Good Evening Everyone

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
CONGRATULATIONS to all the students who participated in the Carnival last week. Once again students’ behaviour and performance were excellent. The students again won the carnival with fantastic efforts put in by everyone. Special mention is made of Cameron Bailye and Williams Roocke for winning the Champion and Runner-up Intermediate Boys’ Championship medals respectively.
Special thanks to Ms Walker who did most of the organising and to parents who transported children to/from Mt Barker.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY
The final assembly for term will be held on Friday March 30 commencing at 9.00am. The assembly will be conducted by Years 4-5 with the main item being presented by Years 2-3.

ANZAC DAY
The School will acknowledge our Servicemen/women with a ceremony on Friday April 27 as this is the closest date we can get to Anzac Day. The ceremony will take place in front of the flagpole (weather permitting) and will begin at 2.15pm. All parents and community members are invited to attend.

ATTENDANCE
Regular attendance at school is fundamental to your child’s learning. Consistent attendance and participation are essential for your child’s social and academic learning.

As parents or legal guardians of an enrolled child, you are responsible under the School Education Act 1999 to ensure the attendance of your child at school every day. It is important to assist your child’s achievement and learning by making regular school attendance a priority in your child’s life.
The Department of Education’s Student Attendance policy requires parents/guardians to provide an acceptable explanation to the School 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.

WORK BENCH RENOVATION
Special thanks to Dougie Bruce for his support of the School and students in repairing the students’ wooden bench that they use for many technology projects.
SCHOOL HALL
The School Hall is currently empty! If you have any suggestions as to its best use to benefit student learning please contact me or one of the School Council members.

HEALTH TEST PENALTY!!!
From July 1 many families will not receive their correct Family Tax benefits unless they comply with new Centrelink requirements; PLEASE READ THE EXCERPT FROM LAST WEEKEND’S SUNDAY TIMES to avoid the possibility of you missing out on correct entitlements.

NAPLAN TESTS
Next term in week 3 the National Testing programme will begin; it is important that ALL students in Years 3, 5 and 7 are at School during this time so that their progress can be monitored in comparison to other students across Australia.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL SPORT
Tennis will conclude this Friday afternoon: thanks to Mrs Cummuskey/Mrs Pascoe for organising activities and to other parents who supported the activity. Tennis has been very popular with students with more than 40 children participating; perhaps it’s time for a formal tennis club to be re-established in town!
On the next two Wednesday afternoons we are commencing yachting with theory presentations as a prelude to practical sailing taking place early next term. This is a necessary part of the activity to ensure safety aspects are firmly in place. Activities next term will include students “building and sailing their own yacht” at the Yacht Club. Sessions this term will take place at School commencing at 3.15pm and concluding at approximately 4.15pm.
For safety reasons this activity has been limited to Years 3-7 students and the students who expressed an interest in the activity will receive a formal notification in the next few days.

BICYCLES COMING TO SCHOOL
Children who do not wear safety helmets should not bring their bicycles to School. In discussion with Sgt Clifford he has indicated that he will issue notices to students (and parents) who do not comply with this legal requirement.

SCHOOL FEES
To date 80% of families have paid their fees and we thank them for their ongoing support that enables us to purchase many additional items that ALL students need.

MERIT CERTIFICATES
Congratulations to the following students:

- Pre Primary: Lara Hunter
- Year 1: Max Matheson, Justin Bailye
- Year 2: Jack Hunter, Bindi Robertson
- Year 3: Gabriel Finlay, Oscar Ebbett
- Year 4: Elsie Edmonds
- Year 5: Macy Lane, William Roocke
- Year 6: Max Cummuskey
- Year 7: Jasmine Weir, Tully Lane

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!

Richard Walker

This Fortnight’s thoughts
"Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen."

John Steinbeck

"Begin challenging your own assumptions. Your assumptions are your windows on the world. Scrub them off every once in awhile, or the light won't come in."

