Parents wishing to see teachers………:

If you need to speak to any of our teachers, especially classroom teachers, it is very important that you make an appointment to do so. Informal chats are always welcome before and after school. However, during teaching time, please do not just arrive at the classroom and expect that staff will be able to assist you ‘on the ‘spot’. Our staff always appreciate your concerns and queries regarding our school and your child’s education. However, it is very difficult for our staff to fully engage with parents when the students require their undivided attention during learning time. Please phone, or contact our office in person to make a suitable time to see any member of staff.

School Council Elections 2018:
Just a reminder to all parents that we are seeking 4 parent representatives for our School Council. The term is for 2 years. We meet 8 times a year, currently on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm. Meetings usually last about 1 hour. Nomination forms are available from reception. Nominations close Monday the 12th of March. Please read the information sheet on the last page of this newsletter, or see myself, for more details.

WWPS Rock Band:
On Tuesday Mr Hackett and I held auditions for prospective singers for our soon to be established school rock band. We had a lot of interest. All students who auditioned are to be commended on their efforts. It takes a lot of courage to sing solo in front of two ‘judges’. Well done to all students who auditioned.

Congratulations to Bella, Brookelyn, Patience and D’arne. You are now our rock band singers!

Auditions will be held next Tuesday for any student who would like to play drums in our band.

From your Principal…..

01/03/2018

All WWPS parents are invited to....

AN IMPORTANT INFORMATION SESSION

Sexuality Education, a mandatory part of our Victorian School Curriculum

*Information on lesson content & question time

Tuesday March 6th
5.30-6.00pm
WWPS Library

Our Vision
To create Lifelong Learners who are engaged with their community.

Our Values
Safe
Supportive
Inclusive

Sailing Towards Success

WWPS is a Child Safe school

35 Hoddle Street Warrnambool 3280  Ph: (03) 5561 31 61  Fax: (03) 5561 2369
Email: warrnambool.west.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au  Web: warrnamboolwestps.vic.edu.au

Great School  |  Great Community  |  Great Future

Volunteers Please...

On Thursday the 15th of March we will be holding our whole school Athletics Day at Brauer. If you can spare a few hours and would like to help out on the day please see Mr Hackett for more details.
## Important Dates: Term 1, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SAT/SUN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb-March 26th -2nd</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>-Jolly Good Time -CAFÉ</td>
<td>3rd/4th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>March 5th-11th</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>-Years P-3 Glasses for Kids program -PFA AGM 2.30 - Health Education Parent Information Session 5.30-6.00pm</td>
<td>7TH</td>
<td>No Preps at School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>March 12th-16th</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>14th</td>
<td>No Preps at School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 19th-25th</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td>School Council 7.00pm</td>
<td>20th</td>
<td>-PFA Meeting 2.30</td>
<td>21st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March/April 26th-</td>
<td>26th</td>
<td>Easter Raffle Tickets due back</td>
<td>27th</td>
<td>-Years P-3 Glasses for Kids program -School Photos</td>
<td>28th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although we go to great lengths to ensure that meetings, special days and so on are planned for well in advance, occasionally dates need to be changed. Please make sure that you check the ‘Important Dates’ calendar each week and keep an eye out for separate, more detailed notices in school bags.

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**Brain Teasers…**

After reading the sentence, you are now aware that the human brain often does not inform you that the word “the” has been repeated twice every time.

*Last week’s answer: There were 6 Fs in the sentence. When most people first read it they only count 4. The F in the two OFs are often overread.*

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**Café every Friday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Special</th>
<th>$3.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toasted sandwiches</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Ham &amp; Cheese or Cheese)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nachos</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popcorn</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yogurt &amp; fruit <em>NEW</em></td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muffins</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flavoured milk (Strawberry or chocolate)</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Weekly Specials**

- **TERM ONE**
  - Week 2: Taco cups
  - Week 3: Mini quiches
  - Week 4: Hamburgers
  - **Week 5: Spaghetti**
  - Week 6: Salad & meat wraps
  - Week 7: Mini pizzas

Organised and run by our fantastic parent volunteers.
THINGS TO TRY TO GET YOUR KIDS TO SCHOOL ON TIME?

Are these some reasons why your child does not get to school on time?
- Your child won’t go to bed at night or get out of bed in the morning.
- Your child can’t find their clothes, books, homework, school bag….
- The school lunches are not ready.
- Homework’s not done
- Your child is slow to eat breakfast.
- Your child is watching TV late at night or when they should be getting ready for school.
- It’s your child’s or someone else’s birthday.
- There is a test or presentation at school today.
- Your child is screaming or not letting go of you.

