Good Evening Everyone,

As you read this newsletter Mrs Kendrick and Miss Slatter’s Year 2-3 class is on the move to the new room at the rear of the undercover area. The room has been outfitted with the usual trimmings; some new desks and trays, whiteboard, pin-up boards and floor coverings plus air-conditioning all paid for from school funds, some of which has been provided by the P&C with the balance accumulated in our reserve funds.

Our first assembly for the year will be conducted in the undercover area on Friday March 11 at 9.00am. We look forward to your attendance and giving you the opportunity to inspect the new facility.

Following negotiations with The Department, we will shortly be receiving another transportable building, the use of which is yet to be determined by staff. This building will be located where the existing gardener’s shed is and a new gardener’s facility will be constructed in between the hall and Latham St.

School Motto

As previously advised, the School’s motto is now “Nature, Culture, Future”. The actual logo remains unchanged. We have informed Manjimup Monograms of this alteration and all future clothing should now reflect the change. IT IS NOT NECESSARY to purchase new clothing as replacements over a relatively short period will achieve the amendment.

School Council

The Council will be holding a special meeting at 7.00pm on Wednesday 16 March to discuss our 2011 Independent Public School submission. The submission needs to be lodged by May 12. It is important that we can show the decision-makers that we have 100% community support. Accordingly if you have any concerns over our plan to try and achieve Independent Public School status for 2012, please talk with one of the School Councillors or me to clarify issues.

Glen Burton Chairperson 9840 1332
Deanne Blake 9840 1849
Matt Wrigley 9840 1852
Antony Egerton-Warburton 9840 1636
David Edmonds 9840 1105
Karen Pascoe 0458140656
Julie Ewing 9840 1441
Lee Cummiskey 9840 1019

“My School”

With the release of the Federal Government’s information regarding schools’ finances, staffing and 2010 NAPLAN results it is opportune to remind parents that there is a much bigger picture available to them by talking with teachers and me if they have concerns about OUR SCHOOL and its performances; academically, financially or in any other regard. My School data enables Walpole students to be compared with children from other schools determined by the Federal Govt (ACARA) to be statistically similar. Whilst this is not always an accurate reflection of student progress it does enable parents to benchmark their children’s achievements against a broader population.

I am happy to share/explain any information we hold, subject to it not identifying individual
children’s performances other than to parents/carers. We will shortly be producing our Annual Report that will contain information more specific to our School.

Friday Lunches
Lunches will continue weekly on Fridays – an order form will be sent out early each week. Cost is $2.00 per student and lunch will include a sandwich/plate of salad/etc plus a fruit drink and a piece of seasonal fruit. This week’s lunch is spinach and tomato pasta.

School Fees
The School Council set the voluntary contribution fees for 2011 at:
- Kindergarten $50.00 per child
- Years P-7 $25.00 per child
These fees enable the School to provide additional facilities to all students and parent support in making the contributions will be appreciated. Thank you to those parents who have already made this payment.

STUDENT STATIONERY REQUISITES
PLEASE check that your child has all the necessary stationery items needed to be able to fully participate in all lessons. Some students have started the year without initial essential supplies.

Having all these items in good condition makes it easier for students to complete class work and be engaged in learning. Please check with your child to find out the condition of their stationery.

MEM FOX visit - July
Internationally recognised children’s author and educator Mem Fox will be visiting Walpole on Sunday July 24 and Albany on Monday 25 July to present to teachers. Further information will be provided shortly.

If you have any matters that you wish to discuss with me please telephone to make a mutually convenient appointment – at present I have teaching responsibilities each morning. 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 fortnight.

Richard

THIS FORTNIGHT’S THOUGHT
“There are those who work all day. Those who dream all day. And those who spend an hour dreaming before setting to work to fulfil those dreams. Go into the third category because there’s virtually no competition.”

Steven J Ross

FOR SALE
4 x Eco Library/reading bags - $8.00 each
Only while stock lasts.
Available from the Front Office:

KIDS RED FACES
Ages: Kindy to Year 7
Children aged between Kindy and Year 2 can have an adult in their act.
DATE: Friday 8 April 2011
TIME: 6.00pm
WHERE: Walpole Rec Centre
More information to follow shortly

P & C Fundraising News
Thank you to those who attended the fundraising meeting. We are still looking at where our fundraising will go this year. Suggestions so far are:

- Lining the school hall
- Canvassing the verandah on the PP/1 class before winter

We have planned a few fundraising events this year.

