Welcome back

I would like to welcome everybody back to William Ruthven Primary School. The year has started smoothly. It was wonderful to see all the smiling faces on the first day of school. In particular I would like to welcome all our new students and their families to the school. I trust that your time here will be a great one. I would also like to welcome all our new Foundation students and their families to our school. It is an exciting time for these students as they embark on their schooling.

I would also like to welcome and introduce our new staff to the school: Tina M Foundation A, Denise K Grade 1/2C and Julian S Grade 5/6A. I know that these teachers along with the teachers already at William Ruthven PS will make a valuable contribution to the school.

Meet and Greet

On Wednesday 17th February we will be having a meet and greet your child’s teacher for 2016. This is an opportunity for you to meet your child’s teacher, introduce yourself and pass on any information that you think will help them work with your child. Class teachers will not be reporting on how your child is doing academically at this early stage. Forms have already been sent home with possible meet and greet times. If you would like to meet your child’s class teacher please complete and return to school as soon as possible.

2016 School Council elections

Nominations will open on Wednesday 17th February and close on Wednesday 24th February for two parent representatives on the William Ruthven Primary School, School Council. If you are interested in being on the school council or would like to find out more information about what is involved with being on the school council, please feel free to contact me. Nomination forms can be obtained from the office.

Welcome BBQ

On Wednesday night we had a welcome BBQ for all the foundation students and their families. It was great to see all the families there. It was a wonderful opportunity for all the new foundation parents to mix and meet other parents in the foundation year in a relaxed forum. Thank you to Mr S and Mr M for helping out with the BBQ.

Bunnings BBQ

A note has been sent home asking for parent assistance at our upcoming Bunnings BBQ at Thomastown Bunnings on Saturday 5th March. This is an excellent opportunity for us to raise some money for the school. For this to be a success we need your support on the day. If you are able to spare and hour or two on the day could you please complete the form or contact the office. We need your help.

Reminders

Parents and students are reminded that during term 1, hats are to be worn when outside during recess and lunch. Could parents please ensure that all pieces of clothing are clearly labelled with your child’s name. Throughout the course of the school year we have many pieces of school uniform handed in and we are unable to return them as there are no names on them. Assemblies are on Monday mornings commencing at 8:55 am. All parents are welcome to attend the school assemblies.

Parking around the school

I would like to remind parents of the parking restrictions that are in place around the school. Darebin Council constantly monitor the parking and have issued infringement notices to those that do not follow the notices.

Speed zone limits.
The Victorian Government has asked all School PrincipalS to remind parents that the speed limit around all schools is 40km. For the safety of all our students please abide by these limits.

Allan Waterson

Have you visited our website

For all the latest information on our school visit our website: www.williamruthvenps.vic.edu.au
Cassie and her mum go to the mother and daughter camp. On the way mum gets hayfever. They got lost on their way. At the camp mum sneezes. The older girls play pranks. Mum fell in the shower and hurt herself. Mum gets bitten by a red ant but she thinks it is a spider. Mum goes back to bed and Cassie goes on the pendulum swing. They went orienteering and played basketball. That night they did a concert. A bat scared them in their cabin. The mums play pranks on the older girls as pay-back. They did an obstacle course in a sleeping bag. They made kites and flew them. Cassie climbed the tree to rescue the cat kite. They went canoeing. Mum and Cassie won the race. When they were playing canoe tag they capsized the canoe. Mum was happy because they were going home.
Foundation A & B - Self Portraits and Numeracy

February 11th 2016
On the weekend I went to a park with my cousin Halo. We had fun and I was happy.

Leah

On the weekend I stayed home. I played Wii. I played Animal Crossing in the kitchen.

Melinda

On the weekend I went to the park. And I went in the pool.

Dean D

On the weekend I went to James' college. I have three subjects: maths, English, and art, later a plum and banana. On Sunday I ate breakfast went to have a bath and did my homework. Then I went to play cricket.

Anhad
Dear William Ruthven Families,

Students with irregular and poor attendance often struggle at school and the value they receive from their education is greatly diminished as a result. Schools within the region are taking the issue seriously, improving monitoring and follow-up of students who stay away. Also we are making our programs and classroom teaching practices more engaging for young people. Student absence is not an issue which can be dealt with solely by the school. It requires the support of both parents and the community if it is to be successfully addressed. This year schools within the region are working together as part of a state wide strategy, engaging parents and the broader community in addressing the issue. The strategy uses the simple slogan…

…‘It’s Not OK to Be Away’…

There are ways in which community agencies and service organisations can assist schools, and as part of the regional strategy we seek your cooperation and support for the work of your schools in your local area. It is only when we see education as a partnership between school, parents and community that we will be able to properly address this issue. Looking forward to working together, to give our children the best education possible.

