Message from the Principal

The new school year has been very settled, with our students very quickly getting back into routines and work. All of the preparations that the teachers have made have resulted in classes humming along already. The new Kindergarten students have been amazing, with children already working cooperatively in groups in classes. My thanks to all of our staff for their dedication in preparing for a great start to 2015.

The new Kindergarten children were all working productively, giving great answers to questions, and taking turns working with the teacher to learn to read and write. Parents would be astounded at the level of concentration and effort shown by all Kindergarten children. The children settle easily once parents leave of a morning. Show you have confidence in your child by saying goodbye and walking away with a smile. If you are anxious, that will make your child anxious. It will help your child so much if you say goodbye and leave promptly.

Many thanks must also be given to our volunteers who generously give so much of their time to the Uniform Shop at this time of year. The Uniform Shop Manager, Sharyn Ellem, and her team of volunteers, Trish McGuire, Davina Green, Jo Palmer and Mahcherie Wood have volunteered many extra hours selling uniforms. Please remember to say ‘thanks’ to them when you see them. The Uniform Shop is open each week on Monday 8:30-9pm, Wednesday 2:30-3pm and Thursday 8:30-9pm. If you would like to see it open more regularly, perhaps you can volunteer some time to help.

The Canteen is also fully run by volunteers, which means that Canteen profits are returned to the children through improvements to school resources and facilities as determined by the P&C. Davina Green, who is the Canteen manager, and the Canteen volunteers also deserve special thanks in getting it up and running for 2015. We need lots of volunteers to keep the Canteen running so that volunteers only have to work once per month. Please volunteer if you are able. Working in the Canteen is a great way to meet other parents and to get to know your children’s friends while helping provide lunches for students and raise money for the school.

Our very successful Westlawn PS P&C, through the generosity of our community in their time and support, has raised funds over recent years to purchase playground equipment, equipment and resources for our school. The P&C Executive which includes President, Renee Nilon, Vice Presidents Sharyn Ellem and Caron Dunston, Treasurer, Robyn McGregor and Secretary, Rebecca Ashenden, volunteer their time and energy to run our P&C. Please come along to our meetings, the more the merrier. We welcome newcomers.

Our next Canteen Meeting is on Wednesday 11 February at 5:30pm, followed by our P&C Meeting at 6pm. This year the meetings will be held in our school’s ‘Meeting Room’ which is near the canteen where OoSH used to be. Our P&C AGM will be in the following month, on Wednesday 11 March in the library. All positions including P&C executive or any sub-committees such as the Canteen committee are voted on at the AGM. A number of these positions will be vacated at that meeting as the parents filling the positions no longer have children at the school. Just a reminder that according to NSW P&C Federation guidelines, those wishing to vote, stand for office, or move motions, must be financial members. Membership is $1 per year. Payment of the membership fee must be made by the close of one meeting so that the member is eligible to exercise membership rights at the next meeting.

It is always wonderful to see so many of our parents and community members become involved in the school in a range of ways, including helping in classrooms, helping on special days and with sporting events. We strongly encourage this support because it gives your children a clear message that you believe school is important and that
you value your children’s education. Research has proven that when parents show interest and become involved in their child’s school, it has a positive impact on their children’s attitude and effort at school. It is one of the most valuable investments of your time that you can make. And your children love seeing you at school helping out!

Helpful Hints and Important Messages

- Do not, under any circumstances, take home a child that is not your child, without the express permission of the parent. You might think you are doing the parent a favour, however it causes the parent/s and our school staff a great deal of anxiety when a child can’t be located.
- If your child is catching the bus home for the first time or catching a different bus home, please phone to inform the school office staff who can pass the message to the bus duty teacher, and also please write the bus number clearly on the child’s hand to help them remember and so they can show the teacher on bus duty.
- Be on time to collect your child from school. School finishes at 2.55pm and all children being picked up must be collected at that time.
- Increasingly I am being contacted by parents who are concerned about what other parents are writing in Social Media e.g. Facebook, about students or staff from Westlawn. These parents, while perhaps Facebook ‘friends’ of these people, find the comments most concerning and inappropriate but feel unwilling to say it to the Facebook ‘friend’. At Westlawn we teach the children to be mindful and respectful of others when using electronic communication including blogs and social media. We teach them that it is a form of bullying to write insulting, defamatory or offensive comments about people or organisations, especially when there is no recourse to refute the statements or to tell the whole story behind a situation. We ask that parents make appropriate contact with the school if there are any issues so that we can work together to resolve them. Please refrain from using social media in ways that could be defamatory or derogatory. Once it is written online it exists forever, and adults can be held accountable for what they post, even if it is within a separate site.

