From the Principal...........

Westbury Irish Festival
It was lovely to once again watch our students perform maypole dancing at the Irish Festival on Saturday. Under sunny skies the students danced beautifully, thanks to the instruction from Cindy Chung and Amanda Taylor. Thank you also to all parents/carers who made contributions to the P&F cake stall. I can personally vouch for the apricot slice, rocky road and chocolate muffins!

Northern Midlands Athletic Carnival
This event will be held on Wednesday 30 March. Team members have received parent information letters with permission slips that need to be returned by Thursday at the latest.
**Tamar Writers Festival**
Feedback from this unique event is best put in the words of supervisor Jessica Marston; “We had a brilliant day! The students all enjoyed themselves and got some great writing tips and inspiration. All children behaved exceptionally and the adults all had a great day too”.

See page 5 of the newsletter for individual student feedback from this event.

**Community Garden**
Every Wednesday afternoon, groups of students work in the Community Garden, which is located on the western edge of our school.

**Happy Easter**
Have a safe and enjoyable Easter break with your families. School resumes on Wednesday 30 March.

**DUE TO THE EASTER BREAK, THERE WILL NOT BE A NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK.**

*Marcus Cramp*
### 2016 CALENDAR

**Term 1**
Wednesday 3 February - Thursday 7 April
(Easter - Friday 25 March - Tuesday 29 March)

**Term 2**
Tuesday 26 April - Friday 1 July

**Term 3**
Tuesday 19 July - Friday 23 September

**Term 4**
Monday 10 October - Wednesday 21 December

### STUDENT FREE DAYS
Friday 8 April - Moderation Day
Monday 18 July - PL Day
Friday 21 October - PL Day

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS FOR 2016
- March 25: Good Friday
- March 28: Easter Monday
- March 29: Easter Tuesday
- April 25: ANZAC Day
- June 13: Queen’s Birthday
- November 7: Recreation Day

### DATES TO REMEMBER
**TERM 1**
- Tuesday 22: Kym Lardner - Whole School Performance
- Thursday 24: Assembly - Hosted by P/1
- Friday 25: Good Friday
- Monday 28: Easter Monday
- Tuesday 29: Easter Tuesday
- Wednesday 30: NM Athletics Carnival
- Thursday 31: SRC Fundraiser BBQ Lunch

**April**
- Friday 1: AGM PARENT AND FRIENDS 1.30pm
- Parents & Friends meeting at 2.00pm
- Thursday 7: Assembly - Kinder
- Friday 8: Moderation Day (Students do not attend) LAST DAY OF TERM 1
- Monday 25: ANZAC Day
- Tuesday 26: Term 2 commences

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY
The staff, students and wider Westbury community wish the following students, who celebrated a birthday during the last week, a very happy birthday:

Layla Shepheard, Loui Moran, Annabel Gunton, Liam Ridley, Callen Poulton and Kaiden Chung

### COMMUNITY NEWS ITEMS
Check our Parent notice board for information on the following items of interest:

- Westbury Play Gym
- NTJSA
- Westbury Irish Festival
- Browns Supa IGA - Longford
- Deloraine Football Club
- DJBC Roster
- Bracknell Car Boot Sale
- Tennis Coaching

### LEGO COMPETITION – COLLECTION OF LEGO
Thank you to all children who have entered our Lego competition – it is wonderful to see so many creative designs.

The winner will be announced on Thursday afternoon, after all classes have had a chance to vote. Your child can collect their Lego on Thursday after school or leave it in school over Easter and collect it during the following week.

### PARENTS AND FRIENDS AGM REMINDER
The Parents and Friends AGM will be held on Friday 1 April at 1.30pm, in the Parent Room.

### HAPPY EASTER
Shannon’s fundraiser!

As of December last year Shannon (Jemma Visser’s sister) has been diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma (blood cancer).

The SRC Executive are holding a sausage sizzle for Shannon as a fundraiser.

