

Friday 11th August 2023
Issue 12

LINK LETTER



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Michael Kent - PRINCIPAL

Hello everyone and welcome to the latest newsletter. I hope you and your children are enjoying all that's been on offer over recent weeks at WHPS! It's a busy time at school as we embrace all that's been happening in and around the school.

Thank-you for supporting the recent Curriculum Day that provided the opportunity for staff to come together to work a range of curriculum-based areas. We enjoyed the time to work on developing our approach to mathematics, developing our literacy-based units of work and a focus on enhancing our commitment to supporting the wellbeing needs of our students. This time is invaluable, as staff often don't get the chance to come together to focus on our collective work to enhance what we do as a team.

Prep Focus

What a great celebration was held last week with the 100 days of school milestone for our Prep students! All the students enjoyed a day of fun and activity in acknowledging this achievement. Thanks to the Prep staff and the parents for supporting our youngest learners in achieving this stage! Our Preps also enjoyed the recent visit from the MFB! The firefighters created a high level of excitement and enjoyment at the students participated in classroom sessions, a visit from the firemen (firing the hose, enjoying the fire truck and sirens!). The students also enjoyed the Milo Monkey's birthday celebration today! What a week it's been in Prepsville.

2024

As school life moves along, we are also committed to looking forward to next year. Our processes for staffing and programming are in full swing. As our building project keeps progressing, we are planning on moving into our new learning space in term 4. Our year 3 and year 4 students will move into this space at the start of next term. We are also focussing on our staffing and learning programs for 2024.

Similarly, we are planning on supporting our 2024 Prep students. We have been instructed to manage our Prep intake for next year to ensure that our enrolment aligns with the spaces that we can avail to accommodate our growing school. We can confirm that we will welcome 3 classes of Prep students next year ensuring our enrolment remains at the same level. We will maintain our 510 students in 22 classes in 2024. We continue to support our transition program through Prep Play Dates and related transition session between now and the end of the year.

2023 Term 3

- **Monday 14th August**
National Science Week
&
WHPS Concert Tickets go on sale today at 10am
- **Wednesday 16th August**
Grade 5/6 visit to
Montmorency Secondary College
- **Thursday 17th August**
SCIENCE FAIR

Book Week
21st - 25th August
- **Monday 21st August**
Gr 5/6 Author Visit
with Jane Goodwin
&
Book Treasure Hunt
3.45pm in the Library
- **Wednesday 23rd August**
District Athletics
- **Thursday 24th August**
Book Week Dress Up Day
- **Friday 25th August**
Meerkat Productions
Book Week Show
9am - Grades Prep, 1 & 2
10am Grades 3 & 4
- **Wednesday 30th August**
Prep, Grade 1 & Grade 2
Mini Athletics
- **Friday 1st September**
Mens Breakfast in the GP
Room, 8-9am
Please RSVP for catering purposes

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 1 Dinner

This was a wonderful evening where all of our Year 1 students had the opportunity of coming together to enjoy a shared dinner and some fun at school, after hours! Thanks to the year 1 team for supporting this event last night.

Concert

The whole school is in the grips of preparing for the 2023 school concert! Practice, singing, acting, dancing, costumes, props ... A busy time for the school and performing arts team. Thanks to Mrs. Bedford and Mrs. Phillips who have been working so hard in preparation for the 2 big nights coming up.

You will have received information this week about ticketing and 'all things concert'. Tickets go on sale on Monday 14 August at 10am and parents are asked, in the initial stages, to please limit your purchase to 2 tickets per family. Following this we will open up further ticket sales. Please read the information that was sent home this week to support the smooth running of the event.

In support of our concert, the year 5/6 students will next week be attending a viewing of the Montmorency Secondary College's 2023 performance. This will be lots of fun and also support the students in understanding the greater impacts of the performing arts. We thank Montmorency SC for hosting us for this experience.

Concert Raffle Tickets

This year our concert raffle provides the opportunity for some lucky families to take home the following prizes:

These prizes will be won on EACH of the concert nights.

1st Prize: iPad (9th Gen - 64 GB)

2nd Prize: Garmin Vivofit Bundle

3rd Prize: Google Nest Mini

Ticketing information will be sent home next week, and raffles will be drawn on both concert nights for respective families.

