Welcome back to the new school year for 2016. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new families to our school and I am looking forward to meeting you and your children over the coming weeks. I am certain you will enjoy being part of a wonderful school community in which we strive to provide our students with the best possible education.

The year has commenced very smoothly with all children settling into their new classes and school routines very well. A number of new children have enrolled this year which has brought our current student enrolment to 656.

This year, we also welcome a number of new staff members to our school: Ms Kelly Peake, Deputy Principal; Mrs Janie Street, Registrar; Miss Katy Watson, Teacher Pre-primary/Year 1; Miss Domenica Gerace, Year 2 Teacher; Miss Cathy Dagostino, Year 3 Teacher; Mr Brad Gartrell, Year 3/4 Teacher; Mrs Kylie Isaia, LOTE (Italian) Teacher; Mrs Kristin Miell, Music Teacher and Mrs Helen Cope and Miss Danielle Mathews, School Officers. I am certain that all staff will continue to ensure that we provide all children with an engaging and challenging learning programme in a welcoming, safe and supportive environment.

The children all look wonderful in their school uniform and school hats and parents are to be thanked for their commitment to ensuring that the presentation of our Wattle Grove students continues. The dedication, time and commitment by our volunteer parent Uniform Coordinator, Kerry Henshall, is greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

During this week’s heatwave, we have kept the children in their air-conditioned classrooms and they have all been magnificent. I have been most impressed in visiting the classes just how quickly they have adjusted to their learning following the holidays.

**Celebrate Australia Day – Fundraising for the Yarloop Bush Fires**

As Australia Day falls within our school holidays, we will be conducting a special Celebrate Australia Day – Aussie Day this Friday, 12 February 2016. Students are encouraged to wear clothing and colours depicting the Australian theme and will participate in a range of learning activities about Australia throughout the week. Most importantly, we are making this a fundraiser for the Yarloop Bush Fire Appeal. This was a devastating tragedy for the families of this community and, as a school, we would like to show our support, and the ‘Aussie spirit’, by raising a substantial amount for this cause. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

**Parent Information Meetings**

Next Tuesday, 16 February 2016 all parents are invited to attend our Class Parent Information Meetings conducted by your child’s class teacher in their classrooms.

This, however, is a parent only evening:

- 4.45–5.30pm Rms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
- 5.30–6.15pm Rms 7, 9, 10, 14, 16, 20, 22 & 25
- 6.15–7.00pm Rooms 11, 13, 18, 19, 23, & 24
- 7.00–7.45pm Rooms 8, 12, 15, 17, 21 & 26
I would encourage all parents to attend these meetings so that you can learn more about the learning program that your children will be undertaking this year. The success of your child’s learning requires excellent communication and understanding between the home and the school and these meetings are just the commencement of building a wonderful relationship between parents and teachers.

I look forward to seeing you all next Tuesday evening.  

Julie Roberts  
Principal

Student Representatives

Congratulations to these students, who will take on the roles and responsibilities as the student leaders for Term 1.

(See photo above)


School Canteen

The school has a wonderful canteen facility which will be operating each Wednesday and Thursday in 2016. The Canteen operates with a Canteen Manager and the assistance of a dedicated group of volunteer parents. Parents interested in assisting in the canteen on either day for a few hours are asked to contact the school or the Canteen Manager, Suze Forrest on 0422 247 284. It isn’t very difficult to make a sandwich or a wrap and the children love having their parents or grandparents help out at school.

School Development Days 2016

A reminder to parents that the School Development Days for 2016 are:

- Term 1 - Friday, 4th March 2016
- Term 2 - Friday, 3rd June 2016
- Term 3 - Monday, 18th July 2016
- Term 4 - Friday, 25th November, Friday, 16th December

These days are pupil free days and children do not attend school. Some of these days may also differ from other schools.

Welcome to the New Staff for 2016

Office Staff L to R
Helen Cope (School Officer), Janie Street (Registrar) and Danielle Mathews (School Officer).

Teaching Staff L to R
Kristin Miell (Music), Kelly Peake (Rm14/Deputy Principal), Kylie Isaia (Italian), Katy Watson (Rm 9), Cathy Dagastino (Rm 19) and Brad Gartrell (Rm 24).
Great Start to 2016

See these photos larger in a slideshow on the school blogsite at — www.wattlegroveps1.blogspot.com.au
Deputy Principal Corner:

School Absences
In accordance with the Education Act 1999, it is a requirement for parents and carers to provide an acceptable reason for all student absences. All absences impact on student learning to some degree, especially if they are regular or extended. Acceptable attendance has been set at 95% or 9.5 weeks each term. Even at this rate it adds up to 10 days a year or 130 days absence over the 13 years of compulsory schooling.

100% attendance = 13 years attendance, 0% absent
90% or 4.5 days/week = 11.7 years schooling, 1.3 yrs absent
80%, 4 days schooling = 10.4 years schooling, 2.6 yrs absent
70% 3.5 days schooling = 9.1 years schooling, 3.9 yrs absent
60% 3 days schooling = 7.8 years schooling, 5.2 yrs absent

These are average figures, but show how absences can have a huge impact on student learning over time.

School App
Wattle Grove Primary School has a School App. It is available for both Apple or Android phones. It has many useful features. Have you downloaded it for your phone yet?

The App has been used in 2015 and feedback has been very positive. Here are a few things you can use it for:

◊ Submitting student absences
◊Viewing the canteen menu and ordering online
◊Viewing and downloading school newsletters
◊Checking the School Calendar
◊Calling or emailing the school
◊Receiving reminders of events and activities at school
◊Checking the school website and blog
◊Keeping student details up to date
◊and more…

Download it now and try it for yourself…

Stuart Meachem
Deputy Principal

School Contributions
Contribution funding is used as part of the enormous range of learning activities offered and resources provided throughout the year, e.g. art/craft, technology, library books, science and maths equipment, etc.

Whilst contributions are voluntary, the quality of our teaching and learning program will be maximised when each family makes its contribution.

Thank you to all families who have paid their Voluntary Contributions for 2016. If you haven’t paid your Contributions yet, please forward your payment to the front office. We accept cash, cheques and EFTPOS. Please make all cheques payable to “Wattle Grove Primary School”. Many thanks.

Contributions are as follows:

◊ One child $60.00
◊ Two children $100.00
◊ Three or more children $135.00

School Uniform & Shoes:
The school takes great pride in all children wearing the school uniform. It is School Policy that the school uniform be worn by all children at all times.

The school colours are green and gold. The summer uniform includes gold polo shirt / T-shirt with school logo and green shorts, skirt or skorts.

Footwear (no thongs or slides) must be worn at all times. Shoes are to be black or white with black or white laces and socks.

Hat Policy:
The School’s Sun Protection Policy requires children to wear a School Sunsmart Hat. All children need to have a School Hat at school. The school’s Sun Protection Policy and School Dress Code includes a “No School Hat – No Play Policy” all year round. Therefore students are required to wear their Sunsmart School Hat for all outdoor activities.

NO jewellery except a watch.

Snakes:
Just a reminder to parents that at this time of year, we need to be watchful of snakes and to notify a staff member of any sightings in the school grounds.

P&C News:
The P&C AGM will be held Wednesday, 17th February at 7.00pm in the BER room. All parents and community members are welcome to attend. All positions will be open for re-election on the night.

The Uniform Shop is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings 8.30am – 9.00am.

The Canteen operates on Wednesday and Thursdays and orders can be placed online by going to www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au. Volunteer assistants are always welcome.