PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

4 YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN 2017
Interviews for 4 Year Old Kindergarten 2017 will commence this week. These interviews are for children born between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. Our interview letters have been posted home and it is imperative that all outstanding application forms be lodged. If you are unsure about any aspect of the interview process or can’t remember if you have lodged an application please contact the office.

NAPLAN
From Tuesday 12 to Thursday 14 May, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, or NAPLAN, as it is commonly known. Skills that will be tested include reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. Later in the year an individual student NAPLAN report is sent home to parents.

• NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school’s assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance.
• The school uses results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
• More information is available on the NAPLAN website or www.nap.edu.au. If you have any concerns, please contact your child’s teacher or a member of the leadership team.

I have included in this newsletter an article about how to prepare your child for NAPLAN tests by Michael Grosse. See page no.5.

AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS
This week our Prep Primary teachers will commence collecting data for the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). This census is a population-based measure of how children in Australia have developed by the time they start their first year of full time school. Teachers complete a research tool, the Australian version of the Early Development Instrument (the Instrument).

The Instrument measures five key areas, or domains, of early childhood development. Which include physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills (school-based) and communication skills and general knowledge. These areas are closely linked to the predictors of adult health, education and social outcomes.

AEDC results for individual children are not reported and the AEDC is not used as an individual diagnostic tool. This means that an individual child report is not produced.

The value of the AEDC is that it provides information for schools, communities and governments to pinpoint the services, resources and support for children and families to help shape the future and wellbeing of children in Australia.

SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY
Last week 60 randomly selected families together with members of the Board were invited to complete the School Climate Survey. I would like to thank those families who have completed the survey and request that the other families complete the survey this week.

MOTHER’S DAY
This Sunday is Mother’s Day. Mother’s Day presents us with a chance to reflect on the many things that our mothers do for us each and every day. It would be a tremendously difficult task to count the number of meals they have prepared, the number of items they have washed and ironed and the number of tears they have wiped away. More significantly to count the number of hugs, kisses and cuddles they have given to each of their children and loved ones would be insurmountable. A mother’s love for her child is never ending.

At Yidarra we are so very fortunate to have the support and involvement of our mums in so many different facets of school life. Without their support, the opportunities for the students would be diminished.

Thank you to all mothers for the wonderful gifts that you are and we hope you have a special day on Sunday. We wish you a happy Mother’s Day.

God bless,

CARMEL COSTIN

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
The School Communications Committee is calling for volunteers to help with the next phase of improvements to our School website and internal and external communications in general. Please donate your ideas, time and talents to help us improve. Contact Fiona Chow (fchow@primus.com.au) or Tanya Giovannangelo (giovanangelo.tanya@yidarra.wa.edu.au) or via the Suggestion Box situated in the School Office.

Please forward any good quality photographs for our website and/or Yearbook to Tanya Giovannangelo, Assistant Principal.
P&F NEWS

P&F MEETING
The next P&F meeting will be held in the Library on Monday 11 May at 7.30pm.

BOOK CLUB - ISSUE #3
Orders and payment due by Tuesday 5 May

YIDARRA FOOTY TIPING
Thank you for participating in the 2015 Yidarra Footy Tipping!

ROUND 4 RESULTS
Adults - Mitchell Allen - $30
Kindy - Year 2s - Alese McManus (PP) - $15
Year 3 - Year 6s - Georgia Waddy (Year 5) - $15

ROUND 5 RESULTS
Adults - Peter Kiely - $30
Kindy - Year 2s - Alese McManus (PP) - $15
Year 3 - Year 6s - Harrison Alp (Year 5) & Liana Bempascuito (Year 4) - $7.50 each

Winnings can be collected from the office.

2015/2016 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK COMING SOON!
The new version is bigger than EVER with over 100 new businesses offering 2-for-1, 50% discounts and more in the Perth Metro and South West region.

- Books and Digital memberships (on your smartphone) will be available early May and can be used straight away. At only $65, it makes a great birthday or Mother’s Day present. Remember, 20% of the sale price goes to Yidarra P&F to buy school resources for YOUR kids.
- A sample book will be available to view in the office from May 7. Otherwise, go on to the App store (iPhone) or Play Store (HTC, Samsung, Sony)....search “Entertainment Book Australia” and view the coming issue for free.
- Orders can be placed NOW on www.entbook.com.au/8g329S or fill out an order form. Spare copies are available in the office. Payments can be made by cash, cheque (made to Yidarra P&F) for CC payments please ring/email Alex on 0419 962 963 / aarossi@iinet.net.au

KINDY NEWS
We have been very busy in Kindergarten commemorating ANZAC Day and learning all about the brave soldiers who helped to make us safe. We were very lucky to have Mr McIvor come in and speak to us about ANZAC Day!