- An Easter Raffle will be on again this year; donations to the basket at the front office will be appreciated. Tickets available soon. Prizes will be drawn last week of school.
- The P&C will have a sausage sizzle/ cake/coffee stall at the May markets.
- We will be holding 2 Discos for the students this year. The first will be Term 2 Friday 3rd of June with the dress up theme as your “favourite book character”.

Future events will include -

- A second Disco later in the year with a Halloween Theme!!
- A Curry/Quiz night in the winter months.

And much more ....watch this space !!!!!
**GIFTED & TALENTED TESTING**

Applications for SSPP testing of year 6 students for year 8 entry 2013 and year 7 (and current high school) students for years 8, 9, 10, 11 entry in 2012 close on Monday 21st March 2011. Testing will take place in Albany sometime in the week 16-20 May 2011. Information booklets with hard copy application forms will be arrive at your school soon, but online applications can be made on the DET website. The Gifted and Talented link is on the homepage [www.det.wa.edu.au](http://www.det.wa.edu.au)

Gifted and talented students may wish to apply for programs available in the government secondary school system. Academic, visual and performing arts, sport, music and language programs are offered.

**BULLYING**

A part of student growth is learning how to deal with others. This can be a rocky road for some, both those who are dealing with the negative behaviours of others and those who are inflicting and/or creating uncomfortable/negative situations.

Unfortunately, bullying is part of school life. Parents can really help the school to deal with bullying by meeting with teachers and/or the Principal when their child discloses that bullying has occurred. This can be tough because the child invariably doesn’t want to “dob” for fear of reprisal. This fear must be overcome as all research clearly indicates that intervention does decrease bullying behaviour.

If your child is complaining of bullying please come and see the teacher in the first instance. We want to help! Your child has the right to feel safe.

At all times we endeavour to deal with bullying so that:

- Victims are supported.
- Victims develop strategies to deflect and decrease the bully’s activities.
- Action is taken to decrease the number of incidences.
- The bully is counselled and helped to stop the behaviour.

No school or group of people is immune from this type of behaviour, but together we can make a BIG difference.

We will not tolerate bullying at School and offenders will face appropriate actions as per our Behavioural Management policy.

**Cyber Bullying**

Children under thirteen years are not permitted to have their own Face Book or similar site. We are aware that several of our students do have their own sites acquired through providing false information to the providers and would urge parents to withdraw these sites and to closely monitor their children’s use of electronic media. Inappropriate use can damage not only the user but can also be extremely harmful to targeted students through identification fraud, racial vilification etc.

Where we become aware of these ‘illegal’ sites we will, as a part of our Behavioural Management policy, identify students to the appropriate authorities requesting them to take actions necessary to ensure correct usage.

The following conditions are those usually applied to Facebook or similar sites.

Users are required to provide their real names and information. Here are some commitments site holders make relating to registering and maintaining the security of their accounts:

1. You will not provide any false personal information on Facebook, or create an account for anyone other than yourself without permission.
2. You will not create more than one personal profile.
3. If we disable your account, you will not create another one without our permission.
4. You will not use your personal profile for your own commercial gain (such as selling your status update to an advertiser).
5. **You will not use Facebook if you are under 13**
6. You will not use Facebook if you are a convicted sex offender.
7. You will keep your contact information accurate and up-to-date.
8. You will not share your password, (or in the case of developers, your secret key), let anyone else access your account, or do anything else that might jeopardize the security of your account.
9. You will not transfer your account (including any page or application you administer) to anyone without first getting our written permission.
10. If you select a username for your account we reserve the right to remove or reclaim it if we believe appropriate (such as when a trademark owner complains about a username that does not closely relate to a user’s actual name).

