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 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 9th November</td>
<td>Whole School Working Bee – 9:00 – 11:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11th November</td>
<td>Remembrance Day Commemoration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th November</td>
<td>Cut-off date for P-2 Swimming – <strong>NEEDS TO BE PAID FOR BY THIS DATE, OTHERWISE A PLACE CANNOT BE GUARANTEED</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th November</td>
<td>Werribee Secondary College – Parent Information Night for 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20th November</td>
<td>Prep – 2 Swimming Programme commences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please visit our school website for a full list of Term 4 Calendar dates

Monday is Remembrance Day. At Assembly, the school captains will speak briefly about the significance of the day. At 12 o’clock, the whole school will join in reading the Pledge of Remembrance, which has been written specifically for children by Rupert McCall. Werribee PS is participating in ‘Read to Remember’, which honours Australian service men and women and aims to teach children and young people that they that they have the same capacity for courage and resilience as those in the services. One thousand, eight hundred schools across Australia will read the pledge on Remembrance Day.

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**Contact the school**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address:</th>
<th>Phone:</th>
<th>Email:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Deutgam Street, Werribee 3030</td>
<td>9742 6659</td>
<td><a href="mailto:werribee.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au">werribee.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.werribeeps.vic.edu.au">www.werribeeps.vic.edu.au</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Principal’s Report

Swimming Program
Swimming lessons commenced at Werribee Pool for our Year 3 to 6 on Wednesday and our students will attend for 10 sessions concluding on Tuesday 19th November. The Year 1/2 swimming program will commence on Wednesday 20th November. Let’s hope the good weather stays with us for the duration of the programs.

Class Formation for 2014
One of the most time consuming and challenging tasks that we undertake is the formation of classes for the following school year. Decisions about the structure of the school are made based on the educational needs of students, enrolment numbers, the number of teaching spaces and human resources.

Teachers spend many hours considering student placement in classes for the following year that are balanced with regard to academic capabilities, behavioural needs, social compatibility and gender. Our aim has always been to provide equal opportunity for all students in a dynamic learning environment. You would be aware that parents are offered the opportunity to contribute to this process should they have significant educational or other relevant considerations. Please note that requests for specific teachers, or styles of teachers, or requests to be placed with a particular friend are not educational considerations. Teachers use academic, behavioural and social competencies to assist them in the placement process.

While we understand that parents only want the best for their child and want school to be a rewarding and enriching experience, we also ask that you trust the school to fulfil our responsibilities in a professional and considerate manner and in the best interest of all students. This is a time consuming and well thought-out process that is not taken lightly by any staff member. Despite our concerns as adults, children are often much more resilient and responsive to change and new circumstances than we give them credit for. It is quite natural that things are not always as we wish, however the way in which we respond to this is a model for our children. Resilience is learnt at a young age through facing a minor challenge which can assist them to cope with more challenging situations as they grow older.

If you are planning on relocating at the end of this year and not returning to Werribee Primary School, could you please let the school know in writing as soon as possible. If you know of any families who may be interested in enrolling their children at Werribee Primary School starting in the 2014 school year, please encourage them to contact the school for an interview.

Enjoy your week.

David Quinn  
Principal
10 DAY INTENSE SWIMMING PROGRAMME

The Year 3-6 Swimming Program commenced on Wednesday. We were extremely fortunate to begin with such wonderful warm weather conditions. Fingers crossed it continues for the remaining sessions.

YEAR 3-6 TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASSES</th>
<th>TIME TO LEAVE SCHOOL</th>
<th>SWIMMING LESSON TIME</th>
<th>TIME BACK AT SCHOOL APPROX.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4 J</td>
<td>9.05 am</td>
<td>9.30am – 10.10am</td>
<td>10.40am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 E</td>
<td>9.45am</td>
<td>10.10am – 10.50am</td>
<td>11.20am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6 R, F &amp; L</td>
<td>10.25am</td>
<td>10.50am – 11.30am</td>
<td>12.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 H</td>
<td>11.05am</td>
<td>11.30am – 12.10pm</td>
<td>12.40pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 C</td>
<td>11.45am</td>
<td>12.10pm – 12.50pm</td>
<td>1.20pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Thank you to the many parents who are assisting with the program by walking to and from the pool with classes. If there are any further parents able to assist, please notify your child’s classroom teacher immediately. All assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please note – A current Working with Children’s Check is required.

PREP – 2 SWIMMING PROGRAM

The Prep-2 Swimming Program dates are;
Wednesday 20th November - Wednesday 4th December
(NO session on Friday 29th November – Curriculum Day)

It is essential that consent notes and payment are received by the due date - WEDNESDAY 13th NOVEMBER. A position cannot be guaranteed if payment is made after this date.

