Dear Parents,

THANK YOU
Thank you to the wonderful Werribee PS community who gave 100% support to our school yesterday enabling our staff to attend fellow staff member Maria Giacomelli’s funeral. It was indeed a very sad day for Maria’s family and for our staff and community members who attended the service. The school was also very well supported by the Principals of the following local schools, who willingly offered staff to Werribee PS to assist: Manor Lakes College, Truganina South PS, Iramoo PS, Thomas Chirnside PS, Werribee SC, Cambridge PS, Baden Powell College, Manorvale PS, Warringa Park SDS and Wyndham Park PS.

A special thank you is extended to Mr Jason Smallwood, Principal of Manor Lakes P-12 College and Ms Bev Thompson, Principal of Thomas Chirnside who shared the task of remaining on the Werribee PS site during the day, along with office staff from Manor Lakes College. It was indeed very comforting to know that help was available at short notice, particularly given the complications faced by Principals in having to manage the state wide stop work day. However, this help, in the end, was not needed for the task of supervising children, due to all of our families managing to make alternative arrangements for the care of their children on this day. For this we are most grateful to the Werribee PS parents and guardians.

ASSEMBLY
Please note that Friday afternoon’s assembly was cancelled (15th February). A text message was sent to the parent community informing them of the cancellation. This will give the staff and children some time to prepare tributes for Maria at next week’s assembly.

DISRUPTION
The current industrial climate is certainly having impact on the school. Whilst we have been hopeful that these issues would have been resolved by now, and remain hopeful for a resolution in the near future, it is important to note that the majority our staff will be working to the 38 hour week rule. As a result, many of our staff will be unlikely to arrive at school until 8:40am and will be likely to leave school at 3:40pm, apart from the afternoons when meetings have been scheduled. With this in mind, please be aware that the staff have been and will be working together, in a collaborative manner to prioritise their work to ensure the quality of teaching and learning continues at Werribee PS. However, with the restricted work hours in operation, we encourage parents to
please contact the school, via the office, if you need to speak to your child’s teacher in order for such meetings to be scheduled efficiently. To arrange to speak with your child’s teacher, please phone (9742 6659) or send an email to the following address: werribee.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Please note that supervision of children at Werribee PS does not begin until 8:40am. Before school care is available on site for parents and guardians who require supervision for their children prior to 8:40am. Please visit the following website for information and bookings:
www.werribeeps.vic.edu.au

HOWEVER........................ THE YEAR 5/6 CAMP IS GOING AHEAD
Despite the industrial action, I am pleased to announce that the year 5/6 Camp will be going ahead in the final week of term one 2013. A separate note will be sent out today to parents and guardians of year 5/6 children, informing them of this good news and seeking return slips to find out student numbers attending, which will assist with the organisation and costing of the camp. Apologies for the delay in sharing this news with the community, as the decision to run year 5/6 camp has been very much impacted on by the industrial action. The school has however, managed ways for this to go ahead. We appreciate your patience and understanding on this matter.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION
As mention in the previous Owl, our school council election process and call for nominations has begun. A separate note was sent home last Monday outlining the following details of this process:

- Nomination forms for the positions (outlined below) may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4:00pm next Monday 18th February. A ballot will be called if more nominations are received than the positions available.
- A ballot, if needed, will close at 4:00pm on Monday 25th February 2013.
- Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013 to and</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013 to and</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

SWIMMING TRIALS
Congratulations to the children who participated in the swimming trials last Tuesday. These trials were held to help determine the team that will be participating in the inter school competition coming up later in the term. The list of children who will be taking part in the SSVWD Swimming Carnival is now up on the door of the gymnasium. Notes will be going home shortly. Thank you to Mrs Staehr for her organisation of these events.

Sue Osborne
Acting Principal