Dear Parents,

School Council is the governing body for all Victorian government schools, and comprises parents and staff from the school. Its primary role is to take a birds eye view of the governance arrangements of the school, and to plan and assess the long term direction of the school. School Council does not have any involvement in the day to day running of the school such as staffing arrangements, complaints from parents, curriculum delivery or any other day to day managerial aspects of the school. These are handled by the principal and leadership team of the school.

The final meeting for our present council will be held in February, after which there will be four vacant parent seats on council. Three of the four are for a two year term, and the remaining seat is for a one year term. If you are interested in nominating for school council, you can collect a nomination form from the school office, or print one from today’s newsletter. All nomination forms must be received no later than 4pm on Monday February 22nd. More information will be available on Compass during the week.

65 weary campers returned from a week at the Victoria Police Bike Camp at Maldon on Friday. There were some scrapes and bruises from spills off the bikes, however, all in all it was a very successful, albeit tiring camp for our grade 5 and 6 students and their very supportive teachers. Well done to all who challenged themselves, moved out of their comfort zone and tried their very best. A very big thank you to the staff who gave up a week with their families and friends to volunteer their time to be with our students. It is very much appreciated.

Every year, the staff undergo Emergency Management Training in February conducted by an accredited provider. The training this year will be held after school on Tuesday. This training will be followed up on Wednesday when students and staff will participate in an evacuation drill as part of our normal emergency management procedures. These drills are conducted each term, and are normal school practice. They are not in response to recent events in other schools, however it is quite timely that our training is being held now and our staff will have rehearsed accordingly. Please be assured that we are well prepared for any emergency event and should the situation arise, parents will be informed in accordance with our procedures.

Japanese Cultural Day is fast approaching. For those new to our school, on this day students are welcome to dress up in costumes that in some way represent Japan. On the day, our students will participate in Japanese cultural activities, they have the option of a sushi lunch, and finish the day with a karate demonstration. All of these activities are endorsed by the university professors who accompany the student teachers from Nagoya University to ensure they are seen as culturally appropriate.

Simon McGlade  
Principal
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK


INCLUSION: Zac Collyer, Nico Boninsegni, Amelia Wright, Jett Potter, Sam Abdo, Angel Lewis, Yazzan Alhakkani, Gypsy Roberts, Penny Nicholls, Damien Barbara, Vivien Nguyen, Finn Williams, Javier Clack, Lana Rigby-Jaafar, Angus Lewis, Isabella Thain, Tom Vandernet & Liam Altus.

Happy Birthday

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to the following students:


We hope you all have a wonderful day.

Japanese Corner

The Japanese Culture Day will be held on Thursday the 3rd of March. The day will kick off with a dress up parade, so parents are welcome to watch and hang around to see some wonderful Japanese activities!
PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:
For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

CLOSING DATES:
PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO LODGE THE APPLICATION FORM BY 29TH FEBRUARY 2016.
FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE FRONT OFFICE.
NOTICES

WILLIAMSTOWN JUNIORS

MEET AND GREET

SUN FEB 28 UNTIL 10 AM TO 12 PM

BAYSIDE COLLEGE
BAYVIEW STREET, WILLIAMSTOWN

WITH THE PLANNED INTRODUCTION OF UNDER 8’S & A GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM. WE ARE HOLDING AN INFORMAL “MEET & GREET BBQ MORNING” AT THE CLUBROOMS FOR NEW FAMILIES AND OF COURSE ANY GIRLS / FAMILIES THAT ARE ALREADY INVOLVED IN THE CLUB THAT WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT GIRLS / FEMALE FOOTBALL.

EVERYONE WELCOME - EVEN IF YOU HAVE NEVER PLAYED FOOTBALL BEFORE - WE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR SUPERSTARS OF THE GAME.....WE ARE LOOKING FOR KIDS THAT WANT TO HAVE FUN AND FAMILIES THAT ARE KEEN TO JOIN ONE OF THE LARGEST JUNIOR SPORTS CLUBS IN HOBSON’S BAY

• EVENT OPEN FOR ANY AGE FROM 5 - 17 - BOYS & GIRLS • AUSKICK INFORMATION / REGISTRATION ALSO AVAILABLE
• COME ALONG AND MEET THE COACHES & COMMITTEE
• HAVE A KICK & JOIN IN THE HANDBALL COMP • REGISTER ON THE DAY FOR THE 2016 SEASON
• INFORMATION ABOUT VOLUNTEERING WITH THE CLUB AVAILABLE!! WE PLAN TO HAVE A NUMBER OF CURRENT SENIOR / JUNIOR FEMALE FOOTBALLERS ON THE DAY RUNNING A MINI CLINIC

NEW TEAMS IN 2016 - UNDER 8’S - GIRLS FROM 10-16

#GIRLS PLAYTOO

WILLIAMSTOWN JUNIORS MAJOR SPONSORS

GREG HOCKING
ELLY PARTNERS

Williamstown osteopathy & pilates

nab AUSKICK

AFL
REMINDER - STUDENT BANKING

Student Banking will commence this Wednesday 10th February.