Surnames A-J – raffle drawn Tuesday 5th September

Surname K – Z raffle Wednesday 6th September



Sushi Day

Thanks to Cara for organising this week's special food day – Sushi for all! It was a wonderful day that saw children enjoying the food on offer!



Maths World Cup

What an awesome day had by all! Students and staff enjoyed the opportunity to dress up and celebrate the world cup of **maths**! All students celebrated their related countries and participated in a range of fun Mathletics games and learning opportunities. The buzz around the school was amazing! Thanks to the staff for providing such a rich and engaging experience for the students and thanks to the students for embracing the day and having FUN! Go the Matildas on Saturday night!!



Book Week

Please be aware of the upcoming Book Week celebrations and activities. We will be hosting our annual Book Week parade and students are encouraged to dress up in their chosen representation of their book of choice! Always a highlight on the school calendar! Next week on Thursday the whole school will enjoy an author visit from Michael Wagner. The students will enjoy a Q&A session and opportunity to hear from Michael about the creative process of writing books!

<https://michaelwagner.com.au/WP/>

Then for book week (21-25 August) we will have our dress up day and parade on Thursday 24th from 9.15-10.15am.

Our year Prep – 4 students will also be enjoying an incursion from Meerkat productions on Friday 25th August. This will showcase story telling through a fun and engaging theatrical show.

More details to come about these fun celebrations of books and literacy!

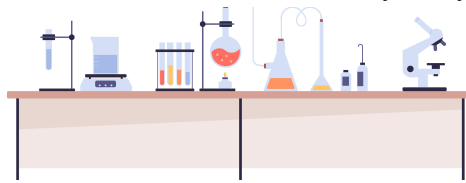


Year 4 Camp

Our year 4 students enjoyed their recent camp to Lady Northcote. A great opportunity to enjoy a learning experience away from the classroom. Thanks to the staff team for supporting this camp. Miss. Mass (thanks for organising EVERYTHING!), Mr. Baldwin, Mr. LoRicco, Mr. Ryan, Ms. Close, Kylie, Ben, Kathryn.

Science Week

We are excited about celebrating National Science Week next week. All the students have been enjoying their science classes and Mrs. MacDonald has been very busy and doing an amazing job controlling the enthusiasm amongst our budding scientists. Our year 5/6 students have also been very busy preparing for the science fair that will culminate on Thursday 17th August!!



