WELCOME BACK

I would like to welcome everyone back for Term 2! I hope everyone had a great Easter break and is ready for a fantastic term of learning. This term promises to be another busy term with lots of exciting events as well as many learning opportunities for your children. We have lots planned including an exciting Family Maths Night, ANZAC Day celebration, the start of our Premier's Reading Challenge, excursions, incursions and many more events.

FAMILY MATHS NIGHT

This year we are running a whole school Family Maths Night. On the night families will be exploring the school and completing a range of fun math activities. Further information will be available in the coming weeks.

Save the date - Thursday 19th May (4:30pm - 6:30pm)
ANZAC DAY ASSEMBLY
We will be holding a special ANZAC day assembly next Wednesday 27th April @ 2:15pm, to commemorate all Australians and New Zealanders who served and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. We encourage and invite parents to come along and recognise this special occasion with us. The normal proceedings of our monthly assembly will take place after this.

2017 ENROLMENT
We have started our 2017 enrolment process. Can I please ask all existing parents who have a child of school age next year to collect an enrolment pack from our office and complete and return it to the school office as soon as possible. If you know of prospective parents who want to enrol their child at our school in 2017 please encourage them to book for a school tour at their earliest convenience - details below.

SCHOOL TOURS
- Tuesday 3rd May @ 10.00am
- Tuesday 17th May @ 10.00am
- Wednesday 18th May @ 5.00pm
- Tuesday 31st May @ 10.00am
- Tuesday 14th June @ 10.00am
- Wednesday 15th June @ 5.00pm

INFORMATION EVENING
An information evening for Prep students enrolled at Wedge Park for 2017 will take place on Wednesday 14th September at 6.00pm in the gym. This will include information about transition, learning, school life, daily routines and lots more.

GRIP LEADERSHIP
Last week, Mrs Kurilic and I had the absolute pleasure of taking our School Captains and Junior School Council representatives to the GRIP leadership conference in Geelong. I was so proud of the way the students involved themselves in all the activities and also the way they interacted with students from other schools. During the conference the students learnt about:
- How to grow as a leader
- Dealing with Bullying at school
- How to influence people - leading by example
- Traffic light leadership decision making

The students have now begun to discuss and plan ways to make WPPS an even better place to learn.
ATTITUDES TO SCHOOL SURVEY
WE WANT OUR STUDENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK! Our school is conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of our school. The Attitudes to School survey is an annual survey for Years 5 to 12 students offered by the Department of Education and Training. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students’ perceptions and experience of school. Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child’s experience at school. Students in Year 5 and 6 will participate in this year’s survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Attitudes to School survey will be conducted at our school over the period Monday 18th April to Friday 29th April. The survey only takes 20-30 minutes to complete and occurs during your child’s class time. The survey results will be reported back to the school at the end of July.

EASTER BONNET PARADE AND EASTER RAFFLE
Thank you to all the students who came with their Easter Bonnet to the parade at the end of last term. The assembly was jam packed with many of our families who had attended to watch the parade. The students had a great time showing off their bonnets. Thank you to the Family & Friends’ Association for organising the Easter raffle. This raffle raised just over $700.
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Mr Graeme Dempsey will be offering his services as a JP on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30pm – 3:00pm. Mr Dempsey is available to witness statutory declarations, affidavits and certify documents etc. No appointment necessary.

MANDARIN CORNER
中 文 天 地

NIHAO!
Welcome back to school!
We have just finished our school holiday, and started embracing mild autumn weather. While in China, people have just finished the Tomb Sweeping Festival (April 4 & 5), which is also called Qingming Festival. It is not only the day for showing respect to our ancestors, but also a great time for people to go outside and start enjoying the greenery of spring. This festival has a history of over 2500 years.

How do Chinese Celebrate the Qingming Festival?
1. Tomb Sweeping- the most important custom of Qingming Festival.
   People usually worship their ancestors by burning incense and 'paper money' in their ancestors' grave sites.
2. Spring Outing - It is a good time to feel the warmth of spring.
3. Kite flying- Flying kites of many designs and colours.

Language Tips for Qingming Festival
清明节 (qīng-míng jié /ching-ming jye/) Qingming Festival
扫墓 (sǎo mù /saoww moo/) sweep tombs
祭祖 (jì zǔ /jee dsoo/) worship (sacrifice to) ancestors
香 (xiāng /shaoww sshyang/) 'paper money'

HOMEWORK POLICY
At Wedge Park Primary School, homework is set to provide students with the opportunity to consolidate skills and concepts learned at school. There are many benefits of a regular homework program. All students are required to complete set homework activities. Homework develops organisational skills, provides additional practice when needed and enables parents to support their child’s learning. Please find attached the new homework policy at the end of this newsletter. If you require any further information, please see your child’s classroom teacher.

