Werribee Primary School is …
A supportive and diverse learning community pursuing excellence in the development of skills, behaviours and attitudes in education, so that students are empowered to interact positively throughout their lifetime, with confidence, creativity and enjoyment
Our shared values are ✤ Courtesy ✤ Cooperation ✤ Respect ✤ Responsibility
Our education priorities are ✤ Literacy ✤ Numeracy ✤ Social Competency

DATES TO REMEMBER:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 3</th>
<th>Week 3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- 5 / 6 Lightning Premiership&lt;br&gt;- Parent Opinion Survey – return to school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- Working Bee – 9:00-11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>Monday 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- <strong>PUPIL FREE DAY</strong> – Please make alternative arrangements for the care of your children on this day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- Book Club due back today&lt;br&gt;- DANCEFEVER&lt;br&gt;- Subway lunch day&lt;br&gt;- Pie Drive- order forms &amp; payment due</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- 5 / 6 Girls Football regional finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>Tuesday 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- DANCEFEVER&lt;br&gt;- Pie Drive – Delivery of orders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- WALK2SCHOOL&lt;br&gt;- Book Club orders distributed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- 3 / 4 Cultural Infusion Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- Summer Sport catch up game with Mannorvale PS</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>Tuesday 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- DANCEFEVER&lt;br&gt;- <strong>Parent Teacher Interviews</strong> – Years Prep &amp; 3/4&lt;br&gt;- School Council 6:30 – Staff room&lt;br&gt;- Spelling Bee Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- <strong>Parent Teacher Interviews</strong> – Years 1/2 &amp; 5/6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- 5 /6 Hooptime&lt;br&gt;- 5/6 Summer Sport (re-commencing) Round 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>Friday 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>- <strong>WPS Trivia Night</strong> –7:00pm Tickets available at office</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 8</td>
<td>Monday 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Oct</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Day TERM 4</td>
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</table>

PLEASE NOTE: MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST IS A PUPIL FREE DAY. PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CARE OF YOUR CHILDREN ON THIS DAY.

Contact the school

Need to contact your child’s teacher or pass on feedback or suggestions to the school?

Address: 2 Deutgam Street, Werribee 3030
Phone: 9742 6659
Web: [www.werribeeps.vic.edu.au](http://www.werribeeps.vic.edu.au)
Email: werribee.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
ACTING PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

ATHLETICS THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS
A wonderful day was had by all at our annual athletics carnival on Tuesday. Although we were all somewhat concerned by the weather forecast, I’m pleased to report that those dreaded showers that were promised for the morning had well and truly cleared by 9:00am and we all enjoyed a still, blue sky day; perfect weather for holding such an event. It was wonderful to see all children participating and doing their best, no matter what their skill level. It was equally pleasing to see and hear the encouragement being offered to all students by students. Thank you to Mrs Staehr for her meticulous organisation on the day and in the weeks leading up to the event. Thank you also to the wonderful band of volunteers (friends and parents of the school) who helped out on the day. Without their help, such a day simply couldn’t happen. It was pleasing to see the children upholding all of our school values on the day; I received many reports from teachers commenting about how well behaved the children were. Well done to our Werribee kids for both their athletic efforts and their good behaviour on Tuesday.

NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY
MRS GIACOMELLI’S PLANTS
Thank you to the children, staff and parents who assisted with our tree planting day last Friday. Once again, it was great to see ‘many hands making light work’ of the planting and weeding that took place on another perfect day, weather wise. We were joined by some special visitors on the day, Mrs Giacomelli’s family: Her husband Albert; her son Oscar; daughter Sienna; mother Connie and; her sister Rosa. They kindly provided a delicious lunch for the staff and then joined us in planting some very special trees in the front garden in memory of Maria, our much loved Art teacher who, sadly passed away in February this year. Some very bright orange rose bushes have been planted in her honour, as these were Maria’s favourite flowers. Oscar and Sienna will look forward to returning to pick the flowers when they bloom. We also planted a beautiful camellia tree that was donated to the school in Maria’s honour by Mossfiel Primary School. We look forward to seeing all these plants grow and blossom in the coming months and years. This will help us to remember Maria and the ‘colour’ and joy she brought to so many of us.
PUPIL FREE DAY – NEXT MONDAY

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY FOR STAFF

Don’t forget there will be a Pupil Free Day being held next Monday 5th August. Please ensure you make alternative arrangements for the care of your children on this day. The staff will be participating in a Professional Learning day focusing on the Australian Curriculum that is known as AusVELS in Victoria. There has been a gradual shift over recent years towards a nation-wide curriculum and this will be the first day-long opportunity for our staff to undertake the following:

