Vision and Values

At White Hills Primary School we are committed to providing students with tools for lifelong learning. We foster a climate which enables students to be adaptable learners and contribute productively in our constantly changing society.

Calendar of Events

**Term 1 21st January - Thursday 28th March**

**Week 8**
- Friday 22nd March: Term 2 commences
- Friday 22nd March: School Aerobics payment due today
- Friday 22nd March: Easter Raffle money/tickets due today
- Friday 22nd March: Gr 1 Excursion notes due today
- Friday 22nd March: Return PMP helpers reply slip today

**Week 9**
- Monday 25th March: Easter Raffle/Colouring comp drawn
- Wednesday 27th March: Preps attending
- Wednesday 27th March: Gr 1/2 Fairytale dress up day
- Thursday 28th March: Gr 1 Excursion to Hargreaves Mall 9am
- Thursday 28th March: Gr 1’s must wear school uniform
- Thursday 28th March: Out of Uniform Day
- Thursday 28th March: Parent Club Breaky ‘The Coffee Club’
- Thursday 28th March: Out of Uniform Day

**Thursday 28th March**
- Term 1 ends - 2.30pm dismissal
- Good Friday

**Term 2 Monday 15th April - Friday 28th June**

- Monday 15th April: Term 2 commences
- Wednesday 17th April: Parent Club Meeting 9.00am
- Friday 19th April: Footsteps Dance Program 9am-12.50pm
- Monday 22nd April: PMP Session 2.30pm-3.30pm
- Tuesday 23rd April: -Friday 3rd May: Scholaristic Book Fair
- Thursday 25th April: Anzac Day Holiday
- Friday 26th April: Footsteps Dance Program 9am-12.50pm
- Wednesday 1st May: School Photo Day
- Thursday 2nd May: Alpha Productions - Aladdin
- Thursday 2nd May: Grade 6 Leadership Conference
- Friday 3rd May: Footsteps Dance Program 9am-12.50pm
- Wednesday 8th May: Weeruona College Info Night 7.00pm
- Thursday 9th May: Mother’s/Special Person Day Stall
- Friday 10th May: Gr 3-6 District Athletics Sports
- Friday 10th May: Footsteps Dance Program 9am-12.50pm
- Saturday 11th May: Preliminary Aerobic Final Geelong
- Thursday 16th May: SC Finance Meeting 5.30pm
- Thursday 16th May: Footsteps Disco 6.00pm-8.30pm
- Friday 17th May: Bendigo Multi Instrumental Comps
- Friday 17th May: Footsteps Dance Program 9am-12.50pm
- Monday 20th May: Environment/Curriculum Meeting 6.30pm
- Monday 20th May: SC Meeting 7.00pm
- Tuesday 21st May: Open Day 9.00am-3.30pm
- Tuesday 21st May: Prep 2014 Info Morning 10.00-11.00am
- Tuesday 21st May: Prep 2014 Info Night 7.00-8.15pm
- Wednesday 22nd May: Grade 3-6 Division Cross Country
- Monday 10th June: Queen’s Birthday Holiday
- Friday 21st June: Bendigo Choir Competition
- Saturday 22nd June: State Aerobic Final Geelong

**Term 3 Monday 15th July - Friday 20th September**

- Tuesday 23rd July: Getting Ready for School 7.00pm
- Friday 26th July: Music is Fun Band 11.30am-3.30pm
- Tuesday 30th July: Getting Ready for School 7.00pm
- Monday 12th August: All Day Rehearsal School Production
- Tuesday 13th August: School Production – Kids at Sea
- Wednesday 14th August: School Production – Kids at Sea
- Thursday 15th August: School Production – Kids at Sea
- Thursday 22nd August: Book Week performance

Principal's Report

**Senior Athletics Day: Thank You**

Thank you to our parent volunteers who assisted with the Grade 3-6 athletics and the cooking of the barbeque lunch.

**End of Term Dismissal**

Students will be dismissed at 2.30pm next **Thursday, 28th March**. We will have lunch from 1.30pm until 2.30pm, but due to DEECD regulations, we are unable to dismiss students until 2.30pm. However, parents may collect children at 1.30pm if they wish.

Please make sure you sign out your child/children before taking them home if you leave early.

**Start Date Term 2**

Term 2 begins on Monday, 15th April.

