Dear Parents & Caregivers

What a splendid start to the school year with everyone brimming with enthusiasm and good cheer, students and staff alike. After enduring a mixed and somewhat challenging summer, weather wise, it was reassuring to get some stable ‘normal’ summer weather for the start of the school year. Our hearts go out to other people in Australia who have endured devastating bushfires and floods. Sometimes we need to take a reality check and appreciate just how lucky we are.

Our classes in 2013 are structured as – K/1, 2/3 and 4/5/6. Again through our Priority Schools Program (PSP), Mrs Braithwaite will have additional teaching time (Mondays 9:30am – 1pm) and Mrs Heide Krause will be employed as Teacher’s Aide. Mrs Hill (½ day a week), support teacher and Mr Darren Pittock school counsellor, will provide additional support to our students.

The student population remains around the 65 mark which is very good for the continuation of programs operating throughout the school.

We enjoy a close relationship with parents in our school and would certainly like to promote this again in 2013. If parents can contribute to this partnership either through helping with class activities in reading, writing, craft, music or maths when requested or as importantly, assist in the P&C (Parents & Citizens’ Association) or School Council, then all help would be greatly appreciated as this is about achieving the best we possibly can for all our students.

Looking forward to a great year.

Regards

Peter George

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

As mentioned during Presentation Night 2012, last year we had excellent student leadership in our school through the effort of our school captains and vice captains as well as other senior school students.

Voting for captains and vice captains was conducted towards the end of 2012 and announced on Presentation Night. We are privileged again to have fine leadership within our school as the elected captains and vice captains for 2013 are very good role models for all the children in the school and reflect positively the values of compassion, respect, personal effort, duty, manners and sense of community to which the school aspires.

We congratulate the captains, Emily Watson and Mitchell Bebbington, and vice captains, Caitlin Conte and Cody Collings Robson on their selection and are very confident that they will be excellent leaders in our school.

Cody is no longer attending our school so we will determine our boy vice-captain in the near future.

AN EXCITING TIME

We were overjoyed to welcome our Kindergarten class of 2013 on Friday. These wonderful people will be beginning their school life with a range of emotions from excitement to fear, from joy to dread, from anxiety to enthusiasm.

We wish all the children starting school at Wongarbon Public School all the best and we guarantee that all staff, to the very best of their abilities, will nurture, guide, instruct and teach using the same values that we seek from our students.

To the Kindergarten parents, we understand that Friday was a bit of a Tears and Tissues or Tears and Cheers day, but have trust that we will do the very best that we can for your very special child.
CONGRATULATIONS
Well done to all parents for having their children so well prepared for school, with uniforms and associated equipment ready for school.

Your child’s teacher will shortly send home information sheets to explain classroom procedures and routines. This information will also include requests for any other resources or equipment that your child may need.

CLASS ESTABLISHMENT
Classes have settled in well with a sense of cohesion and belonging. Although it is early days, the teachers have been extremely impressed with the enthusiasm and behaviour of all students. Such a positive environment should ensure very good learning outcomes for all students.

If, however, you have any queries or concerns please make arrangements to speak with your child’s teacher. It is far better to deal with concerns or issues early rather than later when they often blow out of all proportion. All teaching staff are available to speak with you but please ring the school office to arrange a suitable time.

SCHOOL STAFF
We welcome back Mrs Megan Rich, Miss Wendy Muir, Mrs Karen Farley (casual), Mrs Colleen Braithwaite, Mrs Gillian Hill (Part-time support), Mrs Heide Krause, Mrs Kim Bell (Teachers’ Aides), Mrs Michelle Dunn (Office), Mr Norm “The Boss” Ivery (School grounds), Mr Stanley Yates (school grounds) and Mrs Karen Gaden (cleaning).

All of these people will work closely as a productive team to ensure that all of our students have the very best opportunities to learn, succeed and be safe and happy.

FRIDAY ASSEMBLIES
On most Friday afternoons at 2:30pm in the Wongarbon Hall we hold a school assembly where awards are presented to students in a variety of areas. One class group conducts the assembly and often puts on a short item for entertainment.

Everyone is most welcome to attend Friday school assemblies. Our first assembly is next Friday, February 9, conducted by Year 4/5/6.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
During Week 3 (Tuesday 12th Feb) we will commence our Active After Schools Program.

This will give the children in Year 3-6 the opportunity to remain after school on Tuesdays, and have afternoon tea provided and then participate in various activities for one hour. The concept is to encourage physical fitness and fight the national problem of obesity, thus encouraging a healthier lifestyle.

