From the Principal

2015
The class structure at our school for 2015 has been confirmed and will be as follows:
Kinder/Prep, Prep/1, Gr 1/2, Gr 3/4 and Gr 5/6.

The Department Of Education has not yet confirmed our specific staffing for next year so I am unable at this stage to confirm which teacher will be on which class. I hope to be able to do this next week.

This class structure avoids 3 class composites and maintains small class sizes. But to achieve this outcome with our reduced staffing allowance, cuts have had to be made to other areas. This includes learning support, teacher assistant hours and a change to how PE, Music and our Early Years program are delivered. We will also have to buy significant staffing from our school resource package meaning reductions in money to curriculum areas.

Christmas Celebration
It was wonderful to have such a large crowd at our Christmas concert last Friday. It was standing room only at the back of the hall as each class performed a Christmas item. This was followed by a community BBQ under the trees in the quadrangle. A big thank you to Tasmanian Alkaloids and the combined churches of Westbury for sponsoring the event and to the P&F for cooking and serving the 100’s of sausages!

Prior to the concert I had the pleasure of accompanying our new wandering Minstrel Choir as they sang at 5 different locations in Westbury. I was very proud of the thirty students involved for their great singing and mature behaviour as they moved around our beautiful little town.

Our choir also performed at “Carols on the Green” on Sunday night.

Student achievement
Well done to Lachlan Brown and Jack Sheahan who competed in the Division one Northern Midlands Swimming carnival last week. Lachie came away with a first in the 25m freestyle and another for winning the relay.

On Sunday three of our students were recognised at the University in Hobart for their work in the Tasmanian Science Talent Search competition. Congratulations to Liam Taylor, Kaiden Chung and Jack Sheahan.

School Picnic
Tomorrow is our school Picnic at the Riverside Pool and Tail Race Park. A reminder that families are welcome to join us at the park for lunch and if you haven’t returned the permission forms please do so in the morning to enable your child to participate.

School Jackets and T-shirt
If you have any Westbury school jackets at home used by representative teams this year, please return them to the school office as soon as possible.

Reports
The end of year summary reports will go home with students on Friday this week.

The last School Association meeting for the year will be held tomorrow night at 5.30pm in the Meeting Room.

Marcus Cramp

DISCLAIMER
Parents should note that advertisements for educational services, companies, activities or similar events are published as a ‘community service’. Westbury Primary School is in no way liable for the quality, supervision or integrity of the provider and strongly suggests that parents make their own enquiries before engaging with the advertised event.

Marcus Cramp A/Principal

WANTED - Cut flowers/foliage for Presentation evening. Please leave in parent room on Thursday morning in a named bucket. Thank you.
BRONZE STAR CERTIFICATE
These students have achieved 50 stars this week for following our school expectations:

Wade Westwood, Lilith Annesley, Tyrell Wall-Holmes, Jake Savage, Archie Peck-McKinnon, Xavier Brett, Jordan Waddingham, William Fitzallen

Three of our students were recognised at the University in Hobart for their work in the Tasmanian Science Talent Search competition. Congratulations to Liam Taylor, Kaiden Chung and Jack Sheahan

MERIT CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to the following students who received Certificates at our Last Assembly:

Harlee Hill, Oliver Barrett, Cherry Schonefeld, Maddison Reid, Liam Ridley, Sophie Shepheard, Charlotte Wall-Holmes, Tanzin Thomas, Lillie Lewis, Liam Taylor, Haylie Monks, Mackenzie Webster, Imogen Back and Rebecca Barrett.

Uniform Shop-New Polo T-shirt

Our new school polo t-shirt has arrived and we are in the process of unpacking and sorting them. You may have noticed some staff members have been wearing them and how wonderful they look.

Students will be able to collect theirs either at the School Uniform Shop Open Day or during the first week of school 2015.

If you have ordered extra t-shirts, apart from the one free item per child, payment can be made either this year or on collection next year.

If you wish to pay in advance this year, payment can be given directly to a Uniform Coordinator or left at the school office in an envelope clearly marked for the Uniform Shop and with your children’s names. You will be issued with a receipt upon payment.

Kaiden and Minesha Chung accepting Certificates on behalf of Westbury Primary School from the Tidy Town awards presentation night last week.
A huge thank you to all the children and our wonderful families who have been involved in and supported our Early Learning Programs at Westbury Primary School this year.

I would like to invite all children and their families to attend our Launching into Learning ‘End of Year Celebration Afternoon’.

Please join us for a fun afternoon of games and a few surprises.

If you would like to contribute by bringing along a small plate of food to share that would be very much appreciated.

When: Monday 15 December
Where: Kindergarten Room
Time: 1:30pm – 3:00pm

This will be our final session for 2014. Thank you to everyone involved who continues to support our school and community events.

