WERRIBEE PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 649

The Owl
Owl No. 17  30th October 2014

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

Principal’s Report

Principal’s Awards
Congratulations to the following student who has received a Principal’s Award:

Week 3
Goolied Yousuf (5M)  supporting a WELS student, showing great strength of character in making things right.

A Big Thank You
We have been very busy over the last couple of weeks with lots of activities and below are just a few messages of appreciation of people’s efforts and time.

• Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
A special thank you goes out to Rosemary Doherty, Laura Filippin, Janeane Davidson, Penny Hendricksen, Naomi Cochrane, Leanne Robertson, Narelle Wietschorke and Sam Reynolds who volunteered their time and efforts at Bunnings on Saturday, 18th October cooking and selling sausages, drinks and chocolates. Their efforts raised close to $2000 for our school.

• Working Bee
Thank you to all those families who helped at our Working Bee on Sunday 19th October. The school looked fantastic after their efforts. A special mention to Rosemary Doherty and Jo-anne Wembridge for organising and coordinating the morning.

• Our School Fete
Last Saturday, 25th October was a sensational community event with our Fete. From the conversations I’ve had with many students, parents and visitors on the day, people thoroughly enjoyed themselves. An extra special thank you goes out to Kate Murphy and Sam Reynolds for their organisation and planning of the day and to their support team of volunteers. Also thank you to everyone who came to the fete in support of our school. In the end the money raised is for our students and we appreciate everyone’s support. Thank you.

Welcome Back Campers
Welcome back to our students and staff who have been away at Somers Camp for the last nine days. We hope you had a wonderful time and we look forward to hearing of your adventures. Somers School Camp is a DEECD school, located on the shores of Westernport, 90kms south-east of Melbourne in Victoria, Australia. It has been operating since 1959 and provides a nine day residential camping experience, catering for Year 5 & 6 students in State Government Schools, across Victoria. The nine day camp provided opportunities for 17 of our students from Years 5 and 6 and two of our staff (Katie Scarrott & Ben Millar) to participate in a program that blends a range
of outdoor and environmental education activities, in a safe and secure learning environment with 140 other students from our local region.

Class Formation for 2015
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 2015 school year, please encourage them to contact the school for an interview.

Curriculum Days for 2015
The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) allows all government schools to hold four curriculum days per year. Curriculum days are pupil free days which allow the staff to work together on planning and professional development activities. School Council has approved the following dates for 2015 as curriculum days:
- Wednesday 28th January
- Thursday 29th January
- Monday 16th February
- Friday 5th June
This means that the first day for students to return to school in 2015 is Friday 30th January. Please put these dates into your diary.

Have a fantastic fortnight.
David Quinn
Principal
Remembrance Day is Tuesday 11th November.
On Tuesday 11th before recess, the school captains will conduct a commemorative service over the PA system for students and staff.
We invite students to bring flowers or wreaths to school on the day to lay at the flag pole during the service. Poppies will also be for sale 3rd -11th November at 20¢ each.

WORKING BEE – SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2014
The school looks better because of your willingness to give up a couple of hours of your time.
Thank you to the following staff, children and families for attending the working bee on last Sunday week:

David Quinn, Janeane Davidson and Jessica Evans, Jo and Rob Wembridge, Emily Taylor, Sharon Cochrane, Lah Bwe Htee Ku Weeku and Eh Htoo Wah, Taday Kunoo, Peter Hume, Meredith and Ashley Schellhorn, Eh Si Yo, TuNa and The Me Chaw, Adrian and Beau Joyce, Aimee, Liam and Ryan Streeter and Noel, Aaron and Madelyn Savory