Tanya Staehr – Sports Coordinator

2013 Werribee Primary School Yearbook

Once again this year we are producing a Werribee Primary School yearbook. It will comprise of 60+ A4 full colour pages, in a professionally printed and bound book. Content will include highlights of the school year, as well a page dedicated to each grade of their class highlights. Class photos of ALL grades will also be included in each book. These are a great memento for your children to keep as a reminder of their time at Werribee Primary School. The price of the yearbook will be $18 each. Orders due by Thursday November 14th.

2013 Yearbook Order Form – Return to office with payment by 14th November

Student Name: _____________________________
Grade: _____________________________
Number of books required: _________
Amount paid ($18 per book): _________
We are working on 2 exciting projects this weekend for our November Working Bee. Many hands will assist these works to be started and developed further.

These projects are:

1) Numeracy/Indigenous Garden: this is to be the “theme” of the garden that will surround the 5/6 play area at the back of the oval on the Deutgam and Wedge Street corner.
   - we are planting a variety of plants that are indigenous to the Werribee Plains area
   - mulching around the areas where we have planted
   - positioning a mosaic snake and planting local grasses around it

2) Further development of our vegetable/food garden area (near the gym) through the assistance of Bronwyn Riddell—who has worked in schools to establish and develop food gardens. The school was successful in receiving funding from the council (through their Healthy Communities Initiative) and as part of that funding Bronwyn is able to give her time to the school as well as purchase soil and plants for this area. On Saturday she be will attending the Working Bee and is seeking volunteers to help with digging over the garden area and spreading new soil in preparation for our students to start planting vegetables.

If you are able to spare some time on Saturday and assist us with either of these projects, your help would be greatly appreciated ……. so please come along and join us.

Many thanks for your help.
Rosemary Doherty and Jo Wembridge
(Ph: 9742 6659)

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Please fill in and return to the school by Friday 8th November 2013

| Working Bee: Saturday November 9th 9:00 -11:00am | ☐ Yes, I am able to help out at the Working Bee. |
---|---|
| Name:_______________________________________ | Child & Grade: __________________________ |
| Number of persons helping: __________ | |
| ☐ 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 |

4/10
P-2 Athletics Carnival

Last Wednesday saw the weather being kind to us and the prep to grade two students showing off their athletic skills and having a whole lot of fun.

The activities were traditional athletic events as well as the less traditional!

Helen Johnson
PE Teacher P-2
Nude Food News

With no assembly this week, the Best Nude Food Grade Awards were announced by Kye Arbaci and Alannah Inglis over the school speaker. The winning grades were:

Prep S – 53%  1/2G – 50%  3/4 J - 55%  5/6 L - 35%

Congratulations to our nude food trophy winners 3/4 J with 55% of their grade with a nude food lunch box. 5/6 S have set the bar high with 96%. The challenge is on to find the grade that can have every student in their grade with a nude food lunch box and gain the magic number of 100%!

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>31%</th>
<th>30%</th>
<th>36%</th>
<th>55%</th>
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<td>Prep M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep P</td>
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Fact: About 400 kilograms of waste is produced by each Australian household every year.

Recycling one aluminium can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.

Keep saving to win more Dollarmites’ treasure!

The Dollarmites have found treasure washed ashore on Savings Adventure Island and want to share it with you. They’re giving away 60 x Apple iPod touch 16GB and 100 x Kid’s Adventure DVD Pack including Despicable Me, Despicable Me 2 & HOP.

For your chance to win, simply make two or more School Banking deposits from 21 October to 30 November and you’ll automatically be entered into the competition. For more information, visit commbank.com.au/adventureisland

Things to know before you enter: Apple is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Apple is not a participant or sponsor of the promotion. NES Permit No. 17P5/135/443, ACT Permit No. 17/1352/26, SA Permit No. 113/510. Competition opens 21/10/13 and closes 30/11/13. Winners will be drawn on 14/12/13 at 12:00pm AEDST, Level 26, 11 Harbour Street, Sydney NSW 2000 from all entries received. Individual prizes are an Apple iPod touch valued at $249.95 and a DVD Pack valued at $74. The Promoter is Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 46 123 153 104, Level 26, 11 Harbour Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Full terms and conditions at commbank.com.au/adventureisland
Have you visited our school’s blog?
The site is a celebration of our students work in and out of the school. We have posted work and photos from Prep to grade 6 students. The school captains are also posting information on the blog; they would love to receive feedback.
http://werribeeps.global2.vic.edu.au

The students love receiving comments about their work,
Happy Blogging ☺☺ ☺☺

CANTEEN ROSTER – TERM 4, 2013

Wed 13th November  Karyn McEachran, Joanne Richards, Kym Dunn, Anna Richards
Wed 20th November   Tammy Brennan, Mandy Courtney, Jane Puli, Pauline Oakes
Wed 27th November   Deb Cowton, Michelle Bailey, Penny Hendricksen, Judy Puli, Pauline Oakes
Wed 4th December    Karyn McEachran, Joanne Richards, Kym Dunn, Leanne Gosling,
Wed 11th December   Tammy Brennan, Mandy Courtney, Nicola Saxon-Jones, Judy Puli, Pauline Oakes

November is Walk to School month. Walking, cycling or scooting to school is a fantastic way to develop fitness. Walking is also a great way for:
• children to get to know their local areas better and meet other children and adults in the neighbourhood
• children to pick up the safety skills and confidence they'll need to travel independently as they get older
• communities to cut the traffic congestion, noise, and air pollution caused by our reliance on cars.
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KUMON

MATHEMATICS – ENGLISH

• Assist your child to:
  • Advance beyond the level of their school curriculum
  • Improve fundamental learning skills
  • Form solid study habits and self-confidence

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Clifford was a surprise guest at the Book Fair!
How do you make friends when you’re busy studying insects?

