**Newsletter Number : 1**

**TERM DATES 2016 STUDENTS**
- T1 1 February 2016 – 15 April 2016
- T2 2 May 2016 – 8 July 2016
- T3 25 July 2016 – 30 September 2016
- T4 17 October 2016 – 16 December 2016

**DIARY DATES**
- Tuesday 16 February 2016
  - Governing Council AGM
- Wednesday 17 February 2016
  - Acquaintance Night
- Monday 22 February 2016
  - PUPIL FREE DAY
- Friday 26 February 2016
  - Beach Excursion
- Monday 14 March 2016
  - Adelaide Cup Public Holiday
- Friday 25 March 2016
  - Good Friday
- Monday 28 March 2016
  - Easter Monday
- Friday 15 April 2016
  - Last day of Term 1 – Early dismissal 2pm

**WELCOME BACK**
We are all excited to be back at school and feel refreshed for 2016. Students seemed to settle straight back into their routines and we congratulate them all for the positive start they have made to their learning. We will be officially welcoming all new students at our first assembly next week.

A big congratulations to our brand new Reception students who began yesterday, don’t they look gorgeous!

**STAFFING UPDATE**
We welcome several new and returning staff to our Westport team.

Chris Secker (Yr 7 teacher, 4.1) will be on sick leave for the first 4 weeks of Term 1, at this stage. Sophie Medlin will be teaching in 4.1 and has taught at Westport before.

We welcome back Alison Riley and Esther Phillips from maternity leave. They will be sharing our Yr 6/7 class, In 4.6. Esther will also be teaching in 2.6 on Wednesdays to release Megan Stramare for our whole school Mathematics initiatives.

Lorna Gillies and Tim Heath will also be released for a half a day each on Thursdays for this same purpose. Marie Andrews will provide this release.

A special welcome to Bianca Volkov, brand new to Westport in 2016! Bianca will be teaching Year 1 students in 6.4.

A full list of staff, including photos will be sent home with the week 3 newsletter and uploaded to Skoolbag.

**SUGAR**
In our Health and PE lessons, Mr Martin will be teaching students about the concerning levels of hidden sugar found in drinks. We will be having a blitz on sugary drinks which will be supported by our wonderful canteen. Students will be able to participate in challenges and investigations across all year levels. Stay tuned for more information!

**MATERIALS & SERVICES FEES 2016**
Information about the payment schedule, and details of how School Card applications may be made, has been provided.

School Card applications must be made by 11 March 2016.

Materials & Services Fees $229.00
First Instalment $75.00 due 9.30am Thursday 18 February 2016.

**GOVERNING COUNCIL**
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
6.30pm Tuesday 16 February 2016
General Purpose Centre – All Welcome
Presentation of Annual Report 2015
Election of Members 2016 and 2017
ROCK AND WATER
Josef Zechmeister, Assistant Principal
Rock and Water program will continue for our Year 3-7 students. The program proved highly successful for both students and staff; as such we are continuing the program during this term. The program will be run Tuesdays. To ensure high quality outcomes Westport has engaged Lee Jones from Connected Self to deliver the program to Year 3-7 students during this term. The program is inclusive for all year levels involved. Students need to wear clothing suitable for physical activity.
What is Rock and Water? Rock & Water is a manual-based program that provides young people and adults a pathway to self-awareness, and increased self-confidence and social functioning. The program is based upon a psycho-physical approach, that is, the program contains a large number of experiential exercises that support young people to develop self-awareness through physical exercises.
Our involvement in Rock and Water supports Westport’s endeavours in being a school.

ACQUAINTANCE NIGHT
5.45 - 6.40pm Wednesday 17 February 2016
5.45 – 6.00pm Free Sausage Sizzle
6.00 – 6.15pm Classroom visit session 1
6.20 – 6.35pm Classroom visit session 2
6.00 – 6.30pm Preschool open
Each teacher will provide two repeated sessions so that families with more than one child can visit both classes. Years 3 – 7 teachers will introduce our Word Study and Spelling program and Reception to Year 3 teachers will share Oxford Words implementation.
A siren will sound at 6.00, 6.15 and 6.35pm to signal the beginning and end of session times.

Non Classroom teachers will supervise school aged students in the yard between 6.00pm and 6.40pm.

CANTEEN NEWS
Our Canteen operates on Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays at recess and lunchtime. Volunteers are needed – please see Carla in the canteen if you would like to help.

INFORMATION PACK - 2016
Yesterday an envelope containing information about the Materials and Services Fees/Invoice, School Card Application, Canteen List, Letter from the Minister of Education, Medication Authority, Uniform Flyer and information about the Skoolbag app was sent home with the eldest in the family.

