Wonderful Happenings at Wenty!

During Term 3 I have used school Wellbeing funds to facilitate the following Social Skills program called Sport in Schools Australia for all the students at Wentworthville PS.

The Social Skills Program is an initiative that supports values education and character behaviours. The program has been designed in recognition of the generational change of social interaction amongst primary school children. In the “technology & indoor generation” this program is a direct response to the current indoor focus of play and interaction and focuses on the development and consequences of good social skills.

The program offers a unique experience for students to participate in a wide range of team building and co-operative learning activities. With an improvement in Social Skills, students will be armed with social skills that will allow them to strengthen interpersonal relationships and facilitate success in the school. The positive consequences of improved Social Skills include -

- Positive and safe learning environment
- Student resilience in tough times
- Students who seek appropriate and safe avenues for aggression and frustration
- Students who take personal responsibility for promoting school safety
- Improved peer negotiation / problem solving
- Active listening and communicating

The SiSA program delivers a practical based program to support and reinforce the theory based programs of PBL and Kids Matter which we have relaunched at WPS this year.

Delivered utilising an outdoor, engaging learning experience, the learning outcomes of the Social Skills program can be applied across all K-6 students and the improved social skills and behaviour have a direct correlation with broader educational outcomes and learnings.
Students who engage in practical based learning retain a much higher percentage of learning outcomes, and the Social Skills program aims to complement any classroom based positive learning / Social Skills theory and allow students to put that into practice. The program is delivered using specialised equipment that gets children interacting in a fear free environment (no competition).

And now a word from the students!

**Student reviews of Sport in Schools Australia’s Social Skills Program**

Students have been enjoying taking part in the social skills program delivered by Sport in Schools Australia (SISA). The program delivers practical learning experiences to strengthen social skills such as team work and active listening. I have heard many positive reviews from students from K-6 in the playground. Students from 6H reviewed their experiences and their responses were overwhelmingly positive. The two examples below are indicative of the wonderful learning experience that the program has delivered.

“I like SiSA because the games we played were fun and helped us learn to work together as a team. No one missed out on playing” – **Vacha P**.

“Sport in Schools Australia has been teaching us the values of leadership and sportsmanship whilst teaching new activities to improve our health and well-being” – **Ali J**.

-Mark Hobor

**THANK YOU TO MRS DEUIS ...**

Our School Administration Manager who successfully transitioned the school from the old financial system of OASIS to the new operational system that went live on Monday September 5!

It was indeed a huge effort and the school has already benefited from her skill and expertise. There will be ongoing communication with the school community as we have new procedures in place to handle money and facilitate payments for school activities. Your patience is appreciated.

I was so happy with Mrs Deuis’ hard work and efforts, I awarded her a principal sticker! 😊
Kindergarten Enrolments for 2017

Our Kindergarten 2017 planning is well underway. If you haven’t yet enrolled your pre-schooler for Kindergarten 2017 at WPS, please collect an enrolment form from the office. You will need to bring with you originals of proof of residential address, birth certificate and immunisation records and any visa paperwork (if required).

If you have friends living in the area who have children of school starting age you might like to let them know it is time to sign up and enrol their children for school in 2017.

125th Birthday Celebration – Thursday September 15, 2016

I hope you can join us next Thursday for our 125th Celebration of Education at Wentworthville Public School. See details on flyer below.
Please take the opportunity to participate in engaging with the school via:

- Tell Them from Me survey (see below)
- Enrichment Class survey (see top of next page)

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

I am delighted that this term and early next term, our school, like many other public schools 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.

You may remember that our students also participated in a *Tell Them From Me* student survey in Term 1 this year *(for students in Years 4, 5 and 6)*. Asking students to complete the survey twice in one year allows us to identify trends in student responses as well as track engagement and motivation across the school year.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us 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.