- Explore the similarities and differences between the previous, VELS and the new AusVELS.
- Gain a deeper understanding of the Domains of Learning: Physical, Personal and Social Learning; Discipline Based Learning; Interdisciplinary Learning.
- Learn about cross-curriculum priorities that have been identified as important to equip young Australians with the skills, knowledge and understanding that will enable them to engage effectively with and prosper in a globalised world. The following cross-curriculum priorities are to be embedded in all learning areas.
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures
  - Asia and Australia’s engagement with Asia
  - Sustainability.
- Explore the possibilities for curriculum planning changes across all year levels F-6 at Werribee PS

THE FOUNDATION YEAR

Many components of our curriculum will remain the same, for example, the importance placed on literacy, numeracy and social skills. Some things will, however, be different; the most obvious change being the introduction of a nation-wide description of the first year of school. We currently know this as the ‘Prep’ year which comes from the word ‘preparatory’, meaning introductory. However, the first year of school, up till now, has been known as different things across the country. So, from now on we are to refer to this first year of school as the ‘Foundation’ year, which will commonly be abbreviated simply to the letter ‘F’. Werribee PS will gradually introduce this term into our way of operating. However, we do acknowledge it will take some effort to stop referring to our youngest students affectionately as ‘preppies’.

CONGRATULATIONS THEMAY

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of one of our past parents Thermay Naysay (mother of Syd Batterham). Thermay helps to run a Karen playgroup that operates from our Multipurpose room each Thursday morning. She was recently inducted into the Victorian Refugee Recognition Record in recognition of her volunteer work in the Karen community and in the running of the playgroup at Werribee PS. Please refer to last week’s OWL on our website for a lovely photograph of Thermay and more information about the good work she is doing for the benefit of our Karen community. Congratulations Thermay, we are very proud of and grateful for your efforts.

QUICK REMINDERS

TRIVIA NIGHT - Tickets are now available for our Trivia Night on Friday 6th September, which promises to be a great night out for the adults of our school community. Please book tickets at the office. Donations for Auction prizes are also being accepted by the school. Thank you in anticipation of your support for this event.

Sue Osborne,
Acting Principal
Canteen Roster – Term 3, 2013

Wed 7th August  
Karyn McEachran, Joanne Richards, Kym Dunn, Anna Richards

Wed 14th August  
Tammy Brennan, Mandy Courtney, Nicola Saxon-Jones, Judy Puli, Pauline Oakes

Wed 21st August  
Deb Cowton, Jane Puli, Penny Hendricksen, Michelle Bailey, Leanne Gosling

Wed 28th August  
Karyn McEachran, Joanne Richards, Kym Dunn, Anna Richards

Wed 4th September  
Tammy Brennan, Penny Hendricksen, Mandy Courtney, Judy Puli, Pauline Oakes

Chocolate money is now overdue. Please return all monies & any unsold chocolates to the office as soon as possible. If you are interested in selling another box of chocolates, we have 3 extra boxes available at the office.

Attention all parents

A special meeting will be held in the staffroom on Friday the 9th of August 2013 at 3.15pm.
Everyone is welcome.
We believe in “More hands make light Work”

See you there. SAC committee

Term 3 – Sports Events

Friday 2nd August  
5/6 Lightning Premiership

Thursday 8th August  
5/6 Girls Football Regional Finals

Friday 16th August  
5/6 Interschool Sport Summer Round Robin recommences

Friday 23rd August  
5/6 Hoop Time

Monday 9th September  
SSVWD Athletics Carnival

Friday 13th September  
1/2 Hoop Time

5/6 Girls Netball – Division Final

Congratulations to the 5/6 Girls Netball team that were successful in winning the Division Final against Baden Powell, Derrimut Heath (20-13) on Friday. Special thanks to Judy Puli who umpired on the day and throughout the 5/6 Interschool Sport Winter season. Unfortunately, the team consisting of Eliza Moodie, Caitlin Hendricksen, Zara Puli, Stephanie Bandis, Hannah Keogh, Rachel Evans, Emma Hills, Emily Cheetham & Ebonie Toohey, will be unable to progress to the Regional Finals as it is being conducted the same day as the Regional Girls Football Finals.

