From The Principal

It has been a busy couple of weeks filled with learning opportunities at Wentworthville Public School! As the Principal of this great school, I see myself as a lead learner and professional development needs to be an ongoing frame of reference for all of us as we move forward amidst massive educational changes. I attended my three day Principal Induction two weeks back and was encouraged by the many newly appointed principals forging onwards in Public Education and striving to improve student outcomes at every point. We face great opportunity as well the reality of great responsibility.

Below are just a few of the many opportunities in the last two weeks:

* PSSA teams started on February 26 and is it terrific to see so many students in Years 3-6 representing our school. Thank you to PSSA coaches and the time they give up to coach each week.

* Our weekly playgroup in the hall on Wednesday mornings is going well under the leadership of our Community Engagement Officer – Makeleta Felila.

* Our Year 6 parents had the opportunity to meet with the Deputy Principal from Pendle Hill HS regarding the High School transition process and form completion. Mrs Eastwood’s leadership enabled this wonderful night to go ahead.

* Mrs Rafidi met with a number of our Kindergarten parents and outlined the Best Start report which captured their children’s learning so far. It was another great opportunity to meet with 76 of our community. Thank you for joining with us.

* Our students participated in the Schools Clean Up Australia on Friday March 4 and developed their environmental understanding and cleaned up our school marvellously. Congratulations to 3M as the winning class.

* Our student leaders had the opportunity to represent the school and attend the Leadership Conference day at Olympic Park. This opportunity was excellent as it equipped our new leaders with concepts and ideas to assist them in their duties in 2016 and into the future.
* Every day students have been building on their Literacy and Numeracy skills in classrooms

As you can see by the above list there are many opportunities for the students, staff and community at WPS.

P & C

The P&C serve our school well and partner with us as we all work at achieving the best for our students at Wentworthville. I would like to thank the 2015 Executive and members who have given freely of their time throughout the year. The generous donations to the school in the last year are appreciated and are clear evidence of this effective partnership. The recent donation of $10,000 will join the $7,000 Wenty Leagues grant you secured last year and go towards the grounds improvement project we are currently organising for the Yandina area.

**P&C AGM postponed until April 6 meeting time (see President’s message below)**

Becoming involved in the Wentworthville Public School (WPS) is a great way to support our school, get to know other parents, find out what is happening in your child's school and become part of Wentworthville Public School community. Our P&C, WPS meets on the first Wednesday of every month, during school term, in the school staff room at 6pm.

In accordance with Association’s by-laws, the P&C is required to hold an Annual General Meeting which is re-scheduled for Wednesday, 6 April 2016 at 6pm.

All the current office bearer roles will be declared vacant and nominations called for President, Two Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Uniform shop Coordinator, Canteen Coordinator and Fund Raising Coordinator. Please note that you must be a financial member to nominate and vote at the AGM.

Please feel welcome and be part of it! - *Mr Fred Thinesh*  *(Current P&C President)*

**Year 7 Selective High School Placement test is tomorrow - Thursday 10th March, 2016**

The test centre for Wentworthville Public School Year 6 students is Greystanes High School Beresford Road, Greystanes, NSW. 2145. Placement Test to be held from 9am - 1.30pm

Denise Lockrey - Principal

**The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey**

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 24 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you Wednesday March 23, 2016. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

**Notes in bags today:**

| SRC Cake stall fundraiser - all classes |
| SRC representative note (2 representatives per class = 44 students) |
| The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey consent form (Years 4-6 only) |
| Harmony Day (K-6) |
| Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) - parent note and policy note - Classes:3/4D, 4J, 4/5S, 5/6B and 5/6E |
| Internet / Technology and IPad acceptable use policy - all students |
| Stage 2 Camp note (Classes: 3M, 3/4H, 1-4H, 3-6T, 3/4D, 4J and 4/5S) |

**CHESS - Latest news**

The chess class at Wentworthville runs on Thursday mornings from 8:00 am - 8:55 am. If you are interested in joining the chess class, please contact the Sydney Academy of Chess on (02) 9745 1170 or via enrol@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au

