From the Principal.....

WELCOME BACK
A very big welcome back to all students and parents/grandparents of Wombat PS! The teaching and support staff are all very excited about this year and we hope that your children are too. This year we welcome Mrs Rebecca Stanley to the school full time as the primary teacher. Mrs Stanley brings enthusiasm and a vast experience from preschool to adult education (and all in between) to Wombat PS as well as a love of the school being a past student herself. At present our school numbers stand at 30 students with 2 full time teachers, principal (librarian, ESES, Release Teacher) 4 days a week, SAM (Office) 3 days even weeks (M, T, Th) 4 days odd weeks (M, T, W, Th) and GA 1 day.
This year will see the teaching staff attending training in the HOW to Teach program which unites staff in teaching practices that engage students academically and socially. Miss Read will also be undertaking training in the infants maths program TEN.
Our goals for this year include English, Maths (increasing individual achievement across the board with high expectations) and Australian Curriculum (Classroom teachers will be using the Australian Curriculum English Syllabus this year) As a school we are also working on enhancing our school culture with a vision of friendliness, caring, cooperation, thinking of others, sportsmanship, manners, selflessness and excellent citizenship. We are excited about all these projects and look forward to working with you and your children in achieving them.
We also plan on joining with other schools again this year for sporting fixtures, excursions (primary excursion will be to Sydney later in the year), Harmony Day, Life Education Van, Marimba ensembles and a science day (hosted by Wombat PS hopefully). There will be other events that come along which we will notify you of as they arise.

ORGANISATION:
The following organisation for classes will be in place for 2013:
INFANTS (in the BER building): Miss Read (13 students)
PRIMARY: Mrs Stanley (17 students)
LIBRARY: Mrs Bennett (Primary Monday, Infants Tuesday)
RELEASE: Mrs Bennett (Primary Monday 12:15-3pm, Infants Tuesday 12:15-3pm)
ESES: Mrs Bennett (2 reading recovery students, support each Wednesday and enrichment Wednesday afternoon) If your child is involved in these programs you will be receiving a letter regarding this in the near future.
ENGLISH GROUPS: All students have been broken into 3 English groups. At 10am Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday they will head to their English Teacher’s room for reading and grammar lessons. These are ability based groups so to ensure targeted teaching. The first group (Miss Read) has 8 students, the second group (Mrs Stanely) has 11 as too does the third group (Mrs Bennett) These groups were made up based on reading assessments at the end of 2012. This triall will run throughout Term 1. At the beginning of Term 2 we will assess the students abilities and make a decision on it’s progression for the remainder of the year.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The annual Young Small School Swimming Carnival for ALL students will be held in Week 3 on Wednesday 13th February. More information and permission notes will be sent home in the near future.

PERMISSION NOTES FOR START OF YEAR
Attached to today’s newsletter is the annual barrage of notes for the beginning of the year. Please take time to read through them and sign as required as soon as possible. We require all notes returned to school by the end of Week 3 (Friday 15th February) Thank you.
FRUIT BREAK
This year will be introducing a ‘Fruit Break’ into the classrooms at 9:45am until 10am BEGINNING ON MONDAY. During this time all students are permitted to eat fruit while engaging in modelled reading with their teacher. Fruit (or vegetables) MUST be fresh (not processed but picked from a plant only) and cut up for infants children. Children are also permitted to bring their water bottle into the classrooms throughout the day. Healthy Recess continues of course, ensuring your child/ren is eating at least 2 pieces of fresh fruit each day (Dietary requirements)

KITCHEN GARDEN:
This year Miss Read will continue in the Garden and Mrs Stanley will be the kitchen specialist. We will be running KG lessons each Thursday from 11am until 1pm starting on Thursday 14th February (Week 3). This year we will be cooking a whole school lunch each fortnight (Odd weeks) and fundraising items (biscuits, cakes, preserves etc etc) fortnightly (Even Weeks). The children will be broken into infants and primary and take turns on cooking and gardening.

We can not run this program without the wonderful help from parents. We very much appreciate everyone who gave some of their time last year and we ask again for you to consider putting your name down again this year. Each week we will require 2 garden and 2 kitchen helpers. This is a perfect opportunity for you to see the school in practice and spend time engaged in learning with your child and others. Please indicate on the note attached if you are willing to help.

Cost this year will be on a sliding scale and is only paid on the weeks of whole school lunches (odd weeks).
First child: $4
Second child: $3
Subsequent children: $2
ie: I have 3 children so I pay $9 for the lunch
This money is used to buy any extra ingredients and equipment/seedlings for the garden and is payable each fortnight. You may wish to pay for the term (5 whole school lunches). As we are looking to make preserves and jams for fundraising we are after any jars you may have handy. Please send them in as they become available.

Each Friday (beginning 22nd February) the children will have a stall on the primary verandah near the P&C office for items they’ve cooked for fundraising. These will be available for purchase at the end of the day. Why not take something scrumptious home for the weekend to share?

