Welcome to the middle of the final term. Today we welcomed our 2014 preps and their parents to Wallington Primary School for the first time as a group. This is the first of 3 orientation sessions.

Remembrance Day
On Monday 11 November the school leaders will be representing Wallington at the Drysdale RSL ceremony. Thanks to Julie Laird and Kirsten MacDonald for transporting our leaders to this event.

The School Buildings
The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development have informed the school that we need to rationalise our classrooms as we are over entitled. The choice is either remove B Block and retain the portables or vice versa. We need to make a decision within the week. I have discussed this with the staff and at School Council and Parents and Friends Meeting. There is no initial costs to us as the removal and subsequent landscaping (in the case of B Block removal) will be paid for by the Department.

Sub Committees
The next meeting of the Curriculum and Environment Committee will be on Tuesday 12 November at 3:45pm. The resources will meet on Friday 15 November.

These will be the final sub committee meeting s for 2013.

The next school Council will be on Wednesday 20 November.

Strawberry Fair
This afternoon the rosters will be posted on my office window. All families need to put their names down against a stall or job. If a stall is oversubscribed please add your name to an area that isn’t full.

The next meeting of the Strawberry Fair is tonight at 7:00pm

Parents and Friends
The next Parents and Friends meeting will be on Monday 11 November 2013 at 9:00am in the hall.

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Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:
- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*

A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange is seeking volunteer host families to host international exchange students arriving in February for a stay of one term, one semester or two semesters.

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from Germany, Italy, Finland, Colombia and Mexico will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scc-eau.com.au, email scc-eau@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

Genevieve Eyre
Program Coordinator
Southern Cross Cultural Exchange
Tel: (03) 9775 4711
Toll-free: 1-800-500-501

Children With Type 1 Diabetes - Are You Challenged by Your Child’s Diabetes?
Research into parenting children with type 1 diabetes.
The University of Queensland is conducting research into parenting children with type 1 diabetes. Parenting a child with diabetes presents many challenges (everything from the regular blood glucose monitoring and insulin intake, to more general parenting tasks). The aim of this study is to understand the factors that make the management of childhood diabetes particularly difficult, and to use this information to develop strategies that might assist parents in managing their child’s diabetes.

If you are a parent of a 2 to 10-year-old child with type 1 diabetes, we would love to hear from you!

By sharing your experiences (confidentially), you will be making a valuable contribution to the development of much-needed childhood diabetes management strategies for parents. To complete the online survey, please log on to: https://exp psy.uq.edu.au/type1diabetes

For further information about the project or to request a survey to be posted to you, please email Aditi Lohan (aditi.lohan@uqconnect.edu.au) or call (07 3365 7689) at the Parenting and Family Support Centre in the School of Psychology at the University of Queensland, St Lucia QLD 4072 (Fax: 07 3365 6724).

Thank you for your time and participation.

Aditi Lohan, Alina Morawska, and Amy Mitchell
UQ Parenting and Family Support Centre