This week we made Anzac biscuits and learnt why Anzac biscuits are special in Australian history, made poppy artwork for our classroom and learnt about why we use poppies to remember the fallen. We made poppy number wreaths and coloured in poppies for our Anzac display.

Last week together we created a special Anzac wreath with our hands and each wrote our name on a hand.

On ANZAC day Miss Searle took the Anzac wreath to the Fremantle centennial dawn service and laid it on the monument on behalf of all the Kindergarten staff and students.

Lest we forget.

CONGRATULATIONS
During the April school holidays Arden De Melo (6G) played 2 Silver ranked tennis tournaments and was the U12s Singles Finalist in both and won both the U12s Doubles titles. He also played the highest ranked junior tournament in the State, the Gold tournament held at the State Tennis Centre and won the U12s Singles title. His first big victory. His coach and family were super proud of his efforts and achievements.

Well done Arden!

LIBRARY NEWS

FAMILY READING MONTH
May is National Family Reading Month. The aim is to encourage children to ‘Read more in May’. Research shows that students who read 20 minutes a day score higher in standardised testing. That is not taking into account the advances made in spelling and writing.

This is how our Family Reading Month activity works. Each child has a Reading Planner and needs to complete as many of the reading activities as possible during the month of May. Completed Reading Planners can be returned to the library by Wednesday 3 June. Soon after that, one Reading Planner will be drawn for each class (K-6) and that student will win a book prize.

This is a good opportunity to be involved in some extra reading activities with your family. Use the Reading Planner sheets and try to achieve each day’s challenge. Perhaps you can run a small competition within your family.

CHERYL LOPEZ
Teacher Librarian
LIBRARY NEWS

OVERDUE LIBRARY BAGS
Due to an increase in overdue and lost books, we have changed our method of reminders. A verbal reminder will still be given during library lesson, by Mrs Lopez. At that time students are allowed to renew their books if they have still not finished them.

Books that are two weeks overdue: at the library lesson students will be given written reminder to take home to parents. Please help your children located book/s and return them to the library.

Books that are three weeks overdue: On Fridays parents will be given another reminder and a bill for the replacement of the item/s. We encourage you to assist students to return their books once bills are issued. Students’ borrowing rights are suspended until the book/s are returned or paid for. However this restriction can be waived if parents contact library staff directly to discuss the missing items.

The library staff encourages students to be responsible for taking care of our valuable school resources. Please assist you students to achieve this.

CHERYL LOPEZ
Teacher Librarian
&
CATHERINE MUNRO
Library Technician

Entertainment Book 2015

The perfect gift for Mum this Mother’s Day!
We love the Entertainment™ Memberships because they contain over 2,000 offers for up to 50% off and 2-for-1 a Perth’s best restaurants, cafes, attractions, hotels, resorts, shopping and more that you can use whenever you like until 1 June 2016!

For only $65, you will have access to over $20,000 worth of value. You really only need to use yours twice for it to have paid for itself.

Get one for you and your Mum this Mother’s Day! PLUS you’ll be helping Yidarra Primary School as 20% of each one we sell contributes to our School.

BUY YOURS NOW

Available as the printed Entertainment™ Book that comes with a Gold Card and vouchers, or the Entertainment™ Digital Membership that puts all the offers onto your smartphone!

Choose which one is right for you and your Mum.
Yidarra Primary School
Contact: Alex Ross
Phone: 0419 962 963
Email: address@inett.net.au
Buy at: Yidarra Primary School Admin Office

SCHOOL BANKING
Volunteers Needed

Calling for volunteers – we need your help!

Our students really enjoy participating in the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program and to keep this program running we need your help.

The program requires a volunteer School Banking Co-ordinator to facilitate the banking and distribution of School Banking rewards. This only takes a small amount of your time one day a week and the Commonwealth Bank will provide support in how to run the program. Your help with the program will greatly benefit students as they develop vital saving skills and also help our school with fundraising.

School Banking day is Tuesday 8.15 - 9am.