Uniforms

It is so good to see the vast majority of our students return to school in full school uniform including black shoes, the school hat and no extra items of jewellery (other than a watch or plain gold/silver studs or sleepers). Our students look fantastic as a school group when all are in uniform. So many visitors to our school comment on the good tone that is obvious in our school due to the high standard of student behaviour and adherence to our school’s Uniform Policy. Thank you.

Swimming Carnival

On Monday 9 February, our Swimming Carnival will be held at Grafton Pool for Year 3 to 6 and any Year 2 students who turn 8 this year and are strong swimmers. Notes have gone home with full details and to explain that children go directly to the pool. Parents are responsible for arranging transport to and from the pool. Please make sure your child has swimmers, hat, sunscreen, food and water. We encourage children to have a go, and to cheer on those who are racing. Please ensure that you inform Mrs Casserly if you are taking your child early. She will be wearing an orange fluoro vest for easy identification.

Parent Information Meetings

Parents and carers are invited to their child’s Parent Information Meeting. A lot of useful information about the year ahead will be provided. It is not the appropriate forum to discuss individual student progress so if you wish to discuss your child please make an appointment with the class teacher for a mutually convenient time. Most meetings will last approximately one hour.

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<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tr>
<td>KA, KL, KB, KD</td>
<td>Tues 10 Feb</td>
<td>6:30-7:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>1L, 1HE, 1P</td>
<td>Wed 18 Feb</td>
<td>5:30-6:30</td>
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<td>2C, 2G, 2W</td>
<td>Mon 9 Feb</td>
<td>5:30-6:30</td>
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<td>3CS, 3D, 3O</td>
<td>Thurs 19 Feb</td>
<td>5:30-6:30</td>
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<td>4T, 4L, 4K (Mrs Johnson)</td>
<td>Thurs 12 Feb</td>
<td>5:30-6:30</td>
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<td>5M, 5J (Mr Jones), 5K (Mrs Johnson)</td>
<td>Tues 10 Feb</td>
<td>5:30-6:30</td>
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<td>6A, 6B, 6J (Mr Jones)</td>
<td>Tues 17 Feb</td>
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Induction Assembly
Our Induction Assembly for our School Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects as well as Year 6 will be held on Friday 13th February at 2pm. We will also be inducting the Library Monitors, Band Leaders, House Captains and class SRC representatives. Parents are most welcome.

Sight Word Program
Westlawn PS has a very successful Sight Word Program which is run by volunteers. We need a team of parents/community members, who would like to do the Sight Word Program. We need volunteers to work in classrooms K-2. If you have helped in the past or want to do it for the first time, please come along to a training session on Wednesday 11 February at 9:15am. Even if your children are older but you still want to be involved, we would love to have your help. Mrs Acevedo-White will run the session. Tea and coffee will be provided so that parents can have a chat after the training, before home time. It will be held in the reading room in the library. Please complete the tear-off in the Newsletter if you are interested in attending.

School Contributions
Our School Contribution is set at $60 this year and many early birds have already paid! Thank you. This goes towards the cost of exercise books, photocopied workbooks, Homework Books, art and craft materials, paper, class sets of dictionaries and atlases, textbooks which are either used by individual students or used as a class resource, and supplied materials to students. We also pay for online access to Maths and Literacy resources to use on class computers, in the computer room and Interactive whiteboards to continue to improve our students’ opportunities. The ‘Mathletics’ subscription also enables children to practise their Maths online on their home computer.

As you would be well aware, the cost of resources which we regularly update is expensive so $60 per student is very reasonable. We have kept the rate low to enable it to be cost effective for families. It is certainly value for money. It would be appreciated if you could please pay the School Contribution at the school office as soon as possible. Parents are also able to make a donation to the Library Fund which is tax deductible. If you are experiencing difficulty paying your School Contribution or have special circumstances, please contact the Principal or Mrs Taylor in the office.

Band and Music Lessons
Westlawn PS offers fabulous opportunities for children in Years 3 to 6 to learn to play an instrument and when skilled enough, to join our great school band or guitar group. Tutors from the Clarence Valley Conservatorium teach music lessons each week in school time at Westlawn. Woodwind, brass, keyboard and guitar are just some of the opportunities on offer. The cost of tuition is very reasonable and instruments are also for hire if needed, from the school. Ms Jodie Ellem is the band Coordinator. Please see her or phone if you have any questions about music lessons or the school band. Forms are available from the office if you wish to request lessons for your child/ren. Learning to play an instrument has been shown to improve a student’s attention, focus and ability across all learning areas. Also, great pleasure is gained from playing and performing. Please consider your child learning to play an instrument.