The students in Years 4-6 will complete their second online survey at school with senior executive during Term 4 - Weeks 1 and 2.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 22 August and 21 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Wednesday September 21, 2016. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

**The Partners in Learning parent feedback survey**

This Term, our school will be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents’ and carers’ perspectives on their child’s experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school’s support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 22 August and 21 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.

Review of Enrichment Classes
Wentworthville Public School is currently undertaking a review of the Enrichment Classes as part of our ongoing improvement within the school. We have undertaken the skills of a retired principal to independently gather data on research and school data and they are also surveying staff, students and the community for valuable feedback. We will also be conducting focus groups early in Term 4.

If you would like to participate in a focus group discussing the enrichment classes, please leave your name and contact number with the school office and a senior executive member will be in touch to organise a focus group time.

We would appreciate you completing the following survey regarding Enrichment Classes at Wentworthville as it will provide us with valuable feedback.

**Parent link to complete Enrichment Classes survey:**
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KPP6Y5R

Denise Lockrey
Principal

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**Peer Support News**

**Week 8 – Making Choices**
During Peer Support this week, the children will be discussing and developing ways to be responsible. The activities will reinforce the concept that being responsible is doing what we say we will do and to the best of our ability. This week help develop with your child 2-3 things they can do around the home to show they are responsible ie: feed the dog each night, set the table at 6.30pm each day.

**Week 9 – Doing My Best**
In Peer Support this week the children will be encouraged to attempt new and unfamiliar tasks by trying the best they can. The activity involves the Peer Support group being separated into 3 groups and rotating through 3 different tasks. The different tasks will help the children to identify different strengths in each other and that everyone’s different strengths can be used to solve a problem or complete a task. Discuss with your child their individual strengths and provide them with opportunities to utilise these strengths during the week. Remind them you will be proud of them in all situations if they always do their best.

**Week 10 – What Can I Do?**
In this week’s final session of the Peer Support module Promoting Harmony the children will be creating a chatterbox, helping them reflect on what they have learned over the past 7 weeks. They will be reminded to reflect on their values and how they can demonstrate these to other people. Each Peer Support group will have the opportunity to celebrate what they have learned and the new friendships and connections they have made.
Wonderful Stage Three visited Canberra last week!

Stage Three students were given the opportunity to attend an overnight excursion to Canberra last week. Students visited a range of places, including the National War Memorial, the High Court, the National Gallery, the Australian Institute of Sport, Questacon and Parliament House. Students participated in a range of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy. The teachers were extremely proud of all of our students who represented Wentworthville Public School with pride.

A special thank you to Mr Hobor, Mr Train, Mrs Boersma and Mrs Eastwood for their time and efforts in making this excursion happen.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributed funding of $20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school and was taken off the original cost to students for the excursion.

Mrs Eastwood
2016 School Swimming and Water Safety Program

The School Swimming and Water Safety Program is a learn to swim and water safety program that develops water confidence and provides students with basic skills in water safety and survival for students in Years 2 to 6. The Program operates daily lessons of 45 minutes over 10 consecutive school days. The intensive nature of the lessons provide the most beneficial student outcomes.

Students who have not reached a satisfactory standard of water safety and survival skills and are unable to swim 25m confidently, unaided in deep water, are eligible to participate in the School Swimming and Water Safety Program.

The Program focuses on weak swimmers in Year 2 to 6 as well as students with special needs such as new arrivals in Australia and students with disabilities.

The program will be held in Term 4, Weeks 3 and 4, from Monday, 24th October until Friday, 4th November, 2016.

It is important that students are able to attend all 10 days of the program. Permission notes will be sent home this Wednesday. There are a limited number of places available for students.

Lynette McMahon (School Swim Program Co-ordinator)

Positive Behaviour for Learning

Our Positive behaviour for Learning (PBL) lessons have continued to be a success across the school. Over the past two weeks the school community has been focusing on:

I am prompt – these lessons have supported students to ensure they are in the right place at the right time. Students have demonstrated that they understand that by being prompt they are providing themselves with the best opportunity to be successful learners.