**Upcoming chess event**

19th March: Parramatta Saturday Fun Tournament

More information on events and coaching can be found on sydneyacademyofchess.com.au
Solution puzzle #1
1. Rc7+, Kb6 2. Rc6#

Staffing

I am pleased to announce to the community that the process of interview and appeals period has ended and I can announce that Mrs Bianca Cozad has been successful via the Merit Selection Process at interview and has been appointed as our Assistant Principal Support leading the team in the Support Unit. I wish to congratulate Mrs Cozad on her appointment and thank the P&C representatives, Mr Fred Thinesh and Mrs Leanne Keighley and Mrs Rafidi for being excellent panel members on behalf of the school. The school will benefit from Mrs Cozad’s extensive skills and experience in the specialised area of supporting students with disabilities.

Opal Cards

All students must show their opal cards when using the public transport. We have been informed that starting Monday March 14 all students will need to show their card, otherwise they will need to pay. Please go online for accessing a card or for further details.
Congratulations on all your hard work and excellent behaviour:

**Prabin (3/4H), Jiah (3/4H), Nilesh (3/4D), Divy (4/5S) x2, SaiKeshav (5/6B), Jheel (3/4D), Krish (3M).**

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**Principal’s Book Award Students 2016**

**Term 1 – weeks 2-6**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fatima T</td>
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<td>Vaidehi A</td>
<td>3/4D</td>
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<td>Kyanshu S</td>
<td>2S</td>
<td>Rohan J</td>
<td>3M</td>
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<td>Heli J</td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>VenyaReddy P</td>
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<td>Huatong C</td>
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<td>Garv K</td>
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Harmony Day
Harmony Day - 21/03/16

At Wentworthville Public School we will be celebrating Harmony Day on Monday 21\textsuperscript{st} March 2016. On this day we celebrate Australia’s cultural diversity. Harmony Day is a great way for students to learn about Australia’s rich cultural diversity. It is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. To celebrate this sense of belonging we will be having an event called ‘HarmonyParade’ at the school at 9.15am on Monday 21\textsuperscript{st} March 2016. Students are invited to wear cultural dress, carry a flag or a cultural item or a drawing they have made. Every class will participate by walking in a circle under our main COLA and families are welcome to attend the ‘HarmonyParade’ and take photographs of the event. It will be an opportunity for us to appreciate our diversity and our sense of belonging. Our ‘HarmonyParade’ will start at 9.15am and conclude by 10.15am.

From The Library
Borrowing Champions Award

Ms Hall is presenting a weekly award to the class that has the most borrowers. At the end of the year the class that has won the award the most amounts of times will get to have a party lunch in the library. The purpose of this award is to motivate our students to borrow books that they are interested in and enjoy reading for pleasure.

Week 4 - winners were 3/4D.

Week 5 - winners were KO.

Week 6 - winners were 1/4H.
Premier's Reading Challenge

The **Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) 2016** has started.

Our goal is to have every student at Wentworthville Public School participate.

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools.

Students in K-2 classes will log books as part of their weekly library lessons and in their classrooms. Students in years 3-6 will be responsible for completing their own book logs. (Assistance will be provided in library lessons where needed.)

The following PDF provides both parents/carers and students a comprehensive understanding of the rules. Please take the time to read them together.

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**SRC Cake Stall**

**SRC Cake Stall**

The SRC will be raising funds for The Clean Up Australia Day. The stall will be held at 1st Break on Wednesday 16th March, 2016 at the Library. Cakes will cost in the range of 50c up to $2. What a great idea from our SRC! Yum, Yum, YUM!

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**School Photographs**

**Photo Day - 7th April, 2016**

The School Photographer will be at school on 7 April, 2016, to take all individual, class and sibling photos. Payment envelopes will be sent home next week. Every student must return their envelope even if photos are not being purchased. Envelopes for 'Sibling Photos' can be collected from the office from the 16/03/16. It is important that all students come to school in full school uniform, including shoes and hair accessories. All sport and group photos will be taken on 26 May, 2016.

Fiona Boersma - Coordinating Teacher