Newsletters and Notes
Newsletters are sent home or emailed each Tuesday. It is so important that parents regularly check their children’s bags for notes. So much important information is missed if notes are not read.

Narelle Twigg
Principal

STAFFING DETAILS 2015
We have 517 students and 20 classes.

PRINCIPAL

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
Mrs Pamela Acevedo-White (Early Stage 1 Leader)
Ms Donna Williams (Stage 1 Leader- relieving)
Mr Andrew Lollback (Stage 2 Leader- relieving)
Mrs Trish Ellis (Stage 3 Leader)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KL</td>
<td>Mrs Leree Alford</td>
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<tr>
<td>KA</td>
<td>Mrs Robin Adams</td>
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<td>KB</td>
<td>Miss Lana Bradley</td>
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<td>KD</td>
<td>Ms Dusty Bebbington</td>
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<td>1L</td>
<td>Mrs Gwenda Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td>1HE</td>
<td>Mrs Lauren Hadley/Mrs Elaine Essex</td>
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<td>1P</td>
<td>Mr Jason Pereira</td>
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<td>2C</td>
<td>Mr Jason Casserly</td>
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<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Mr Wayne Giggins</td>
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<tr>
<td>2W</td>
<td>Ms Donna Williams (Assistant Principal - relieving)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3CS</td>
<td>Mrs Elissa Casserly, Mrs Kym Stockton</td>
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<tr>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Mr Colin Dixon</td>
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<td>3O</td>
<td>Mr Scott Ogilvy</td>
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<tr>
<td>4T</td>
<td>Mrs Lynda Tibbs</td>
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<tr>
<td>4L</td>
<td>Mr Andrew Lollback (Assistant Principal-relieving)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5K</td>
<td>Mrs Katrina Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>5M</td>
<td>Ms Vedette McKenna</td>
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<td>5/6J</td>
<td>Mr Mark Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>6B</td>
<td>Mrs Karen Barnier</td>
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<td>6A</td>
<td>Mr Brendan Alford</td>
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</tbody>
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Library: Mrs Alisa Palmer  
RFF Music/Drama/Dance: Mrs Therese Revell  
Reading Recovery/RFF: Ms Jodie Ellem  
STL: Mrs Pamela Acevedo-White (Assistant Principal and LAST), Ms Jodie Ellem, Mrs Kym Stockton  
LSTC- Learning Support: Mrs Pamela Acevedo-White (Assistant Principal)  
Team Coordinator:  
Quality Teaching AP: Mrs Trish Ellis  
School Counsellor: Ms Christine Lasker  
IST (Hearing): Ms Deb Outram  
School Admin Manager: Mrs Annette Taylor  
School Admin Officers: Mrs Susan Bondfield, Mrs Elaine Niland, Mrs Lyn Johnston, Mrs Kerry Cahill, Mrs Trudy O’Mahony  
General Assistant: Mr Ian Sutherland  
School support staff: Mrs Kerrie McPherson, Mrs Petrina Brotherson  
Cleaning Staff: Mrs Di Gallagher, Mrs Maree McKenna

**Diary Dates**

- Mon 9 Feb: WPS Swimming Carnival  
- Wed 11 Feb: 9:15 Sight Word Training  
- Wed 11 Feb: Canteen Meeting at 5:30pm, P&C Meeting at 6pm  
- Fri 13 Feb: Induction Assembly at 2pm  
- Tues 17 Feb: CSI begins fortnightly

**SIGHT WORD PROGRAM**

I can help with the Sight Word Program.

**Name:** ...............................................  
**Phone:** ..........................................  
**Preferred Year level:** K 1 2 3  
**Preferred Day/s:** Mon Tues Wed Thurs  
**Preferred Time:** ..................................

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Sporting News

**PRIMARY SWIMMING CARNIVAL – Monday 9th FEBRUARY, 2015**

The Westlawn Public School Swimming Carnival will be held at the Grafton Olympic Pool on Monday, 9th February, 2015 commencing at 9.00am sharp. This carnival is for students in Years 3 to 6 plus any very strong swimmers from Year 2 who will be turning 8 this year. The first event will be the 100m freestyle. All primary children will be at the pool for the whole day whether they are actually participating or not. We hope that nearly all children will compete in some swimming event.

