Message from the Principal

Last week saw the final Kindergarten Orientation visit to our school by the eager little children who will be wearing our Westlawn PS uniform next year. They are a delightful group of students and we look forward to seeing them here in 2015. Each year our enrolments are increasingly strong due to the very positive reputation our school has for providing strong educational opportunities, a caring and inclusive learning environment, and a school which has a very supportive school community.

Major Excursions
I have had fabulous feedback about the two major excursions last week, with students in Years 5 and 6 having shown exemplary behaviour. I spoke on the phone to one of the leading teachers at Lake Ainsworth who said that of the hundreds of schools that go to Lake Ainsworth he would rate our students in the top group of schools for behaviour and friendliness. Well done Year 5! Our Year 6 students were equally as highly regarded at the venues in Canberra. Well done Year 6! My thanks to the accompanying teachers Mrs Anderson, Mr Alford, Ms McKenna and Mr Jones for giving up their time away from their families to enable our students to have these opportunities.

Year 4 head off to Yarrahappinni tomorrow morning. Have a wonderful time Year 4!

Major P&C Raffle
Thank you to everyone who is supporting the P&C major raffle. Many families have taken extra books to sell. It is a good time to see if friends, relatives and work associates might buy some. There are great prizes to be won in the raffle:

1st prize: $1000 voucher from Cummings Birite Electrical
2nd prize: BMX bike
3rd prize: Large fluffy toy dog
4th prize: Prepaid Telstra phone

There will be incentive prizes for the students who sell the most tickets or significant amounts of tickets. There will be a sausage sizzle for the class that sells the most tickets. If your child is not able to sell the tickets, please return the book to the school so it can be reissued. All tickets need to be accounted for, so all books must be returned whether sold or not. Any child needing extra ticket books can get them from the school office. All tickets need to be returned by Friday 12th December. The raffle will be drawn at Carols by Candlelight on Tuesday 16th December.

Parent Helper Afternoon Tea
With today’s Newsletter we have included an invitation to the Parent Helper afternoon tea on Thursday 11th December at 1:30pm in the hall. We hope all those parents who have helped in any way in 2014 can come along so that we can show our appreciation for your support of our school.

Student Welfare Survey about ‘WPS Achievement and Behaviour Policy’
Thank you to all of our parents who responded to the survey we conducted on our school’s ‘Behaviour and Achievement Policy’. We received a significant number of responses. Preliminary tallying of the data shows that once again our parents are strongly supportive of the policy and its implementation, and parents believe that it supports students in developing understandings of appropriate behaviours. Thank you to the many parents who took the time to respond to the survey. We will collate all ideas and recommendations for consideration in guiding future practices.
**School Band**
We would like parents of children in Years 2 to 4 to give some thought to their child having music lessons at school in 2015. We have qualified teachers from the Conservatorium of Music who conduct lessons during school hours at Westlawn. There is a fee for lessons but it is kept low to encourage more children to take up music. We are very pleased that the number of students learning to play a musical instrument has increased this year, however we would love to build our School Band to give our students the opportunity to be enriched by music. Learning music has a positive impact on student learning in Maths and other areas, as well as great benefits to their overall wellbeing. For enquiries please phone the school office or speak with Miss Ellem.

**Presentation Day**
Presentation Day will be held on Tuesday 9th December at 11:45am. Our parents and community members are most welcome. It will be held in the Infants COLA area as usual, as our hall is unable to hold our school group of almost 500 students plus the hundreds of family members who attend. This important annual event on our school calendar recognises the outstanding achievements of many of our students.

**School Hats**
Please make sure that your child is wearing their school hat to school every day. We want children to wear them every day so that they have them if the teacher takes the class out to play a game or do an outside activity, as well as the child having it on at lunch and afternoon tea. Every child needs a school hat every day.

**Uniform Shop**
If you have any good quality second hand uniform items that could be donated to our uniform shop, Sharyn Ellem would be most appreciative. We are in short supply.

