Dear Parents,

As you are aware, Wattle Grove Public School is participating in **Kids Matter** an ongoing program that brings together children, schools and the community to promote the well-being of all students. (A more detailed explanation of the program is on the reverse of this note).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, grandparents and other members of our community who joined us for our launch day **Kids Matter** at Wattle Grove. Amidst the gardening, craft, games, songs, stories and our picnic lunch much fun was had!

The **Kids Matter** program addresses four key areas or components. At Wattle Grove we are currently engaged in Component 1: A Positive School Community.

Our **Kids Matter** Action Team is in the process of gathering information to determine what our school already does to support our students, work out where the gaps are and what direction to take. To assist we ask all families to complete an online parent survey.

The parent survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete and is completely confidential.

To complete the survey simply:

1. Type *kidsmatter primary parent survey* into Google
2. Click on *parent survey kidsmatter.edu.au*
3. Click on *start parent survey*
4. Go to Find your school. Click in the box and begin typing Wattle Grove. As you type, two Wattle Grove options will appear. Ours is the second Wattle Grove option: **Wattle Grove Public School, WATTLE GROVE, NSW**
5. Go to Select the reporting period. Select 2013 Q3 Jul-Sep
6. Continue to click in each field to answer the questions and Next to move onto the next page
7. At the conclusion of the survey click on Submit. Print the final page that thanks you for completing the survey (see below). Write your family’s name on this sheet and return it to your child’s class teacher by Thursday 19th September for your opportunity to go into the draw to win a family pass to Event Cinemas or a $70 giftcard for Hoyts La Premiere at Chatswood.

**FAMILY NAME**

**Kids Matter**
Australian Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative

Thank you for completing the survey!

Thank you very much for your continued support of our **Kids Matter** initiative.

Good luck in the draw,

**Kids Matter** Action Team
The four components of KidsMatter Primary

Schools can make a difference to children's mental health and wellbeing by addressing four key areas. Each KidsMatter Primary school will be working on the following four components:

1. A positive school community
   Positive relationships at school enable children and families to feel that school is a place where they feel welcome, where they will be listened to and where they can contribute. A positive school community helps children feel that school is a safe place where their needs can be met. Research has shown that when children and families feel connected to the school, children are less likely to develop mental health problems and they succeed better at school.

2. Social and emotional learning for students
   Learning how to manage feelings and get on with others is an important part of children's development that helps them learn better and feel good about themselves. Teaching children social and emotional skills as part of the school curriculum gives them tools for coping with emotions, solving problems and learning more effectively.

3. Parenting support and education
   If we want to promote children's mental health and wellbeing, it makes sense for families and schools to work closely together. Schools can support parents and carers in their central role of caring for children by making useful information and resources about parenting available and by letting them know where they can get further assistance.

4. Early intervention for students who are experiencing mental health difficulties
   When children and families are able to access effective mental health intervention early it can make a significant difference to their lives. KidsMatter Primary schools learn to respond more effectively to children's mental health difficulties by identifying when problems may need follow-up, providing information for families and developing links with mental health services in their local area.

This resource is part of the KidsMatter Primary initiative. We welcome your feedback at www.kidsmatter.edu.au