From The Principal

Dear Parents,

We are fast approaching the end of Term 1 and we will be ending on a high.

We welcome Mark Ferguson and Channel 7 here next week as part of the "Inspire" Program. They will be talking to all Stage 2 and 3 students about life in the newsroom, having a dream, setting goals, being focussed and having the drive to always make the most of every opportunity. I have had Mark speak at my previous school and it is one of those experiences the children will never forget. They may even see themselves on TV that evening. Parents are more than welcome to attend and even ask questions. There will be a Q and A session and children will have the opportunity to ask questions.

The session will commence at 10:20am and will go for approximately 1 hour. Lunch may be delayed for 10 mins or so if there is a hold up.

Children are encouraged to bring cameras but we ask for no phones. We will be taking photos on the day.

Our Easter Raffle and Parade are always highlights. We ask the community to support our raffle and the prizes are always of a high quality. Please don’t forget to “fill out” the butt with details i.e. name and class or name and phone number. You may be disappointed if you can’t be identified because the butts are not filled in properly. We encourage parents to attend our Hat Parade and I know the children are looking forward to it. Please note that if children leave school after the parade it will be classified as an unjustified absence.

We still have some children arriving at school as early as 8am. Teachers are not on duty until 8.50am and this is notifiable to Family and Community Services. Please don’t put the school in this situation as arrangements should be made to have children looked after till 8.50am. We do provide an OOSH service which can be utilised.

Phil Hams
Principal
Mark Ferguson from Seven News Sydney is visiting Walters Road Public School on Tuesday March 24 to host their Inspire Schools Program!

Students from stages 2 and 3 will have the unique opportunity to hear from Mr Ferguson and also ask a question during the session.

We encourage you to send in your questions via email to MarkFerguson@seven.com.au or on twitter @MarkFerguson_7 using hashtag #7NewsInspire.

You are welcome to join us on Tuesday 10:20am to 11:20am in the hall.

How is Home Reading going at home? Remember every student benefits from reading at home and here are some other handy tips that may be worth considering with your children at home.

When reading a book at home your child could discuss the following statements:

- I enjoyed reading this book
- I would like to read more books by this author
- I could think of a friend that would like to read this book
- This book would also be suitable for adults to read
- This book is suitable for both boys and girls

Enjoy sharing reading at home with your children – it is a highly valuable educational strategy to help them in their literacy learning journey.

Also it may be helpful to check out the list of 100 most commonly used words. These words should not be learnt in isolation but can be discussed when reading or writing. You may also notice that some words have more than one job eg: ‘in’ can be used as a preposition and an adverb. This list has been compiled by a publishing company and they have organised them according to their grammatical function eg: prepositions, conjunctions etc. Your child may be able to tell you how they function ie; what their ‘job’ is eg: an adjective describes.

Articles – a, an, the
Conjunctions – and, but, because, once, so, that, when
Prepositions – at, after, for, in, into of, on, to, with, up, upon, with
Pronouns – I, me, it, he, she, him, her, they, them, that, we, you
Adverbs – all, back, in, on, out, once, not, next, then, there, too, up, when, very
Adjectives – all, back, big, her, his, little, my, next, our, some, two, very

This is a little over half of the list – more next time!

Have you been enjoying some shopping and cooking with your children and having mathematics skills reinforced as well? You may like to check out new knowledge by asking your children questions like;

- What has the greatest mass – half a kilo of flour or 250 grams of rice?
- If you drank all the water in a 500ml bottle, did you drink more than a litre, less than a litre or equal to a litre?

From The Deputy

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to a warm autumn, and happy Harmony Day for this Saturday 21st March. It was my pleasure this week to be involved in two Harmony Day celebrations. On Wednesday this week I was at Evans High School with our Stage 3 students. Evans High School hosted a very entertaining concert featuring many dances and songs showcasing different cultures. It was wonderful to see many ex-Walters Road students performing. After the concert our students were treated to a food fair in the main quad where there were many stalls selling drinks and food from different countries.

Then at Walters Road PS on Thursday this week we had a Harmony Day assembly for all our students from K-6. Mrs Lebens and Miss Clarke organised a thought-provoking and visually entertaining presentation and students joined in with positive, insightful comments. At the conclusion of the assembly it was great to see and hear students join in the song ‘We are Australian’ accompanied by clapping and followed by cheering at the end. As Mrs Lebens said, ‘Walters Road is a very rich, vibrant and exciting place to be where everyone belongs’.

This will be a little over half of the list – more next time!

Have you been enjoying some shopping and cooking with your children and having mathematics skills reinforced as well? You may like to check out new knowledge by asking your children questions like;

- What has the greatest mass – half a kilo of flour or 250 grams of rice?
- If you drank all the water in a 500ml bottle, did you drink more than a litre, less than a litre or equal to a litre?