ALL children need to be at the pool at 8.50am for roll call, ready for a 9.00am start.

ALL children must be protected from the sun with hats, T-shirts, sunscreen and will need lunch and water. The pool’s canteen will be in operation but it is advisable to pack your child’s lunch on this day to avoid long waiting times.

Students are encouraged to wear their house colours on the day. The house colours are:

- **Jupiter** – Red
- **Mercury** – Yellow
- **Neptune** – Blue
- **Saturn** – Green

ALL children who do not have pool passes will need $3 for entrance fee to be paid at the pool on the day of carnival. Please note that body paint, balloons and permanent markers are banned from the pool.

Students who suffer from asthma should follow their asthma management plan on this day.

Parents are invited to come along and enjoy the day with us. *Any parents who may be able to help with time keeping duties* would be greatly appreciated.

NO STUDENTS will be allowed to remain at the pool following the event unless the parent of the child is at the pool or the child has a note from their parent indicating the parent accepts full responsibility for the child at the pool after 2.55pm. Upon departing the pool prior to 2.55pm, all students are to report to Mrs Casserly who will be wearing a fluoro vest, to have their name marked off on their class roll. The Clarence Valley Council has advised the school that students wishing to re-enter the pool after our swimming carnival will have to pay the standard entry fee of $3 to do so.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Primary department children WILL NOT GO TO SCHOOL on Monday but go directly to the pool and will spend the day there and will be dismissed at the pool. *Transport to and from the pool, including travel by bus, will need to be arranged by parents. Contact with the bus company to arrange changes to your child’s travel on this day is a parental responsibility.*

**House Meetings and Election of House Captains and Vice Captains**

Students gathered into their sport houses last Friday afternoon to elect house captains and vice-captains.

Congratulations to the following students:

- **Jupiter**
  - Captains – Keegan Pope and Lucy Sear
  - Vice Captains – Jaz Busch and Taya Johnson
- **Mercury**
  - Captains – Jarrah Ellis and Emma Firth
  - Vice Captains – Blake Metcalfe and Krystal McMahon
- **Neptune**
  - Captains – Jacob Woodbury and Chloe Winters
  - Vice Captains – Harley Johnson and Narissa Dunston
- **Saturn**
  - Captains – Oliver Westman and Lily O’Grady
  - Vice Captains – Ethan Lucas and Annelise Uren

Please note that after our house meetings, students may have informed their parents that they “nominated” for races they would like to compete in at the carnival. The carnival organisers collect these “nomination” numbers to give a rough guide as to how many heats we may have for the more popular strokes. Students may enter any event they wish to have had some prior swimming experience using that technique.

**Primary Sport for Term 1**

Community Sport will begin next Friday 13th February (W3) for students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and will conclude on Friday 27th of March (W9). Permission notes and information about each sport choice will go home tomorrow. Numbers are restricted at the venues so sports are allocated on a “first in” basis. It is important that all students remember their Sport money each week as we are using community venues which depend on income to remain open. Students who fail to pay for their sport two weeks in a row will still go to their venue but will not be able to participate. Please contact the school if there are difficulties covering the cost of weekly Sport.

Regards

Scott Ogilvy
Physie is for girls 3 years to Ladies. Physie is a sport that fuses dance styles such as jazz, ballet, hip hop, contemporary, aerobic dance and even yoga! Our innovative choreography changes annually and is designed for maximum variety and fun. Classes are held Tuesdays at the Grafton Primary School Hall. **Registration Day**: Thursday 5th Feb 2015, **Venue**: Grafton Primary School Hall Bacon St. **Time**: 4pm to 6pm, **Classes commence**: Tuesday 10th Feb.

For further information visit our website [www.graftonphysie.com](http://www.graftonphysie.com) or call Justine on 0431 470 552 or email graftonphysie@bigpond.com

**BULGARR NGARU - MEDICAL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**
Wishes to introduce Hayley Press, Oral Health Therapist as a permanent member to our dental team. Hayley will commence providing oral health services from 28 January 2015. Appointments are available for children and young people for general dental treatment and oral health checks. Hayley’s role will be to provide oral health for young people with teenage dental vouchers. To make an appointment please contact the Bacon Street Clinic on 6643 2199.