**Footsteps Dance Program: First Week of Term 2**

Parents are reminded that our Footsteps Dance program will begin in the first week of Term 2. Each year we endeavour to spread Special Events across the school year to assist with payment. If you have not pre-paid for Special Events, or signed over your EMA to the school, you will need to make full payment by Wednesday, 17th April (first Wednesday in Term 2). This is in line with the school’s excursion policy. Footsteps Dance Program will involve five sessions at school over five Fridays, beginning **Friday, 19th April**. The cost is $12.00 per child. A student disco also takes place at the end of the program. Please enclose payment in a school envelope and drop off in the letter box in the office.

Parents should note that these programs are part of the school’s curriculum and all children are expected to attend.

Some of our students having fun at the athletics sports yesterday
Congratulations to our birthday children

Teach Your Child To Bounce Back From Life’s Uncertainties. Part 1: A selection from an article by Alison Campbell

Rate

A sense of disappointment and rejection can be very distressing for children and as parents we hate to see them suffer. This generation of parents is trying to protect children more and more from life’s disappointments and difficulties. Ironically by doing this we make it harder for them to cope successfully and increase the vulnerable child’s chances of being hit by depression. According to Seligman, author of The Optimistic Child, a key contributor to the high level of depression found in children is the avoidance of feelings such as anger, sadness and anxiety- wrongly described as “bad” feelings.

Without opportunities to confront uncomfortable feelings children do not learn how to deal with them. For example, the parent who buys the younger child a toy to compensate for his sister having a birthday party denies him the opportunity to develop essential coping skills such as tolerating frustration and disappointment. Rather than teach your child to avoid uncomfortable feelings, teach him to recognise them as valuable signals that here is an opportunity for personal mastery. This brings a sense of optimism even when experiences are difficult.

School Photos
School photos will be taken on Wednesday, 1st May. Individual and Family order forms will be distributed at the beginning of Term 2.

Open Day, Information Morning and Night
Open Day and Information Morning and Night at White Hills Primary School will be held during Education Week. Open Day, on Tuesday 21st May from 9.00am – 3.30pm, is an opportunity for parents, grandparents and friends to visit their child’s class. It is also a great time for new parents to see our school in action and speak to Prep teachers about the terrific programs available at our school.

A morning Information Session will be held in the school library on Tuesday, 21st May at 10.00-11.00am, and an evening session at 7.00pm –8.15pm. These information sessions are especially designed for 2014 Prep parents interested in choosing a school for their child or have already chosen White Hills Primary. Childcare is available at both these sessions.

Promoting Our School
We have found that the best way to promote our school to new families is through you, our parents. If you know anyone moving into our area, has a child attending your child’s pre-school or who has a Prep child for next year and has not chosen a school for their child, talk to them about our school and please invite them to attend the above information sessions. Perhaps you could come with them to help them feel more comfortable. Remember that you, our parents, are the best ambassadors for our school.

School Nurse Visit
Leona Evans, our Primary School Nurse, is currently visiting our school to do health checks on our Preps and referred children. There is no cost for the service. The School Nurse can be accessed at any time throughout the year.

Mr Damien Jenkyn
Principal

ART NEWS
Art Awards
Prep K Very Creative 3D puppet making and great manners
2BK Amazing hand prints
3/4H Excellent behavior and great paint shades
3/4G Improved listening and behavior in the Art Room
SOCIAL SERVICE

Out of Uniform Day: Thursday, 28th March
We are holding an ‘Out of Uniform’ day on the last day of Term 1, Thursday, 28th March. You are reminded to please dress in sun smart clothes, being T-shirt with covered in shoulders and covered shoes, no singlet tops. All students participating are asked to bring along a gold coin donation. Money raised will go towards the State Schools Relief Annual Winter Appeal which directly helps our children in need.

Mrs Sue Baker

MUSIC/DRAMA NEWS

Choir/Multi Instrumental Bands
The Choir and Senior MI Band have been entered into the Bendigo Competitions for 2013 and the dates for the two events are, Primary School’s Instrumental Band Section: Friday 17th of May and Primary School Choir Section: Friday 21st of June. Both events are held at the Strathdale Hall in Crook Street Bendigo.