2
If you ate a quarter of a pizza and your dad ate half how much is left? A quarter?, A half?, Three-quarters?

If we went shopping at 10am and didn’t return home until 2.30pm, how long had we been away for?

All these concepts are taught here at school and with your help we can make sure learning is fun, practical and continual.

Remember we have our school photos, Doing Things Together and our Easter Celebrations to look forward to all before the end of term – Walters Road Public School is the place to be!

Mrs D. Walker
Deputy Principal

Stage Reports

Early Stage 1 News
Student behaviour has been very positive. It is wonderful to see students trying so hard to meet PBL expectations of being Safe, Responsible, Respectful and a Learner.

The Home Reading Program has been running in Kindergarten for a few weeks. There is no cost to participate, but a permission note and a bag is needed. I highly recommend this program as it’s a wonderful opportunity for children to borrow books from their class libraries. If a book is lost or damaged, you will be responsible for the replacement cost of $7.00 per book. Permission notes for this program can be found in the school office. If you haven’t joined, please do so.

The Easter Parade will be on the 2nd of April at 10am in the hall. A reminder to Parents/Guardians to start planning the design and make of the hat with their child/children. The Kindergarten teachers can’t wait to see all the imaginative hat creations. With weather permitting, parents are invited to have a picnic lunch with their child/children during lunchtime. This is at 11:30am on Evans Grass, any 3-6 siblings are also invited to the picnic in this area.

Events coming up:

• School Photos will be on the 25th of March. Students need to be in their full school uniform.

• Easter Parade will be on the 2nd of April. Students are encouraged to bring an Easter hat for the event. All K-2 families will be receiving invitations this week.

• Our Bronze Assembly will be on Thursday 23rd of April. This is the first week back at school in Term 2. Students who will be receiving a Bronze Award will be given an invitation.

• Anzac day will be on the 24th of April. Students are encouraged to bring flowers on the day.

• The Dance to be Fit Program is starting in Term 2. More information will be provided closer to the start of the program.

Please ensure that your child is coming to school every day with wet weather gear, either an umbrella or raincoat. The weather can be very unpredictable. It is also important to label school hats, jackets, jumpers, umbrellas, home reader bags belonging to your child/children.

Mrs Y. Theodorou
Assistant Principal - Early Stage 1

Stage 1 News

Transport Excursion
We are very excited to be going on an excursion early next term. It will involve a range of transport experiences and a trip into the heart of Sydney. Notes have gone home. Please note that the final date for payment is the 22nd of April. Please note also that the Online Payment system will not be active until next Monday, 23rd March. Hopefully all children will be able to attend as this is directly linked to our HSIE learning.

Assembly Leaders
Last Thursday 2C hosted a wonderful SRC assembly. Due to the number of students attending swim school, the class will host a class assembly and item later in the year. I am pleased to announce the Assembly Leaders for next week’s assembly will be Jarred from KL and Millie from 2B. I know they will make fantastic leaders. Next week’s assembly will be hosted by 1J and will start at 2.30pm.

Mrs T. Harris
Assistant Principal – Stage 1

Stage 2 News
Stage Two has had a very busy fortnight with learning and with many students and teachers involved in Swim School. We are enjoying learning fundamental movement skills in fitness sessions; we will continue learning these skills throughout the year. We have also been producing outstanding work in our classrooms. Some of our students displayed some excellent work in handwriting at our assembly in Week 6 and I would like to thank the students in 4/5G for their efforts with presenting their class item. A reminder to parents and extended family that we would love for you to attend our assembly which starts at approximately 2pm in the School Hall.
Our Year 3 and 4 classes were very proud to see their SRC members presented with their badges at the Induction Assembly last week. I am sure they will all make wonderful leaders in the school. Congratulations.

NAPLAN – Classes have commenced with some practices and preparations with our Year 3 and 5 students for the upcoming NAPLAN assessments, which will take place in Term 2 from the 12th to the 14th May.

Excursion – Wednesday 15th July 2015 (Term 3 Week 1)
This wonderful excursion has been planned for Stage 2 students to visit Bicentennial Park (Homebush) on Wednesday 15th July 2015. This fantastic opportunity will give our students an understanding of traditional land use, human impacts and conservation. The cost of the excursion will be approximately $25 and notes will be going home at the beginning of next term.

Mrs G .Grant
Assistant Principal - Stage 2

Stage 3 News

High School Applications
Application forms for Year 6 students entering Year 7 in 2016 must be returned to school by Friday 20th March 2015. Please contact the school if you have any queries about completing these forms.

