4 December 2014

Afternoon all, hope you’re well. Summer has certainly arrived, temps this week nudging the pointy end of the thermometer. Boys and girls, please make sure that you wear your school hat every day, bring an extra bottle of water (maybe whack it in the fridge the night before so it stays nice and cold) and if it’s too hot to run around at recess and lunch take a break in the shade.

**Semester 2 Reports**

Student reports for semester 2 will be sent home with the children tomorrow. These documents report on your child’s academic, social and personal progress across terms 3 and 4 of 2014. All envelopes contain a feedback sheet; please complete this and return it to your child’s class teacher, as we greatly value your input. Thank you to all of the staff who have directed an enormous amount of effort towards ensuring that the reports are valuable and informative for students and parents alike.

**Presentation Day**

Our annual Presentation Day ceremonies will be held in the school hall this coming Monday 8 December; the 3-6 ceremony will be held from 9:30am-11:00am followed by the K-2 ceremony from 11:20am-12:40pm. Letters have been sent to the parents of those students receiving awards; please stay tight-lipped in this regard, so as to enhance the “surprise factor”! Thank you to Mr Smith, Mrs Kirkup, Mrs Glynn and Mrs Wilson for all of their hard work in organising Presentation Day.

**Year 7 2015 Orientation Day**

Yesterday Orientation Day was held for all students commencing Year 7 in 2015 at public high schools. We hope you found the day to be enjoyable and informative boys and girls and hopefully it has allayed some of the anxiety you may be feeling in regard to commencing high school.

**P & C News**

The Annual General Meeting of the P & C was held this week. On behalf of the staff and students I would like to thank the 2014 committee and congratulate the following parents who have kindly stepped up to the plate for 2015: President – Lisa Dodd; Vice President – Carolyn Lambeth; Secretary – Natalie Saunders; Treasurer – Jessie Sharp; Uniform Shop – Kath Olliffe. Thank you for your ongoing support of WPS, I know you’ll do a fantastic job in 2015.

**P & C Cake Stall**

Over the last few weeks the P & C ran two cake stalls, selling home-made cakes and sweets cooked to perfection by our parent community; I have to say we have some INCREDIBLE chefs in our ranks, so much of the food on offer put MKR and Masterchef to shame! Thank you all for your support; in total over $1000 profit was raised, what a great team effort. Thank you to the following parents who kindly helped run the stalls: Lisa Dodd, Michelle Bobbin, Loz Power, Yelka Moore, Sarina Acsai, Brenda Lesslie, Janie Vella, Robin, Dianne Jansson, Silvana Anthony, Nada Hall, Nikki Rawlings, Luisa Baratto and Di Foley. A great turn-out!
**2014 Councillor Excursion**

As a way of thanking our 2014 Captains and Councillors for their hard work, last Friday Miss Foster and I took the students to Laser Tag at Penrith, followed by lunch at Henhouse Grill (hey, every job has its perks....). The students were – as we have come to expect – excellent ambassadors for our school. As luck may have it we ran into half of the Panthers team at lunch (one of whom could learn a thing or two from our councillors in regard to acting one’s age). Thank you to Miss Foster for her hard work with the councillors over the course of the year and for organising last Friday’s excursion.

**2015 Senior Councillors**

Aspiring year 5 student leaders recently addressed students from year 2-6 at the 2015 Senior Councillor elections. The standard of candidates and speeches was exceptional; well done boys and girls, you made voting a very difficult task. Congratulations to the following students who will be our Senior Councillors for 2015: Ruben Anthony, Isaac Bartolo, Ethan Bellia, Liana Gibb, Elyjah Kennedy, Emily McMillan, Daniel Reakes, Avalon Smith, Zoe Sullivan and Wezley Tran. School Captains will be announced at the 3-6 Presentation Day ceremony.

**Lost Pets**

As many of us know, family pets become part of the family very quickly and it’s a very distressing time for all when one is lost. The Norris family recently lost their two beloved cockatiels; one has just been found by a WPS mum in her garden however the other is still missing. The cockatiel is quite young so probably hasn’t strayed far; if you see it please contact the school asap on 4774 1205 and we’ll connect you with Mel Norris. The Henry family have also lost a new pet, their 8-week-old Electus Parrot. The parrot is very approachable and probably hasn’t strayed far from Second Street so please keep an eye out and again, if you find it please contact the school.

**Year 6 Events**

Year 6 have a big few weeks ahead of them as they wind up their time at WPS, commencing with Warragamba’s night of nights, the Year 6 Farewell, on Wednesday 10 December at Warragamba Town Hall. Thank you to Mrs Luc, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Ezzy and Miss Ellis for the work they have directed towards ensuring that the occasion will be a memorable one for the students; thank you also to the parents who have offered to assist on the night. The Year 6 Graduation will be held in our hall on Monday 15 December from 9:00am and all parents are welcome to attend; thank you to Mr Smith for organising this event. Finally, the excursion to Homebush is all set for Tuesday 16 December and is shaping up to be a great day.

**K-2 Picnic**

The K-2 picnic will be held at school on the Wednesday 17 December, with all K-2 families invited. Word on the street is that we may have a very special visitor.....hope you’ve all been good this year!