Year 3-6 House Athletics Carnival

What a day! And the biggest day on our sporting calendar! It was fantastic to see so many enthusiastic students decked out in their House colors and having lots of fun at the Victoria University Athletics Track on Tuesday. There were smiles on faces everywhere. Of course this day would not be possible without the assistance of the wonderful Werribee Primary School staff and parents. Thank you to not only the staff in attendance at the track, but to those back at school for their support and cooperation. Special thanks to Ms Troffin for arriving early at the track to assist
with the setting up of equipment. The list of parent helpers is ginormous and I cannot thank each and every one of them enough for their invaluable assistance throughout the day. THANK YOU to: Glenn Evans, Adam Vallance, Judy Puli, Deb Cowton, Sharon McCann, Kerri Liangos, Penny Hendricksen, Gillian Perry, Tarnecia Heaney, Cherie Moodie, Michael Brown, Liam, Ahmed Yusuf, Melanie Inglis, Melinda Millar, Sandra Savory & Zoltan Horvat. Special thanks to Penny Hendrickson for the amazing computer program she spent endless hours creating prior to the event. Individual and House results will be included in next week’s newsletter.
5/6 LIGHTNING PREMIERSHIP

The 5/6 Lightning Premiership is taking place this Friday 2nd August. Parents and friends are welcome to attend the day to cheer on our teams. Games commence at 9.30am and conclude at 2.30pm. The venues for each sport are as follows;

Teeball – Presidents Park, Soccer – Galvin Park, Football – Wyndhamvale Reserve,
Netball & Basketball – Werribee Recreation Centre

5/6 GIRLS FOOTBALL – REGIONAL FINAL

Next Thursday (8th August), our 5/6 Girls Football team will compete at the Regional Finals in Geelong. We wish them well. Please note: The bus will depart Werribee Primary School at 8am and a mouthguard must be worn.

Tanya Staehr – Sports Co-ordinator

Nude Food News

The Best Nude Food Grade Awards were presented by Alannah Inglis and Jessie Evans at assembly this week. The winning grades were:

Prep P – 58%          1/2 C – 45%          3/4 E - 50%          5/6 R - 33%

Well done to Prep P who have been working hard to promote nude food within their classroom. With 58%, they are the winners of the new nude food trophy this week!

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>15%</th>
<th>18%</th>
<th>45%</th>
<th>50%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep P</td>
<td><strong>58%</strong></td>
<td>1/2 C</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>5/6 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep S</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1/2 M</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>5/6 F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 G</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>3/4 H</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>5/6 L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 I</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>3/4 J</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>5/6 P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 K</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>3/4 T</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>5/6 R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 3/4 C | 18% | 5/6 S | 23% |
You can contribute to our Zero Waste Tolerance days by packing a nude food lunch box!
Remember to reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink!

WHOLE SCHOOL WORKING BEE

The Facilities Committee invites all families in the school to assist at our working bee on Saturday 3rd August 2013. Work will begin at 9:00am and will conclude with a sausage sizzle and raffle at 11:00am. If you are able to attend and assist please complete the slip below and return it via your child’s teacher as soon as possible. Some of the jobs to be completed:

✓ General yard clean up
✓ Up-keep of playground equipment
✓ Weeding of garden beds
   And many, many more....

WORKING BEE – SATURDAY 3rd AUGUST 2013

☐ Yes, I am able to help out at the working bee.

Name: ........................................Child & Grade: ............................................................

How many helpers: ..............................

☐ Yes, I am able to bring some equipment to help out with the yard clean-up.

I am able to bring (please circle):

wheelbarrow  broom  shovel/spade  whipper snipper  gloves

Sabine, Carter, Lucy, Ryan, Valentin, Maeve
From Prep P
Werribee Primary School
Trivia Night

TRIVIA HOST
COMEDIAN RUSTY
BERTHER

GAMES, LIVE BAND,
AUCTIONS, PRIZES
(including iPad Mini)

ENTRY $20 Tickets
from WPS Office
Ph: 9742 6659

Werribee Primary School Trivia Night
Please return this form with correct money to your child’s teacher or the WPS office.

Family Name: ________________ Child’s Name: ________________ Grade: ______

I would like to purchase:

□ ______ tickets at $20.00 each OR □ a table at $200.00

Total: _______
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  • Improve fundamental learning skills
  • Form solid study habits and self-confidence

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INSIGHTS
by Michael Grose - No. 1 parenting educator

Two homes, one heart

With the number of Australian children of separated parents exceeding one million, there’s much at stake when coordinating their back-and-forth movement between two homes, writes Karen Fontaine

A divorced Canadian couple made international headlines last month with the construction of a duplex-style home – at the centre of which are the bedrooms of their children, aged eight and ten.

Doors at either end of the duplex’s central hallway lead to each parent’s self-contained ‘wing’. Each week, one parent has custody of the children, during that week the door to the other parent’s wing is locked, maintaining a relative privacy for that parent. This arrangement provides stability for the kids, who don’t have two homes but rather two parents who alternate their care from week to week.

It’s certainly a novel approach at a time when parental divorce affects the lives of nearly one in five young Australians under the age of 20 – a disruption related to long-term social and economic disadvantages, according to the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

This is a position supported by Sydney family law professor Patrick Parkinson. In a recent research paper entitled For Kids’ Sake, Parkinson brought together extensive evidence showing that parental separation is a significant risk factor for children’s long-term emotional wellbeing and educational performance.