Year 6 Farewell Meeting
The next Year 6 parent meeting for the Year 6 Farewell will take place on Friday 27th March in Mr Dyer’s room starting at 3.30 pm. Thank you to all the parents who attended the last meeting.

500 Schools Planting
On Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th March, our Year 6 students participated in the 500 Schools Planting Program, an initiative of Western Sydney Parklands. The students applied sunscreen, donned a pair of rubber gloves and then set about planting a range of native flora. Over the 2 days we managed to plant over 300 plants.

In appreciation of our efforts, each student was presented with a free t-shirt. Our students definitely proved to be ‘local heroes’, as depicted on their new shirts.
Harmony Day – ‘Everyone Belongs’
This week Stage 3 students visited Evans High School to watch a variety of short performances, reflecting the many cultures represented in our community. We also got a chance to sample traditional foods from many countries.

The students and teachers had a fantastic time. We particularly enjoyed watching the range of performances, as well as seeing our former WRPS students on stage. Thank you to the staff and students of Evans High School for allowing us to participate in this important celebration of our multicultural community.

Year 6 Shirt
Orders are due by Friday 27th March. Sample shirts are available to try on upon request, to help with sizing.

Stage 3 Camp
Permission notes for the Stage 3 overnight camp to Canberra have gone home. The deposit and permission note, securing your child’s place, is due to be paid to the office by Friday 24th April. Parents are more than welcome to pay the full amount in one payment if they wish.

Leadership Camp
On Tuesday 10th March, our prefect body and the Stage 3 SRC representatives visited Camp Wombaroo with Mrs Walker and Mr Dyer. The students were the ideal ambassadors for WRPS, participating in a range of initiative activities, designed to foster teamwork. They also got to test their nerves on the giant swing. It was certainly uplifting watching these school leaders encourage each other to conquer fears and work together to solve problems in a positive manner.

We would like to recognise and thank Mr Dommett, Mr Kumar and Mr and Mrs Cook for their assistance with transportation. Without the generosity of these families, this valuable educational experience could not have gone ahead.
Dear Parents,

Please look for the information in this newsletter about another option for paying your child’s school costs. We hope the Parent Online Payment option will help many parents who will now be able to pay out of school hours. Any payments made before 6pm will be received by the school the next morning. Payments made after 6pm will be received by the school on the second morning. Please take careful note of the last day for payment on any notes sent home.

Spare Notes
Please remember there are copies kept in the office foyer of any notes sent home.

Payments by cash or EFTPOS
Our office is open from 8.50am to 3.20pm. Completed payment envelopes can be placed directly into the payment chute to save you or your child waiting. EFTPOS payments can only be taken up until 9.45am. Our banking is done each morning and collected by a security guard.

Second Hand Uniforms
There will be second hand uniforms for sale at the Mini Fete.

Thanking you.

Mrs K. Wright
School Administrative Manager
Zone Swimming Carnival
14 enthusiastic students competed against schools across the Blacktown region last week at the 2015 Zone Swimming Carnival.

The students were all very excited to dive off the diving blocks and race against neighbouring schools.

The students all represented their school with pride as they participated across a variety of events.

Walters Road Public School would like to formally thank these students for their efforts.

Miss E. Andrews

Parent Online Payment

Did you know that you can make payments to your child’s school online?
We have launched a new online payment portal linked to your school’s website to make it easier for you to pay for school related payments. This is a secure payment page hosted by Westpac.

What expenses can be paid online?
• Voluntary School Contributions
• Subject Contributions
• Excursions
• Sport
• Creative and Practical Arts
• Sales to Students
• Other

When?
This payment method will go live on 23rd March 2015.

How?
Log onto School site

Click on “$ Make a Payment” and follow the prompts to make a payment via Visa or MasterCard.
There is also the option to enter the Student Registration number and invoice number. These are not used at our school, please leave blank.

*You will need to enter
- your child’s name and date of birth
- what you are paying for and the amount
  (this information will be on your note)
- record your receipt number on the permission note and return to school
- the payment system is hosted by Westpac to ensure your credit/debit card details are secure and are not passed back to the school

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

K-2 Easter Hat Parade

When: Thursday 2nd of April
Location: Hall
Time: 10am

During Week 8 you will be receiving a family invitation to this wonderful event. This will be an opportunity for the students to parade the Easter Hat creations that they made at home. We are giving you advance notice so you can start planning the design and make a hat with your child. The K-2 staff can’t wait to see all the imaginative hat creations.

In preparation for the event, students are going to learn Easter songs and will be making an Easter basket. On the day, the P&C will be providing students with chocolates for their baskets.

Weather permitting, parents are invited to have a picnic lunch with their child/children during lunchtime. The family picnic areas will be the usual area where K-2 students normally play. Older siblings are permitted to have a picnic with their families.