**Pool Day**

On Wednesday 17 December students in Year 3-6 will spend the day at Warragamba Pool. All students will attend the pool on Friday 12 December (week 10) to take part in their water competency test. This determines a child’s proficiency in swimming and water safety and in turn determines the area of the pool that they are restricted to. These procedures are in line with DEC policy on Unstructured Water Activity. Thank you to Mrs Barlow for organising this assessment for the students.

**Parent Helper Morning Tea**

This is being held on Tuesday 9 December 10.30-11.30 in the school hall. Invitations were sent out earlier on this week however if we have missed anyone please feel free to attend as sometimes it is impossible to remember all the wonderful parents and community members who have assisted us throughout the year. Thank you to Mrs Chatkeo for organising this event.
**Canteen**
The last canteen trading day for 2014 will be Wednesday 10 December. Thank you to Mrs Brito and her staff for the great job they have done over the course of 2014.

**Wallacia PS Concert**
Yesterday the entire compliment of staff and students from Wallacia PS spent the day at WPS, using our school hall to rehearse for their upcoming school concert, to again be held in our hall on the evening of Thursday 11 December. We welcome Wallacia PS to Warragamba PS; it’s great being able to help out one of our neighbouring schools.

**OSHC**
On Monday data regarding the recent Out Of School Hours Care (OSHC) survey was presented to the P & C meeting. Of the 260 surveys sent home 100 (39%) were returned. Analysis of the data indicates that 8% of parents would use such a facility more than 3 days per week before school if it was available, 7% would use such a facility more than 3 days per week after school if it was available and 8% have indicated that they would use a vacation care service if it was available. Given the time of year and concerns regarding several establishment criteria no decision has been finalised in regard to whether or not the school will go ahead with an OSHC facility onsite; this will be revisited early in 2015.

**2015 Classes**
Staff are well into the process of forming classes for 2015. A great deal of effort, information and discussion are involved in forming classes and we take great pains to ensure that each child is appropriately placed. Please be advised that unless circumstances are extenuating, we do not accept requests for class placements, nor do we move children from one class to another; numbers are very tight and moving even one child can have a significant ripple effect on the structure of classes.

**Staffing Changes for 2015**
Mrs Fairclough will be taking leave for the duration of 2015; Mrs Kerrie Bogart will relieve in the position of Assistant Principal. I always said that I’d never stay at a school for more than five years – when I commenced at WPS Liam and Connor (my wife Mim and I’s children) weren’t even two years old and they’re about to commence Year 4. I have been the Principal of Warragamba PS for almost 8 years and in that time the school, its students, staff and community have been a major part of my life. I have watched the school grow in so many ways and I’ve finally seen a cohort of students complete primary school, from day 1 of Kindergarten to the final day of Year 6. Several weeks ago I applied for the position of Principal at Canley Vale Public School; I have since been offered, and have accepted that position and will be leaving WPS on Friday 19 December 2014. At this stage I do not have any information regarding relieving arrangements for my position here at WPS. It has been an honour and a privilege working with and for the students and staff of Warragamba Public School for the past 8 years and whilst I am excited about my new challenge I will be very sad to leave WPS as it holds so many great memories for me. Thank you to each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment to the students of Warragamba PS, I wish you all the very best in life and hope to see you again at some point in the future.

Wishing you all a great weekend.

*Ben Matthews*
Principal
St Vincent De Paul Christmas Hampers
We are once again collecting items for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas hampers. Please send suitable items to the front office by Tuesday 16 December 2014 for collection. Below is a suggestion of items you might like to include. Please ensure that all food items are within the expiry date.

- Christmas decorations
- Tins of ham
- Christmas cake/puddings
- Long life custard/cream/milk
- Tins of fruit or vegetables
- Lollies/chips/pretzels
- Biscuits assorted
- Soft drink/cordial/fruit juice
- Hot chocolate/tea/coffee/sugar/milo
- Rice/pasta
- Christmas plates/napkins
- Gravy powder

Please note we are unable to accept food items containing nuts.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Jenny Chatkeo
Parent helper morning tea!!!

***Sue’s Sanctuary***
Rejuvenate your mind, body and spirit with massage and healing.
Accredited Massage therapists specialising in:
Remedial/relaxation/sports/deep tissue massage
Reiki, Kinesiology, Raindrop Technique, Chinese Cupping & Craniosacral Therapy, Health fund rebates available.
Phone Sue or Chanelle on 4774 1074 for an appointment
Gift Vouchers Available

GRIEF & LOSS
SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS
Tuesday 16th December 7pm

Is the prospect of facing the holidays causing you…….

♦ anxiety and dread instead of anticipation and excitement?
♦ to pretend the season doesn't exist?

Know, without a doubt, that the holidays can be difficult and painful. It can be incredibly helpful to make a plan to do some things differently. The season has a number of reminders which are tied to our emotions and memories. Our inner experience is nearly impossible to escape so having a plan will help you through. Please come along to this new support group as sharing with others can be a great comfort.

Light refreshments will be provided. Please contact Vikki or Helena on 4774 1273 to register your interest. Held at Warragamba Silverdale Neighbourhood Centre, Cnr Weir Rd & Fourteenth St Warragamba. $5 donation appreciated.