Another expert, Dr Nicky McWilliam, a lawyer/mediator with Sydney Mediation Partnership, spends a third of her working week dealing with separating parents. She notes, “there are always issues with contact arrangements for the children”.

Unlike in times gone by, when children automatically lived with their mother and might have spent every second weekend with their dad, shared-care situations are becoming much more common, says McWilliam.

“Most of the time the children are split evenly from week to week and sometimes even from day to day,” she says.

In a shared-care situation, academic challenges can arise, says Jacqui Marquis-Conder, Principal Psychologist at Youth Psychology. This is particularly the case if there is a lengthy commute to one parent’s home on some weekdays, allowing less time for homework.

“Routines are also usually different in each home and some parents are better than others at supervising homework,” says Marquis-Conder. “Academic challenges and even learning difficulties will most certainly arise if there are behaviour issues associated with unresolved and ongoing emotional distress.”

A recent study on the effect of divorce or separation on young children and older children found that, contrary to what many public policy makers believe, children are most affected by changes to their family structure in the first five years of life.

Leading a study of 3,492 children into how remarriage and integration into a blended family affected behaviour throughout their early and mid-adolescent years, Rebecca M. Ryan of the...
two homes for the kids in a very loving and stable way,” she says.

“A lot of that, I think, is due to giving the kids lots of information –
making them aware of what’s happening for the next hour, the next
day, the next week, the next year – and doing a lot of talking
and communicating.”

“It’s about explaining to the kids that although they are no longer
in a relationship with the other parent, they respect that every
parent has a different style. And no matter how young a child is,
what’s bearing out from my practice is that that really makes
a difference.”

Department of Psychology at Georgetown University in
Washington, D.C., found that children of married parents
demonstrated the most dramatic behavioural changes later in life
if their parents divorced prior to their first year of school.

When handled sensitively, there are many benefits to shared care
as it allows children to build meaningful and ongoing relationships
with both of their parents, says Jacqui Marquis-Corder.

“Logistics aside, if parents are able to form an amicable
shared-care arrangement, and work out a communication style
that does not involve the children in their conflict, then shared care
can be ideal for children as well as parents. It breaks from what
is often single parenting after separation,” she says.

Interestingly, Ryan’s study also showed that children who are
integrated into a new blended family have fewer behaviour
problems than those who are not. “In fact, children of blended
families actually receive protective benefits that seem to help them
avoid some of the negative behaviors exhibited by children who
remain in single-parent households,” Ryan says.

For Marquis-Corder, what this study highlights is that
‘step-parents and step- and/or half-siblings can play a very
crucial role in a child’s life if they are able to form a relationship
built on warmth and trust’.

“I have certainly seen many cases where a child has a warm,
loving and close relationship with their step-parents and siblings
and this certainly provides protective benefits and potentially
increases the child’s resilience,” she says.

Dr McWilliam agrees. “I have dealt with parents whose separation
caused a lot of hurt and anxiety but they have managed to sort out

Jacqui Marquis-Corder, Principal Psychologist
of Youth Psychology, a private practice in Sydney
(http://www.youthpsychology.com.au/), offers tips
on how parents can ease the pressure on children
for whom they share care:

1. Establish a shared-care arrangement that is child focused not parent
   focused. “A shared-care arrangement should always reflect the needs
   of the child first, not the parent. Parents need to ask themselves:
   ‘Is this about me wanting to get my way or have control of the
   situation, or is this about what is best for my child?’ For example,
   if the child must be at both before- and after-school care or do a very
   long commute in order to spend a particular day with a parent, is this
   actually in the best interests of the child? This is for the parents
to decide, depending on their child’s age and particular needs.”

2. Establish a routine, particularly during the week. “This can be
   a huge challenge but if it can be achieved for both parents to enforce
   regular homework, meal, and bedtimes for their children, this will help
   the school week go smoothly.”

3. No matter how tempting, never speak badly about the other parent
to the children (this goes for new partners as well). “This doesn’t
   mean that you have to say nice things about the other parent but in
   this case it is wise to follow the good old-fashioned advice ‘if you
don’t have something nice to say, don’t say anything at all’. This
includes subtle jokes, hints or sarcastic comments – even very young
children understand the meaning behind these! And do not under any
circumstances share communication from the other parent with your
child such as showing them email or text message correspondence.”

4. Make pick-ups and drop-offs as stress free as possible for the
   children. “If the conflict is so high that parents cannot even be in the
   same room, then try to establish a neutral pick-up and drop-off spot
such as a public park or café. All heated discussions should be held
well away from the hearing or sight of the children (whether
in person, on the phone, or through text message).”