SCHOOL BANKING
This year we are starting up school banking again (This has been run for the past 20yrs but dwindled recently due to new students and no information available). Banking will run each Tuesday morning at the school. Mrs Vanessa Lane will collect all deposits at the little verandah of the primary building and bank it later that day.
All you need to do is apply for the school banking account for your child/ren by either:
1. Apply online: existing Commonwealth Bank customers can apply via NetBank
2. Apply at any Commonwealth Bank branch OR
3. Apply over the phone by calling 13 2221 OR
4. Apply via a paper-based application (attached to today’s newsletter—to be returned to school by Friday next week—8th Feb)
Through this program (no fees and high interest if no withdrawals and banking each month) students learn the importance of saving and how it rewards them. It would be nice to see each student have an account as this is an easy way for you to bank for them and also teaches them responsibility. Banking won’t begin until Week 5 as paper forms can take a couple of weeks to be processed.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
Wombat PS will again employ Mr Mark Corkery through the Young Regional School of Music this year. As I will be taking all children for music lessons during their teacher’s release time we will be using Mark’s time to form 2 marimba ensembles that will hopefully be entered into nearby eisteddfods and will join with other YSS to make the combined YSS marimba ensembles. There will be an infants ensemble and a primary ensemble. If your child is chosen you will be notified.

REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
We have been asked by the Department to send out flyers regarding attendance at school. Please find the first of these attached to today’s newsletters.
CONTACTS
A list of family contacts will be sent home this term so that parents can easily contact children’s friends or playdates, transport etc etc. If you DO NOT wish for your contact details to be sent out to the other families of the school please let the office know by Friday next week (8th February). Thank you.

REWARDS
This year, Bronze, Silver and Gold awards will be allocated to children based on records made at the school. In saying this children need to only hand in white cards to the office to receive their commendation. Commendations can then be kept at home. A Bronze Award will be allocated when our system indicates they have received 5 Commendations.

MONEY
Any money coming into the school should be placed in an envelope or bag labelled with your child/ren’s name and the item it is paying for. This will save confusion and time.

BOOKCLUB
The first Bookclub for 2013 has been sent home today and is due back at the school with the money no later than Tuesday 19th February. Thank you.

From the P&C........

Welcome back everyone to a new school year, and especially to all new students and families.

The Wombat PS P&C would like to encourage all families to become involved in the P&C this year. The P&C is a voluntary group of parents and citizens who meet regularly as a forum for parents and citizens to raise issues with the school and to organize events to raise money to support all WPS students. Meetings are held regularly every month, with the AGM being held in March. All suggestions, comments or criticisms are welcome, come along and have your say! It’s your P&C!

To be a member of the P&C a small affiliation fee is asked for of $2 per family (this is an insurance requirement!).

I have put together a survey (attached) so families can indicate suitable times they may be able to attend meetings, so please fill it out to allow us to try to set meetings at the most suitable time for the majority.

P&C Office: I will be open for “business” every Monday morning from 8.45 to 9.30am for parents to purchase & try on uniforms, pay fees etc or just come and have a chat and offer support or ideas.

Shelley McRae (President)
OPEN DAY AT YOUNG TENNIS
On Saturday this week (2nd February) Mr Col Maher is holding an open day for everyone to come to the Young Tennis Courts. There will be a bbq and ice creams and drinks with some games and a free hit and giggle anytime between 10am and 2pm. Come along for a fun time with the kids!

CATHOLIC CHURCH FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FOR CHILDREN
All Catholic Children who have completed their Reconciliation are invited to complete their First Holy Communion this term. (Usually children are in Yr 4) An information evening for parents and children will be held at the St Mary’s Parish Centre on Wednesday 6th February at 7pm.

KAREN LEEZ SCHOOL OF DANCE
The Karen Leez School of Dance have relocated to Young North Public School Hall and are now offering classes on Saturdays.

Enrolment Day:
Date: Saturday 2nd February
Time: 10am – 1pm
Where: Young North Public School Hall (Nasymth Street)
For enquiries please contact Karen Mills Ph: 0413 071 753 E: karenleezschoolofdance@hotmail.com
Classes commence week starting Monday 4th February 2013.

HARDEN-MURRUMBURRAH CAMERA CLUB
Please find attached information regarding the Harden Camera Club’s upcoming competition/exhibition.
If you wish to have entry forms they are at the school for pick up.

TAFE
Please find attached a list of Distance courses now on offer.

From the Community........

PRIMARY STAR OF THE WEEK
Amy Knapman
For her help and consideration

INFANTS STAR OF THE WEEK
Corben Bloor
For encouraging and helping younger students

Kinder 2013: Ben Knapman, Claire McRae, Quade Bloor, Anna Turner, Leo Auld
WELCOME TO WOMBAT PS!