Week 3, 15 May 2014

Afternoon one and all, hope you’re all well. As promised we have hit the ground running and term 2 is well underway.

**Mothers Day**
I hope all our wonderful mums were spoilt rotten and had a fantastic Mothers Day. Thank you to Mrs Shona Azzopardi and Mrs Carrie Jamieson from the P & C and all of their helpers who did a great job with last week’s Mothers Day Stall. I bet none of you received a large, indestructible orange milk jug…..

**NAPLAN**
This week all students in Years 3 and 5 across Australia sat the NAPLAN (National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy) tests; Writing and Language Conventions on Tuesday, Reading on Wednesday and Numeracy on Thursday. The results of these tests will become available to parents and schools later this year and assist to highlight each child’s strengths and areas of need in the assessed aspects of the curriculum. Congratulations boys and girls and we look forward to seeing your results later this year.

**Problem Solving**
Last term a number of issues were arising amongst our stage 3 boys during lunchtime touch footy games. As you can imagine, the fate of the world hinges on these games and they were beginning to be characterised by aggression and arguments. A simple fix would have been to ban the games but that would’ve been counter-productive as the boys would be left without an avenue through which they could expend a little energy. A number of the boys suggested that instead of touch footy, Oz tag be trialled, as there is less contention when a person is tagged, than there is when they’re tipped. As a result I haven’t received notification of a single problem with these games during lunchtime. Not only that, the boys created a roster for collecting and returning the Oz tag gear and this is done without fail every day. Plus the tags and belts are all rolled up neatly! Great job boys, I’m proud of the way you’ve all handled the situation and adjusted the way things are done to make the game safer for everyone. Top work!

**Cross Country**
On Friday May 2 our 3-6 students competed in their annual cross country event at the Warragamba Dam precinct. We were blessed with perfect weather – as was rightly deserved, given last term’s cancellation due to rain – and Mrs Barlow, the teachers and parent helpers did a wonderful job of running the event; thank you. Congratulations to all students who got out there, had a go and finished their event. The top four placegetters in each event will represent WPS at the Razorback PSSA Cross Country Carnival in Camden next Friday 23 May. Good luck boys and girls!

**P & C News**
The next meeting of the Warragamba PS P & C Association will be held this coming Monday 19 May, from 2:00pm – 3:00pm in the staffroom. All parents are welcome to attend. I would like to thank the P & C for generously funding the school's participation in the Mathletics online learning resource; this is available for use now and students have been issued with their own unique passwords. The program may also be accessed from home at [www.mathletics.com.au](http://www.mathletics.com.au). Thank you to Miss Foster for organising Mathletics for us; several staff will be taking part in professional learning with a Mathletics representative next week.
**Weir Road Sign**
Some of you may have noticed that our Weir Road sign was damaged by mindless vandals in the school holidays. This perspex sign is very expensive to repair so if you know anyone who dabbles in this kind of work and would be willing to help the school out please ask them to give me a call during school hours on 4774 1205. As to those of you who caused the damage, maybe stop and think next time you’re about to do something stupid.

**Semester 1 Reports**
Student reports for Semester 1 are scheduled to be sent home with students on Wednesday 25 June (week 9). You will notice some slight changes to the English section, which reflect the implementation of the new National Curriculum in Literacy. Talking and Listening has been changed to Speaking and Listening, Reading is now Reading and Viewing and Writing is now Writing and Representing.

**Debating**
Mr Lanham has been working hard with our senior debating teams and they will shortly compete in their first debates for 2014, against Maroota PS and Cambridge Gardens PS. Debating requires confidence, a strong speaking voice and the ability to think on the spot and construct arguments. Good luck boys and girls, we know you’ll do a wonderful job.

**Penrith Valley Performing Arts Festival**
Our school will again be participating in the Penrith Valley Performing Arts Festival (PVPAF) with both the senior choir and senior dance group involved for 2014. The students have been practicing hard under the guidance of Miss Foster and Mrs Channin respectively and I know they’ll do a great job of representing WPS; thank you Miss Foster and Mrs Channing for the hard work you are directing towards the PVPAF.

**Emergency Care and CPR Training**
This week all staff took part in their annual Emergency Care and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training. This is mandatory compliance training and was conducted by Wayne Martin of In-School First Aid.

**Netball Knockout**
This Friday our senior girls netball team will compete against Mawarra PS in the State Knockout. Good luck girls; thank you to Mrs Merrick for organising the school’s participation in this event.

