PRINCIPAL’S ADDRESS

NAPLAN

The 2013 NAPLAN results have just arrived and they are OUTSTANDING! In Year 3, overall, the class results are either equal to or above other year 3s in the nation. 45 to 64% of our Year 3 students, compare with the top 20% of Australia in spelling, grammar, reading and numeracy.

The year 5s should be proud as they are comparable to the nation in numeracy and grammar, and slightly behind in the other tested areas. 30 to 40% of our year 5 students compare with the top 20% of Australia in grammar and writing.

The year 7s usually achieve great results in NAPLAN. This year they were equal to the nation in writing and numeracy and above in spelling, grammar and reading. One third of the students are in the top 20% of Australia in grammar and reading.

Individual reports will be sent home next term.

Tidy Towns- Sustainable Communities

Walpole has, again, been awarded the Sustainable Community Award for the Southern Region for 2013. The primary school was acknowledged for the various ways they promote sustainability including: the UR Walpole program and links to NatUrE, CultUrE and FutUrE; the UR Walpole camp; the students planting grass around the skate park; providing three guest speakers at the Walpole 15 Minute Wonders event; feeding food scraps to the chickens and the worms; reusing containers such as refrigerators for worm farms, wine barrels for fruit tree planters, plastic containers for nesting boxes, drums for hydroponics and pallets for compost bin walls; analysing litter collected on Circus Beach as part of Tangaroa Blue as well as having water tanks and solar panels.

Transition to High School

In early September, the year 6/7 class visited both the Denmark Agricultural College and Denmark SHS. As part of Agriculture Awareness Week, the students explored the many facilities at the Ag. School and learnt quite a bit about farming. Many thanks to Carolyn Brodie for organising this excursion.

After a sausage sizzle, the students then investigated the building program recently completed at the SHS. Mrs Cole, the principal, led us through the huge facilities and explained the various learning areas. She also fielded questions about options. The students were enthralled with the latest technology as well as the colourful furniture.

Next term, the year 7s will make another visit to Denmark SHS, as the formal part of the transition program.

School Board

The School Board met last week and discussed a variety of topics from Year 6/7 transition to the Charges and Contributions for next year. Attached to the newsletter is a copy of the School Business Plan that has now been endorsed. Please have a read through to get an insight into the wonderful things that happen at Walpole PS.

New Model for Funding

A link has been provided should you wish to know more about changes to funding. http://www.premier.wa.gov.au/MINISTERS/PETER-COLLIER/Pages/Video.aspx.
Looking for insects at Denmark Ag College

Desperately Seeking Cockies

Have you seen any black-cockatoos with white tails lately? Maybe you used to see them but they have disappeared recently. If so, BirdLife Australia wants to hear from you.

BirdLife Australia is asking people across the Wheatbelt and Great Southern Regions to be on the lookout for the large, white-tailed black-cockatoos known as Carnaby’s Black-Cockatoos between now and Christmas, and report any sightings.

The population of Carnaby’s Black-Cockatoos has been shrinking since the 1950s, and BirdLife Australia is keen to hear from anybody who sees the birds so that we can determine how many there are and exactly where they still occur.

If you’d like to get involved, or would like more information, contact BirdLife Australia’s Matt Fossey on (08) 9287 2204. It is important that any sightings be reported as soon as possible. The easiest way to do this is via the BirdLife Australia website (http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/carnabys-black-cockatoo-recovery/breeding-range-survey); it takes only a few moments to complete.

Kindergarten/Pre Primary School Enrolments for 2014

Apply to enrol by Friday 27 September 2013

If your child is 4 or 5 years old by 30 June 2014, or changing primary schools in 2014, apply to enrol now.

Come in and speak with the friendly staff at our school who are here to help you with your application.

If your child is currently enrolled in Kindy at Walpole PS it is not necessary to re-enrol for 2014. ACIR Immunization records and birth certificate are required at enrolment.

Healthy Lunch Box Ideas

Healthy lunch boxes aren’t always about what’s inside. Have you considered having ‘wrap free’ contents? Use washable plastic containers to store various treats- sultanas, yoghurt and sandwiches. Help keep Walpole Litter Free!

Puff Pear Tart
Half 440 gm packet of puff pastry
1 Tsp sugar
½ cup cheese
1 pear, thinly sliced
1 tsp melted butter

Roll out pastry to 18x28 cm rectangle and transfer to a baking tray. Sprinkle with sugar.
Sprinkle with cheese leaving a 1cm border. Arrange the pear slices on top.
Brush with butter. Bake in 200°C oven for 20 to 25 minutes. Cut into slices.

Dental Van

The Dental Van is now back in action at Denmark Primary School. The van will be there for the next 12 months.

If your child requires treatment please feel free to contact us on 0437486143.
Canberra Camp
There will be a Canberra Camp meeting early in Term 4 to discuss costing and fundraising. Please come along. Date TBC

Walpole Yacht Club Apology
The Walpole Yacht Club wish to apologise for the many changes to the kayaking for Active After School, this term, due to bad weather. Someone doesn’t seem to be smiling down on them on Wednesday afternoon in term 3. They’ve taken it as a hint to change kayaking to term 4 next year.

TAKING 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 February 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, the U.S.A, South America and Japan 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, email scceau@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

VacSwim October school holiday programs
Swimming pools and beaches are part of our Western Australian lifestyle. It is important for every child to learn to swim properly and develop essential water safety skills. VacSwim’s October school holiday swimming program is conducted by qualified instructors who teach children the skills to be confident swimmers and safe in the water. For further information and how to enrol, visit www.det.wa.edu.au/swimming.

Rotary Residential College
Rotary Residential College on Kent St, East Vic Park, is available to accommodate country students who are going to most government metropolitan schools. Priority is given to students’ enrolled in specialist courses. A brochure is available in the Walpole PS office should you require more information.

2014 Planning
If you know you will be leaving Walpole at the end of the year and your children will NOT be attending Walpole PS in 2014, can you please let the office know so that we can start to plan classes? Thank you.

FANTASY DRESS DAY
The students at Walpole Primary School have raised $92.00. The money will be given to an organisation called “Street Swags.” For every $60.00 raised the organisation will provide a swag to men woman and children who are homeless and living on the streets.

BENDIGO BANK
Change of day.
School Banking will now be on Monday mornings at the School.