PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
As I mentioned last week, a note has been sent home this week for parents to review their own and their children's details. (Address and Phone). This particularly relates to contact and medical information. Please return this whether there has been a change or not, by 1st March.

Congratulations to Oscar Willis and Peter Naumann who were selected in the Wagga Cricket team to attend the Riverina Trials later this term.

Please find included in this newsletter, an article by parenting expert Michael Grose, on absenteeism from school. In it he makes some good common sense points, that all parents should consider. I will follow this up with further information sheets next week.

Good luck to all our competitors at the Annual Swimming Carnival this week.

I am sure parents attending our information evening will find it very informative. It is an excellent way of ensuring that you are aware of the organisation and expectations of your students school year.

Jim Roworth
Principal

SCHOOL DIARY

WEEK 4
Thursday 21st February
Swimming Carnival
CANTEEN CLOSED

WEEK 5
Friday 1st March
Clean Up Australia Day
Sushi Rolls will be on sale from the canteen every Wednesday until the end of term 1 at $2.60 each.

**WWPS Saturday Morning Netball Competition 2013**

Netball competition for ages 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 will commence in Term 2.

**Fees**
- Turning 11 years and above by 31st December 2012: $98.
- Between 8 and 10 years by 31st December 2012: $86.

Contact person: Mrs Smith

*Please complete the following information and return to front office by Monday 18th March, please so teams can be organised.*

**Fees due ASAP please**

Please note that all positions must be filled for each team before registration, e.g. coach, umpire, manager.

(This is a Wagga Netball Association Rule)

If you are able to help out or know someone who can, please let me know.

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**Name ………………………………….. Class……………….**

**Address……………………………………………………………**

**Date of Birth ……………………..……….**

**Age as of 31/12/13**

**Parent/Carer name………………………………………….**

Please note: these fees are set by Wagga Netball Association.

I am able to coach: yes / no.
I am able to umpire: yes / no.
I am able to manage: yes / no.

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**SRC and HOUSE CAPTAINS BADGES**

will be presented at the Primary Assembly tomorrow Wednesday 20th February.

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**ETHICS PROGRAM**

The Primary Ethics program has been so popular that new volunteer teachers are needed for Term 2. Training is now offered in Wagga Wagga and will be held on the first two Sundays of May. It is a great opportunity to explore philosophical ethics and work with children to help develop critical thinking skills.

Contact Marion, mbenjamin@spin.net.au, mob.0431 935 774 or apply direct online at http://www.primaryethics.com.au

thanks
Marion
It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true.

The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go to school today because Aunty is coming to visit!”

Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”.

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.
COOKING CLASSES
Learn to cook classes for children 5-11 years of age at Uranquinty Bakehouse starting in Term 2. Free open days for those children who book are planned for 14th, 15th, 16th March at 4-5pm. Bookings qbreadhouse@qbreadhouse.com or 6922 9119.

STUDENT INJURY INSURANCE
Wagga Wagga Public School already provides student insurance for AMBULANCE. If you are interested in providing cover for your child/ren, the Federation of P & C can cover your child at a cost of $4.85 per student. This will provide you with peace of mind in knowing that those financial expenses will be lessened in the event of an accident and the insurance claim will handle the entire claim process from start to finish.

The insurance covers school excursions and while the student is at home or family event. You may be already covered with your personal insurance but if not and you would like to be emailed the form and more information, please contact Jackie at simonandjack@bigpond.com

Forms need to be in by 12th April 2013. Thank you

Art Classes for Kids Term 1 2013
Kath Powderly is back in her newly insulated BEST STREET STUDIO ready to teach after school art classes.

TIME:
Wednesday 3.45 – 5.15pm
Thursday 3.45 – 5.15pm

WHERE: 26 Best Street, Central Wagga

START: 20th February

WHAT will the children learn? We will explore all the different mediums including charcoal, canvas painting, sculpture, clay work and printing. Students will develop their drawing, painting and observational skills, working individually as well as collaboratively on many different and exciting projects.

ART for MUMS + DADS: Explore your creativity with Kath Powderly
Thursday and Friday mornings 9.30-12.30
Wednesday nights 6.45-9.30

KIDS BIRTHDAY ART PARTIES: Weekends or after school. Mosaic, clay animals, tie-dye t-shirts, jewellery, cupcake decorating, hair accessories, silk painting, Picasso cookie creations, button art, dinosaurs and fairies.

CONTACT: Kath Powderly text or ph: 0427 212977
Email: kath@beststreetstudios.com.au
Find us on Facebook: best street art studios

Henwood Park Football Club: Registration Days
Sunday 10 March 2013, 10am-2.00pm
Saturday 16 March 2013, 10am-2.00pm
Henwood Park Club House at Rawlings Park
Forrest St Lake Albert

Wagga SWANS J.A.R.F.N.C Registration Night: Thursday 21st February – Anderson Oval 5pm to 7pm. All old and new players welcome. AFL-Auskick to U’15’s, NETBALL-6yr’s to 15yr’s. Inquiries David 0417482095 or Sonya 0439257112

Mitchell Salan with his MAC award at last years Presentation Night.

Merit winners from week 2 Primary Assembly.

KIDS CLUB
WHO: Kindergarten to Yr6
WHEN: March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd
TIME: 5.30-7.00pm
WHERE: St Pauls Turvey Park, 31 Fernleigh Rd
Contact Graham 6925 1707

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