STUDENT MEDICATION
From 2016 all medication to be administered at school will require a Medication Authority to be completed by the prescriber.
A SEPARATE authority is required for each medication.
Parents are required to update all health plans and expired medications and return to school with completed Medication Authorities at the commencement of 2016.
Medication Authorities are available from www.westporps.sa.edu.au, Skoolbag or the Front Office.

BREAKFAST CLUB
Josef Zechmeister, Assistant Principal
As part of its healthy eating initiative Westport’s Breakfast Club will be continuing in 2016. Westport Primary School extends an invitation to all students who wish to participate. The menu will vary. Generally toast, cereal, fruit, yoghurt and Milo will be offered to students in the hall.
IMPORTANT AND PLEASE NOTE- students are not to come into the school yard until 8.30am; this is when teachers are on duty. Students who arrive at 8.20am for breakfast are to be in the hall until the 8.30am bell is sounded.
The program will run Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:20am to 8:40 – students need to arrive by 8:30 so they can finish breakfast before attending class at 8:40. Parent support for clean-up and pack up would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Mr Zechmeister at the school if you are interested in helping or have any further enquiries. Mrs Mousley will be coordinating the program. We appreciate her enthusiastic support.

MONDAY NIGHT NETBALL
The Pt. Adelaide Recreation Centre holds Netball for children (Girls and Boys) U10, 12, 14 on Mondays.
Children must be under the age as at 31 December 2016. The cost is $5.00 per player per week.
All interested players should come to our Netball ‘Come and Try’ in Week 2 – 3pm to 4pm under the COLA
Yr 4 – 7 students Tuesday 9/2/16
Yr 1 – 3 students Thursday 11/2/16
If the forecast is 35deg or above as advertised in The Advertiser on the day the ‘Come and Try’ will be postponed until Week 3.
Please contact our Netball Coordinator if you have any questions on 0412238832.
Reagan Way, Netball Coordinator
MATHLETICS is continuing at Westport Primary School in 2016, for Years 1-7 students, which also includes the program Rainforest Maths. Mathletics has an outstanding reputation and is used by over 8000 schools worldwide. The program costs $99 per child, however, we have purchased an annual license for a subsidised price at no cost to you! Mathletics allows Westport students to play challenging online games against students around Australia and around the world in real time, demonstrating their speed and skill.

READING EGGS will also continue to be provided by Westport Primary School in 2016, for Reception – Year 6 students, which also includes the program Eggspress. Our trial classes last year recommended this on-line program. The program costs $75 per child, however, we have purchased an annual license for a subsidised price at no cost to you!

These programs provide each student with 24/7 access to Mathletics, Rainforest Maths and Reading Eggs and Eggspress so if you have internet access your child(ren) can also use it at home!

On-line learning is learning for the next generation, helping students to enjoy maths, spelling and reading and achieve excellent results. These programs uphold our school’s learning focus areas and are developed for Australian students linking with the Australian Curriculum. Students are motivated and engaged as they can work through curriculum at their own pace at school, home, or anywhere with internet connectivity.

Your child’s user names and passwords are glued in their diaries

We are very excited and feel privileged to have such wonderful resources at our school. Students will be encouraged to use Mathletics and Reading Eggs at home, and we hope that parents will also offer their support.

For further information and to access the Mathletics and Reading Eggs programs please follow the links below:

Help your child ACHIEVE!

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child's teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.

1. **Know what your child's teacher is trying to achieve**
   - Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child's teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child's class.

2. **Keep your expectations reasonable and positive**
   - If your expectations are too high your teacher may give up. Too low, and they will waste time.
   - The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests.

3. **Support your teacher's expectations & activities at home**
   - One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. **Send kids to school ready to learn and on time**
   - Maximise your child's chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It's estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. **Inform teachers of your child's challenges and changes**
   - If not always smooth sailing for kids, family circumstances can alter. Friends move away, illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child's teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. **Skill children to work with others**
   - Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. **Participate in class & school activities**
   - There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child's schooling and their educational success. If you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning. Around as many school functions as you can and follow the lead provided by your child's teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

8. **Trust your teacher's knowledge, professionalism and experience**
   - Your child's teachers are your greatest allies.
   - Their training, their experience around kids, and their objective professionalism put them in a strong position to make judgements call about your child.

9. **Talk up what happens at school**
   - Your child will take their cue from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10-point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list so really focus on in the coming year and you'll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child's teachers.