Narelle Twigg  
Principal

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**Diary Dates**

**TERM 4**

**Week 9**

Wed 3 – Fri 5 Dec  Yr 4 to Yarrahappinni

Tues 9 Dec  Presentation Day at 11:45

Wed 10 Dec  Award Assembly at 1pm

Wed 10 Dec  Canteen Meeting at 5:30pm  
P&C Meeting at 6pm

Thurs 11 Dec  Parent Helper Afternoon Tea at 1:30 pm

**Week 10**

Fri 12 Dec  Reports go home

Fri 12 Dec  Infants Ten Pin

Mon 15 Dec  Primary Ten Pin

Mon 15 Dec  Yr 6 Farewell at 6pm at the Grafton Racecourse

Tues 16 Dec  P&C Carols Night at 6pm (includes major raffle draw)

Wed 17 Dec  Students' last day

Thurs 18 Dec and Fri 19 Dec  Staff Development Day

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**Student of the Week**

Rachael Ramsay – 2G
Library News

Thank you so much to all the families that have been sending in their library books over the past week. Borrowing has now stopped for the year and we are hoping we can help all our books find their way back home for Christmas. If you see any of the missing books please drop them into one of the red boxes in front of the library.

Looking for a good book to read over the holidays? Don’t forget to check out our local library; Clarence Regional Library.

Scholastic is running a Summer Reading Challenge. Registration is quick and easy for more information please see below.

Westlawn School Band
During 2015 the Westlawn School Band will have available the following instruments: Flutes, Clarinets, Trombones, Euphonium, Saxophones, Trumpets, Drums and Bass Guitar.
The Band Program hires out the school owned instruments to those selected for band. A hire fee of $60 per year is payable for the use of the instruments. There will also be a Band fee of $40 to cover participation in Band, photocopying of music and cost of a Band tutor. This can be paid as a lump sum or $10 per term and will apply to all Band children.
If your child would like to join the Band Program in 2015, forms are available from the front office.

Westlawn Talent Quest
The Talent quest will take place on Thursday 11th December, 2014 in the school hall.

Portfolios
Please return the green Portfolio folders to the class teacher so that the Semester 1 reports can be placed in them.
Reports go home Friday 12th December.

Perpetual Trophies
If you hold a Perpetual Trophy, please return it as soon as possible.
Speech and Presentation Day this year is Tuesday 9th December.
Some exciting new sport choices will be available to our primary students in Term 1 next year. There will be six sport choices - hockey and tennis will be offered for the first time along with ten pin bowling, Gecko fitness, basketball and indoor soccer (futsal). Students participating in tennis and hockey will take a bus from school to their venues and back.

New Sports

Hockey (at the Grafton Hockey Centre Synthetic Fields, Fisher Park)

The Grafton Hockey Association Inc. will be providing Westlawn Public School students the opportunity to participate in its hockey program. The program is open to boys and girls with the goal of fun and skill development in a team environment. All sessions will be run by a nationally recognised coach ensuring a safe and holistic program. All participants will gain weekly coaching on a synthetic field providing a quality experience for all during the lead up to the regular winter season. Be part of a global sport with GHA; ‘Fun, Friendship and Family’.

All equipment is provided however participants must have their own mouth guard.

Tennis (at the Grafton City Tennis Club, Fisher Park)

The coaches from the Grafton City Tennis Club Phil and Michael Beckman are excited to offer the Hot Shots tennis program to the Westlawn Primary School. Students will be using modified balls according to their level of skill and age. All students will learn about techniques and footwork involved in improving their hand-eye-coordination. They will be introduced to game based drills in a fun and exciting atmosphere. The kids will learn through play to develop skills in real situations that happen on a tennis court.

All equipment is provided.

The other sports have been part of the Westlawn Community Sport program for many years and will continue to be offered to our students.

Gecko (at the OOSH Centre building, formally the Grafton Squash Centre)

Gecko is a complete fitness experience for kids. Students will participate in circuits, obstacle courses, motor skills and coordination activities, games and much more.

Basketball and Indoor Soccer/Futsal (both sports are played at the Grafton Sports Centre)

Ten Pin Bowling (at the Grafton Ten Pin Centre)

Sport costs: Gecko $3.50, Indoor Soccer $3.50, Basketball $3.50, Hockey $4 (including $2 bus cost), Ten Pin $5.50 ($5 if more than 30 students) and Tennis $6 (including $2 bus cost).

North Coast Sport Awards

Elliott Speed was yesterday recognised for his outstanding achievements in hockey. Elliott, along with his mother Sharyn, attended the North Coast Sport Awards function at the South Grafton Ex-Servicemens Club for a luncheon and award presentation. Primary and secondary students from the North Coast who had represented NSW in a sport were presented with a medallion and citation recording their achievements whilst playing for and representing NSW in their chosen sport.