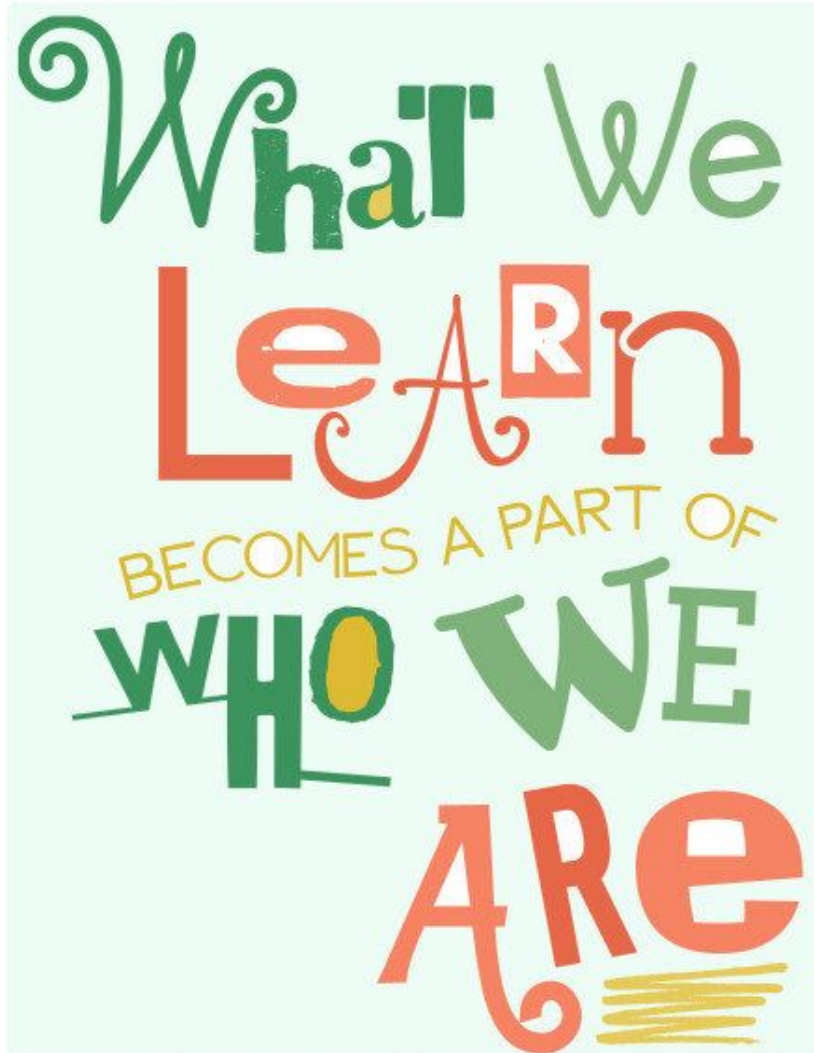
Men's Breakfast

To all the men out there whom support our students so well, please mark Friday 1st September on your calendar and please come and join us for a coffee and breakfast snacks from 8-9am. More details are attached to this newsletter. Hope to see you here...please RSVP to the attached flier.

Enjoy your weekend ahead.

Warm regards,

Michael



What We
Learn
BECOMES A PART OF
WHO WE
ARE

STRIVE

Success Teamwork Respect Individuality Visionary Effort !!

ACROSS THE AP'S DESK.....

Tony Ryan - Assistant Principal



Hello WHPS Community,

It's been a busy couple of weeks around the school. Our curriculum day earlier this week was a great opportunity for our staff to come together for some shared learning and discussion time to further develop our Numeracy, Literacy and Wellbeing curriculum programs. In addition to the above and the camp and dinner below, we have had Prep Fire Education incursions, 2024 Prep Playdate, World Cup Maths Extravaganza, Sushi Special Food Day, continued WHPS Concert preparations and ICAS assessments being conducted across this week, so there has been a wide range of learning and co-curricular activities taking place.

Happy Campers!

Our Grade 4 Students had an awesome time away at Lady Northcote Adventure Camp early last week. I was impressed by the enthusiasm shown by our students, their willingness to show a growth mindset and push their personal boundaries and the support students provided to each other. Camps are a great opportunity to develop friendships and personal confidence as independence skills are developed. The behaviour and attitude of our students on the camp was outstanding. A massive thanks goes out to Miss Massa for her coordination of our camps and to our staff team attending the camp for the 24-hour care they provided to our students.



Our **Grade 1 Dinner** last night was also a great success. This is the part of introduction for our students into the WHPS camping program in addition to the prep breakfast and prepares them for the progression towards the Grade 2 sleepover next year. Our students had lots of fun together with their teachers and classmates and devoured some yummy Pizza! A big thank you to our Grade 1 team and supporting staff for their efforts in facilitating this fun event.



ACROSS THE AP'S DESK.....

Tony Ryan - Assistant Principal



Building Update:

The works to our new learning community building are progressing rapidly. Across the past couple of weeks internal painting has been completed and our carpet and cabinetry has been installed. Works are increasingly turning towards the external concreting and landscaping work around the North and East sides of the building. Our concrete amphitheatres have begun to be constructed. These will be great external spaces to bring students together for outdoor learning opportunities or lunch eating areas.



We are really looking forward to accessing this new major infrastructure in our school and getting most of the school site handed back. I hope everyone has an awesome weekend and week ahead.

Tony

News from your Library



Book Week - 19th - 25th August

Your favourite week of the year is fast approaching Book-Lovers!
So make sure you add all these dates to your calendar!



* **Gr 5 & 6** - Book Week incursion
with Author, **Jane Goodwin**

* **Book Treasure Hunt** - 3.45 - 5 pm

Join us for an afternoon packed full of treasure-hunting excitement and smiles while you hunt for all the missing books throughout the school. Everyone in the family is welcome!