After lunch, normal classes will commence.

Easter Committee: Mrs Y. Theodorou,
Mr D. McNamara, Mrs S. Solomon and Mrs. N. Cassar
Mini-Fete

English Committee
Thursday 26th of March, 2015
11:20am-1:30pm

Prices start from 20 cents

* sausage sizzle * cake stall * ice creams * drinks * lollies
* jumping castle * fitness circuit (hall)
* guessing competition * photos * colouring competition
* nail polish * hair spray * white elephant * computers in S3L
* easter card making in KT * hit the spot
* Donations for the cake stall would be greatly appreciated. Nut-free products such as cupcakes, muffins, donuts, toffees, biscuits etc can be brought in on the morning of the mini-fete (Thursday) and placed in the Reading Recovery room in the Kindergarten block (middle stairs between KL & KC).
* Also any unwanted toys, books, videos, DVDs (G rated) etc for the white elephant stall can be taken to Mrs Theodorou’s (KT) room at any time.
* Parents are welcome and all gates will be opened at 11:20am. Learning resumes after recess and students are expected to stay at school for normal classes.

THE CANTEEN WILL BE CLOSED ALL DAY DUE TO THE MINI-FETE

Dance2bFit
We are thrilled to once again invite back to our school the team from Dance2bfit. This company will be conducting a dance/fitness program designed to improve the fitness levels of students while they are having a great time. Every Wednesday in Term 2, Professional dance instructors will visit our school to teach the students fun, funky dance moves that will improve co-ordination and create opportunities for students to gain self-esteem and confidence.

This year we will be doing the SLAM program. These weekly 40 minute lessons provide a core body workout that engages both boys and girls. Students SLAM their drumsticks to the beat of the latest music. The routines incorporate squats, lunges and crunches working all the major muscle groups of the lower body at the same time.

Notes will be going home for this program on Monday 23rd March 2015. Total cost per student is $27.00. A special family offer is available to families with 3 or more children attending Walters Road. The maximum all families will need to pay for is 2 students, therefore the 3rd and subsequent child/children attend for free.

Mrs G.Grant
Program Coordinator
What Carers say about Support Groups:

“I get a lot out of the group. I wish I’d known about it earlier. I realised I’m not going through this on my own. I’ve made a good group of friendships.”

“It’s good to go and talk about what’s happening. I learned from others what questions to ask and who to ask.”

“It’s a very accepting environment.”

“Hearing the other carers’ stories helped me realise there were other people out there going through similar things. I didn’t feel so alone. There’s a natural empathy there.”

What is a Support Group?

Support Groups are regular get-togethers, facilitated by one of our Support Workers. The group meets with tea and coffee, to chat, cry together, laugh and have fun, while exchanging stories of their experiences as a carer.

Support Groups offer a safe place to come and talk with others who are going through similar experiences. These gatherings provide time out for carers, offering opportunities for friendship, and networking. Friends often form outside the group. Carers get tips from one another, and share things they’ve found helpful.

From time to time we invite speakers, who talk about other services, courses and helpful information.

Feel free to join us at any time—just turn up at the group as listed. If you prefer, call our office on the number shown on the back page.

Family and Carer Mental Health Support Groups

Western Sydney & Nepean Blue Mountains

Family & Carer Mental Health Program
UnitingCare Mental Health
Western Sydney & Nepean Blue Mountains:
(02) 8599 4880
fcmhinfo@ucmh.org.au
Funded by the NSW Health Department

Western Sydney Support Groups

Cumberland
- When: 2nd Wednesday of the month
- Time: 4pm - 5.30pm
- Location: Cumberland Hospital F.A.R.C.

Parramatta
- When: 4th Wednesday of the month
- Time: 4pm - 5.30pm
- Location: 119 Maccquarie St, Parramatta

Blacktown
- When: 2nd Tuesday of the month
- Time: 6pm - 8pm
- Location: Blacktown Workers Club

Baulkham Hills (Men only)
- When: 1st Thursday of the month
- Time: 10am - 12pm
- Location: Thompson Hall
- Balcombe Heights Estate, Baulkham Hills

For Parents of Young People

Parramatta Info Sessions
- When: Last Thursday of the month
- Time: 6pm - 8pm
- Location: Headspace Parramatta

Nepean Blue Mountains Support Groups

Lithgow
- When: 4th Thursday of the month
- Time: 1.00pm - 3.00pm
- Location: Lithgow Library

Nepean
- When: 3rd Wed of the month
- Time: 5.15pm - 7pm
- Location: Nepean Mental Health Centre, Derby St, Penrith

Katoomba (Women only)
- When: Last Friday of the month
- Time: 10.30am-1pm
- Location:
- Women’s Resource Centre