Kim Riley
Kindergarten/Prep & Launching into Learning Teacher.
Please contact 63931373 for more information.

RAFFLE BOOKS
Please return all raffle books and money by tomorrow (Wednesday 10 December) the raffle will be drawn on Thursday at the Presentation Evening.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS - If you have an item to submit for the newsletter, please forward to the office no later than Friday 3 pm.
Christmas Celebration, BBQ and Wandering Minstrel Choir
An Open Letter to Parents, Caregivers and Friends of
Westbury Primary School

8th December, 2014

As many of you may be aware, the staffing allocation for 2015 at Westbury Primary School will be reduced from the 2014 allocation. The discrete details of how this allocation is distributed rests with the school principal — and we fully support Marcus Cramp in this important decision. However, as your School Association Chair, I feel it important to provide some details of the resourcing allocation that has been provided by the Department of Education to the school.

Late last week, we received formal notification from The Minister of Education’s office regarding the 2015 resourcing; and I would like to share some of the details with you, along with some of the pre-emptive actions your Association has already done on your behalf.

Resourcing for 2015 will be reduced from 2014 levels due to a combination of the government saving measures and as a result of reduced enrolments. Both items are a concern to the Association, and we are addressing both elements.

Regarding the government saving measures, Marcus Cramp and I have already had a face-to-face meeting with the Education Minister, Mr Jeremy Rockliff and his Chief of Staff. During this meeting, we stressed the importance of staffing numbers and impact on both extracurricular activities (band, language, sport etc) and on composite class spread for smaller schools, such as Westbury Primary School. We stressed that it’s not just the overall student/teacher ratio that’s important; but the class make-up too.

We also presented several other challenges faced by the school. Several of these items had not been considered by the Department and we are pleased to report that the Minister was very understanding and gave us a personal invitation to provide feedback and comment on the current review of the Education Act, so that schools such as Westbury Primary School aren’t disadvantaged as a result of decisions made within the Act. Your School Association has accepted his invitation and are already in the process of providing formal feedback to the Department by the 31st December due date. For further details, I invite you to read the minutes of the School Association meetings, as published on the school parent’s noticeboard.

Regarding student numbers, your Association has spent considerable time and effort this year in attempting to increase enrolments. In conjunction with the WPS Parents and Friends Committee, your Association developed a Communications and Promotions Sub-Committee. This group of dedicated volunteers have been working to raise the profile of the school, thereby encouraging new enrolments. You may be familiar with some of their activity already, including:

- 2 school working bees
- School open days during Westbury Week
- New, large “Enrol Now” banner, located on the eastern slip road entry to Westbury
- Advertising on LAFM and MyCommunityConnect website.
- Promotions flyers on various noticeboards around Westbury.
- Quarterly flyers on the School term highlights as a letter-drop to all Westbury homes.

We have further plans afoot to even further increase our promotion during 2015 — but we need your help.

If you know of any new families entering the region, or those reviewing the choice of education for their students, please spread the word on what a great school we have — right here in the State’s Tidiest Town – Westbury.

Regards,

Danny Taylor
Chair – School Association
Westbury Primary School
KINDER PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

For all Kindergarten children for 2015

Date: 12 December
Time: 11.30am
Place: Kinder Room

Everyone welcome

Please inform others in our community who may have Kinder aged children for 2015

Kim Riley
Kinder/Prep & Launching into Learning Teacher

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Kim Riley
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WESTBURY FIRE BRIGADE

CHRISTMAS LOLLY DROP

Mon. 22nd DEC. Beginning at 6:30.

SANTA, with lollies will follow this route through the streets of Westbury from the Caltex service station in the following order:

1. Waterloo St.
2. Veterans Row.
3. Pensioners Row.
4. Marriett St.
5. Taylor St.
6. Jones St.
7. Franklin St. into recreation/cricket ground for a time to meet Santa.

Then off to the village green where he will travel around the green, then down Adelaide St.

Along William St. returning to Fire station.

Santa will then visit, with more lollies. Esmeralda and Exton townships at approx. 8:00pm.

For those outside our street plan please join us at either the Westbury cricket ground or Village Green.

You can even bring your parents!!

From Westbury Fire Brigade, we wish you a safe and merry Christmas.

DATES TO REMEMBER

December

Wednesday 10   School Picnic
Thursday 11    Presentation Evening
               6.30pm
Friday 12      Parent-Kinder Information Session 11.30am
Wednesday 17   Grade 6 Day
Thursday 18    Last day for students
               Final Assembly

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The staff, students and wider Westbury community wish the following student a very happy birthday for the coming week:

Eliza Perkins