Children Starting Private Music Lessons
I received an article recently that had some very good tips for parents of children starting music lessons for the first time. Some of the points were excellent and well worth considering. Firstly, some children have high levels of anxiety or frustration when they first start as they don’t seem to be able to have the same skill level as the teacher. The teacher makes it look so easy and they can’t copy that. Explain to your child that it will take some time to get to that level and to recognise that the teacher has spent many years practising their skills. Secondly, get the children to set small achievable goals to keep them interested, ie by the end of the month to be able to play a set piece all the way through. Lastly give them opportunity to perform for others so they stay motivated. It is very important if we are to have resilient children that they will stick with things and not drop out as soon as it becomes a bit boring or they lose interest. They should realise that you have made a financial contribution to help them learn a skill and they should reward you with some persistence. If parents would like a full copy of the article they should contact me.

Mr Wall
Music/Drama Teacher

PARENTS CLUB & FUNDRAISING NEWS

Sausage Sizzle/Hot Cross Bun Day, Thank You
Thank you to those parents who helped out with the sausage sizzle on our sports day yesterday and to our parents who helped out this morning with our hot cross bun distribution. We very much appreciate your assistance.

Easter Colouring Competition
First Prize will be awarded to Prep, Grade 1/2, 3/4, 5/6 areas. $1.00 entry. Competition closes Monday, 18th March. Winners will be announced on Monday, 25th March at assembly.

Easter Raffle: Return Raffle Books and Money TOMORROW
Thank you to the families that have returned their raffle books and money. All books and money and any unsold tickets are to be returned to the office by TOMORROW Friday, 22nd March. The Easter raffle will be drawn on Monday, 25th March at assembly.

End of Term Breaky: Thursday, 28th March
Breakfast get together for all parents will be held at ‘The Coffee Club’ near Target underneath the new car park. Come along after you drop your kids off!!

Next Parent Club Meeting
Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17th April at 9.00am. We welcome all parents.
Preps
Prep Attendance
The Prep children are now attending school for the full week. However, if you find that your child becomes tired let them have a sleep-in if necessary and bring them to school at a later time. Some parents may prefer to pick up their child at lunchtime for a rest but remember to tell the class teacher and sign your child out at the office. If you have any concerns with your child at school please see your child’s teacher to arrange an interview time.

Prep Perceptual Motor Program (PMP)
PMP will commence on Monday, 22nd April the second Monday of Term 2, from 2.30 to 3.30pm. These specialised sessions greatly benefit the Preps’ gross and fine motor coordination and concentration skills. However, parent/grandparent help is essential on a regular basis to ensure these small group tasks function effectively. Activities are organised by teachers, are explained to parents and are simple to operate. A notice asking for parent help for this important program was sent home this week. If you can help please return the reply slip to a Prep teacher by Friday, 22nd March

Prep Teacher Planning Day
On Monday the Prep teachers will spend from 10.00am-3.30pm planning together for next term’s activities. During this time the Prep children will be having a great day of activities with the Specialist teachers doing Art, French, Music, Physical Education and other fun activities while the Prep teachers have to work hard.

Language Hint For The Week
From an article written by Paul Jennings - an author who has written many books for boys.

Fathers that read and write at home provide a good role model for boys. Neuroscientists have found that much of the way children behave is based on imitation. Fathers who read are likely to have sons who read. It doesn't matter what the reading material is. It can be car magazines, newspapers, novels, sport's books, etc. Just by reading for pleasure the father shows that this is something that men do by choice. It tells a boy that books are part of the male culture and may be read with pride. This is why it is important for men to join in the reading of the nightly bedtime story. Reading a story aloud is a wonderful bonding activity and expression of love. But when a father reads, it is also an example of a masculine activity.

Prep Reading
We would appreciate help with listening to children read between 9.00-9.30am on any school day. Pre-schoolers are welcome to come into the classrooms while parents & grandparents hear readers.

Pupil Of The Week
Congratulations to Joshua D, Rahya Z, Lincon A and Jasmine H, our Prep ‘Pupils of the Week’ for this week. These Preps are enthusiastic and helpful in class and making lots of new friends with their great getting along skills. Well done!

Language Hint For The Week
There is good data to show that the more often you sit around a dining room table and have a conversation around a meal, the better the language development of children. Children are sitting in front of televisions more and computers playing computer games. It’s dinner in front of the television and video games before bed. These societal changes have resulted in some children having less exposure to talk and less practise talking to others. Some speech problems result from biological factors with children having difficulties with correctly hearing or producing sounds but there has been an increased number of children with speech delays that could be helped through interaction and talk with others. (Comments from child psychologist Michael Carr-Gregg.)

