Principal’s Message
Dear Parents,
On Monday night at the annual general meeting of our very active P&C, a new executive was elected. I congratulate the new executive on their election, including the President Rowan Heferen, who is beginning his second term in this position. I also must congratulate the outgoing committee on their fundraising efforts in 2012 that led to major improvements and support for student learning. Wollongong Public School is indeed fortunate to have such an active parent body which truly makes our school a community institution. Last Friday night’s P&C Trivia Night at the Master Builders Club was a great success and an excellent opportunity for parents and teachers from across the school years to get to know one another and have some fun, whilst raising money for our students’ benefit.

Parent teacher interviews are scheduled for Weeks 10 and 11 this term. These are an early opportunity for teachers to report on how well your children have settled into their classes this year and a chance for parents to clarify any uncertainties that may have arisen. As such, these interviews are short ten minute summaries and detailed reports will follow at the end of Term 2. You will receive more information on interview times very soon. I must also inform you that our report format and appearance will change this year as we endeavour to provide clearer and more detailed assessments of your child’s progress.

Something we pride ourselves on at Wollongong P.S. is the multicultural make-up of our school and we are always looking for ways to celebrate the benefits of diversity in our community. Next week we are celebrating Harmony Day on Friday. The message of Harmony day is “Everyone Belongs”. In 2013 the theme is “Many Stories - One Australia”. Our Australian Story is diverse. We come from many countries around the world. We each make up the pages of the bigger Australian story we share today. We are many, but we are one and so students are asked to wear something orange on Friday and all or part of their national costume if they have one. This is one of the school days I most look forward to.

Congratulations to one of our senior students, Philip Dopud, on being selected in the regional basketball squad to take part in the state selection trials later in the term. Philip is an outstanding ambassador for our school and everyone is very proud of his achievements. Maybe we have a future champion in our midst.

On a more serious note can I please emphasise the continual safety issues we are dealing with in the
school’s teacher carparks. I have had to speak to a number of parents this week who are using these carparks as pick-up and drop-off points. On Thursday morning at 8:45am a parent used the lower carpark to drop off their child and then when crossing the driveway back to Church St almost collided with a student walking to school along the footpath. We are very aware of the limited space along our Church St boundary to drop your children off and pick up in the driveway back to Church St almost collided with a student walking to school along the footpath. We are an inner city school on a busy road and student safety is more important than anything else. I ask for your cooperation at these critical times in the school day.

Kind regards,

Graham Butt
Relieving Principal

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**Harmony Day - Friday 22 March**

The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. It is a day to celebrate Australia's diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia Home- from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. At Wollongong Public School we are celebrating Harmony Day on Friday 22 March. Parents are invited to our special school assembly at 11.30am where students will present an activity or a piece of art work that they have made with their Buddy classes. Children are encouraged to wear a national costume to express their cultural diversity otherwise children can dress in orange (colour representing harmony). If you want more information about Harmony Day visit [www.harmony.gov.au](http://www.harmony.gov.au).

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**School Photo Day - Wednesday 27th March**

*Have your child’s school memories captured forever.*

Please take time to read the relevant information on the MSP Photography payment envelopes and remember these helpful points.

- Don’t seal envelopes inside each other. You can pay for all children in one envelope however each child needs to have their own envelope on photo day.
- Family envelopes are available at the school office upon request.
- Please enclose correct money as no change is given. Cash, cheques and money orders.

*Return you photo envelope on photo day.* Your child will be asked to present the envelope directly to the MSP photographer, sending it to school earlier will only create more work for your school administration staff.

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact us:

- e: illawaarra@msp.com.au
- p: 4261 3009
- f: 4261 3008

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**EASTER HAT PARADE**

Our annual Easter Hat Parade will be held on Thursday 28th March at 2pm under the COLA.

All students are permitted to participate, and will be making their hats with buddy classes in the coming weeks. The students will parade class by class to show off their creations. Please note that there are no prizes as this isn’t a competition.

Please encourage your child/children to use recycled bits and pieces rather than rushing out and spending a fortune on accessories.

Some ideas for things to send in are:
- *old cereal boxes – the cardboard is excellent;*
- *scraps of material, wool , ribbon, string;*
- *cotton wool/cotton balls;*
- *old wrapping paper;*
- *anything that you can think of that will look good on an Easter hat.*

Please come along and join in the fun. The Easter bunny will make a visit with Easter eggs for every child.

We look forward to seeing you.

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**Uniform Shop Hours**

Tuesday 2:30-3:00pm  
Friday 8:30 - 9.00am

Thank you to our two new volunteers please we are looking for a couple more contact Trish an 0428355696. The more helpers, the lighter the work load.
Dear Parents/ Caregivers

*Voluntary school contributions* provide an important source of extra funds for our school. All funds raised in this manner are channelled directly into extra resources for the children. These include such items as art and craft equipment, books, computer software and sports equipment.

The contribution rate for this year is:

**$40.00 per child or $55.00 per family**

You may choose to contribute above this amount but if most of our families contribute the amount specified it will mean an injection of between *seven and a half and eight thousand dollars* into resources for students. The contribution can be paid in full or in instalments over the year.

Let me stress that this is a *voluntary scheme* supported by the P & C and that no child will be disadvantaged in any way should you not be in a position to pay them.

Regards

Harold Cosier
Principal

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**VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION 2013**

Child’s Name: ____________________________________________  Class:_________________

Child’s Name: ____________________________________________  Class:_________________

Child’s Name: ____________________________________________  Class:_________________

Child’s Name: ____________________________________________  Class:_________________

Total amount enclosed $__________________

Signed_______________________________           Date: _______________