There is absolutely no cost to parents and the school staff have committed themselves to be the onsite person on duty as is required by the program. Sessions finish at 4:15pm normally and children will need to be picked up at this time or have permission to walk home.

Please return the permission note promptly even if your child is not attending this term but may want to attend later in the year, even those in Kindergarten to Year 2.

Activities this term are golf and hockey.

We do ask for parent volunteers to help cut up fruit and organise snacks for afternoon tea for the children participating in After School Activities otherwise the program will cease.

Please contact Michelle in the school office (68878242) if you can help.

TUESDAY IS LIBRARY DAY
All classes have a library session on Tuesday throughout the year. During this time Mrs Braithwaite teaches the children a wide variety of research and library skills as well as introducing new books and authors to promote borrowing and reading amongst our children.

The children will need to bring a bag to safely transport library books.

Please ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO BORROW a book or two, to support their home reading CLUB 25. The best thing is that it’s a free service. That’s right IT’S FREE!!

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”
Dr. Seuss, *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!*

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*Photographs of students may be published in the school newsletter and the local media. If you do not wish to have your child’s photo appear in these publications please notify the school.*
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EARLY NOTIFICATION – SWIMMING
On Thursday, 14 February 2013 we will be joining other Small Schools for the Small School Swimming Carnival to be held at the Dubbo Aquatic Centre.

There will be activities for all students from Kindergarten right through to Year 6. Activities for K-2 will be held in the wading pool with other activities in the Olympic Pool. Swimmers from Year 3 to Year 6 can nominate 50m or 25m events for each swimming stroke as well as the medley.

Of importance to parents is that transport to and from the pool is the responsibility of parents, so, if you cannot take them to Dubbo, please arrange transport with someone else. All staff will be assisting on the day so there will be nobody at school.

The carnival usually finishes about 2:30pm.

An information and permission note is attached to this newsletter – please cut the permission note from the information sheet and return it to school before Monday, 11th February.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE
Please ensure student clothing and belongings such as lunch boxes, drink bottles etc. are clearly labelled with your child’s name. Even shoes and socks are relevant as the children play in the sandpit.

It is a great ordeal trying to find the owner of lost clothing or possessions because, not so surprisingly, they all look the same.

Even student initials on tags would greatly assist.
You would be amazed at how many unclaimed items ultimately go to waste because the correct owner cannot be identified.

LABEL! NAME! LABEL! NAME! LABEL! NAME!

SCHOOL COUNCIL
Our first School Council meeting for 2013 will be held at 7pm, Tuesday, February 12 in the staff common room. All school council members are asked to attend. Agenda items include Finance, Wongarbon P.S. School Plan, student numbers, school contributions and future directions. This is not the AGM. The Annual General Meeting is held in March.

CLUB 25 HOME READING
Reading is a key competency in learning and as such children are encouraged to read to an adult at home. Reading aloud is a somewhat different skill to silent reading but is as important. To promote reading at home we have a Club 25 system.

Please help your child participate and gain the thrill of regular awards and free books as they hit the magic 100m mark.
Here’s how it works!
• Each child reads and/or is read to for 10 minutes each night. Parent dates and initials on the appropriate space. One signature a day maximum please.
• When your child has accumulated 25 signatures, he/she returns the record sheet to the school office and receives a special award at assembly.
• Your child is then given a Club 50 sheet and can then try to become a member of the Read with Me Club 50. Again an award is presented. The same process occurs for Read with Me Club 75.
• At Read with Me Club 100 the child received a book from school.

LUNCH ORDERS
School lunch orders can be ordered at Wongarbon Store but this needs to be done before school. Only food and drinks are to be ordered – not lollies or soft drink.

EIGHT WAYS TO GET YOUR KIDS ORGANISED
Are you ready for morning madness, late assignments, yesterday’s half-eaten lunch sweating in the schoolbag? Just like adults, children cope much better if they can manage their time and their environment wisely. Find out more:
http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au

SMART FOODS TO BOOST LEARNING
Mother Nature is full of foods that help us think and feel better. What do you give your child to help them think more clearly, and enhance concentration and
• Children with good diets perform better at school.
• Breakfast is vital to set kids up for learning.
• Choose low-GI foods for energy where possible.
• Foods rich in proteins and omega-3 fatty acids help children concentrate and learn.
• Iron deficiency can leave kids tired and unable to concentrate.
Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au