Congratulations on you outstanding achievements in hockey this year Elliott.
The End of Year Treat Day for **INFANTS** students will be held on **Friday 12\(^{th}\) December**.
The End of Year Treat Day for **PRIMARY** students will be held on **Monday 15\(^{th}\) December**.
Students are invited to participate in a game of ten pin bowling at the Grafton Ten Pin Bowl Centre.
The cost is **$5** per student.
**Students can wear mufti** on this day. The manager at the Ten Pin Centre has advised us that children who wear **clean joggers/sneakers** will not have to change into a pair of ten pin shoes on the day.
This will help us save a lot of time on arrival at the centre and ensure all children maximise their game time.
Students will walk to and from the venue with their class teachers.
**Permission notes have gone home today. Please return the permission slip and $5 to class teachers** as soon as possible.
Regards
Scott Ogilvy and Vedette McKenna

**Australian Government Assistance for National Capital Excursion**
Students from our school have recently undertaken an educational tour of the national capital. While on this tour they participated in a variety of educational programmes focused on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.
The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education.
To assist you in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school. We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

Join the fun as the Destination NSW Home Ground Cricket Tour arrives in Grafton to celebrate the ICC Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2015. Come and get your photo taken with the giant Inflatable Cricket World Cup Trophy. Test your bowling and batting skills in our visitnsw.com inflatable cricket nets with the fastest bowler of the day winning an official CWC ball! There will also be junior clinics led by Cricket NSW, where everyone has a chance to have a hit. Enjoy the Travelling Cricket Museum and watch the three giant screens on the unique LED video truck live site.
Grafton – 11\(^{th}\) December
**Schedule**
12:00pm – Event begins
12:30pm – On stage Welcome
4:00pm – Afternoon cricket clinics
4:30pm – Evening BBQ and Bar opens!
5:30pm - Twilight cricket match
8:00pm - Close
P&C EXECUTIVE

Next year the P&C will be losing two executive members. Our secretary and treasurer will not be standing for re-election. If you are interested in getting involved please come along to the next P&C meeting, Wednesday, 10 December at 6:00pm, as you will need to become a financial member. Becoming a financial member costs $1 and must be paid prior to the AGM which is held in March. If you would like more information on what the positions entail please contact any member of the executive, Mrs Twigg or Robyn McGregor on 0427464430 or Rebecca Ashenden on 0414949135.

CANTEEN NEWS

The canteen has been named "The Lunchbox". Congratulations to Paige Ellem and Jarvis McPhee for both submitting that name. Thank you to all children who submitted their suggestions and all involved.

As the end of the year is close we will be trying to use up what food we have left. We have run out of lasagne and will continue to run out of stock. Please ask your child to check with the ladies in the canteen when placing their orders.

CLOTHING POOL NEWS

If anyone has second hand uniforms please bring them in as we are running low.

Clothing Pool Hours 2014
Mondays & Thursdays – 8:30am to 9:00am
Wednesdays – 2:30pm to 3:00pm
Sharyn Ellem – Clothing Pool Co-Ordinator

Dates for the Calendar
Canteen Meeting
Wednesday, 10 December 2014 – 5:30pm Old Hall
P&C General Meeting
Wednesday, 10 December 2014 – 6:00pm Old Hall
Carols Night
Tuesday, 16 December 2014

The clothing pool are looking for more volunteers. It is currently only open for 3 half hour time slots during the week. If we can’t get more volunteers that may reduce.

Next year we will also be looking for a new co-ordinator. Sharyn Ellem has indicated next year will be her last year as she feels it is time to move on. Sharyn is more than happy to train someone up next year and will be at the school another couple of years after that. If you are interested in taking on the role please see Sharyn for more information.

A reminder all year 2 students will require a sport uniform for next year. Purchase from the clothing pool during their opening hours or from the office.

KINDY ORIENTATION

A huge thank you to Davina Green, Lana Elward and Sheree Gray for helping in the clothing pool on the Kindy orientation days.

MAJOR RAFFLE

Tickets are pouring in for the Major Raffle. Please return all tickets, sold or not, prior to the Carols on Tuesday, 16 December.

CAROLS NIGHT

The carols will be Tuesday, 16 December. If you have any suggestions for the night or would like to help, please contact Renee Nilon 0400095816.