* Our Famous **Book Week Parade** will take place on **Thursday 24th August, 9.15 am** in our assembly area (weather permitting). That's only **13** more sleeps to get your costume together and don't forget we are here to help with ideas if you need inspiration or bits & bobs to help. We can't wait to see all the wonderful book characters come to life!

* **Prep - Gr 4** - Book Week incursion
Meerkat Productions'
adaptation of **Frank's Red Hat**



Friday 8th Sept - closing date for the **Premiers' Reading Challenge**

Tuesday 12th Sept - Indigenous Literacy Foundation -
Great Book Swap & Book Sale

Wednesday 13th Sept - **Roald Dahl's birthday** lunchtime Trivia

Friday 15th of Sept - closing date **Picture Storybook of the Year** competition

MONDAY
21ST
AUGUST

THURSDAY
24TH
AUGUST

FRIDAY
24TH
AUGUST

SEPTEMBER
DATES

News from your Library



On Monday 31st of July we celebrated the birthday of the our favourite boy wizard **Harry Potter** with a lunchtime trivia party. Great work to everyone who joined in all the fun and a big **CONGRATULATIONS** to our **Trivia Master, April** and our **Door Prize winners, Mason, Jasmine, Siena and Harriet.**



Congratulations PRC Legends!

Congratulations to the **72** Book-Lovers who have already **completed** the **PRC!!!**

Our Prep team: Mila W, Hana H, Harry B, Ruby H, Finn J, Gabrielle C, Leila D, Aria S, Charlie E, Elinor H, Ned T, Lachlan W, Grace B, Charlotte D, Zoe P

Our Gr 1 team: Quinn O, Bodhi D, Josephine M, Jude C, Max W, Agastya B, Mivaan R, William V, Nina A, Elsie A, Ivy M, Hannah F, Mina S, Alice B, Melody H, Josephine M, Harriet C

Our Gr 2 team: William H, Xavier W, Ava P, Marcus S, Alice E

Our Gr 3 team: Kai M, Yaami P, Toby J, Ella D, Ruben E, Adelaide S, Theodore H, Nandan N, Ernest L, Leo H, Amelia D, Serena W, Grace W, Matilda K, Edwin C, Oliver D, Grace W

Our Gr 4 team: Isobel B, Ivy P, Penny A, April T, Lili H, Derin D, Penny A, Madeleine M, Daniel L,

Our Gr 5 team: Isabel J, Monica S, Jenaya E, Jasmine Y, Logan R, Siena M

Our Gr 6 team: Kristian C, Joanne D, Zoe D, Tuna D, Aerynn G

There are only **28** days to go and lots of **great prizes** are up for grabs!

So jump online and register all your wonderful books now.

Please don't hesitate to email me if you have any questions about logging into your child's PRC portal with their unique username and password, which was sent home to all students in Term 1.

Please email me at kathryne.radcliffe@education.vic.gov.au if you need any help!

School: Watsonia Heights Primary School

2023 challenge in progress

Campus: All Campus

162 days

Start 01 Mar, 2023

End 08 Sep, 2023 28 days left

511

Eligible students

511 (100 %)

Students registered

72 (14 %)

Students completed

Books

498 (13%)

Added

3197 (87%)

Finished

3695

Books Read

0

Books to Review

0 (0%)

Books to verify

3197 (87%)