Prep Reading
We would appreciate help listening to children read between 9.00am and 9.30am on any school day. Pre-schoolers are welcome to come into the classrooms while parents and grandparents hear readers.

Grade 1/2
Students of the Week
1A – Blake C for always being a superstar worker!
1CW- Taneeka M for being organised and remembering to bring her reader to school everyday
1P- Cooper K for trying hard to concentrate during learning time
1S- Sophie M for trying hard to make new friends to play with outside
2 BK- Finley M for working hard to finish maths books
2 R- Vanessa R for her confident, neat writing
2W- Claudia W for trying her best to work out her maths sums

Reading At Home
It is important that all children read their take home reader to an adult each night. This gives them an opportunity to rehearse the strategies and skills they learn at school. After hearing your child read please fill in their reading journal with the book they’ve read and a small positive comment.
Spelling Books
All grade 1 and 2’s have received their spelling books and will bring them home each week with 5 words to learn. These words need to be practised more than once and there is a list of activities in the books that give ideas of how you can help. They need to be returned each week so teachers can test your child and give them their next week’s words.

Grade One Excursion: Return Notes Tomorrow
On the last day of term, Thursday 28th March, the Grade One’s are going into Hargreaves Mall for the opening of the new playground. Notes have been sent home with all the details and need to be returned by TOMORROW. We are leaving at 9.00am so all students will need to be at school on time. Students will need to wear school uniform and their school hat, a healthy snack is being provided by the Bendigo Council so students will not need to bring food.

Fairytale Day
On Wednesday, 27th March the level 2 students will be having a day where we rotate around different fairytale activities. We would love for all students to dress as their favourite fairytale character. Please don’t go out and buy costumes, homemade costumes such as cardboard crowns and wands are fine.

Junior School Teachers

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Camp Helpers
We are still seeking ‘expression of interest’ from parents wishing to help during our camps in Term 4.

Yard Incidents
Over the past few weeks there have been incidents in the yard which were not reported to the teacher on yard duty. When students speak of the incident to their family after school there is often a level of anxiety. From our experience there are often ‘two sides’ to a story and what may have been quickly sorted via the restorative process takes longer to work through. We have a clear policy and processes to deal with all concerns and strongly encourage our students to report incidents when they occur. We ask that parents also encourage their children to report any issues straight away to the duty teacher or their classroom teacher.

Destination Success
This term, as part of our time allocated to the completion of tasks, we have focused on organisational skills. This has included a regular tub tidy to sort books into their correct folders and encouraging students to be ready to learn by making sure they have materials such as pencils and rulers. We have noticed some students have misplaced these and are asking for replacements before the beginning of Term 2.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
WHPS will again be taking part in this challenge. We strongly encourage as many students in the 3/4 area to take part. Our Student Reading Journals have a specific section set aside to record details. More information is provided elsewhere in the newsletter.

Students of the Week
3/4 W – Jay P. – for ‘working tough’ and concentrating on his work and getting it done. Congratulations and keep up the great work.
3/4 N – Layla D. – for her consistent hard and beautifully presented work.
3/4 H – Matthew D. – for a great start to WHPS and for writing a very persuasive text that had the whole class laughing!
3/4 K – Breanna S. – for her fantastic work all week and trying her hardest.

Middle School Teachers

Congratulations to all our students who participated in the Gr 3-6 sports yesterday
UPPER SCHOOL NEWS

Students of the Week
5B Chelsea K for having a really positive attitude towards the challenges she faces.
5T Aedan H for his consistent class work and attempt to improve himself.
5P Caitlin K for always using her time wisely to complete work to a high standard.
5S Nikita R for always being organised and using her class time effectively.
6G Jacob O for his fantastic work ethic and organised homework routine.
6R Daniel B for for the careful thought he puts into the presentation of his work.
6M Laura CC for always getting her work completed in the set time frame and having great presentation.

Camp Notes
Earlier in the week Grade 5 and 6 students were given notes about camp in Term 4. These notes explained the cost of each camp and the date for the non-refundable $40 deposit. Students need to make the deposit payment to guarantee their place on our end of year camps. Attached to these notes was the WHPS Camps Policy, please read the policy carefully and ask your child’s teacher to clarify any confusing points.

Learning Portfolios
Your child’s learning portfolio will come home on Monday afternoon. Please take the time to look at your child’s work and sign the comment form before returning the Learning Portfolio.