SECRET GARDEN NEWS
Welcome back to Term 2! I hope all the students and families had a great break. Now we are all back into the swing of things in the Secret Garden and have exciting activities ahead. So far this term we have had some drawing, mask making, playdoh and card game activities. We introduced kids to the good old fashioned knuckles game and pick up sticks, which they’ve really enjoyed.

A massive thank you to those who voted for us to receive the Leader Local grant. The good news is we have made it to the top three in Melton. Mrs Carly Payne and myself have the privilege of attending the grant ceremony in Melbourne on May 4th to see if we are the lucky recipient. Watch this space and we will keep you posted.

On 28th April the Secret Garden will be having its first Talent Quest for 2016. We encourage any student with a hidden or not so hidden talent to participate by giving us 1-2 minutes of cutting edge entertainment. A dance, some jokes, playing an instrument or even a magic trick are just some suggestions. We will have a board on the secret garden entry gates early that week for students to write down what they’ve got to offer. There are prizes to give away too!

We now have a Suggestion Box for children to write down ideas, so if they have any suggestions for the secret garden please let us know. Activities to look forward to in the near future are cooking, stencil making, slime and making a bookmark. We’re more than happy to look at more activities.

Lucia Storrar
GRADE 5/6 BASKETBALL & CROSS COUNTRY
During the first week of Term 2, Wedge Park participated in a number of sporting events. Our Grade 5/6 basketball teams competed at the Keilor basketball stadium in the Melton District Carnival. All students represented Wedge Park with pride and our boys team was able to reach the semi-finals.

We also ran a successful school cross-country day. Students gave their best effort during the run and were able to achieve some excellent results. I would like to thank all teachers and parents that helped during both events, without the assistance the events would not be able to be conducted.

VICTORIAN PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

MEET LACHLAN – THE READING CHALLENGE MASCOT

Wedge Park Primary School is once again going to participate in the annual Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge. This is the 12th year and it has encouraged over 2 million students to read more than 38 million books. Reading for enjoyment is a brilliant way of developing important Literacy skills for life.

We would love everyone to participate, so please return the permission slip to your child’s classroom teacher by FRIDAY, APRIL 29th at the latest. You should receive this slip and a copy of the Hon Daniel Andrews’ letter about the Reading Challenge by the end of this week.

All students who have returned their permission slips will be registered on Monday 2nd May and shortly afterwards you will receive your child’s username and password so that the books they read can be entered online. The Prep parents will NOT have to worry about this as your child’s classroom teacher will do the entering of books.

Mrs. Fleming has set up a separate section of the Library where the books from the recommended list can be borrowed. The students participating in the Reading Challenge will be encouraged to borrow these books during their weekly Library Session. They can also be borrowed before school from 8:30am until 8:50am and after school from 3:05pm until 3:30pm. except for Wednesdays. A section in the Melton Library has also been set up and contains a large number of books from the Reading List.

We hope that you will encourage your child to participate.

Lorraine Sternberg, Karyn Woolley and Nafoose Curmi.
Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge Coordinators

STATE SCHOOLS' RELIEF (SSR) - PREP CSEF UNIFORM PACKAGE INITIATIVE

As part of the Victorian Government’s funding for school uniforms, every Prep government school student who is a Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) recipient is eligible for a uniform pack. What uniform support is provided?

For each eligible Prep student SSR will provide a basic windcheater and tracksuit pants OR one bomber jacket. If eligible please call at the office to fill in an order form. Applications close 3rd June 2016.

EARLY DAYS - MY CHILD AND AUTISM WORKSHOP MELBOURNE CBD FOR NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

Amaze Events is a not for profit organization and will be running a My Child and Autism Workshop for Non-Custodial Parents.

When: Saturday 28th May 2016 from 10:00am - 4:00pm
Where: Melton Library and Learning Hub
        31 McKenzie Street, Melton
Cost: Free - A light lunch is provided
Register: Tamara Varughese  1300 307 909
        Email: earlydays@amaze.org.au

STUDENT BANKING PROGRAM - New School Banking rewards now available!

Exciting new Term 2 rewards with an Outback Savers theme are now available, while stocks last!

Mud Splat Handball          Outback Pat Bag Tag

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a silver Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for exclusive School Banking reward items in recognition of their regular savings habits. There are 2 new items released each term so be sure to keep an eye out for them.

If your children are not currently involved in the School Banking program and you would like to know more, please ask for a 2016 School Banking program information pack from the school office.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program and don’t forget that TUESDAY is School Banking day!

