

WESTPORT

PUBLIC SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE IN A CARING ENVIRONMENT



Monday 26th November 2018

Welcome to Week 7. Only four more weeks to go until the Christmas holidays. This term certainly has gone quickly.

Last week a group of our fantastic Aboriginal students along with Aunty Mavis and myself visited the Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council to attend the official opening of their new Community and Men's Shed. Many important officials were there to witness this important occasion. Two of Westport PS students had the honour of cutting the ribbon. Many of our students will be using this shed for after school activities over the next few years. Thank you to the Land Council for the invitation to attend and the lovely morning tea.



Recently the school has been approached to run a very important program entitled The Got It Program. This is an early intervention wellbeing program for children in Kindergarten to Year 2, and their parents/carers. It is aimed at young children, when intervention is likely to be most effective and helps parents and schools to identify children's social and emotional difficulties, and support them to respond to challenging behaviours. The program will give families an opportunity to be a part of a fun and supportive group that can improve children's prosocial and emotion regulation skills. This program will run during terms 1, 2 and three in 2019. Please find attached more information on this excellent program.

Teachers are very busy completing reports and finalising end of year assessments. The Year 6 students are preparing to move on to high school and finalising events for 2018 such as the Year 6 Farewell.

Have a great week.

Tony Johnston
Principal

Coming Events for Term 4

Tue 27 th Nov	Diamond Awards Assembly – K-Yr2 - 12.15pm Yr3-Yr6 – 1.00pm
Wed 28 th	Kindergarten Transition Drop-in 1.00 – 3.00pm
Wed 28 th	Yr1 & Yr2 Geography Excursion
Thurs 29 th	Kindergarten Transition Drop-in 1.00 – 3.00pm
Tue 4 th Dec	Year 6 High School Orientation
Wed 5 th	Kindergarten Transition Drop-in 1.00 – 3.00pm
Thurs 6 th	Kindergarten Transition Drop-in 1.00 – 3.00pm Last Session
Fri 7 th Dec	Scripture Assembly Yr3-Yr6 9.50 – 10.30am K-Year 2 10.30 – 10.00am
Wed 12 th Dec	Carols by the Vines
Fri 14 th Dec	Presentation Day K-Yr2 – 9.15am Yr3-Yr6 – 10.00am
Mon 17 th Dec	Year 6 Farewell 6pm-9pm
Wed 19 th Dec	St 2 & 3 Reward Day – Kendall Pool Last day of school 2018

Westport Public School Award Winners

Term 4 – Week 6

K Flame – Logan, Lily, Tristan, KK

K Jacaranda – Olivia, Cooper, Sandy, Amelia

K/1 Wattle – Ellie, Braxton, Oceana, Joshua, Emily

1 Acacia – Sophia, Jai, Tallon, Muhammod

1 Banksia – Kadence, Riley, Jarrod, Christian

2 Paperbark – Lexx, Indiana, Lilly, Alex

2 Bluegum – Ryan, Sienna, Chris, Maddison

Mathletics Award – Jack S

Splendour DVDs

Our Splendour performance DVDs are ready and available for purchase from the Office for \$10.

Term 4 Assembly Timetable

Assembly is held on Tuesday starting at 1pm

K-Year 2	Year 3-6
Week 8 – K Jacaranda	Week 7 – Diamond Award Assembly

2019 School Leader Speeches

Last Wednesday 12 candidates delivered election speeches to all students from Year 2 to Year 6. At conclusion of the speeches, students were able to vote.

The 2019 School Leaders, two girls and two boys, will be announced at Presentation Day on Friday 14th December, 2018.



K-2 Treat Day

This term, Treat Day for K-2 students will be an excursion to the cinema in the last week of school. The cost will be approximately \$12, however, this will be confirmed closer to the date. To be eligible for Treat Day students need to earn 80% of stamps on their behaviour charts for the time they have attended school this term. More information including a permission note will be sent out closer to the date.

Stage 1 Excursion – New Date

The recent Stage 1 excursion was postponed due to wet weather. The new date for the Geography Excursion to Kooloonbung Creek is Wednesday the 28th of November. A new permission note will be sent home soon. It is expected that all Year 1 and 2 students attend this excursion. There is no cost to attend.

