practices. This was conducted by Senior Constable Nicole Kernick, Banyule Youth Resource Police Officer. It was great for our students to continue to discuss how to remain safe in online environments and draw upon Nicole's experience and knowledge in this area.



## **1/2 Roar Incursion:**

Our Year 1/2 Students also participated in an incursion this week where they learned more about their personal safety and protective behaviours. Through developing students' social skills, confidence and communication skills the program aims to increase students' ability to display protective behaviours, to seek out the support of trusted adults and reduce the potential for abuse or violence directed at children. An online information session for parents was also offered and well attended. Our thanks go out to Ms Clarke and our 1/2 teachers for coordinating the delivery of this important program. We all have a collective responsibility to keep our children safe and protected. All members of the community are encouraged to make contact with myself, Michael or one of our staff members if you have any well-being concerns about any of our students.



# **ACROSS THE AP'S DESK.....**

Tony Ryan - Assistant Principal

## **Learning and Wellbeing Supports:**

Linked to the information above and the discussion about the release of reports, any parents or carers concerned about their child's social/emotional development, their personal well-being, or academic progress are encouraged to contact me or their teacher for a discussion. Often the first step is a conversation to gather more information about the concerns that are present and any external or school supports that have taken place to this point so that appropriate next steps can be identified. We don't only want our students to STRIVE but to THRIVE!

## **Building Works:**

Our building project will continue to make progress across the holiday period. To minimise disruption to our school community, the builders will look to complete some asphaltting works at the front of the school to repair the trench lines that were dug to upgrade services to the school. This may have some short term access implications for a few days for the school carpark for families accessing the Theircare Holiday Program. The program is continuing to run and pedestrian access won't be impacted.

There is likely to be other concreting works completed between the the Year 1 portables and the new building during the holiday period to try to minimise disruption during Term 3. Internal fitout of the building will continue to progress during this holiday period also. Fingers crossed that we receive good weather across the next two weeks so the external works can progress as quickly as possible.



***“Strive for  
progress, not  
perfection.”***

**-David Perlmutter**

I hope everyone has a happy and restful school holiday period. Safe travels to anyone going away during this period. I look forward to seeing you on day 1 Term 3 - July 10th.

Tony

# INTERSCHOOL SPORT NETBALL

**The Netball A team played their grand final on Friday the 16th of June against Streeton Primary School.**

**Unfortunately, the team was narrowly defeated 13-15. The team played amazingly and never gave up.**

**Congratulations to the the Netball B Team finised on top of the ladder in their divison for the term.**

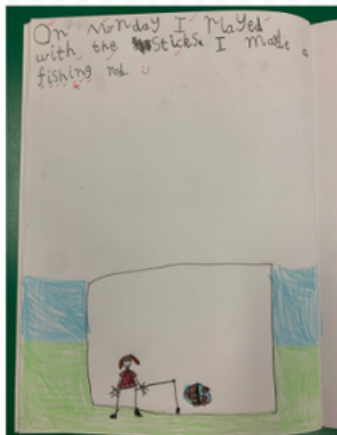




# PREP LAND

Take a look at us exploring and using it to guide literacy in Term 2...

The Preps began their outdoor play-based learning program this term. We have enjoyed making mud kitchens, wands, fishing rods, building sustainable gardens, water painting and bug hunting.



In Prep, we have been practising guided and independent writing with great success. We write about our outdoor play-based learning experience and are learning about how we form sentences using a capital letter, punctuation, finger spaces and many of us are having a go at sequencing sounds we hear to spell words!







A FIGHT MND EVENT

# BIG FREEZE BEANIE DAY!

On Thursday the 15th of June, we had our Big Freeze Beanie Day. This day was very successful in raising awareness and funds for Fight MND.

We raised \$720 in total for Fight MND!

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported this awesome cause.



**FIGHT  
MND.**  
IT TAKES PEOPLE





You may have seen or heard about some Watsonia Heights teachers and parents doing push-ups over the last few weeks. We're not just on a health kick, we've been doing The Push-Up Challenge, aiming to complete 3144 push-ups. We've also been learning about mental health and raising money for Lifeline, Movember and the Push for Better Foundation.

To learn more about the Push-up Challenge or to support our team, please visit:

<https://www.thepushupchallenge.com.au/fundraisers/WhipItGood>





**CONGRATULATIONS!**

# Student Of the **WEEK**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## Week 7



**Jake, Ellie, Joaquin, Kyrie, Emma, Charlie, Hayley, Mia, Annie, Bryan, Emilia, Siena, Paddy, Adele, Fynn,**

## Week 8



**Marc, Flynn, Zoe, Amy, Izabella, Aria, Ciara, Alby, Tommy, Nina, Memphis, Harry, Olivia, Camilo, Isaac, Zara, Adele, Lucas, Ania**

**Fundraising  
EVENT**

**Congratulations  
to Erin & Yaami  
on their amazing  
efforts raising  
funds for our  
Color Run !**





In the spirit of reconciliation the TheirCare Watsonia Heights acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

## Holiday Program

Holiday program is now open for bookings and we have some very exciting excursions to attend including Bounce, the Movies, Rock Climbing and the Melbourne Museum.

## Student Leadership

We are updating our student leader program to have a buddy program, grade ones and twos will be partnered with an older student to complete the weekly tasks and learn responsibility.

## Clubs

We are changing the days of our club next term, if you already have a permission slip signed, you can join in again! If you don't, come and join the fun with a permission slip available near our sign in!



## Week 9 - Refugee Week

This week is Refugee Week. We spent our sessions focusing on what was important about where we live and how we can make it better. Students committed to a challenge of what 10 items they could pack in their backpack if they were going to be stranded at sea for 10 days. Our students acknowledged how we can be more inclusive and understanding of refugees.

We can't wait to see you join in all the fun these school holidays!



**Before School:**

7:00AM - 8:45AM

**After School:**

3:30PM - 6:00PM

**Holidays:**

7:00AM - 6:00PM

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## Week 7

In week 7 we all came together for rainbow week where we discussed the importance of being kind and inclusive of others. We learned to embrace our differences and encouraged everyone to be more respectful of their surroundings. Children made and handed out friendship bracelets and took a chance at having a joke and laugh in our comedy show.

We hope to build on this experience further by encouraging students to contribute this behaviour to their local community as well.



## REMINDER

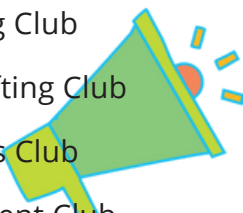
MONDAY - Video Game Club

TUESDAY - Cooking Club

WEDNESDAY - Crafting Club

THURSDAY - Sports Club

FRIDAY - Environment Club



## Week 8

This week was Cartoon Week!

Students took advantage of making their own superhero case file that is top secret. We enjoyed drawing our own comic books and engaging in charades of cartoon characters where we all had a good laugh with the silly actions our friends showed us. In cooking club we got to make cookies and the environment club enjoyed developing our space to include a Tweety Bird on our window. We can't wait to see what refugee week has in stall!



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# After-school has never been so much fun!

Get creative using design, code and logic to build your own games!



For Years 3 to 6 students  
After school on Mondays  
Starts Term 3

Book now at **[www.codecamp.com.au/watsonia](http://www.codecamp.com.au/watsonia)**

Give us a call on **1300 263 322**

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