LOST CLOTHING & PROPERTY

There are currently quite a few items in the lost property tub located in the office foyer. Please feel free to check the tub at any time. Check all clothing, hats, lunchboxes, etc to make sure your child’s name is clearly visible. We don’t want to have too many items in the lost property box.
AVID Information Evening
Tuesday 3rd May 2016
6.30pm
Kurunjang Secondary College

Come along to find out how to apply for the year 7 AVID program 2017 and start the application process.

Apply Now!
Acceptance into the AVID program is subject to completion of an application, academic test, and interview.

To download application forms visit our website: www.kurunjang.vic.edu.au
Or contact Phone: (03) 9743 9211
Email: snape.dominic.p@edumail.vic.gov.au

Stig Live @ The Library

High energy with plenty of laughter!
Stig Wemyss, Australia’s favourite children’s narrator and performer will be here to launch BorrowBox.
Stig delivers a wildly entertaining and fun filled show designed for children aged 7-13.
Lots of audience interaction and participation with fantastic prizes and giveaways on the day.

DETAILS:
WHEN: Saturday 23 April
TIME: 1 pm
WHERE: Melton Library and Learning Hub
31 McKenzie Street, Melton
COST: Free
RSVP: Bookings not required

For more information, visit melton.vic.gov.au/library
Phone: 9743 5300

MELTON CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
Invites parents of current Grade Six children to our
YEAR 7 (2017) INFORMATION SESSION
In the College Gymnasium
Tuesday May 3, 7pm

Come along and:

• Meet our Year 7 teaching team
• Hear from our College Principal; Mr David Gleeson, and meet him afterwards for coffee and dessert.
• Gain an insight into our Year 7 programs
• Learn about the move into secondary schooling
• Ask questions and better understand this important year of school for your child

152—156 Brooklyn Road, Melton South
Phone 9743 8193 www.mcc.vic.edu.au
**Rationale**

Homework is purposeful learning, which is set by the teacher, that occurs outside of the classroom. It is an opportunity for you to participate in your child’s education. Homework complements and reinforces classroom learning and fosters lifelong study habits. Students benefit by practising skills learnt in the classroom and it provides opportunities for students to be responsible for their own learning.

**Goal**

To ensure that homework serves the diverse needs of students, whilst ensuring that the individual educational needs of these students are met.

**Implementation**

- The organisation of homework should be flexible and enable students to participate in activities outside the school environment.
- Children will be given the opportunity to ask questions to clarify their understandings of the task and its relevance to their current learning.
- Homework expectations will be shared at the start of each year.
- Parents will be informed of student homework habits in the June and December reports.
- Homework tasks will be set at varied/student levels of understanding and capabilities.
- Students who complete tasks shall receive positive reinforcement and an opportunity to win a prize at the end of each term (if all of the term’s homework is completed).
- Opportunities for support will be set up as required.
- When an established pattern of non-returning of homework is identified the teacher and parents will explore the reasons and follow up where appropriate.
- Students who do not read on a nightly basis will be able or required to catch up with their reading during eating time.
- Reading will be a major component of the homework for all year levels.
- Parents may discuss homework expectations when students are going on a personal holiday, however it is not the teacher’s responsibility to prepare such homework.
- Students may use digital tools such as laptops, video cameras, iPads etc. for completing homework.

**Policy Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s annual review cycle.

Homework should be:

- Appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- Purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- Interesting, challenging and when appropriate open-ended
- Assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided
- Balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Weekly Homework Task</th>
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| Prep  | Reading 10-15 minutes per night  
Word list (also includes alphabet and number games) |
| Grade 1 | Reading 10-20 minutes per night  
Spelling |
| Grade 2 | Reading 15-20 minutes per night  
Spelling |
| Grade 3 | Reading 15-20 minutes per night  
Spelling |
| Grade 4 | Reading 15-20 minutes per night  
Spelling |
| Grade 5 | Reading 20-30 minutes per night  
Multiple choice grid fortnightly tasks (Provided at the start of each term) |
| Grade 6 | Reading 20-30 minutes per night  
Multiple choice grid fortnightly tasks (Provided at the start of each term) |

**Diaries and Reading Journals**

Parents are expected to sign the diary or reading journal on a nightly basis. This form of communication will be monitored by the classroom teacher.

**Parents and carers can help students with their homework by:**

- Reading texts set by teacher, which may consist of reading to, reading with, or reading by parents/carers or older siblings.
- Encouraging a regular daily session to examine and complete homework
- Discussing key questions or suggesting resources to help with homework
- Helping to balance the time spent between homework and recreational activities
- Asking how homework and class work is progressing, and acknowledging success
- Attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- Talking to teachers about any homework problems
- Checking if homework has been set
- Students keep a homework diary