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**Manjimup Show**

Friday 18th – Saturday 19th March 2011

**Energy & Water Expo**

Denmark • 19-20 March 2011
MY SCHOOL: EXPLANATION OF NAPLAN DATA

This data compares Walpole PS results with so-called ‘like schools’ and allows for comparison with state and national average scores.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Area</th>
<th>Year 3 Position</th>
<th>Value Adding</th>
<th>School/State/ National Average</th>
<th>Year 5 Position</th>
<th>Value Adding Compared to National Increase</th>
<th>School/State/ National Average</th>
<th>Year 7 Position</th>
<th>Value Adding Compared to National Increase</th>
<th>School/State/ National Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>=18/50</td>
<td>N/a</td>
<td>410/400/414</td>
<td>=48/50</td>
<td>- 7</td>
<td>450/479/487</td>
<td>4/25</td>
<td>+ 65</td>
<td>555/546/546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>=41/50</td>
<td>N/a</td>
<td>386/401/419</td>
<td>=24/50</td>
<td>+ 31</td>
<td>479/474/485</td>
<td>1/25</td>
<td>+ 59</td>
<td>580/533/533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>=36/50</td>
<td>N/a</td>
<td>363/384/399</td>
<td>=41/50</td>
<td>+ 25</td>
<td>459/477/487</td>
<td>22/25</td>
<td>- 7</td>
<td>516/541/545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>=47/50</td>
<td>N/a</td>
<td>341/384/389</td>
<td>=49/50</td>
<td>- 1</td>
<td>436/479/489</td>
<td>18/25</td>
<td>+ 40</td>
<td>436/479/489</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0 - 3rd Percentiles Poor  4th - 5th Percentiles Satisfactory  6th - 7th Percentiles Good  8th - 9th Percentiles Excellent

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

**Year 3:** We were already aware that programmes for the early years (K- Yr 3) were not meeting state/national expectations for a number of reasons including possibly an imbalance between play-based and formal learning (compared to other states’ curriculum); the lack of a ‘formal’ 0-4 years framework, etc. Steps have been taken (beginning of 2010) to alleviate these possible causes including the separation of the Kindergarten and Pre-Primary years so that Pre-Primary students receive more formal instruction providing them with increased opportunities to demonstrate outcomes that meet state and national expectations. Whilst our monitoring indicates that progress is being achieved it will not be until 2013 that NAPLAN results will confirm/disprove our course of action. We are also working closely with the WA Primary Principals’ Association Early Years Network and are collaborating with the Walpole Early Years Network to inform and develop learning continuums for the 0-8 years’ group.

**Year 5:** Smaller class sizes introduced mid 2010 to provide additional learning support in Literacy and Numeracy are reducing some of the gaps that exist in these children’s learning. There are positive signs that the smaller classes with more direct and explicit instruction are closing the gaps, albeit slowly. The big positive for this group is that they significantly value added more than the national increase in Writing, Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation and almost equalled the national improvements in Reading and Numeracy. However this is a costly exercise that we may find difficult to sustain. As we improve the learning at the early years’ stages (0-8 years) then perhaps our efforts can be re-directed elsewhere to continue achieving better student outcomes across all learning areas.

**Year 7:** This group was similar in ability across the class in all learning areas. They have achieved excellent results in Reading and Writing (better than the state and national average scores) significantly value adding better than most schools and whilst Numeracy scores are below the state/national averages the value adding is significantly better than state/national improvements. In Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation value adding was commensurate with state/national improvements which did not achieve the expected increases of 80-100 points.

**General Comment:** There appears to be some discrepancy when data with like schools, where our relative position seems unacceptable, is compared to that across the state/nation’s schools where our results generally indicate satisfactory achievements except at the Year 3 level. The tables in My School do not demonstrate the improvements achieved by our students and our position relative to similar schools is very deceptive with the great majority of schools being located in other states/territories where different curriculum exist and in some cases Year 7’s are taught in secondary settings. As whole School Literacy (progress already noted) and Numeracy (specific attention needed) plans are further developed and clear sequential development continuum approaches implemented gaps in student achievements should decrease. Spelling programmes are being reviewed. Parents are encouraged to discuss this data with teachers and/or the Principal.
DATA COMPARATIVE TO LOCAL and SIMILAR SCHOOLS and STATE and NATIONAL AVERAGES

These tables enable WALPOLE students’ scores to be compared to LOCAL and SIMILAR SCHOOLS and STATE and NATIONAL AVERAGE scores.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Punctuation &amp; Grammar</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WALPOLE</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>340</td>
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<tr>
<td>School 1</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>503</td>
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<tr>
<td>School 2</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>409</td>
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<td>427</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>395</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Punctuation &amp; Grammar</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WALPOLE</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>436</td>
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<tr>
<td>School 1</td>
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<td>493</td>
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<td>School 3</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Similar Schools</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>436</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>500</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Punctuation &amp; Grammar</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WALPOLE</td>
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<td>580</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>524</td>
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<td>School 1</td>
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<td>School 3</td>
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<td>505</td>
<td>557</td>
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<td>Similar Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>489</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Walpole students’ scores are: substantially above (>30)  above (10-30)  close to (+10 to -10)  below (-10 to -30)  substantially below (> -30)

the national average scores