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## PRINCIPAL’S ADDRESS

**Attendance**

Attendance is a priority for the Education Department this year. Consistent attendance and participation at school are essential factors in achieving social and academic learning outcomes. Even occasional absences can accumulate to have an impact on a child’s sense of belonging and achievement. Therefore, the focus is on students who attend less than 90% a year. This equates to one day away a fortnight.

When a student is enrolled at school, the School Education Act 1999 requires that the student attends on site unless a reasonable cause is given. It is important that you call, email or write a note to explain why your child was absent. If no reason is given, you will receive follow-up notes requesting such a reason.

Even if reasons are given, you may still receive contact from the school or the department regarding your child’s absences, if they continue to be a problem. For persistent non-attendance, a Responsible Parenting Agreement or Attendance Panel will be convened. If these are not successful, legal action could result.

**P&C Disco**

A great night was had by all at the P&C Disco last Friday night. More than 50 kids danced the night away to music from DJ Rob. Many students got into the Winter theme and spent a lot of effort on their costumes.

With food supplied by the P&C mums, it was a fun and happy way to raise some money for the school.

Many thanks to the parents who supported the event and to the Post Office, Hardware, Chemist and IGA for donating the many prizes awarded throughout the night. The students were thrilled with their prizes.

**2016 Enrolments**

Applications are called for new enrolments for children entering:

- **Kindergarten** (born 1/7/2011 – 30/6/2012)
- **Pre Primary** (born 1/7/2010 – 30/6/2011)

Enrolment packages are available from the school office. Students currently enrolled at Walpole PS will automatically be re-enrolled unless families notify us they are leaving the school. Friday 24 July is the closing date.

Walpole Primary School extends an invitation to parents, carers and community members to attend our **U R Walpole Assembly** where we celebrate the wonderful learning opportunities that the students have experienced during the UR Walpole Program.

**Thursday 2 July**

Commencing at 100pm for an open classroom journey, followed by a formal gathering at 200pm in the undercover area.
KINDERGYM IS HERE!
Kindergym is suited for children 6 months to 5 years. Come along to explore, have some fun and learn new skills. Practise movement in a safe, structured environment under the supervision of qualified gymnastics staff. Kindergym is an interactive program involving parents and children.

Sing, dance and move!
Cost is FREE! Yes, free for this trial period!
Funding provided by Amity Health and organised by Walpole Primary School in conjunction with Walpole Gymnastics Club.

Where: Walpole Recreation Centre
When: Tuesday 11 am -12pm
Date: 30th June
COME ALONG & SEE WHAT IS ON OFFER!
Enquiries to Lisa, phone 9840 1020

Top 5 Reasons Why Children Should Play Sports

There are numerous benefits of youth sports – many of which are obvious. Keeping children fit, instilling healthy habits in kids at a young age, and keeping children busy and away from negative influences are all understood benefits of enrolling your child in sports programs at a young age. According to a study by the Women’s Sports Foundation, however, there are even more underlying benefits to youth sports that parents might also want to know about.

Here are just five of the endless advantages of enrolling your child in a sports program:

Active children get better grades – Regular exercise gets blood flowing to the brain, which improves essential skills for classroom learning, such as memory and concentration. Research has shown that children who are involved in sports do better in school than those who are not involved in sports, thus giving active children a leg up in the classroom.

Children are taught lifelong skills through sports – Sports are an irreplaceable activity for children to learn fundamental life skills, like teamwork, goal-setting and hard work. Children who collaborate with others toward a common goal through sports exhibit traits like cooperation and persistence, which provides the foundation for them to become successful in their careers and family lives when they reach adulthood.

Exercise promotes well-rounded health – While it is obvious that playing sports helps keep your child fit and maintain a healthy weight, research has also shown additional health benefits associated with playing sports, such as disease prevention. Regular exercise habits, which begin at a young age, stave off certain diseases like breast cancer and osteoporosis. Research has also shown that children who are involved in sports are less likely to smoke than those who are not involved in sports.

Sports boosts self-confidence – Sports keep children in shape and help them make new friends, which are key confidence builders. In addition, when children know that they can improve their skills with practice, their self-confidence also boosts because they understand that they can achieve goals through hard work.

Exercise lessens stress – Exercise can make your child happier thanks to an increased flow of endorphins, neurotransmitters that are released in the brain that improve one’s mood and release one’s stress. Team sports are also a great way for children to create friendships with others, which also acts as an important mood filler and confidence booster both on and off the field.