**Tree Update**
As indicated in previous newsletters all schools in NSW were required to engage a qualified arborist to assess the condition and safety of trees located in areas where students gather. An arborist from Moore Consulting Arborists recently attended the school and his report will be delivered shortly. In the interim we were advised to cordon off a tree located along the Fourth Avenue fence line; this has been done. Wollondilly Shire Council have also been informed and have advised me that they are satisfied with the current “make safe” arrangements. The tree in question will be removed shortly.

**Pathways and Crossings**
Work is currently underway to replace the pedestrian crossing on Weir Rd between the school and the shops and extend the cycleway that currently runs along Farnsworth Avenue. The work is expected to take several weeks and will definitely enhance safe access and mobility around our school.

**Rugby League Knockout**
On Thursday 22 May our junior and senior rugby league teams will compete in the Razorback All-School Knockout. The teams have been training hard under the guidance of Mr Chris Leckie, Mr Rob Stanford and Mr Dwayne Hayes; thank you to these dads for their willingness to dedicate their time and energy to the students. Thank you to Mrs Merrick for organising the school’s participation in the knockout; good luck!

**Brainstorms Productions**
“Brainstorms” Anti-Bullying show will again perform for all students K-6 on Wednesday 28th May, as part of our Student Welfare program. The school funds this incursion and there is no cost to students. Thank you to Mrs Chatkeo for organising this year's “Brainstorms” visit.

Have a great weekend.
Ben Matthews
Principal
Reforms to P&C

The NSW Parliament has introduced legislation to reform the NSW Federation of Parent and Citizens Associations, which has suspended operation pending Supreme Court action. While these reforms will not affect the day-to-day operation of individual school P&Cs, they will introduce a new executive structure which will ensure the Federation operates as a modern and representative body on behalf of school P&C Associations. Each school’s P&C Association will be asked to vote for councillors and delegates who will represent their electorate at the Federation’s Annual General Meeting and councillors who will serve on the Federation’s Board of Management. More information will be available on the Department’s website at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/involvement.php.

Thanks

Ben Matthews
Principal

Gala Days

Please be advised that all Razorback Gala days scheduled for this term have been cancelled due to issues with the availability of venues. Whilst it is the intention of Razorback PSSA to reschedule the Winter Sport Gala Days early in term 3, dates are yet to be confirmed. If the Gala Days are rescheduled, team lists as recently chosen will remain unchanged. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and will advise you of new dates once they have been confirmed.

School Photos

The AdvancedLife Photographer has informed the school that the school photos should be ready by week 6 or week 7 this term.

STEWART HOUSE

Stewart House Clothing Appeal 2014

Stewart House is in need of good used clothing. Plastic bags were distributed today for any clothing that you may have. All filled bags are to be sent to the multipurpose room. Please note that the date for collection of clothing bags is Wednesday 11 June 2014.

WARRAGAMBA PUBLIC SCHOOL
MULGOA PUBLIC SCHOOL
NEPEAN DISTRICT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
AFTERNOON ROUTE SERVICE 795

Dear Parents / Students,

Commencing Monday 19 May 2014 there will be a change to the departure time of afternoon Route Service 795 to Penrith.

Route Service 795 is scheduled to depart Warragamba Public School at 3:10pm (3 minutes earlier), Mulgoa Public School at 3:34pm (2 minutes earlier) and Nepean District Christian School at 3:38pm (2 minutes earlier) then operates earlier for the remainder of the trip. There are no additional changes to the directions of the service.

Route Service 795 departs Warragamba Public School at 3:10pm via Weir Rd, Warradale Rd (R)Marsh Rd (L)Silverdale Rd (R)Mulgoa Rd (R)Greendale Rd (L)Davenport Dr (R)Matingara Wy (R)Greendale Rd, Mulgoa Rd to Mulgoa Public School (3:34pm), via Mulgoa Rd to Nepean District Christian School (3:38pm). Then continues via Mulgoa Rd (R)Jamison Rd (L)Station St to Penrith Station (4:01pm).

TRANSFER TO ROUTE 780 FOR CASTLEREAGH
TRANSFER TO ROUTE 782 FOR WERRINGTON
TRANSFER TO ROUTE 784 FOR NORTH CRANEBROOK
TRANSFER TO ROUTE 785 FOR CAMBRIDGE PARK
TRANSFER TO ROUTE 786 FOR CRANEBROOK

For further information please contact our Penrith Depot on 4721 8871 or visit our website at www.busways.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

BUSWAYS BLACKTOWN PTY LTD