Senior School Teachers

Some more sports shots

SICK BAY ROSTER
Friday, 22nd March  Judy Nicholls
Thursday, 28th March  Katie Clark

Please collect linen from the office

CANTEEN ROSTER
Friday, 22nd March  Nicole Logan
                      Paula Spivey
                      Dianne Egan
                      Carolyn Wilson
                      Good Friday

Wednesday, 27th March
Friday, 29th March

Banana Milk now available.
Popcorn only available on lunch order days – order with lunch and collect from canteen

Helpers to arrive at 12.30pm
All orders are to be written on a large paper lunch bag, (NO ENVELOPES), one per child please.
Lunch bags are available for 10 for 60c or 10c each, with lunch orders and will be sent home.

Urgent Reminder: If you are unable to assist with canteen duty, please arrange a swap or inform the office so that a replacement helper can be arranged.

Mrs Helen Williams, Canteen Manager

UNIFORM SHOP
Tuesday, 19th March  Karen Hawthorne
Friday, 22nd March  Anna Russell
Tuesday, 26th March  Claire Brown
Friday, 29th March  Good Friday

2013 Opening Times
Tuesday 9.05am – 9.35am and Friday 9.05am – 9.35am

Team Leaders
Julie Sens, Leigh Taylor and Kim Engi

Orders can be left at the office anytime

NEWSLETTER ROSTER
Thursday, 28th March  Kate Nichols
Thursday, 18th April  Samantha Franklin

Please arrive 2.30pm
Help Needed
Unwell mother needs help transporting 3 children to and from school from Botanical Drive Epsom. Please contact Lesley on 5441 2491 ASAP if you would like to help.

Lost
Female 3½ month old kitten called Narla, black with a white smiley face on her tummy.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Epsom Soccer Club Meet The Coach Day
When: Sunday 24th March 2013
Place: Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve
Time: 5.00pm
Any further information please contact the Junior Coordinator: Robyn Braszell 0488393788 robynbras@gmail.com

National Ride2School Day: Friday, 22nd March 2013
National Ride2School Day is only 3 short weeks away. It's a day where students from over 1,500 Australian schools will ride, walk, scoot or skate, many trying it for the first time. Don't miss out on your chance to join in the celebrations and show your school community you're committed to a healthy lifestyle.

Steam Trains For Kids
Family Railway Fun at MALDON STATION Saturday, 13th / Sunday 14th April. Train Rides - Steam & Diesel, Animal Farm. Model Railway. Clown on board. Novelty Rides, Sausage Sizzle. Horse Cart Rides. Great Family Day From 10.00am

Ironbark Riding Centre
$55.00 for the entire day, including a BBQ lunch. Riding lessons, trail rides, mounted games, trained staff, fully insured. We specialise in beginners Phone 54361565 or 0427084437 or email ironbarkhorses@hotmail.com

Cruden Farm Family Fun Charity Fundraising Day
To be held on Sunday 28th April 11.00am-4.00pm 60 Cranbourne Rd, Langwarrin. Supplying all kinds of food, fair games, live music, car show and Australian Carriage Driving Society.
You are supporting the Mental Health Foundation if you support this day.

Bendigo YWCA School Holiday Program
The Bendigo YWCA is once again running their School Holiday Program. The YWCA is a not-for-profit organisation and the program has a focus on having fun, meeting new people and learning new things. We are a small program with a maximum of 30 children attending each day emphasising the safety, security and value of each child.
For more information, or to make a booking, please contact us through our website at www.ywca.net or directly on 5443 5465. There are also copies of the Program available to pick up from the school office.

Wanted: Primary School Students for Netball
The White Hills Football Netball Club seeks 2-3 Primary School students (girls or boys) to play in their Primary Grade throughout the 2013 season. The Primary Grade is a non-competitive grade of netball, focusing on fun, learning to play all positions on the court and development of the basic skills of the game. Our club is a family club, fielding both senior and junior netball and football teams in the Heathcote & District Netball Association/Heathcote & District Football League. Our season commences on Saturday 13th April.
Should you have any questions or have a child interested in playing in the Primary Grade team please feel free to contact:
- Claire Flood – Primary Grade Coach on 0408 469 493 or;
- Melissa Harrington – Netball President on 0423 801 869.

Having fun at the sports yesterday