Good Afternoon,

Wow! We are at the end of Week 2 already. What a great start to the term we have had with everyone settling in quickly to the routine of their classroom and the school as a whole. I thank everyone, parents, students and staff, for the way the year has begun.

A quiet but exciting ‘buzz’ is coming from all classes with the students already producing some quality work. The KP1 group has been very busy and a great early childhood education program is being run catering to all their needs between the two classrooms. Having the extra room and the fence relocated to encompass both areas, allows the children a much bigger area for learning, play and exploring.

I have been very impressed with the way all the students have approached their learning over the first two weeks and look forward to seeing them grow and mature.

We welcome nine new students to our school. Five make our new kindergarten class: Lucy Hoskins, Heidi Arrowsmith, Tiannah Dixon, Pia Gamblin and Stella Haselhurst. We have Jorja Kirkwood and Krystal Taylor joining our Pre Primary class and twins, Jade and Amber Vermeulen joining our Year 2 class. Welcome to all and I hope you enjoy learning with us at our school.

A big THANK YOU goes to our local OP SHOP for the fantastic donation of $500.00 to go towards new gardening tools, seed, fertilizer, potting mix and other requirements needed for our garden and orchard. Our children have enjoyed the garden on many levels. They have experienced working in the garden, learning about the plants, weeds and insects that make it all work and have taken great pleasure in eating the produce. Thank you to our parents and staff who maintain the garden at such a high level.

LOCKING UP THE GARDEN

With all the positive learning that comes from making, maintaining and eating the produce from the garden, it has been very disappointing to have to lock the gates. Someone in our community or a passing visitor has again decided that the produce was needed by them far more that the children.

The garden is planted with seasonal produce and our Friday lunches are developed around what is ready to use. If the produce is taken by outsiders, the whole menu, budget and cooking classes are turned upside down. Please, if you see an abundance of produce and know you could use some, speak to our gardener, Mr Rob Griffith and he will gladly give you any that the school does not need.

VANDALISM

The aquaponics garden was cleared at the end of 2012 and made ready for this year’s students to restock and replant. Another disappointing incident occurred over the holidays and that was when a vandal made their way through the school tearing apart the pipes and relocating the specialized stones from the garden beds. They also removed posts and damaged an air conditioning unit. We are a small community and must all keep an eye out to help protect each other from this form of destruction.
FRIDAY LUNCHES

The school is again having Friday lunches this term, but we desperately need volunteer adults to assist a small group of students to prepare and serve the meal. If we could get a few people willing to help, we could have a roster so that no-one is tied down every week. If you could spare some time on a Friday morning, please contact the school ASAP.

Without assistance, we are unable to continue with this program.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Active After School Facilitators are required to complete the Community Coach Training Program course delivered by AASC. This is necessary for quality control of the program and to ensure each program is delivered according to our Playing For Life philosophy.

We are organising the course to be run in Walpole and are looking for the names of people who are interested in participating. The course covers five modules in a FREE one day course. A portion of this course can be completed on-line for convenience but the other two modules would need to be done with AASC facilitator.

If you are interested in participating, please call the school by Wednesday 20th February. You can nominate to do the first 3 modules on line at your convenience and just attend for about 2 hours to complete the course or attend the whole day course from 9am to 3pm. Anyone

TERM DATES FOR 2013

The following dates apply for 2013. Staff Professional Learning will be undertaken in one block during the week 22 - 26 July. This means that students will have a three week break between semester 1 and 2 and there will be no Pupil Free Days for staff Professional Learning at the beginning of each term. This will differ to other public schools. Please note the start and finish dates for each term below apply to students at Walpole Independent Primary School.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1, 2013</td>
<td>Mon 4 February – Fri 19 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2, 2013</td>
<td>Mon 6 May – Fri 5 July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3, 2013</td>
<td>Mon 29 July – Fri 27 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4, 2013</td>
<td>Mon 14 October – Fri 20 December</td>
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Public Holidays

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour Day</td>
<td>Monday 4 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Friday 29 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>Monday 1 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Tuesday</td>
<td>Tuesday 2 April</td>
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<td>ANZAC Day</td>
<td>Thursday 25 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Day</td>
<td>Monday 3 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queen’s Birthday</td>
<td>Monday 30 September</td>
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STUDENT UPDATE FORMS

A number of forms are being sent home and I ask that you complete and return these as soon as possible:

- a blanket excursion permission form for all land excursions within walking distance of School. Teachers will still be required to obtain separate permission forms where an excursion requires transport or if it involves aquatic activities.
- Student record update
- Medical information update.

If you have any concerns regarding these requests please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Doust, Mrs Burton or me.

Many thanks,
Lorelle Flett

P&C AGM

Tuesday the 18th of February at 6.30pm
in the school library.
Please come and join in!

ARTS AND CRAFT IN ACTION

As part of the Annual Art and Craft in Action Weekend, which is being held in the Community Hall on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd March, free workshops on Sunday 3rd March for students in Years 4 – 7 are being offered in pottery and needlework. As there will only be 10 spaces for each class, interested students are asked to contact either Elizabeth Gerner, 9840 1016 or Roslyn Quin, 9840 1480 to secure a place. Pottery classes will be at 10.30am, (It would be advisable if students could bring an apron to keep their clothes clean) and needlework at 12 noon.

There will be plenty of interesting crafts being demonstrated for parents to check out and Devonshire Teas will be served all day.

This year’s Art and Craft in Action is being run by the Walpole and Districts Seniors accommodation and a gold coin entry fee will help their fund raising efforts.