Dear Parents,

From the Principal...

This fortnight has been filled with great learning opportunities for our students as our fabulous teachers continue to develop their knowledge of a balanced reading program. Last term we focused on modelled and shared reading and this term will be guided and independent reading.

Guided reading is a teacher-directed activity involving small groups of students working with individual copies of the same text. Using it, you can focus on an identified need of the students in the group. The teacher guides the reading by asking questions designed around the identified need of the group. For example, if students are having difficulty using quotation marks, the teacher might ask them how many people are talking in a section of text. The students read the text themselves. It is most effective when:

◊ you have a very clear focus on an identified need of your students and reflect this in the session;
◊ you use a text that is appropriate for the students’ reading ability;
◊ the students move towards independently engaging with the text.

Swimming lessons enjoyed by all

Mr Metcalf is busy teaching our students how to swim. It is such a wonderful resource to have and it is great seeing the students make the most of it. The after school sports program currently offers swimming on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon.

Thanks to all parents who are able to support the school by supervising these lessons from the side. Greatly appreciated.

Cultural Concert – Wednesday 5th November 6-7pm

Students involved in the range of musical programs offered at West will showcase their skills for all parents in the John Bigg Centre for Performing Arts in week 5. Letters will come home this week. Special guests at our NAIDOC ceremony were very impressed with the musical talent of our Westies.

Christmas Concert – Wednesday 3rd December 5pm-7pm

The P&C have commenced preparations for this year’s Christmas Concert which will be held in the quadrangle decorated with festive lights. The popular stalls; candles and lollies, drinks, sausages and hamburgers, Dudley’s sandbox and the raffle and ham wheel will be open between 5pm and 6pm. Parents are requested to again bring a fold-up chair and enjoy new performances by each class on the stage from 6pm – 7pm. It is a fabulous night enjoyed by all so keep the date on the calendar! Parents able to help on the stalls, set up and pack up are welcomed.

A new TECH LAB for the new year from the P&C

The P&C have recently discussed growing concerns our students will not be adequately skilled in ICTs to meet the demands of High School and society. Currently our technology resources are limited and old and the cost of continually updating is enormous for a little school. The P&C understand that many of our students do not have access to computers at home and as such have agreed to purchase 30 computers to create a TECH LAB for all classes to use to develop essential skills. This is a contribution of over $20 000. The school will use minor works money to prepare the designated room for additional power and data points, furniture and an air-conditioner. Mr Craig Street will also be working collaboratively with teachers next year in the LAB to develop these skills. Students will continue to use ipads in the classroom to support their learning. Sincere appreciation from all staff and students at West.

Chatter matters – new SPEAK app

The SPEAK (Speaking Promotes Education And Knowledge) oral language app has been developed by the department as a joint initiative with Queensland Health and Redland City Council to help develop children’s speaking and listening ability. The SPEAK app is available for free download from the iTunes store and Google Play.
SMS Messaging – update phone contacts
We have installed the ID Attend and SMS messaging software but have found many mobile phone contacts and email contacts are not current and returning “no longer in service” type messages. A copy of our stored contact details for your child will be sent home shortly. Please return the form stating all correct and signed or with the new details written on it as soon as possible. Thanks for your prompt action with this. We are keen to provide this service to West families.

Class Award for Super Attendance
Year 3G and 3/4W are currently leading the school’s attendance challenge and are keen to go ten-pin bowling with me at the end of the term for super attendance. Please ensure children are at school every day on time to help them be successful and have lots of opportunities for employment in the future.

Upper 2 Band Project hugely successful
Students in Years 4 and 5, identified through the NAPLAN tests, as having potential or skill in Numeracy were selected to participate in an online project through the University to develop their problem solving skills in a range of question types. Our students showed significant improvement on post-tests and are to be congratulated on their efforts. Mrs Sue Keating coordinated the project and we will continue to access the project next year. Certificates of achievement for participating students were presented on parade this week.

Be a super WESTIE through honesty!
- Being honest helps you to be trusted by others.
- Telling the truth as much as possible helps you to have integrity.
- Being honest helps to make people like you.

Ways you can be honest at school:
- Do the right thing when a teacher isn’t looking
- Tell the truth
- Tell others how you really feel and what you want nicely
- Work hard and don’t cheat
- Play by the rules of a game or activity
- Make good choices when someone wants you to do the wrong thing;
- Be responsible for your own rubbish.

Leanne McNamara, Principal
ATTENTION YEAR 3 STUDENTS AND PARENTS

All year 3 students attended an instrumental music recruitment concert with Mr Brown this week. This concert allowed students to see which instruments they have the opportunity to play at school next year in 2015, including: Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone and Percussion.

Students received a recruitment brochure outlining the expectations and fees involved in joining the Instrumental Music program, and interested parents are asked to fill out the back page of this brochure indicating which instrument their child would like to be considered for and to return this slip to the office ASAP.

Once forms have been returned, Mr Brown will then test each child on the instrument of their choice and successful students will be notified before the end of the year. Please consider this valuable opportunity for your child and I look forward to seeing lots of new faces over the next few weeks.

Yours in music, Mr Brown

SUPER WESTIES - KINDNESS - AWARD WIN-

PrepR  Craig Denny, Maddison Hiltze
PrepSC  Hannah Stephens, Kane Raines
P/1/2A  Arthur Hadley
1F     Mia Johnson, Dominic Rollings
1S     Paige Aufrey, Maddylain Webb-Pullman
2R     Desmond Ward, Bhodie Burki
2SB    Cleo Williams, Ellie Taylor
2/3MC  Patarleigh Coffey
3G     Jarrrd Maughan, Logan Drew
3/4W   Nicholas Kidman-Jones
4PS    Payden Cooper, Lincoln Stoel
4/5/6/7W  Sarah Drummond
5M     Billy Wein
5/7D    Jevon Voelker
6G     Phillip Blair

SUPER WESTIES! WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!