Good Evening Everyone

THANK YOU to:

- Linda Hoskins for her donation of seven chickens; they are attracting a lot of attention from the students and will in the longer term provide a continued source of eggs for our cooking programme.
- Gary Hunter and School Gardener Larry Youngman for their continued work on fencing and netting the garden/orchard; it should be completed within the next week. Also thanks to Dave and Liz Edmonds for their donation of the netting that encloses the garden/orchard

SCHOOL COUNCIL
The first meeting for 2012 will be held in the School Library at 7.00pm on Monday 13 February.
Parents wishing to nominate should lodge their nomination with me prior to 3.30pm on the 13th February.
This year will be a transition year from a Council to a School Board in readiness for becoming an Independent Public School in 2013.
Current Council parent members are:
- Glen Burton 98401332 Chairperson
- Kim Burton 98401332
- Deanne Blake 98408836
- Julie Ewing 98401441
- Dave Edmonds 98401105
- Matt Wrigley 98401852
- Karen Pascoe 0458140656
- Antony Egerton-Warburton 98401636
- Lee Cummuskey 98401019

The staff is currently represented by:
- Richard Walker Principal
- Lisa Teague-Robertson Teacher
- Carolyn Brodie Teacher

Items already on the agenda for this term’s meeting include:
- Class Organisation
- Chaplaincy Application
- School Solar grant approval
- Planning for IPS uptake; eg Whole Council information day to be held in Albany (Sat ???); Special Meeting to plan workload for 2012
- ‘New Transportables’
- Men’s Shed
- Behaviour Management Data (T.4, 2011)
- Wearing of Sports Shirts
- Lunches
- Year 7’s to Secondary School 2015
- Use of Hall (Camp School??)

Bell times are:
8.45am Warning Bell
8.50am School commences
10.40am Morning Recess
10.55am Warning Bell
11.00am Second session commences
12.25pm Lunch
01.00pm Warning Bell
01.05pm Afternoon teaching begins
03.00pm School concludes

This configuration allows for 310 minutes of instruction daily.
Kindergarten students attend on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 09.00am – 3.00pm providing instruction for the Federal Government’s recommended attendance time of 15 hours per week.
Attendance
The attendance rate for our students during 2011 was high, well above the state average. I congratulate and thank all those families for consistently supporting the educational programs run each and every day, regardless of whether a child is absent. Regular attendance is fundamental to your child’s learning. Obviously for families at Walpole Primary School, attendance is a priority for your child’s social and academic learning. Once again, thank you for your consistent support.
The Department of Education’s Student Attendance policy requires parents and/or guardians to provide an acceptable explanation to the school principal for any absence of their children. Principals must authorise all absences. The Act defines, health, religious and cultural observances as reasonable cause for a school absence and the absence would be recorded as ‘authorised’ by the Principal.
As the parent/guardian you must obtain the principal’s approval for any planned absence. This can be achieved through a telephone call or a written note to the front office or your child’s teacher.

MONDAY LUNCHES
On Mondays students will be able to order an ‘oslo’ lunch comprising a salad platter and a vegemite or peanut paste white/wholemeal sandwich or roll, plus a piece of fruit and a fruit drink that all comply with the Department’s food recommendations. This service will be available from next Monday and will run for Term 1.

Students/Staff will NOT be assisting with preparation of lunches.
Cost will be four dollars ($4.00) and students need to bring the money in a sealed envelope marked with their name and choices marked on the outside of the envelope:
- vegemite or peanut paste
- white or wholemeal
- sandwich or roll

In the event that no choices are made the lunch will be made at the discretion of the chef.

INCURSIONS/EXCURSIONS POLICY
Incursions and excursions are NOT COMPULSORY parts of the School’s academic programme and in accordance with information included in the November 10, 2011 newsletter students are required to contribute $5.00 towards attending any activity. Students who do not pay the money are provided with other appropriate learning activities and required supervision during the activity.

TERM DATES
The following are the 2012 term dates for Government Schools.

Semester 1
Term 1 Wed 1 Feb – Thurs 5 April
Term 2 Thurs 26 April – Fri 6 July

Semester 2
Term 3 Tues 24 July – Fri 28 Sept
Term 4 Tue 16 Oct – Tues 18 Dec

INTER SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Our students will again be provided with the opportunity to participate in the Interschool Carnival with Frankland and Kendenup PS students at Mt Barker Pool on Thurs 15 March. Students who hold at least Level 5 Swimming Certification will be able to nominate for the carnival. We will then have a pre-carnival trial day to determine the School team; further information will be provided shortly.

School Fees
The School Council set the following fees for 2012 at:

Kindergarten $50.00 per child compulsory
Years P-7 $25 per child voluntary

These fees enable the School to provide additional facilities to all students and parent support in making the contributions promptly will be appreciated.
Thank you to those parents who have already made this payment.
Last year we received in excess of 90% of payments allowing us to purchase a range of resources that would otherwise not have been possible.

NAPLAN Testing
This is an early notification that the 2012 tests will be conducted from Tues May 15 to Thurs May 17. Your support is sought to ensure that all children attend School during this period.
If you have any concerns regarding the tests please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or me.
If you have any matters that you wish to discuss with me or any of the teachers, please telephone to make a mutually convenient appointment. I can’t guarantee the answers that everyone wants BUT I will listen and endeavour to negotiate an acceptable solution or to investigate your concerns and get back to you!

Have a great start to the new year.

Richard Walker

**This Fortnight’s Thought**

"Regard your good name as the richest jewel you can possibly be possessed of -- for credit is like fire; when once you have kindled it you may easily preserve it, but if you once extinguish it, you will find it an arduous task to rekindle it again. The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavour to be what you desire to appear."

Socrates

**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

Sunscreen is available outside each classroom for students use. Teachers will not offer the sunscreen; students will need to exercise responsibility to remember its use. As part of our dress code students require a broad-brimmed hat to participate in outdoor activities – students not able to meet this requirement will be required to undertake indoor work.

**P&C AGM /First Term Meeting**

7.00pm on Wednesday 15 February in School Library.

Your attendance is requested to ensure that the P&C is able to continue to provide for the education of students at Walpole PS.

**TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER**

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2012 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au), email [scceaust@scce.com.au](mailto:scceaust@scce.com.au) or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our little booklets of international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!