Please indicate your interest in volunteering by contacting Chong-Ting Lau (CT) on 0411 303 703 or pop by the banking table on Tuesday morning.
Summary of School Board Meeting

22 April 2015

Financial Report: Mr Will Schaefer outlined the school income and expenditure for March. It was reported that the annual audit of the school’s 2014 Annual Financial Statement was being conducted.

Principal’s Report: The Principal updated the Board on the events that have occurred in the school since the last meeting and briefed the Board on the School Climate Survey.

Parish Report: The Parish thanked the school for the Stations of the Cross and discussed opportunities where the school and Parish can work together.

Facilities Report: An audit has been undertaken of the school buildings, roofing, grounds and playgrounds. The inspection report was tabled at the Board meeting.

Strategic Planning: Strategic planning consultation meetings have been held with parents and staff.

Communications: The School Communications Committee is calling for volunteers to help with the next phase of improvements to the School website and internal and external communications in general.

Next meeting: Tuesday 13 May 2015.

YIDARRA BOARD MEMBERS 2015

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<th>MEMBER</th>
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<td>Craig Dowsett</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
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<td>William Schaefer</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Ryan Menezes</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Fiona Chow</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
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<td>Craig Winfield</td>
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<td>Jeff Grbelja</td>
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<td>Michael Chong</td>
<td>Parish Council Representative</td>
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<td>William Schaefer</td>
<td>P&amp;F Representative</td>
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<td>Fr Phong</td>
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<td>Carmel Costin</td>
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Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests

The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

During the second week of May Australian children in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The stated purpose of this testing program is to gain an overall picture of educational attainment levels to assist education policy and decision-making.

The program first implemented in 2008 has drawn some criticism from a number of different quarters, particularly in regard to the use of the information gained through the NAPLAN tests. You’ve probably heard a number of different viewpoints expressed in the media over the last few weeks.

One view commonly put forward is that the NAPLAN tests put undue pressure on children to perform in test situations. If so, then perhaps the best approach for parents and teachers is to help them handle the pressure rather than avoid it. The most resilient children and young people are those who rise to meet rather than retreat from the challenges presented to them. Perhaps it’s best to view the NAPLAN tests as good learning experiences rather than dreaded pressure tests.

Children and young people take their cues from their parents about how to handle many situations. American psychologist Martin Seligman discovered more than a decade ago, through his research into children’s thinking styles, how closely a child’s explanatory style mimics that of the parent they spend most time around. Optimistic parents beget optimistic kids, just as anxious parents can beget anxious kids. The impact of a parent’s explanatory style seems to be magnified somehow in small families where there are fewer voices to be heard.

As a parent it helps your child, if you take a positive view of the NAPLAN tests. It’s better to see them as learning opportunities for kids as well as opportunities to overcome any anxieties or nerves that these tests may bring on. It’s also worth remembering that many children don’t stress over these tests. The vast majority take them in their stride, wondering what all the fuss is about.

Whether your child stresses or takes them in their stride here are some tips to help prepare for the NAPLAN tests:

1. **Take your cues from your child:** If your child doesn’t worry about them neither should you. Be careful not to create a problem that doesn’t exist by incessantly talking about, or worse, worrying about the tests.

2. **Focus on doing their best and trying hard:** Choose your words carefully when you speak with your kids. As with all their learning activities place your focus squarely on effort rather than results. The only pressure on kids should be to try hard rather than to do well.

3. **Listen to any concerns they have:** If your child confides in some nerves that validate their feelings, rather than shut them down with a ‘got over it’ response. “Yes, sometimes tests can be a little scary but they get easier every time you take them.” Use this as an opportunity to develop some emotional smarts, which starts with recognising how kids feel.

4. **Give them some relaxation ideas:** Anxious or nervous kids will benefit from some simple relaxation strategies. Taking some deep breaths, changing their thinking and exercising the morning of the test are some simple ways to help kids get some feeling of control.

5. **Help them retain their perspective:** One way to help children who become excessively anxious about an event is to ask what’s the worst thing that could happen? Okay, they may not do as well as they would like but the sun will still rise tomorrow, regardless of how well they do. Keeping perspective is a life skill that we all need to practise.

A positive, caring parent attitude is one of the best gifts you can give a child when they are apprehensive or nervous about approaching any different situation whether it’s going on school camp, joining a new club or sitting a NAPLAN test.