Library News

Thank you to all the students who have enjoyed borrowing books from the library this year. It's been wonderful to see your enthusiasm and your growth towards books. This week will be the final week to borrow a book for this year. Please ensure you have all of your books returned to the library by Week 8. I look forward to another exciting year filled with books in 2019.

Thank you

Rachel Kelly



Year 6 Farewell Fundraiser – Bakers Delight Christmas Tarts



Christmas Tarts:

\$10 for a six pack of Lemon Tarts

\$10 for a six pack of Fruit Mince Tarts

\$2 from every box sold will be donated back to the school to assist with funding a very special Year 6 Farewell celebration for our Stage 3 students.

Money to be returned to class teachers by Wednesday December 5th, 2018.

The Christmas Tarts will be delivered to school for collection on Thursday 13th December.

Mrs Urquhart

1 Acacia Dot Painting

Our class have been doing dot painting with some very beautiful art works being produced.



Hastings Secondary College Clontarf visits

Last week Aboriginal Education Officers and high school students visited our Year 6 Aboriginal students to discuss successful transition to high school – expectations and support that will be available to them. Thank you to Mrs Heath, our Aboriginal Education Officer, for organising the visits for our students.



Early Born Hearts Craft

To celebrate World Prematurity Day, 5H with Mrs Ross created beautiful felt hearts for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney. These handmade hearts will be given to the premature babies and their parents during their long stay in hospital. What a special, thoughtful gift!



SkoolBag App and Apple Issues

In September, SkoolBag released their new software update.



They have been working on various improvements based on user feedback. They are aware of a small number of iPhone users having issues accessing the new SkoolBag App. This can be caused by having larger font sizes enabled on your device.

If you are experiencing issues, temporarily switch off this setting by following these steps:

On your Apple device > Settings > General > Accessibility > Larger Text – OFF. Then try to open the SkoolBag app and log in.

In their upcoming update, the SkoolBag app will support larger font sizes. They have also made other improvements which will be included in our upcoming update.

SkoolBag.com.au



What is the *Got It!* program?

Getting on Track in Time - Got It! Is a program led by the NSW Ministry of Health in partnership with the NSW Department of Education. **Westport Public School** is taking part in this exciting new program, starting Term 1, 2019.

Got It! Is an early intervention wellbeing program for children in Kindergarten to Year 2, and their parents/carers. It is aimed at young children, when intervention is likely to be most effective and helps parents and schools to identify children's social and emotional difficulties, and support them to respond to challenging behaviours. When disruptive behaviours occur regularly they can negatively influence children's academic, emotional and social development. Children will display problem behaviours as a normal part of development because they do not yet have the social, emotional and problem solving skills to manage new challenges. The program will give families an opportunity to be a part of a fun and supportive group that can improve children's prosocial and emotion regulation skills.

Got It! Will be in the school over two (2) terms in 2019:

Term 1 - The initial term is a 'whole of school' intervention, including teacher professional development, and parent and teacher screening for child strengths and difficulties with follow on referral for individual needs.

All families are asked to complete a Strengths and Difficulties questionnaire for each child in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. Please help us by returning this form ASAP once received at the beginning of Term 1.

Term 2 - The second term comprises a 10-week clinical program assisting 6-8 children with indicated social emotional challenges, accompanied by one of their parents/carers. The choice of participants for the program will be based on exhibited problems in the screening conducted during term. The program is facilitated by the GOT-IT! clinicians and supported by a co-facilitating school support teacher.

What is a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire?

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire is the screening tool Got It! uses to explore the child's level on emotional, behavioural, hyperactivity and social skills abilities. This assist us in identifying what supports the child may need across those areas and if they are suited to our program in term B.

Benefits of being involved in the *Got It!* program

Getting help and support early to address children's social and emotional difficulties will achieve better outcomes for your family and community.

Got It! provides opportunities for children to:

- Manage their feelings and behaviours both at home and school
- Learn to make and maintain friendships more easily
- Develop problem solving skills
- Become more confident and resilient

The Got-It! team will be at Westport Public School in the first weeks of Term 1, 2019 and more information will be shared via the school newsletters in the coming weeks.