Yours sincerely,
Peter MARCO & Allan WATERSON
School Assistant Principal School Principal

P.S. Please read carefully our school’s “Absence Data” for 2015 below…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance is on or above 95%</th>
<th>95%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Their attendance is excellent and they are likely to be performing to the best of their ability and to have a strong social connection with their peers</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance is between 90 to 94%</th>
<th>90 to 94%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Their attendance is good and they are likely to be achieving results that will allow them to succeed in school and to have a good social connection</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance is between 85 to 89% - Take Care</th>
<th>85 to 89%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The child is missing enough days that this will make it difficult for them to achieve their best. It is also likely that they will find it hard to have good social connections with their peers</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance is between 80 to 84% - Be Alert</th>
<th>80 to 84%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The child is missing so much school that it is difficult to keep in touch with what is being taught. It also makes it very difficult to have good social connections with their peers</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance is below 80% - Immediate Action Needed</th>
<th>Below 80%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The child is missing so much school that it is almost impossible for them to succeed. It is also likely that they are having difficulties making good social connections</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community News

SUNSMART REMINDER

William Ruthven Primary School is a SunSmart school committed to ensuring students and staff are protected from too much UV which can cause skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Our school uniform includes skin covering clothing and sun protective hats and we have shady spaces for students to access. But we need your help. SunSmart recommends SPF30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen be applied to any skin not covered by clothing.

Please help support this initiative by:

Talking to your child about the importance of using sunscreen regularly to help prevent skin damage and skin cancer
Ensuring your child knows how to apply their sunscreen independently and has had some applied before they come to school
Being a SunSmart role model at home with sunscreen, hats, clothing, shade and sunglasses.

WILLIAM RUTHVEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

MEET AND GREET

Wednesday February 17th 2016

Parents & Guardians of students you will have the opportunity to meet your child’s teacher, on Wednesday the 17th of February from 3:15 until 6.00 pm.

Please remember this meeting is not a progress report about your child.

This is your opportunity to tell your child’s teacher things about your child.

Thank you,

Allan Waterson
Principal

Student Records

It is very important for our student records to be kept up to date at all times especially in cases of emergency. This includes any changes of address, phone numbers or medical conditions. If any of your details have changed, could you PLEASE advise the school office immediately.

Yard Duty and First Aid Procedures

A large number of students are coming into the sick bay with low grade injuries, eg. minor cuts, abrasions and minor falls. Students that sustain minor injuries in the classroom or out in the playground will be treated on site. All classrooms and teachers out on yard duty are equipped with supplies to treat minor injuries. In these cases a note will not go home as they are low grade injuries. All moderate to severe injuries will be treated in the sick bay and of course parents will be notified via a note or phone call.

We hope families will support us in building resilience in our students, as we are sure you will recall cuts and scrapes are all part of growing up.
Community News

Changed Traffic Conditions at the front of WRPS

Please note the area at the front of our school is a drop-off only. If you park and leave your car you will be booked. We have been informed by the Council that the Traffic Officer will be enforcing this regulation.

Before School Care Program

OSHClub are investigating the prospect of starting up a before school care program.

A questionnaire is included in this week’s newsletter. Please take the time to fill out and return the questionnaire to help OSHClub plan and cater for our school communities needs.

OSTClub
Before & After School Care

HOCKIN2HOCKEY
www.hockin2hockey.hockey.org.au

CLUB: La Trobe University Hockey Club
CONTACT NAME: Mark Matthews
CONTACT NUMBER: 0419 225 528
LOCATION: KP Hardiman Reserve, Bendora, VIC, 3093
START DATE: Saturday, 20th, February, 2016
TIME: 5:30pm
EMAIL: juniors@latrobehockey.com
WEB: www.latrobeuniversityhockey.com/hookin2hockey
William Ruthven Primary School
Is now taking enrolments for 2017

Academic Excellence
Personalised learning
Innovative curriculum
A strong focus on Literacy and Numeracy
Committed and dedicated teaching staff
Strong partnership between school and family

A specialist Science School

Come and Learn.....
* Jazz
* Tap
* Contemporary
* Ballet Technique
* Hip Hop
* Singing
* Musical Theatre

Call Luisa Russo on 0415 501 376
or email Lnsdancestudio@hotmail.com

L & S Dance Studio
We encourage all students to maintain a balanced life style and what better way to balance work and play than with a weekly dose of dance!
Our classes ensure that each student is provided with a healthy and positive self-image to aid with the development of the individual within us all.
L & S Dance Studio is located at 3 Harbard Street Thomastown.

William Ruthven Primary School 60 Merrilands Rd Reservoir
Tel: 9460 1668 Fax: 9460 1858
Email: william.ruthven.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au  Website: www.williamruthvenps.vic.edu.au

Creating happy, curious and confident learners