Alan Alda

Pre-Primary/Year 1 Room
We are looking for some help with restoring our garden planter boxes. Can you help? Please see Sherrill.
**Gymnastics Term 2**

Expressions of interest are sought for students wishing to join The Walpole Gymnastics group. We will recommence at the beginning of Term 2. Gymnastics will take place each Wednesday afternoon from 3.30 – 5.30 pm. Please return this slip to the school with your name and number so Lisa Teague- Robertson or Maree Pickett can contact you with further details. Thankyou

Name ______________________
Contact Number ______________________

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**P & C FUNDRAISING**

Bulb catalogues, please return your orders complete with money by the 30th March. Please make cheques payable to Walpole Primary School P&C Association.

The P & C are having a Hamper Raffle for the Easter markets. The raffle will be drawn Easter Sunday at the markets. Donations of any type would be welcome. Please drop them into the basket in the front office by the 30th March.

Thank you, P&C Fundraising Committee

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**WALPOLE NAB AUSKICK**

**Registration day**

Tuesday 3rd April on the Town oval.

The cost to register your child is $45, includes a backpack full of goodies and insurance. Payments must be made on or before registration day.

Auskick training will commence Term 2 Tuesday 1st May at 3.15pm.

Walpole Auskick is for P/P to yr 7s. We encourage parent involvement for all our training day’s.

Contact Karen Cummuskey

more details 98401019

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**Participants wanted for research about resilience in children**

Resilience is an important tool for children. In contemporary society, children are exposed to numerous negative influences that can powerfully shape their health and wellbeing.

Researchers at the Child Health Promotion Research Centre at Edith Cowan University are seeking families with children that were born in 2000 or earlier to be part of a study about resilience.

We want to identify the factors and processes that influence good resilience in children, especially those that live in fly out/drive in drive out families.

In order for us to develop strategies for families to boost resilience amongst children we invite your family (parents and one or more children) to participate my completing a once only short confidential questionnaire.

We will make a donation to Kids Helpline for each family that participates in the study.

We hope to raise $500 to donate to Kids Helpline.

Participants will not be identified in the results of the study.

If you have at least one child born in 2000 or earlier and your family would like to be involved in the research study please contact Jacinth Watson: E: jacinth.watson@ecu.edu.au or, M: 0457 434 801

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**Families miss $726 Health test penalty**

Samantha Maiden
National Political Editor

THOUSANDS of parents risk missing out on family bonuses of $726 at tax time unless they take their four-year-old for a mandatory health check with a GP.

Payment of the family tax benefit end-of-financial-year bonus will be delayed from July 1 unless parents undertake the health check and inform Centrelink.

The tough new measure was introduced last year to ensure preschoolers are checked for hearing or sight impairment, toilet training and other developmental delays that could impact on their early learning.

But new figures obtained by The Sunday Times reveal that only 15,574 families have met obligations to ensure preschoolers have a Healthy Kids Check by July 1.

According to the Government more than 90,000 families are expected to be affected by the new rules, suggesting that up to 74,000 families have failed to meet their obligations and risk delayed payments.

The Government maintains the program is "on track", but many families may not realise they also have to inform Centrelink when the checks are done.

The checks are mandatory for low and middle-income parents who are eligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A, which cuts out at an income level of about $90,000. They are not mandatory for the parents of four-year-olds who do not receive the welfare payments.

Families Minister Jenny Macklin said many families may have had the checks, but had failed to alert Centrelink.

"I encourage parents to take their children in for a health check. Don't forget to have the check done and tell the Family Assistance Office about it by June 30 this year, to make sure there's no delay in receiving your $726 family payment supplement," she said.

Reminder letters will be sent to thousands of families soon.

The new requirement is expected to ensure that up to 90,000 children in 90,000 families get a health check so they start school healthy and ready to learn.

See www.health.gov.au or call 136 500.
Year 2/3 Art

Displayed in the Front Office. Please come and take a look!