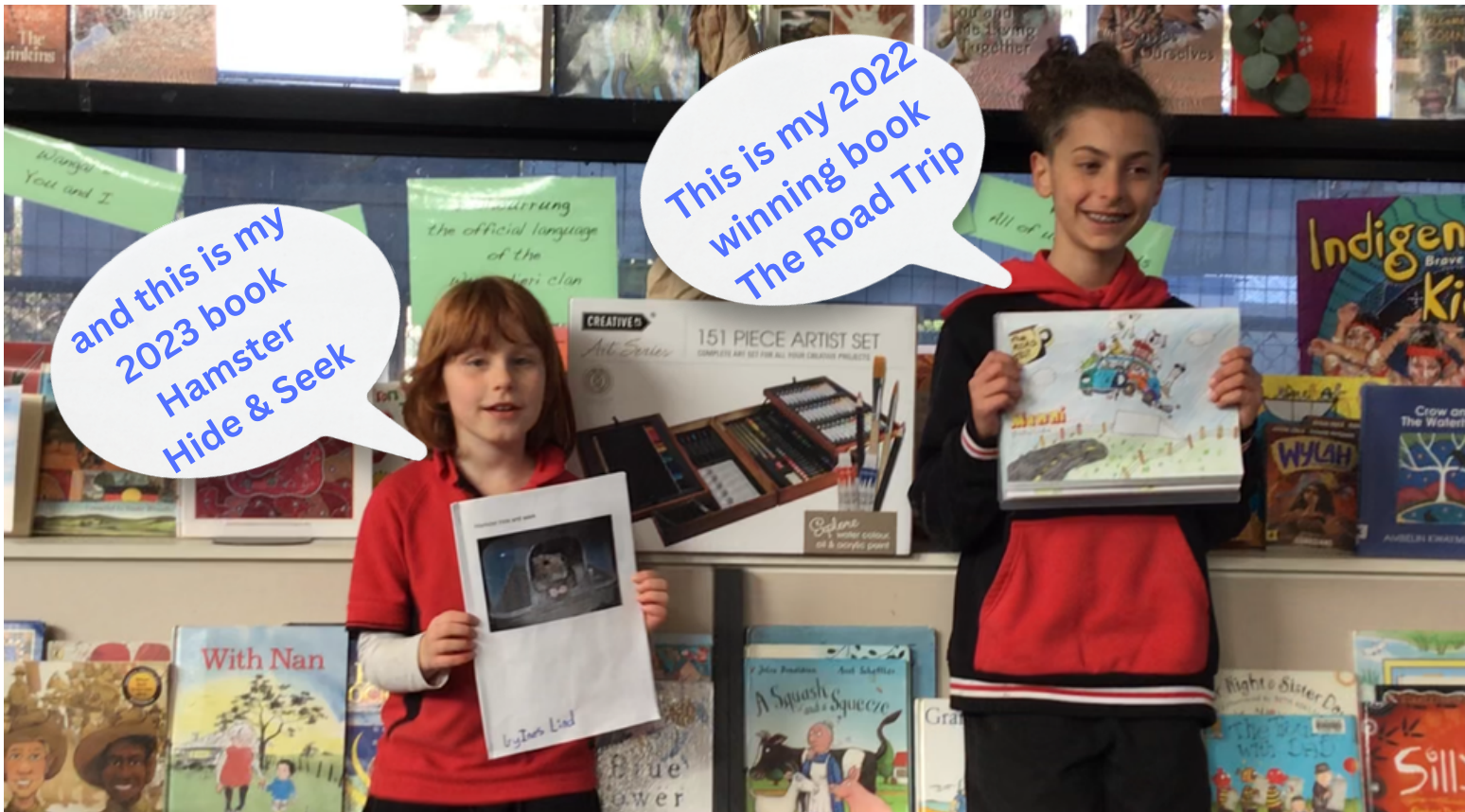
Verified books

News from your Library

These 2 wonderful **Author/Illustrators** below have made you a special **Seesaw** video message about the

2023 PICTURE STORY-BOOK OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

So jump into your **Seesaw** messages and take a look at what they are so excited about!



YIPPEEEEEEE
ONLY 13 SLEEPS
UNTIL DRESS-UP DAY!

Congratulations Student Of the **WEEK**

Week 3



James, Michael, Zara, Max, Louis, Eden, Charlie, Zoe, Cooper, Hannah, William, Vihaan, Shorley, Samuel, Rashed, Serena, Jackson, Ben, Cassidy.

Week 4



Axle, Grace, Campbell, Agastya, Prep C, Alexander, Elinor, Tobias, Alessia, Harry, Julie, Elsie, Zara, Luca, Meilli, Lucas, Kirby, Axle, Heath, Tom.

