5 February 2015

Welcome to 2015’s first regular Newsletter. The last two weeks have been busy at WPS so I thought I should fill you in on some of the more recent and also upcoming events.

Welcome
I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all returning families and also new families to WPS. In particular, I’d like to welcome our 2015 Kindergarten students. I have had the pleasure of visiting classrooms on a daily basis and I can report that all students have been working extremely hard this past fortnight. Our new Kindys appear to be settling in to the routines of ‘big school’ well, and I’d like to publicly acknowledge the fantastic job our Year 6 Buddies are doing to ensure a smooth transition to primary school for our Kindys. It never ceases to amaze me how grown up our Kindergarten students look at the end of each year, which is in part due to the fantastic efforts of a wonderful group of teachers and support staff – Well done Mrs Gerrie, Mrs Ezzy, Mrs Johns, Mrs Kelly, Mrs Fyffe and Mrs Dowswell. Thanks also to Mrs Bogart, our K-2 Assistant Principal. You have ensured that the Kindergarten students at WPS have been provided with the best possible start to their school lives.

Meet the Teacher Sessions
Notes were sent home with students earlier this week regarding next week’s ‘Meet the Teacher’ sessions, held after school Monday-Wednesday. These sessions are designed to provide you with an opportunity to meet your child’s class teacher for 2015 and learn about class and stage teaching and learning programs, homework, behaviour expectations and so on. Please note that there will not be an opportunity for an interview regarding your child and his/her progress during the session. Individual parent-teacher interviews will be held at a later stage in Term 1.

Footsteps
This week, the Footsteps Dance program commenced at school and will run each Wednesday until the end of Term 1. Thank you to those of you who have already returned your child’s $23 fee. This program is a component of the school’s PD/Health/PE program and as such all students are expected to participate. Please return your child’s note and payment to the office in an envelope marked with his/her name, class and ‘Footsteps’.

3-6 Swimming Carnival
Our annual 3-6 Swimming Carnival will be held next Friday 13 February at Warragamba Pools. Notes were sent home earlier this week. This is our first major sporting event of 2015 and all 3-6 students are expected to attend. As always, parents and relatives are welcome to attend to support the children. Please note that hot food is not to be purchased elsewhere and brought into the pool area, as the pool will be operating its own canteen on the day. Permission notes are to be returned to your child’s class teacher and the $2.80 entry fee is to be brought to school on the day of the carnival. Students in Year 2 who are turning 8 this year are also invited to attend the Swimming Carnival and should have received a note from their child’s class teacher earlier in the week.
School Canteen
The school canteen, run by Mrs Andrea Brito, is now open for business. The canteen menu adheres to the Healthy Canteen guidelines and offers a range of snacks and lunches. The canteen is open on Wednesdays and Fridays and lunch orders are to be placed by 9:00am. ***Please note that the canteen will be closed on Friday 13 February due to the Swimming Carnival.

P & C News
The first P & C meeting for 2015 will be held on Monday 16 February (week 4). All parents are welcome to attend P & C meetings which are held in the staffroom between 2:00pm and 3:00pm. I encourage parents to attend to contribute to the wonderful job our P & C does at ensuring the students at WPS are provided with the best possible opportunities.

Uniform Shop
The P & C’s Uniform Shop, run by Mrs Kath Olliffe, is open Mondays between 8:30am and 9:15am and on Wednesdays between 2:30pm and 3:15pm. An order form is available from the school office and is also on the school’s Facebook page. Please drop in and see Kath for all your uniform needs.

Marine Discovery Excursion
A reminder that the Year 6 Marine Discovery Excursion is being held between Monday 16 February and Wednesday 18 February 2015. A meeting is being held in the school hall this coming Monday 9 February at 9:30am where Mr Matthews (not our ex Principal – his brother) from Camden Park Environmental Education Centre will provide students with information about the excursion. Parents and most welcome to attend this meeting. Please remember that all paperwork and final payments are due in to school by Wednesday 11 February.

Bus Passes
If your child requires a bus pass, please collect an application form from the office. Please be aware that the neither the school or the Department of Education and Communities has any say in regard to whether a child does or does not receive a bus pass; this is determined by the Department of Transport. As a guide, a child must live more than 1.6km (as the crow flies) from the school to be eligible. Also, for those parents whose children already catch the bus, it would be greatly appreciated if you could reinforce with your children appropriate behaviour while travelling on the bus or waiting for the bus in the morning. It is concerning for me to hear stories from members of the community about students being silly or inappropriate near main roads while waiting for the morning bus.