I am cooperative – these lessons have supported students to value team work in all lessons. Students have been working together in the classroom and playground to provide a positive environment for all members of our school community.

This week’s PBL focus is I consider others

Next week’s PBL focus is I am a learner in the playground
Fruit & Veg Month 2016 – Vegetables are Funky!

Our school has registered for the fun of Fruit & Veg Month (www.fruitandvegmonth.com.au).

Fruit & Veg Month 2016 runs for the last 4 weeks of this term, Monday 29 August to Friday 23 September. The aim of Fruit & Veg Month is to encourage everyone to eat more fruits and vegetables and develop healthy eating habits that last a lifetime.

Parent engagement is so important in the success of health promoting school programs such as Fruit & Veg Month and Crunch & Sip.

As part of Fruit & Veg Month, students will be involved in various classroom and school-based activities that aim to encourage them to eat more fruit and vegetables.

If you require more information on what activities our school is doing for Fruit & Veg Month, please contact the school or your child’s teacher.

Navjot Gill
Fruit & Veg Month School Coordinator

Notes in Bags

1. Swimming Scheme Note - (Years 2-4 and Support Unit)
2. Year 1 Excursion note – Year 1
3. Tell Them From Me – Parent Consent Form (Years 4-6)
4. Survey Monkey – 3/4D and 5/6E parents
Congratulations to all the 49 students who sat for the ICAS Writing test 2016. We had a fantastic result with 33 Participation, 7 Merit, 7 Credit and 2 Distinctions. All certificates were given out during the 3-6 Assembly in week 7 along with the testing booklet for you to keep as a reference. Well done everyone. Stay tuned for future results.

Ms Moorhouse - ICAS Coordinator

**Writing - ICAS Results - 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Year 3 and 4</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abhay S</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annojan V</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashwin J</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nershana R</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rohan J</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venushan S</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sujith S</td>
<td>3/4H</td>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ceres H</td>
<td>3/4H</td>
<td>Merit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahek P</td>
<td>3/4H</td>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aditi G</td>
<td>3/4D</td>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hari R</td>
<td>3/4D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dakshina J</td>
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<td>Samya M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neha K</td>
<td>3/4D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nihitha K</td>
<td>3/4D</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nilesh K</td>
<td>3/4D</td>
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<td>Vaidehi A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jheel G</td>
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<td>Miguel R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riya S</td>
<td>3/4D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saravjot S</td>
<td>3/4D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thiviya U</td>
<td>4J</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girindran B</td>
<td>4J</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lashyah K</td>
<td>4J</td>
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<td>Amirthasakaran S</td>
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<td>Distinction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diksha M</td>
<td>3/4D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin H</td>
<td>3/4D</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thiviyan U</td>
<td>4/5S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keerthika Y</td>
<td>4/5S</td>
<td>Participation</td>
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Well done!
Over the past two weeks the teachers at Wentworthville Public School have been engaging in professional learning to support the implementation of the KidsMatter initiative across our school.

Next term we will be incorporating a number of initiatives across the school as we continue to further enhance the positive school community we have developed at Wentworthville Public School.

Have a look at the information sheet at the back of this newsletter to see how Belonging at School makes a difference.