Help your child on the autism spectrum build friendships by learning about non-verbal cues, writes Angelica Rose

“I get by with a little help from my friends”

The Beatles had it right when they sang these words. We all need a little help from our friends from time to time. Friendship enriches our lives, helps us get through the tough times and celebrate the good times. It’s well established that children who have even one friend throughout their school years will handle transitions and stress better and are less susceptible to bullying. Children and adolescents with high-functioning autism spectrum disorders (the ‘spectrum’) can struggle to make friends, potentially making the social world more confusing and overwhelming for them.

Many children on the spectrum want to make and maintain friendships, but don’t know how to go about it in a socially appropriate way. I have spoken to many parents over the years who describe their own sadness and frustration as they watch their child make social attempts which are either ignored or openly rejected by other children. Or they observe their child not noticing or responding to offers of friendship.

Being on the spectrum affects a child’s ability to understand ‘theory of mind’ which, put simply, is a person’s ability to understand that someone else has different thoughts and feelings to you. This translates into the playground in the challenge a child can have with understanding that another boy wants to play with the trucks in the sandpit while he or she is completely consumed by his/her interest in insects.

Donna Williams, famous author, autism consultant and self described ‘autie’, likes being autistic to being on one track, whereas the rest of us ‘neurotypicals’ (those not on the spectrum) can multi-track. This means that she finds it challenging to talk with another person while noticing that person’s non-verbal cues simultaneously. In face-to-face communication, research has shown that non-verbal communication makes up a significant amount of all messages sent and received between people, with words making up the rest.

Do you remember learning how to recognise facial expressions? Many of these skills are learnt naturally through play at an early age. Most of us neurotypicals notice others’ cues while we are speaking and can respond to them appropriately, usually without much conscious effort. For people on the spectrum, it is often not so easy.

The good news is that children on the spectrum can learn to recognise and respond to non-verbal cues. If they do, it becomes easier for them to notice and respond to an offer of play, even when they’ve been studying their favourite insect!
Greetings: a great place to start learning about non-verbal cues

Greetings are a natural and integral part of our social world and relationships, and while it may seem obvious to us neurotypicals, it may not be so for a child on the spectrum. Greetings are actually incredibly complex. There are many factors that affect the way a greeting is made: your relationship with the person, any age difference, the situation, the length of time since you’ve seen that person. For example, do I have to say hello again to my friend who I walked past in the classroom two hours ago? How much eye contact should I make? All this is a lot to take in and make a decision on in an instant!

One of my students once asked me, “Why should I say hello to someone when they say hello to me?” This is a really good question. It’s helpful to explain to a child why it’s important to respond to a greeting. A simple, logical answer is that one day you might want to play with that child, or have to do a project together, so it’s good to say hello back to them. It’s part of positive relationship building. Sometimes a child might not respond to a greeting because they haven’t processed the words and situation quickly enough to respond, but with practice it becomes easier.

Here are some tips on helping a child on the spectrum become more aware of non-verbal cues.

- **Notice how the child communicates when greeting people:** If you notice a difference between the child’s expression and the message they are intending to send, then have a chat with him/her about their messages.

  **Tip:** Once a week have a chat about a social situation that recently occurred. For example, “I noticed you didn’t respond to the other kid when he said hello. What happened there?”

- **Notice how you communicate when greeting others:** A parent is the most important person in a child’s life and modelling good communication yourself will go a long way towards helping a child.

  **Tip:** Once a week ask the child to see if they can guess how you are feeling when you greet them after school. For example, you may have smiled and made eye contact even though you were feeling tired after a long day.

- **Have a chat about other people’s communication:** Noticing how other people communicate is an effective and powerful way to help a child become more aware of the non-verbal cues that occur between people.

  **Tip:** A fun activity could be to watch 10 minutes of a TV show together and then discuss how the characters greeted each other and why.

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Angelica Rose

Founder and principal of Voice and Movement, an organisation dedicated to helping children make and maintain friendships. For the past 11 years, her unique Drama for Everyday Life Program has been delivering social skills in a practical and fun way to children and adolescents with Asperger’s Syndrome and high functioning autism, with outstanding results. For your invitation to a free information evening and other events email

- info@voiceandmovement.com.au
- www.voiceandmovement.com.au
- 03 9890 0728