Basketball Umpire Required

Dear Parents,

We are seeking an experience basketball player with a valid working with children check to umpire our inter-school sport program each Friday for term 1. Sessions will begin Friday 12th February and will run from 9 am to 11 am.

All inquiries to the front office or contact us on 03 9391 2168.

Your help is much appreciated.

Thank You.

MEDICATION

Reminder to all parents who children need Asthma Plans, Anaphylaxis Plans or Allergy Plans or any other medication needed to please bring them in ASAP. Please drop them off to the office or give them to the classroom teachers.

Thank You
Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you’ve all had a lovely and well deserved break over the past few weeks. As Term 1 commences we welcome back all our families and children including our new prep’s. It’s been lovely to hear about what everyone has gotten up to over the holiday’s however I’m sure everyone is glad to be back into routine.

For those existing families, Persia has now ended her time with OSH Club and although it’s sad to say goodbye we congratulate her on her career path to becoming a behavioral therapist, we wish her all the best.

On that note, we would also like to welcome our new permeant staff member Shanaee, she will be with us for both before and after school care services, please feel free to come and introduce yourself as I’m sure she would love to meet you all.

Reminder: Throughout Term 1 we continue to follow our sun smart policy, please ensure your child is bringing their school hat or their own hat to our services as they will be limited to playing in the shade if they do not have a hat. We also require sunscreen to be worn at the program, we supply Coles brand sunscreen, for any reasons that this does not suit you please ensure your child comes with sunscreen of preference.

Thank-You,
Newport Gardens, OSH Club.
For more information, please contact the program on - 0411 656 074 or visit [www.oshclub.com.au](http://www.oshclub.com.au) online.

**GOALS AND ACTIVITIES:**

This week we are focusing on settling our new children into our program practices and routines; we will be going over individual routines such as breakfast routines, afterschool care routines, set up and pack up routines and much more. The first few weeks back into school are vital as this is where the children absorb information on what is required of them throughout the year. To liaise with the school, OSH Club will be conducting their own fire evacuation and lock down procedures to ensure safety of all children.

Over the upcoming week children will be asked to share their voice in what changes they would like to implement in to the program as well as working together as a team to set goals for term 1.

Activity Mats: Quite area (Books and homework) , Construction area (Lego and blocks), Art and Craft Area (free drawing, painting, pasting activities), Games area (variety of different games) Dramatic play (doll house, dress ups, kitchen set)
TIMELY REMINDERS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

With so many families new to our school, and after a long summer break, it is probably a good time to remind our community of some of the processes of the school that help us all work together. Below is a list, and as you will see, most relate to student safety. Please read through the bullet points, and if you have any queries please ask your child’s classroom teacher.

♦ Our school car-park is for staff only. Parents are kindly requested not to enter the car-park or to use it as a thoroughfare. Students are not permitted in the car-park at anytime. Parents picking up or dropping off are asked to use the pedestrian gate next to the car park.

♦ School uniform is compulsory for all students. Please do not add items such as coloured tights to our very smart uniform. Everything from the waist up should have the school logo on it. This includes polo t-shirts, jumpers, windcheaters, jackets and hats. Students wearing headscarves are asked to wear the school colours of navy blue, turquoise, orange or white. Tights should be white or navy blue only. Students should not be wearing any form of make-up or have coloured or outlandish hairstyles and the only jewellery worn should be a watch and sleepers or stud ear-rings. If there is a cultural or religious significance to an item of jewellery, an exemption can be granted.

♦ Our bike enclosure is available for students bringing bikes or scooters to school. Students doing so must wear an approved helmet to and from school with the helmet clipped on before leaving the school grounds. Skate-boards, roller-blades, street shoes with wheels in them, or other wheeled devices are not to be brought to school. The bike enclosure is not locked after 3:00pm, so all bikes should be removed accordingly.

♦ At 8:45am a bell will sound alerting students in grades 4, 5 and 6 that they can bring their netbook into their classroom and place it away as per the expectations of their class. Students in grades Prep, 1, 2 and 3 are to remain outside until their teacher escorts them in at 8:50am. Parents are requested to remain outside of the main building and portables until the 8:50am bell in the mornings, and until the 3:00pm bell in the afternoons. We do aim to keep the hallways clear both in the mornings and the afternoon, and your cooperation is appreciated.

♦ Lunch orders will recommence as of Wednesday of this week. This year, due to our increased enrolment, lunch orders will be available every day. However in an effort to avoid large numbers on any given day, we are requesting students in:
  - Grade 5 and 6 order their lunch on Monday;
  - Grade 3 and 4 order their lunch on Tuesday;
  - Grade 2 order their lunch on Wednesday;
  - Grade 1 order their lunch on Thursday; and
  - Preps order their lunch on Friday.

