

Well hello there.....

Perhaps it's the onset of old age or the alignment of the moons or possibly even a combination of both, but I just feel that this year has disappeared at an alarming rate. Seems like only last week that we were on school holidays and here we are already at the end of week 3. Blink and you'll miss it!

Stop Press (Late Press!)

How I managed to exclude this piece of news from week 1's newsletter defies explanation, however... Congratulations to Mrs Haste and her husband Paul who are now the proud parents of a beautiful baby girl, Mikayla Lauren. Mikayla was born on the evening of Saturday, 27th September and weighed 3.74kg (8lb 7oz) at birth. Mum, baby and dad are all doing well.

Beyond Blue

On Tuesday of this week we held a "Blue Day" a school in support of Anxiety and Depression Awareness month. Alana North from 6F and her mum Jenny were the impetus for the fundraiser which is run by Beyond Blue, an organisation that aims to raise awareness of anxiety and depression, debilitating conditions that effect people of all ages and from all walks of life. Thank you to all the families who supported our "Blue Day" by dressing in blue and purchasing a wristband or shopping bag; for those of you that missed out, I have ordered some more and they'll be available next week. A special thanks to the ☛③③☛ family for their generous donation to Beyond Blue. Thank you also to Alana and Jenny North for their motivation in bringing this excellent fundraiser to my attention. Thank you to Mrs Jones for helping me with wristband sales too!

Adopt-A-Pensioner

The charitable mindset continues at WPS via the "Adopt a Pensioner" scheme. This scheme aims to support elderly residents within the local area and was initiated here at school by Jessica Webb from 4/5S; Jessica saw an article in the local newspaper about the scheme and set to work to see how she could help the elderly residents of Warragamba. Thank you to all of you who have kindly donated; these are difficult times financially and we greatly appreciate all that you have done. Thank you Jessica for your charitable work.

Excursion Cut-Off Dates

Just a reminder that all school excursions and events have a cut-off date, after which time notes and payments will not be taken. Please check your child's bag every day and keep notes in a safe place so that children do not miss out.

Gifted and Talented Workshop

On Thursday and Friday of week 3, thirteen students from 6F and 5/6K attended a Gifted and Talented workshop run by the senior students of Elderslie High School. The students participated in a range of activities to really put their thinking and collaborative skills to the test. Strangely enough the activity revolving around the dissection of animal hearts proved to be the most popular; who said year 6 girls were squeamish? Ours certainly aren't! Congratulations on being selected for this workshop boys and girls; from all reports you not only worked well but did an excellent job of representing our school, well done.

EHS O-Day

Please be advised that there has been a date change for Elderslie High School' Orientation Day; this event will now be held on Thursday 4th December from 9:00am at Elderslie High School, Hilder Street, Narellan.

NAPLAN Info Session

I will be running an information session on the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests at 3:30pm on Thursday 6th November (week 4) in the school library. While aimed mainly at parents in years 3 & 5 (these are the grades in which students sit the NAPLAN test) all parents are more than

welcome to attend. The session will run until 4:30pm. A note will be sent home early next week to parents in years 3 and 5.

Playground Renovations

As you can plainly see the renovations to our North Playground are well underway. The most noticeable difference thus far (well apart from the lack of grass and the presence of a grader and worksite shed!) is how the ground has been levelled; the prominent dip towards the Farnsworth Avenue fence has been relegated to past tense and the ground is of a much more consistent level. The work will continue for another few weeks however the playground will be closed until term 1 2009, so as to allow the turf to bed in and fuse together.

Working Bee

The P & C will be holding a working bee here at school from 8:00am on Sunday 7th December. The main aim will be to clean up the area behind the 4/5S & 5B/3D & 2/3J rooms, including tidying up the garden beds and cleaning the bench seats, as well as spreading a few tonnes of topsoil over the Big Tree playground. Which brings me to my next point.....if any parents out there own a bobcat and have burning desire to come and spread some topsoil with said machinery, I'd love to take you up on the offer! Likewise if someone has about 5 tonnes of topsoil burning a hole in their pocket I'll gladly take it off your hands.

P & C AGM

The annual General Meeting for the P & C will be held at 4:00pm on Monday December 1st in the staffroom. As of the AGM and continuing into 2009 all P & C meetings will be held at 4:00pm. Hopefully this will encourage greater attendance and negate the need for any of you to leave the warmth of your house on winter nights to attend the meetings. All are welcome at the AGM, come along and have your say and keep up to date with the happenings of WPS.

Thank You

This term Mrs Barbara Laria was unable to supervise the uniform shop. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mrs Helen Sullivan who has stepped up to the mark and is running the uniform shop for term 4. Thank you Jenny, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Canteen Tender

As previously indicated, the tender for operation of our school canteen will shortly be advertised. The advertisement will appear in the Sydney Morning Herald this Saturday, 1st November and in the Wollondilly Advertiser this coming Tuesday, 4th November. Applications and tender packs may be obtained by contacting Mr Smith on 4774 1205. Applications will be due by 3:00pm on Tuesday, 18th November. It would be fantastic if we could keep the canteen "in the community"; perhaps there are a group of you who could combine to run the canteen? Get your heads together and see what you can come up with!

School Overnight Excursions

This week we have two grades involved in overnight excursions: year 6 to Hill End and year 3's sleepover. The year 4 trip to Wooglemai Environmental Centre will be held in week 5. I would like to thank the following staff who have put their "real lives" on hold to ensure that the children receive these wonderful opportunities: Miss Foster, Mrs Bogart, Mrs Barlow, Mr Muller, Mr Smith, Mrs Eccles, Mrs Murphy and Mr Daniels. Teachers are not paid extra or otherwise compensated for these overnight duties and I would like to thank them all for their unwavering commitment to the students of Warragamba Public School

Reminder

All car parks are out of bounds areas for children and parents. Please do not walk through the carpark, either with or without your children. I'm sure you can understand that this decision is one based purely on safety reasons; I'd hate to see anyone injured by a vehicle in the carpark so please stay away from these areas.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Ben Matthews
Principal