Mr Train
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Go Live LMBR, Back Up - Stage 2 Local Walking Excursion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 6</td>
<td>3-6T attending Holroyd School Concert</td>
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<td>Sept 7</td>
<td>SiSA P&amp;C meeting 9am Newsletter</td>
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<td>Yr 3-6 Choir Performance - Silver Spoons Senior Citizens Club 10.30am</td>
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<td>Sept 8</td>
<td>Stage 2 Camp Narrabeen Sport &amp; Rec</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>School Tour - 2pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 9</td>
<td>Stage 2 Camp Narrabeen Sport &amp; Rec</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Support Unit Reviews (all day)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 13</td>
<td>Celebrating the Arts @ Riverside Theatre (am + pm)</td>
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<td>Sept 14</td>
<td>SiSA Parent Café 9-11am Premiers Regional Spelling Bee Comp @Darcy Rd</td>
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<td>PS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 15</td>
<td>125th Birthday Celebration Event 11.30-3pm!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 16</td>
<td>Support Unit Reviews (all day)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Sept 19</td>
<td>Year 1 Excursion to Museum of Fire @ Penrith Video Conference S/6E with Morris Gleitzman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 20</td>
<td>'Wenty Olympics' K-2 9.30-11am 3-6 11.40-1.30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 21</td>
<td>SiSA Year 6 Fundraiser - Crazy hat /hair day Newsletter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 22</td>
<td>Year 2 Excursion Warragamba Dam</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sept 23</td>
<td>Last Day of term 3</td>
</tr>
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Hols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Return for Term 4 on</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>October 10</th>
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Belonging at school makes a difference


Aunt Sue also talked to Tommy’s friend, Lulu, who had come over to play. “What about you, Lulu? How do you like school?” “It’s good. If I need the teacher then I have to put up my hand. But if I need help at playtime I can ask Jackie,” said Lulu. “Is Jackie your friend?” “Jackie’s my buddy. She’s a big girl.” “What does a buddy do?” “She helps me if I don’t know where to go or other stuff. She helps to look after me ‘cos she’s big and I’m now.”

Starting school is a big change for children

Not only do they have to cope with schoolwork and teachers, but they also have to get used to being part of a class and a whole school. A lot more is expected of children when they start school and there are lots more people to get on with. It helps children to know that there are people at school who will look after them and care about their needs.

Belonging improves mental health, wellbeing and learning

All children need to feel that school is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out problems. When these needs are met children develop a sense of belonging at school. Belonging is very important for children’s mental health and wellbeing.

Children who feel that they belong at school are happier, more relaxed, and have fewer behavioural problems than other students. They are also more motivated to learn and be more successful with their schoolwork. Research into children’s mental health has found that a sense of belonging and connectedness at school helps to protect children against mental health difficulties and improves their learning.

Making friends and having positive relationships with teachers helps children develop a sense of belonging at school. Having older ‘buddies’ to turn to helps younger children feel that school is a place where they can get help if they need it. Looking after younger children encourages caring and helping in older children and helps to reduce conflicts and bullying. These are some of the ways that children’s sense of belonging at school can be supported.
More ways schools can help create a sense of belonging

As part of KidsMatter Primary, schools look closely at ways they can continue to build strong positive, respectful relationships with all students and families. This includes things like:

- making the school environment welcoming for all students and families
- encouraging teachers to get to know all their students and their families
- identifying ways of improving communication with families
- focusing on child and family strengths
- making sure that school policies on safety, welfare and discipline are clearly communicated and support a sense of belonging for children and families.

All children need to feel that school is a safe place.

How parents and carers can help

Parents and carers can work with school staff to help create a bridge between home and school. When the adults responsible for children take a positive interest in what happens at school it helps children feel at home. It also makes it easier to pick up any problems early when they are easiest to resolve.

- Find out about the school and what your child is learning; participate in information sessions.
- Make time to listen to your child tell you about what he or she is doing at school.
- Let your child’s teacher know if he/she is having difficulties and discuss what kinds of things you can do at home and school to help.

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au

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Your invitation to

Wentworthville Community Garden

Open Day
at the award winning community garden
Saturday 15 October 2016
9:30 am to 2:00 pm
✓ potted plant & seedling sale
✓ trash ‘n’ treasure ✓ fresh vegies
✓ sausage sizzle ✓ craft & cakes
✓ devonshire teas ✓ jams & pickles
✓ home made curries ✓ live music

73 Fullagar Road
Wentworthville

(behind the tennis courts, access pathway next to canal)