The sausages will be $2 each. We would also appreciate if you could bring some coins as her name will be written in chalk on the ground and then we will try and fill her name with coins.

Date: Thursday 31st of March
Time: Lunchtime

Thank you for your support,
SRC Executive

SRC FUNDRAISER BBQ FOR SHANNON VISSE

For catering purposes, please complete and return the form below to the Office by Thursday 24 March 2016. Please ensure form and correct money is placed in an envelope with name and class clearly marked.

Parents/carers and relatives are also invited to this Fundraising Event. If parents wish to purchase a sausage, please include your name on the order form.

X........................................................................................................

SRC FUNDRAISER BBQ FOR SHANNON VISSE
Please return form to office by Thursday 24 March 2016

NAME ..............................................................   CLASS .......... No. sausages .........
NAME ..............................................................   CLASS .......... No. sausages .........
NAME ..............................................................   CLASS .......... No. sausages .........
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NAME ..............................................................   CLASS .......... No. sausages .........

TOTAL AMOUNT $ ..............................
Writers’ Festival – Student Feedback

**Grade 5/6**

**Olivia**  
Favourite session: Angelica Banks (Heather Rose and Danielle Wood) and Justin D’Ath because they were the most interesting.  
Best writing tip: Use the Writer’s Question; “What if……?” (to inspire writing ideas, e.g. What if… there were no animals in the world?).

**Sophie**  
Favourite session: Stig Weymss because he was really entertaining and Angelica Banks because it was really focussed on writing.  
Best writing tip: To read books that have won awards.

**Jemma**  
Favourite session: Angelica Banks because it was really interesting.  
Best writing tip: Keep a notebook with you.

**Noah**  
Favourite session: Very hard to choose as they were all very interesting, especially Angelica Banks, but I have to choose the Chubby Bubbles part of Stig Weymss’ session. (Noah starred in this – marshmallow stuffing contest!)  
Best writing tip: To persist, and that is can be good to work as part of team to do your writing.

**Grade 3/4**

**Alfie**  
Favourite session: Belinda Murrell because I like the kind of books she writes.  
Best writing tip: If you start a story, you have to know when to finish it.

**Jorja**  
Favourite session: Tamsin Janu because she keeps lots of diaries to get ideas.  
Best writing tip: Always believe in your books.

**Minesha**  
Favourite session: Belinda Murrell because she shared lots about herself.  
Best writing tip: Use your imagination.

**Amy**  
Favourite session: Jacqueline Harvey because she told us about her life.  
Best writing tip: See what’s around you and then change it up a little.
Release of the draft Education Bill 2016

On 14 March 2016 the Tasmanian Government released the draft Education Bill 2016.

The draft Education Bill is the Government’s proposal for how education legislation should change to best support the education system and all learners. The draft Bill is informed by national and international research, a review of legislation in other states and territories and stakeholder and community consultation.

Major reforms under the draft Education Bill include:

- lowering the school starting age from 5 years to 4 years and 6 months, with a flow-on to a minimum Kindergarten eligibility age of 3 years and 6 months (this will apply to children born in 2016)
- lifting the education and training leaving requirements to completion of year 12 or equivalent (certificate III, apprenticeship) or until 18, whichever occurs first (this will apply to students who are in Year 7 in 2016).

Extending the compulsory years of education and training would ensure that more young Tasmanians would have access to high quality early learning sooner and more would complete year 12 or equivalent before they turn 18.

The proposed change to the minimum starting age will bring Tasmania into line with other states and territories, as shown below:

![Graph showing current minimum school starting age (Prep) across States and Territories]

The Government is seeking feedback from the Tasmanian community on the draft Education Bill. Consultation on the draft bill commenced on 14 March 2016 and will close on 13 May 2016. Further information on the draft Education Bill and how to give feedback is at the Education Act Review website [http://tased-education-act.blogspot.com.au].

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