Here are some suggestions based on setting regular routines:
- Have a set time to go to bed
- Have a set time to be out of bed
- Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- Make lunches the night before
- Have set time for starting and ending breakfast.
- Set a time each day for homework.
- Try straight after school with the TV off so your child can relax for the rest of the night and have a reward when finished. Turn the TV on for set times and only if appropriate.
- Be firm that children must go to school.
- Give your child lots of positive encouragement and acknowledge they are organised and get to school on time.
- Be firm; a birthday does not equal a holiday.
- On arrival look for some of your child’s friends and encourage your child to go and play with their friends.
- Once settled leave quickly.

This photo and caption appeared in the Standard online:
Student Leaders Congress aiming for progress:
Warrnambool West Primary School Year 6 students Blane, 11, Bella, 10, Lily, 11 and Rocki, 11, plan their wellbeing video concept.
The beginning of this year has been an exciting and busy period. During our Learning to Learn week our class, as well as the rest of the Junior school, focussed on getting to know one another, asking each other what makes a good student and teacher, discussed our school values and how to be a good friend. We also discussed how to be kind to each other and designed a ‘take what you need’ wall where students wrote down things that make them feel better like a hug, a high five or a friend to say how are you? The students can then freely take these as they need them and return them to the wall for other students to use.

In Writing, we have been focusing on *recount*, and what the students need to include to make a recount exciting. It has been great to hear what each of the students have ‘gotten up to’ over the weekend, or even how they enjoyed the Back to School BBQ and the Chinese New Year disco.

In Reading each child has developed, with myself, an individual learning focus. Some include; using the pictures to help decode the words, knowing how to segment and blend the sounds they see and hear and also using punctuation to help with fluency.

In Numeracy, place value and addition and subtraction have been our focus. We have been using many resources such as cards, dice and place value equipment to assist us developing knowledge on these topics.

Our inquiry topic this term, has been focusing on How to Live a Healthy Life? As well as discussing ways of controlling our emotions and making us happy. As a part of our weekly lessons I have started to include Yoga and Meditation as a relaxation session and also as a time to reflect on our achievements and those little things we might need to work on improving.

Miss Maggie Farley- Steer

**Sport News**

On Wednesday 28th February Owen, Caitlin, Riley and Hayley represented our school at the District Tennis.

The day began at 9:00am at the Lake Petrobe Tennis Courts, and concluded at 12:00pm. Throughout the 3 hours of District Tennis, our 4 student reps battled it out against students from Woodford, Allansford, Merrivale and King’s College.

We had 3 winning rounds, with Riley, Owen and Caitlin winning. Hayley was very close to winning a round, however the ‘wind’ got the better of her.

“It was very hard with the wind. Sometimes the wind pushed me backwards”, said Owen.

“It was really fun”, said Hayley.

“Never give up. It’s not about winning, it’s about having fun”, said Caitlin.

“I’m very proud of everyone that competed on the day”, said Riley.
A huge thank you to the students, families and staff who attended our disco last Friday. Your support of our school fundraising events is always appreciated.

Our next fundraising event will be our yummy Easter Raffle. Raffle tickets will be sent home on March the 15th.

Students are encouraged to come to school in free dress on Friday the 16th if March. Please bring along an Easter egg/chocolate for our raffle.

We will also be having a special CAFÉ lunch on Friday the 23rd of March.
Literacy Tip of the Week

**Become an expert.**

A good way to connect with your child about books and reading is to become an expert on any subject they like - from sports stats to spelunking, coins to carburetors, or anything in between. Show you care about their interests and provide plenty of reading material on the subjects they love.

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**Jolly Good Time**

A Pre-Literacy and Music program for **any** Pre-school child.

- Come along and join in the fun.
- Hear stories.
- Complete art/craft activities.
- Sing and dance with 'Mr Happy'.
- Enjoy a healthy snack.
- Run by qualified staff

Every Friday of the School Term
9.30-10.30am
Warrnambool West Primary School Library
Phone: 5561 3161

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**Meerkat Mutterings**

I don’t mean to blow my own trumpet (I don’t even have one). Hmmmm, perhaps I should see Mr Hackett about that. OOHH, I digress....

Anywho...... I am quite well known around these parts....well at school anyway. But I am nowhere as well known as some cousins of mine. They have become famous for pretty much being themselves. I am sure that you have all seen ALEKSANDR and SERGEI from ‘Compare the Meerkat’. They are a bit like Mr Barnes and myself ;-) 


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**Stuart’s Newsletter Comp.**

Answer the question, cut out this slip and place it in the ‘Stuart Box’ (outside Mr Barnes’ Office) **by Friday morning.**

If your name is drawn out at assembly, and you are correct, Stuart will have a prize for you. Good luck!

**Name: __________________**  **Grade ____**

“**Why did our Tennis players find it hard to play Tennis?**”

**Answer: __________________**
School Council Elections - Information for Parents

WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

WHO IS ON THE SCHOOL COUNCIL?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

- A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. Department employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

WHY IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. Councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term one each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO STAND FOR ELECTION?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term one each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual timetable has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

Department employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.
REMEMBER

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.