Week 6, 21 August, 2014

Well it’s certainly been a wet and wild one this week, the notion of it being “good weather for ducks” proven by, well, the number of duck sightings! Whilst we certainly need the rain, why is Mother Nature under the impression that we need it all at once?!

Gala Day
The Razorback PSSA Gala Day scheduled for tomorrow, Friday 22nd August, has been cancelled due to the impact that recent heavy rain has had on the venues. The event will be rescheduled for Friday 17 October. Weather permitting the Gala Days currently scheduled for weeks 9 & 10 will proceed as planned.

School Concerts
Our school concerts will be held in the hall next week. If you’re yet to book your tickets I strongly suggest that you do so as a matter of urgency, for as of tomorrow it’s “open slather” and restriction on the number of tickets that can be purchased no longer apply. Please note that tickets will not be sold at the door and orders will not be accepted after 3:15pm on Monday 25 August. The P & C will be running a sausage sizzle at both evening concerts so there’s no need to rush home and make dinner. A note providing additional information about the concerts was sent home with students earlier this week. The students and staff have been working hard on their performances and we look forward to seeing you all next week. PLEASE NOTE: no food and drink is permitted in the hall. Due to the need to keep passageways clear, all prams must be left outside. In regard to dress rehearsals, K-2 students will conduct theirs on Monday 25 August whilst 3-6 dress rehearsals will take place on Wednesday 27 August. These are FULL DRESS REHEARSALS; as such the students will need to bring all costumes etc. required for their performance.

Senior Choir Performance
On Sunday a large number of our Senior Choir singers, accompanied by Miss Foster, performed at Camden Civic Centre with the Campbelltown/Camden District Band. The students performed to the high standard to which we have become accustomed and to which Miss Foster has taught them. On Monday morning I received a call from Miss Christine Easter, principal of Leppington PS, complimenting the students on their stellar performance and the exemplary manner in which they represented WPS; high praise indeed boys and girls! Thank you to Miss Foster for providing this opportunity and to all of the parents who assisted with transport, great team effort. The size of our choir was depleted by an unexpected number of students not turning up. A great deal of time and energy are directed towards providing these opportunities for the students; whilst we understand that people are not always able to commit to weekend events we ask that if you are unable to attend, you notify the supervising teacher.
Spelling Bee
On Tuesday our best spellers from each of our stage 2 and 3 classes faced off in our Spelling Bee final. The suspense levels inherent at spelling bees are well documented and the WPS event was no exception, edge of the seat suspense characterising the spell-offs! Congratulations to all students who competed in this event, in particular our stage 2 champions Conor Mills (4A) and Adrian Viera (4A) and our stage 3 champions Joshua Stubbs (5/6L) and Jessie Anderson (5/6F); our stage winners will represent WPS at the upcoming regional Spelling Bee at Beaumont Hills PS – good luck! Thank you to Mrs Luc for organising this event for the students and to the parents who turned up to support our wonderful spellers.

Student Attendance
This week our school rolls were analysed by our district Home School Liaison Officer. These checks are conducted regularly to identify unsatisfactory patterns of attendance. As a result of this a number of letters will be mailed to parents over the coming fortnight, so as to establish contact with a view to improving student attendance and attainment of outcomes; should you receive one of these letters please respond to it as a matter of urgency. High school attendance, including arriving at school on time, is a critical factor in student engagement and attainment. If for any reason your child is absent please send a note to your child’s class teacher upon their return to school explaining their absence. Your anticipated assistance in this regard is greatly appreciated.

A Belated “Thank You”
During Education Week many of you purchased books from the Book Fair. Many of you who purchased items on Open Day would have been assisted by Miss Jen Glynn, who kindly helped out on the day…..and who we neglected to thank! On behalf of the staff of WPS, thank you Jen for your invaluable assistance on the day.

Sporting Achievements
The last few weeks have been a hive of activity in the sporting world. On Tuesday of week 6 our AFL team travelled to Terrigal to compete in the state knockout, having reached the top 8 in NSW. Despite their gallant attempts the team were defeated by Terrigal PS. On Thursday our senior netball team competed in the NSW Schools Cup, the team having a great day on court and ranking 9th in the Sydney region. On Friday our senior Rugby League team faced off against Flinders PS in Shellharbour, narrowly going down 10-8 in their top-8 showdown. Congratulations to all students who represented their school with pride; thank you to the parents who assisted with transport and support and to Mrs Merrick (AFL and rugby league) and Mrs Luc (netball) for the work they have directed towards providing these opportunities for the students.