School Banking
School banking commences Tuesday 17 February. If you do not have a school banking account and would like to open one for your child, please visit your nearest Commonwealth bank branch.

Anaphylaxis
As part of our Staff Development Day at the beginning of the school year, all staff were required to participate in compulsory Anaphylaxis training. This training ensures staff remain compliant with relevant Department of Education and Communities policy in relation to the identification and treatment of Anaphylaxis and allergies. As part of this training, the school is currently undertaking a review of procedures for students with allergies and Anaphylaxis and as part of this, all students should have received a note regarding nuts and food products containing nuts. It is important that you take the time to read through this note and return the bottom portion to your child’s class teacher. Rest assured that we take all medical concerns seriously and that we strive to ensure the highest level of care is provided for all students.

Carparks
Please remember that staff car parks are NOT pedestrian thoroughfares. These areas are very dangerous and I would like to remind you to only enter and exit the school via pedestrian gates.
Internet Safety Presentations
On Monday this week, 3-6 students, teachers and parents attended Internet Safety Awareness Presentations run by ACMA. These presentations were well received by all and some of the topics covered included what students are doing on the Internet, choosing strong passwords, posting personal information and photos, cyberbullying, scams, identity theft, stranger danger and social networking. A big thank you to Mrs Luc for organising this event for the school. If you would like further information please visit the Cybersmart website at:

Facebook
Many of you already follow the school’s Facebook page. It is a great way to communicate quickly and easily with the school community. Remember that all specific enquiries should be directed to the school office during office hours. Please like us at...

https://www.facebook.com/WarragambaPublicSchoolOfficial

As always, if there is anything at all we can do to assist you, please call the school office on 4774 1205. Please note that office hours are between 08:30am and 3:15pm. Alternatively, drop in and see either Mrs Kirkup, Mrs Glynn or Mrs Wilson who will be more than happy to assist you. I hope to see you all throughout the term around the school and please don’t hesitate to contact me if required.

Mr Nathan Smith
Relieving Principal

Out of hours Medical Care
Bulk billing available
After hours GP helpline call 1800 022 222
Sydney Medical Service Home GP call 8724 6300
South Western Sydney Medicare Local ATAPS Program offers a Child Mental Health Service.

Information brochures for the above are available at the front office.

Tools for Parents
FREE WORKSHOPS & GROUPS FOR DADS & MUMS / PRIMARY CARERS OF CHILDREN 0 – 12 YRS WITH FREE CHILD CARE!

Aggression in Kids—Help for Parents
Wednesday 18th February 2015
6.30—9pm
This workshop will help you and your child to develop strategies for:
- A better understanding of the reasons for your children’s aggressive behaviour
- A better understanding of anger and learning ways of supporting children to express their anger safely
- Ways to manage the child’s aggressive behaviour

This is a project offered by Richmond Community Services Inc. and all activities are held at:
The Neighbourhood Centre
20 West Market Street
Richmond NSW 2753
Bookings: Call 4588 3555 Mon – Thursday or email: admin@rcs.tns.org.au

Growing Up Through Separation
A FREE 6 week ongoing group for kids aged 7-12 years who have experienced the breakdown of the parental relationship.

This 6 week group is for children aged 7-12 years at primary school who are needing support with adjusting to parental separation. Through activities and games in a supportive environment the children will build resilience as they learn how to:
- Identify and use personal strengths to cope with change
- Express grief and strong emotion in healthy ways
- Communicate their needs effectively
- Navigate realities of new homes and step parents/siblings
- Identify support networks

After school drinks and snacks included.
Mondays for 6 weeks, 1.30pm–5pm
23rd February, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st March 2015
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL Call 02 4588 3555 or email: admin@rcs.tns.org.au

Richmond Community Services Inc.
The Neighbourhood Centre
20 West Market St, Richmond, NSW 2753
Macarthur CDC’s Spot Check!

Macarthur CDC’s Speech Pathologists are offering FREE screening services for school aged children. Our speech pathologists informally assess speech development, receptive and expressive language and literacy skills.

Screening services are offered on Thursday afternoons. Bookings are essential as places are limited.

Macarthur CDC’s speech pathologists will advise if further formalised assessment is required or refer to appropriate services.

Please contact us at

P: 02 4648 0837
E: admin@macarthurcdc.com.au
Shop 6/ 38 Exchange Parade, Narellan NSW 2567