Of course if this doesn’t suit, you can always place an order on any day of the week and it will be filled. However if at all possible, and if it doesn’t make any difference to your home routine, please try and order on the days listed above to ensure your child’s lunch order is correct and delivered in a timely fashion.

♦ Homework goes out to students in the second week of each term. Homework is compulsory at Newport Gardens, and all students are expected to complete it. A homework matrix is devised by each team for every term reflecting the work being done in the classrooms. A letter explaining the general expectations for the school is also placed on the school’s website. Details regarding individual tasks should be directed to the classroom teacher.

♦ The yard is supervised from 8:40am each morning until school commences at 8:50am. The yard is also supervised from 3:00pm until 3:10pm each afternoon. Students should not be in the yard without an adult prior to, or after these times. Parents needing assistance outside of these times are encouraged to use OSH Club.

♦ From time to time, issues arise where parents seek clarification on certain issues or incidents. The first port of call in these circumstances is always the classroom teacher. If parents are not satisfied with the outcome, they can discuss the issue with the Team Leader for their child’s grade level. If they are still concerned they can meet with one of the two Assistant Principals—Mr. Buckingham for issues relating to grades Prep-2, or Mrs. Evans for issues relating to grades 3-6 and specialists. Failing all of this, parents are welcome to make an appointment with the principal to discuss the matter further.
10 confidence-building strategies every parent and teacher should know

Instilling confidence takes more than heaping praise on kids. Here are 10 practical confidence-building strategies for parents and teachers of children and young people.

1. Model confident thinking
   Kids soak up the language, thinking and behaviour of those closest to them in their environment. Parents and teachers play a part in modelling confident thinking and behaviour particularly when it comes to tackling new activities. In particular, let kids hear positive self-talk when you tackle something new. They should hear something like, “I’ll have a go at this. If I don’t do so well then I can try again tomorrow.” This is far more effective than “I’m no good at this. I’ll probably stuff it up.”

2. Focus on effort & improvement
   Current thinking shows that people who believe that they can increase their intelligence through effort and challenge actually get smarter and do better in school, work, and life over time. One way to develop a growth mindset is to focus your language on effort and improvement rather than on the results of what they do. By linking success with effort you are teaching them success comes from something other than purely their ability, talents or smartness.

3. Praise strategy
   While effort is key for achievement, it’s not the only thing. Kids need to try new strategies and seek input from others when they’re stuck. They need this repertoire of approaches – not just sheer effort – to learn and improve. It helps too to focus language on better and smarter ways on improving. Comments such as “That was a smart idea to tackle the hardest task while you were fresh!” (strategy) and “You recognised the first few steps were the most important but then after that you were right” are descriptive statements that have significant instructional value for kids.

4. Develop self-help skills from an early age
   A child’s self-esteem comes as a result of his or her successes and accomplishments. The most important competencies to build confidence are basic self-help skills. These form the building blocks upon which other competencies such as organisational skills and many social skills are formed.

5. Give them real responsibility
   From a young age start giving children responsibility for some aspects of their lives. By giving kids responsibility we are sending a powerful message that we think they are capable. Also they are learning the skills necessary to care for themselves.

6. Practise unconditional acceptance
   Your ability to accept children and young people’s best efforts in any area of endeavour, irrespective of the results, will go a long way toward determining their self-esteem and confidence.

more on page 2
... 10 confidence-building strategies every parent and teacher should know ...

7 Expand their horizons
Some kids are confident and capable at home but are fearful and nervous when it comes to new social situations and unfamiliar environments. Children today have less opportunity than those in the past to negotiate and explore unpredictable situations. Whenever possible look for opportunities to expand children’s horizons to include unfamiliar places and unfamiliar locations including catching public transport and walking to friends’ places unattended when capable.

3 Recognise improvement
Focus your comments on children’s effort and improvement rather than on winning the game or getting top marks. Help kids set realistic goals in line with their capabilities and interests. Learning five new spelling words a week maybe more realistic than 20 words that school may require.

9 Put the training wheels on to support learning
Putting training wheels on a bike is a great way to teach a young child to ride. They keep them upright and mobile while they are getting the knack of balancing. We can use the same principle to support kids learning while they develop independence in many areas of life. For instance, we can accompany anxious kids to birthday parties and stay for a short time so they become comfortable before leaving.

10 Build teaching and training into your day
Teaching and training needs to be part of the every day repertoire of a parent. This means we need to add a little extra time to many of our interactions so we can help children acquire many of the basic skills of living, whether it is a young child learning to do up his or her shoelaces or a teenager learning how to fill out his or her tax form for a part-time job. When adults are busy it is often easier to do things ourselves.

Most importantly, great parents and teachers have a knack of communicating confidence in kids. They find ways to let kids know that they believe in them – that they know their kids will perform and succeed, that they have faith that they can deal with life’s challenges and know that they can become more independent.