Fathers Day Stall
Our annual P & C Fathers Day Stall will be held on Wednesday 3 of September. Due to this term’s jam-packed schedule the hall will be set up from 9:00am, with the students all receiving an opportunity to purchase a gift for dad after recess. Our stall is again being organised by Mrs Shona Azzopardi and she’d be very appreciative of any assistance that you are able to offer in regard to setting up and operating the stall. There’s no need to rsvp, simply turn up at 9:00am on Wednesday 3 September. Please note that this will be the ONLY day that our Fathers Day Stall operates.

P & C Meeting
Our next P & C meeting will be held in the staffroom from 2:00pm – 3:00pm on Monday 1 September (week 8); all parents and school community members are welcome to attend. At this meeting we will be discussing proposed changes to the school shorts; if you’d like to have some input into this decision please attend the meeting.
School Planning
We will shortly commence the process of planning for 2015-2017. We will at some point be seeking parental assistance and contribution to the planning process; keep your eyes peeled for further information.

Evacuation Drill
As part of our ongoing commitment to Workplace Health and safety the school will shortly be holding an emergency evacuation drill. This will help to ensure that in the event of a real emergency we are able to evacuate the students in a safe, fast and orderly manner.

Primary Principals Association meeting
On Thursday 4 September (week 8) you may notice an inordinate number of principals at WPS. This is not due to an attempt to oust me from my position at this wonderful school; the term 3 meeting of the Penrith Valley/Blue Mountains Primary Principals Association will be held in our hall, with principals from as far afield as Blackheath attending WPS for the meeting. As such, morning parking may be at a premium on the day.

Positive Feedback
Everyone likes a bit of positive feedback and our school received some earlier this week. As you are aware we often employ casual teachers for various reasons (staff absences due to illness, participation in professional learning courses etc). On Tuesday afternoon one of our casual teachers went out of her way to compliment the friendly and courteous nature of our students. Whilst she hadn’t been teaching a senior class that day, a group of stage 3 students walked past her, said hello and asked if she’d had a good day. We don’t know who you are boys and girls but you certainly made a positive impression; well done and thank you!

Enjoy the rest of your week and have a great weekend.

Ben Matthews
Principal

Warradale Little Athletics
Family, Fun & Fitness for children of all abilities aged 3yrs to U/17’s.
Warragamba Sporting Oval. Warradale Rd, Warragamba at 6.00pm - 7.30pm.
On-Line Registration preferred via LANSW website (select Warradale in drop down box) with payment via credit card or submit application only and pay at club. All manual registrations via cash or cheque only.
The Athletes Foot shoe store will be in attendance with shoes on sale from $40.00. Cash only.
Season starts Friday Sept 12 at 6.00pm.
New registrations welcome ~ Proof of age required.
For more information: Contact Annette email: tillman@bigpond.net.au

Uniform Shop
The uniform shop now stocks 2 sizes in the football socks
Childrens: size 9-2
Youth: size 2-7
Both are $8 each and available at the uniform shop and the front office
Ladies are you putting off your Health Check?

Cross it off your to do list by attending this FREE LOCAL monthly health clinic held on the last Wednesday of every month run by South Western Sydney Local Health. Appointments are made in hour blocks to provide a longer consultation and give women time to discuss any health concerns they may have with a female nurse. Services cover:

- pap tests
- postnatal checks
- breast checks
- pregnancy tests
- menopause
- information on sexual health
- contraception
- healthy living and emotional health

It is important that women of all ages understand the importance of finding and treating issues early. Please phone Vikki or Helena on 4774 1273 for appointments.

Donate Blood Now

You can be certain that when you give blood, you are really making a difference to someone’s life.

Currently, only 1 in 30 Australians gives blood, but 1 in 3 Australians will need blood in their lifetime.

When: Tuesday 2nd September

Where: Pickup 10.45am from the Neighbourhood Centre. Transport will be provided to and from the Nepean Donor Centre. The whole trip will take approx. 2 -3 hours.

Space is limited so please contact Vikki or Helena to arrange your booking, 4774 1273 or email us community@wsnc.org.au