**PRINCIPAL’S ADDRESS**

**Fifteen Minute Wonders**
The Year 6 students, Ashlee, Connar, Lailani, Bree-anna and Ella ably presented their speech on this year’s URWalpole theme, Invaders. They came across calm and knowledgeable, even though there had been a major technical issue that morning.

This was an opportunity to share the learning with the Walpole community and to showcase the extraordinary students we have at our school. Well done!

**eSmart Week**
Teachers spoke to the students about the safe use of online communication this week. They reinforced that children should not be giving out their personal details to anyone online and not everyone who tries to contact you via the web is a friend.

Thanks to the two parents who attended the Save Online Use Workshop given by the school psychologist and the school chaplain this week. The presenters reinforced the importance of parents managing the time children spent online and also having passwords to social communication sites such as Facebook.

Interesting data was presented on the comparisons between screen time (including tv) and free play. Generally, children living in Walpole have a good balance between outdoor play and screen time.

The presenters also stressed the importance of keeping screens in common use areas, not bedrooms, so access can be monitored. Some children and adults can become addicted to online games and forget to sleep for play.

If you think you need to know more please search http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/.

**Numeracy Open Day**
Thank you to the parents who attended the Open Day during Literacy and Numeracy Week. The feedback suggested that parents got an insight into how learning math can be fun. It was also an opportunity to see how well the concepts were learnt through the variety of activities and how different levels were catered for within the small groups.

**Faction Tshirts**
Thanks to Leanne Fry, we have finally started tie-dying the faction tshirts. If your child hasn’t brought in their plain white cotton shirt as yet, please do so this week so we can finish the dying. After this next batch, parents will have to organise their own sport shirts.
Playground
If you have any ideas for a ‘nature play’ playground can you share them with me, please? We want to make use of our beautiful bush surrounds and provide the students with a variety of areas where they can explore, seek challenges and play creatively.

If you have any plants that you can donate for a sensory garden (ones that smell, feel, look interesting but are safe) can you please pot up and bring in to the office or to Rob?

We also want items that will create an element of risk that can be managed by the students. A degree of hazard encourages children to develop their intuitive response to risk and challenge and become competent self-risk assessors. (N Buchan. Children in Wild Nature. 2015) Ideally, we will use natural or repurposed materials. Do you have an old boat or any item that would add this level of interest to the playground?

Please feel free to offer any skills you have that could be utilised in developing our playground.

School Board
The School Board meet at least once a term to set the long-term future of the school and maintain oversight (not management) of the school’s operation. The Board provides expertise to help the school achieve the best possible.

This year the Board has reviewed and endorsed the Annual Budget and reviewed and approved the Excursion, Complaints, Heath and Attendance policies and procedures.

Please consider putting your name down for the School Board next year.

Shake, Rhubarb and Roll
The students enjoyed yesterday’s performance. Shake Rhubarb and Roll. They were amused by the puppets and found their antics engaging.

“The Mount Barker Dental Therapy Centre will be open all term 3 school holidays except Monday 28th of September, Friday 2nd of October, Monday 5th of October and Friday 10th of October.

If you child develops an urgent dental problem on any of these days please contact Spencer Park Dental Therapy Centre on 98413967 during the hours of 8am - 4pm.

For after-hours dental emergencies, please contact your private dentist or your closest Emergency Medical Department.

The staff at Mount Barker Dental Therapy Centre would like to wish all children an enjoyable break from school but REMEMBER – YOU MIGHT BE ON HOLIDAYS, BUT YOUR TOOTH BRUSH NEVER IS!!!”

Regards Lorna and Rene

Mt Barker Dental Mobile | Dental Health Services