**GRAFTON JUNIOR GOLF & COACHING PROGRAM STARTS BACK ON FRIDAY 6TH JANUARY 2015.**
Junior Lessons with Mark Harvison will commence each Friday afternoon from 4pm until 5pm. The Cost for Junior Golf & the Coaching Program is **FREE**.

*The program involves hitting balls putting and chipping competitions and playing some holes under the watchful eye of Mark and volunteers.*

The Junior **competition** will commence on **Monday 9th January from 4pm**, playing 3, 5 or 9 holes at a **small cost of $3 includes a drink**. There will be daily prizes & monthly consistency prizes to be won.

A Junior Golf & Coaching Program for Primary & Secondary School Girls & Boys aged from 6 years to 17 years will recommence at the Grafton District Golf Club on 6th January 2015 starting at 4pm until 5pm. Junior golfers will be given golf instruction by accredited golf coach Mark Harvison & senior golf club members. All aspects of golf tuition will be covered & junior golf competitions are also a part of the program. Parents are encouraged to come along & get involved with the juniors and walk the course with them.

If you have your own golf clubs please bring them along if not Mark will have clubs that can be borrowed on the day. The junior golf & coaching program is about having **FUN** & learning a new outdoor sporting skill.

Golf is a sport that you can play for the rest of your life so come on & give it a try.

Contact Mark for any further information on 6642 5413 or email proshop@graftongolf.com.au

**NEWSLETTER**
If you would like the newsletter emailed to you rather than a paper copy please complete and return this advice slip.

- [ ] I currently have the newsletter emailed to me and my email address has not changed.
- [ ] I currently have the newsletter emailed to me and my email address has changed.

My email address is: _______________________________________

Name of children in the household who attend this school:

Name: ____________________________ Class: ________
__________________________ ____________________
__________________________ ____________________

Parents Name: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________
WELCOME TO 2015
Welcome back Westlawn families, we hope you had a great holiday and are ready for the year of fundraising ahead. To our new Westlawn families, welcome to our fantastic school. Our first meeting of the year will take place next Wednesday, 11 February at 6pm in the old hall. We encourage anyone interested in getting involved to come along. We are always interested in hearing about new and exciting fundraising ideas.

There are many positions available on the P&C Executive including President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer. Positions on the Canteen committee include Canteen Manager, Canteen Assistant Manager, Canteen Bookkeeper & Canteen Minute Taker. If you are interested in holding a position on the P&C Executive or Canteen Committee you will need to come along to next week's meeting and become a financial member by paying $1. The $1 membership fee gives you the right to vote, nominate and be nominated at the AGM Wednesday, 11 March. For further information contact Renee Nilon on 0400 095 816 or Mrs Twigg.

CLOTHING POOL NEWS
A huge thank you to Davina Green, Jo Palmer, Mahcherie Wood and Trish Maguire for helping in the clothing pool during the first week back to school.

This year we will be looking for a new co-ordinator. Sharyn Ellem has indicated this year will be her last year as she feels it is time to move on. Sharyn is more than happy to train someone up 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.

CANTEEN NEWS
There are still a few time slots available on the canteen roster. If you would like to help out please contact Davina Green on 0423741820. Anyone is welcome including mums, dads, nans, pops, aunties, uncles or anyone that is interested in our kids and the school.

BOOKCLUB
Bookclub catalogues will go home this week and are due back February 19. If you would like to help out with Bookclub please contact the office.

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, 11 February 2015 – 5:30pm Old Hall
P&C General Meeting
Wednesday, 11 February 2015 – 6:00pm Old Hall
P&C AGM
Wednesday, 11 March 2015 – 5:30pm Library

CANTEEN ROSTER
WEDNESDAY 4 February Davina Green, Sue Ulrick, Diane Moran
THURSDAY 5 February Campbell Timmins, Skye King, Teressa Gamble
FRIDAY 6 February Shaya Delaforce, Karen Jefferies, Shelley Thompson
MONDAY 9 February Melissa Johnston, Jo Palmer
TUESDAY 10 February Sue Tobin, HELP NEEDED
Children with strong food preferences who limit their intake of the needed variety of foods can be a challenge. Some of the following ideas may be helpful:

☑️ Remember: Parents choose “which” foods, children decide “how much”
☑️ Create a positive environment at the table, make meal times pleasant
☑️ Be a good role model
☑️ Stick to a routine
☑️ Provide the same meals for the whole family
☑️ Take children shopping, involve them in planning and preparation
☑️ Limit sweet drinks and juice so children have an appetite

If you are stuck in a constant battle, maybe try a different approach.