Congratulations

Year 4 Camp



Last week the Grade 4s went to camp at Lady Northcote. It was a jam packed schedule filled with fun, laughter and exciting challenges to go with it! The students were split into activity groups and took part in some of the activities Lady Northcote had to offer. The activities were the giant swing, canoeing, archery, geocaching and raft building. The students were so resilient when completing the activities and it was so pleasing to see them encourage others to achieve success. Within just a couple of days it was wonderful to witness new friendships being formed and existing friendships being strengthened. To go on top of all that, we even got to give the Lady Northcote grounds a tremor while celebrating a Matildas goal only a couple of minutes after kick off!



GRADE 1 DINNER

Last night, the Grade 1 students enjoyed their dinner together in the BER. All students had a great time enjoying the activities and the pizza.



LET'S JUMP, BOUNCE & PLAY!



**Join us for a family fun day at
Inflatable World Doncaster!**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Saturday, 12 August 2023

4.30PM - 6.30PM

Help us raise funds for Lower Plenty Kindergarten!

\$25/child 2yr+ (Adults FREE)

Includes:

- Return pass
- 2hr exclusive venue hire
- Popcorn & Fairy bread
- Unlimited cordial/water

That's \$40+ value!

Plus more fun on the day!



Scan the QR Code to book





Smile Squad is returning to WHPS in Term 4!

Smile Squad will be returning to our school early in Term 4! Smile Squad is the Victorian government's free school dental program. It delivers free oral health promotion, dental check-ups and treatment to Victorian government school students at school.

It is not compulsory for your child to attend. If you would like to opt in, your child will be seen during school hours. Smile Squad requires consent in order to provide their services. This must be completed by September 25th 2023.

**Sign up to Smile Squad at: <https://bit.ly/smilesquadvic>
OR use the QR code attached to this post.**

If you have any questions, or require a paper consent form, please contact your child's teacher.



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.

Coming Up

Our themes for the upcoming weeks are Silly Week (5) and Science Week (6) where we will be testing all sorts of new boundaries.

Healthy Snacks

Cooking club is a fun way to introduce your child to some new healthy snacks that they can bring home. This week we made strawberry and Granola cookies from scratch.

TOYS! TOYS! TOYS!

Our new toy library allows children to engage with our board games and encourages them to socialise with others.

Week 3 - Animal Week

This week was animal week and we placed a focus on learning about animals from all around the world. We enjoyed making puppets, masks and lions out of recycled materials. It was great to see all the connections we could make between the different animals.

We used the Zoos Victoria Website to access animals at home where we could live stream the different feeding times for animals and explore how each animal used its 'natural' habitat to its advantage. It was exciting to see how environments were different to what we originally expected.



COMING UP

Monday - Cooking Club

Tuesday - Sport Club

**Wednesday -
Environment Club**

Thursday - Craft Club

Friday - S.T.E.A.M. Club

Week 4 - Cultural Week

This week was cultural week and we encourage all who come to TheirCare to come and place a sticker on our new Where We Are From map so that we can represent each student and family and show students that although we may have different backgrounds we are all similar in some aspects of our lives. We explored how different cultures engage in their community and what different holidays we all celebrate from Eid al-Fitr to Hanukkah and Christmas. It was interesting to see how some of the values these holidays have intertwine with one another.



TIMES

Before School: 7:00AM - 8:45AM

After School: 3:30PM - 6:00PM

Holidays: 7:00 AM - 6:00PM



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Mens Breakfast




Dads and special men in our lives, you are invited to join us for breakfast on
Friday 1st September

Grab your yummy treats in the GP room between **8.00am and 9.00am**.

(Yes, kids are invited too of course!)

We hope to see as many of you as possible!

 **Help us be sustain able! BYO coffee/keep cup!**
(Don't worry if you can't BYO. There will be compostable cups and plates.)

****There will be a coffee van, but please note, this is only available for adults****

We also need volunteers (any available mums/nannas/aunts out there?!)
to help serve our special guests their tea, coffee, juice and pastries.

To help with catering, email your RSVP to communitylinks.whps@gmail.com
or fill in the form below.

I will be attending the Mens Breakfast	
Name:	
Child's name:	Class:
Phone/email:	

Are you available to help? If so, email us at communitylinks.whps@gmail.com
or fill in the form below.

I will be a helper at the Mens Breakfast	
Name:	
Child's name:	Class:
Phone/email:	

Please hand this form back into the office once completed