Hello Everyone,

Welcome back to Wharminda Primary School for Term 2. It is mind blowing how fast the year is going and to realise that there is actually only 28 weeks of schooling left for 2008... but I wont scare you with that fact!

We have hit the ground running this term as it is already a jam packed calendar. We are continuing on with our ‘Around the World’ theme and this is reflected in our classroom activities and units. The Junior Primary students are looking at Mexico, and their design work making Piñadas looks like fun. They are also looking at postcards in literacy and their imaginations are running wild!

We welcome Mandy Nield to the Upper Primary class and it is clear that the students are enjoying her teaching style and have taken to her planned activities and assignments with enthusiasm. Mandy brings a high level of experience and expertise to the class and her passion for Mathematics/Numeracy has definitely begun to rub off onto the students.

Our Spanish studies are continuing well this term and we are now using the smartboard to add to this. We have been working through a range of activities and tasks with the added bonus of Hi-5 singing in Spanish which has livened up the end of the lesson.

Our big news for this term is our Adelaide Cultural Trip that ties in with our ‘Around the World’ theme. In week 8 the staff and students will be flying to Adelaide to take part in a range of excursions and workshops. We have been fortunate enough to receive sponsorship from REX airlines as well as grant funding that enables us all to fly over to Adelaide. This will definitely be an exciting time for our students as a large number have not been on a plane before.

We need to congratulate Sidney Masters who has been selected to represent the state in cricket. Sidney will be travelling to several trainings in Adelaide and then flying to Darwin to compete. Well done Sid! Alice Nield, Bradley Noble and Leah Forrest have also been selected to compete in athletics in Adelaide. We wish them well and are extremely proud of their achievements.

Next week the Year 3, 5 and 7 students will be sitting the NAPLAN test which looks at Literacy and Numeracy. This will take place over Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Finally a big ‘Happy Mothers Day’ to all the school’s Mums... including my own Mum for this weekend!

Cheers,

Matthew McCurry
Principal
Mrs Mac’s class
Madly measuring in Maths

To engage the students in this term’s measurement topic we began by having a Mintie Measuring Maths lesson. How is that for alliteration? (ask the yr 4’s what alliteration means and if they don’t know they are in trouble)

The students had to measure the area and perimeter of their Mintie wrapper. Then they had to tear their wrapper into the longest strip they could and measure it. Last of all they had to chew the Mintie for as long as possible and time themselves.

What a fun yummy lesson but not that healthy. Only one Mintie was allowed each, everything in moderation I say.

It brought back memories of dad passing around the Minties in the car on a long trip and us having a competition on how long we could tear our wrapper. Anything for peace.

Brayden, Mac and Brad finding out what a hectare looked like. They then tried to find out roughly how many hectares our school grounds are.

Amy and Joel worked cooperatively together to find the volume of some empty food boxes.
For those that didn’t know Fletcher Nield is our new Reception student. In fact he is our only Reception student and don’t we love him. He is keen and ready to learn. We have been learning our letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make. As you can see in the above picture of Fletcher walking along the footsteps (each with a letter of the alphabet printed on it) he knows lots of letters already and nearly escaped from the classroom. One letter that he is yet to learn is the letter ‘W’. It looks so much like a ‘M’. So to help remember this letter Fletcher is seen in the picture above finding all the letter ‘W’s’ in the magnetic letter box and attaching them to the board.

Mrs Mac

Just for old times sake Joel, Amy and Brad decided to see if they could make a tower as high as themselves. Like they used to in year 1. They discovered that they had grown and there wasn’t enough blocks so they had to improvise and turn the blocks on to the side to make the tower tall enough.

Bula

Is hello in Fijian. Mrs Mac’s class have learnt a lot about the Fijian culture and have some interesting things on display. This term we are learning about the Mexican culture. We are making piñatas and learning ‘The Mexican Hat Dance’ and hope to put on a fiesta at the end of term for everyone to enjoy.
Reading Award

Congratulations to
Amy Nield & Fletcher Nield who have completed 50 nights of reading.

Snakes Alive!!!

As a long time ago former student of Wharminda Siding School (1946-1952), the recent Newsletter reference by Principal Matthew McCurry to the uninvited slithering visitors to the school brought to mind a similar situation at the school in the early 1950s. I suspect it was during the years when Nell Worrall (later Mrs Barber) was our teacher. One school day we students (totalling some 12 or so from Grade 1 to Grade 7) detected a snake near our one-room school building. On our approach the reptile slithered to a safer location - under the building. In our anxious excitement we reported the presence of this uninvited intruder to our teacher. She was inexperienced in attending to this kind of emergency, and asked for our suggestions. In those pre-TV days, some of us had read about Indian snake charmers, and this gave us a bright idea. Inside the classroom was a fixed wireless set (used to receive weekly radio broadcasts for schools). We got the teacher to turn the wireless on to a station playing music, then rushed back out into the yard to watch the snake come out of its hiding place in response to the music. Not surprisingly the snake did not reappear. There are several obvious explanations for the failure of our strategy. Even if the intruding snake had been the type to respond to our music (in the manner of the charmed snakes in India) we had failed to realise that it would have been attracted to the nearest point of the source of the music; namely directly beneath the wooden floor boards of the classroom. I have no recollection of what became of this non-charmed snake. The moral of this story: Sometimes a little knowledge is not enough!

Graham Ottens [retired secondary teacher and principal]

Welcome

This term we welcome our new reception student Fletcher Nield to Wharminda Primary School.

We hope you enjoy your time here with us Fletcher!

Jump Rope for Heart

Sponsorship forms went home last week. All money raised goes towards the Heart Foundation.

Jump Off

Friday 16th May at 9.00am

Everyone welcome to come along
Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea

When: Tuesday 20th
Where: Wharminda Primary School
Time: 10.45am

Please bring along a plate to share for morning tea.

Gold Coin Donation

***The morning tea will be followed by our first assembly for the term.

Mr McCurry got another taste of our country life last week with a visit from a new born lamb.

We will make a farm boy out of you yet!!

Thankyou to Jackie for bringing the lamb to school.

AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY
EASTERN EYRE GROUP

Being the 50th year of The Australian Plant Society our Eastern Eyre Group of A.P.S. chose to have some input into the Wharminda Primary School walking trail area. The seven members who attended planted 40 odd shrubs in the Birdscape and Rock Garden area. Mulch was placed around the plants and the area close to the school was cleared of weeds and tidied up. The plants were grown at the school and we hope they do well.

Members would like to say well done to Wharminda Primary School with the plants you grow there.

Daphne Bates
Beautiful pictures start with beautiful cameras.

The NEW Nikon D-60 Digital SLR includes optical vibration reduction, stop-motion movie, intuitive menu navigation and a whopping 10.2 megapixels for supreme clarity.

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Mitcham Girls High School

Research shows that girls in girls' schools achieve significantly stronger academic results than any other group in Australia.

Enrol her at Mitcham, a state school, an unzoned school, a progressive learning community dedicated to providing outstanding education opportunities for girls.

Wednesday 14 May
9-11am and 5.30 – 8pm

Principal’s Address: 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm, 7pm
Guided Tours throughout open times

Kyre Ave, Kingswood
Phone: 8272 8233