

### **Greetings and salutations.**

*More on the weather....it would appear that the meteorologist's view of "sunny and 24" differs significantly from mine. I interpret this as the temperature reaching 24 degrees Celsius and the sun being a visible presence; apparently I am misguided in this regard. As Mr Richardson correctly observed yesterday, it must be nice to get it wrong every single day and still keep your job!*

### **Reports and Parent/Teacher Interviews**

*By now all of you will have received and thoroughly read your child's report for semester 1 and will have a clear picture of his or her strengths and areas of need. Most of you took the opportunity to arrange an interview with your child's teacher to discuss his or her report and address any questions or concerns you may have. Maintaining positive channels of communication between parents and teachers is an essential component of any school and I unreservedly thank those of you who work to ensure that this occurs. I would like to congratulate our wonderful students on all of their hard work so far this year; I would also like to remind the boys and girls that there's always room for improvement and if you didn't do as well as you'd hoped in a certain area, dig deep, have confidence in your abilities and strive to achieve better results in semester 2. Believe in yourself and you can do it! Thank you to the staff of WPS who worked hard to ensure that the reports were of a high standard and for taking the time to discuss results with parents. Finally, thank you to those of you who were unable to make your appointments and took the time to notify the school, this is greatly appreciated.*

### **Talking Up a Storm**

*Congratulations are most definitely in order for Alaina Scutts from 6F. Alaina recently trekked to Cecil Hills PS to participate in the South Western Sydney Region Multicultural Public Speaking Competition. The competition comprised a 4 minute prepared speech on "The Role of the Media" and an impromptu speech; the children were given the topic "The Future" and then received just 5 minutes to prepare a 2 minute speech! Alaina rose to the occasion and wowed the judges, receiving a "Highly Commended" award in the process. She will soon compete at the Regional Finals and I'm sure you'll all join me in congratulating Alaina on this fantastic achievement. Well done Alaina and good luck in the finals.*

### **BER**

*As you've no doubt gathered, construction of our new Hall and COLA is yet to commence. I attended a regional meeting regarding the project last Friday and it is an enormous affair involving a staggering amount of money and personnel. At the meeting I received assurances that construction will commence imminently and will definitely be underway prior to the school holidays.*

### **Relay For Life**

*Each year the Cancer Council holds the "Relay For life" fundraiser, a unique event where teams of 10 to 15 friends, families or colleagues challenge themselves to take turns to keep a baton moving in a relay style walk or run overnight. There are no age limitations or fitness requirements – Relay For Life is suitable for everyone and anyone can join in the fun. Brock Irwin from 4/5S has participated in the Relay For Life for the past 3 years, the most recent being earlier this month in Penrith. Brock walked through the night, completing 70 laps for a total of 32 kilometres! I'm sure you'll agree that this is a fantastic achievement of which Brock should be justifiably proud. In recognition of his efforts Brock was invited to a special morning tea where he was presented with a certificate by the Mayor of Penrith, Mr Jim Aitken. Well done Brock!*

### **Water Save**

*Over the past 18 months the school has been involved in Sydney Water's "Water Save" initiative. This involved a concerted effort to reduce the school's daily water consumption. Specialised equipment was fitted to the school's water mains, with information regarding usage being transmitted to Sydney Water,*

*and then relayed back to the school via automatically-generated emails. Mr Blain took charge of our involvement in the project and promoted amongst the children the need to conserve water. Well the message has certainly been taken on board by the children; prior to being part of Water Save our average daily water usage was 16.98 litres per child – it has now been reduced to 8.11 litres per child! What a fantastic achievement boys and girls, I am very proud of you and the efforts you have made in regard to preserving one of our most precious natural resources. Thank you to Mr Blain for his diligence in regard to promoting Water Save throughout the WPS community.*

### **Miss Barton**

*Whilst playing netball last weekend, Miss Barton sustained a serious injury to her wrist, requiring surgery. As a result Miss Barton will be absent until approximately week 3 of next term. During this time Miss Barton will be replaced by casual teachers. For this week Mrs Janice Cohen will teach 1B while from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July until Miss Barton returns, 1B will be taught by Mrs Bronwyn Pollock. Mrs Pollock is a very accomplished and experienced teacher who has worked at Warragamba PS on many occasions in the past. If I can be of any assistance in regard to 1B please do not hesitate to contact me during school hours on 4774 1205. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing Miss Barton a speedy recovery and in welcoming Mrs Cohen and Mrs Pollock to 1B and Warragamba PS.*

### **Casual Teachers**

*When staff are absent from school due to illness, leave or for training and development purposes, classes are taken by casual teachers. Due to the advent of “cold and flu” season it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure casual teachers. When teachers are absent for consecutive days every effort is made to secure the services of the same casual teacher for the duration of the staff member's absence, however this is not always possible. We apologise for any distress this may cause parents however it is beyond the school's control and we ask for your understanding in this regard.*

### **A “Heads Up”....**

*I thought I'd give you all a warning in regard to my next uniform crusade. Next term's mission: the tucking in of shirts. The children always look fantastic when they're in full school uniform, this being particularly noticeable on school photo day when all of the boys have their shirts tucked in. As of day 1 term 3 I'll be persistently pushing the “tuck in” line and I ask for your support in this regard.*

### **School Leader's Meeting**

*On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June our school captains, Tom Summerhayes and Chelsea Moore, participated in an area student leader's workshop at Elderslie High School. Tom and Chelsea spent the day with primary and high school student leaders from various Macarthur schools and participated in a range of leadership skills activities. Tom and Chelsea reported that the high school leaders were quite taken aback at the level of responsibility entrusted to our school leaders and the wide variety of roles that they fill. Tom and Chelsea are doing a wonderful job as our school captains and I received nothing but positive feedback from all staff who were involved with running the day's activities. This came as no surprise to me, as all of our senior councillors are performing admirably in their roles. Thank you Tom and Chelsea for being such wonderful ambassadors for Warragamba PS.*

### **Rugby League**

*Last Tuesday WPS entered 2 teams in the CRL knockout, held at Kirkham Park in Elderslie. Our teams certainly looked the part as they took the field resplendent in their new WPS jerseys. The boys experienced the highs and lows of competition throughout the day and are to be commended on their conduct both on and off the field. I would like to thank Mr Klein, Mr Porter, Mr McAskill and Mr Whitehouse for so generously donating their time and expertise to coach the teams over the course of this term. Thank you to Mrs Eccles for her organisation of the teams and to Mr Smith for his assistance on the day, and of course a big thank you to all of the parents who provided transport.*

### **The Dam Busters**

*In the last issue of our newsletter I mentioned that Mrs Barlow, Mr Muller and I (along with a few rings) were participating in the annual Woodford-Glenbrook mountain bike ride, run as a fundraiser for NRMA Careflight. Well I'm happy to report that not only did we survive the ride (despite colds and mechanical issues), we also placed fifth outright in the teams event. Next year we're hoping to enter a larger school team so if you're keen, as the saying goes, on ya bike! You've got a year to train up and join us in 2010. Thank you to those parents who kindly sponsored the Dam Busters: we're yet to send in our sponsorship dollars and are happily accepting retrospective donations so if you've got a few dollars burning a hole in your pocket and you'd like to donate it to a worthy cause please contact me at the office. Thank you to Mrs Barlow, the driving force behind our participation in the Woodford-Glenbrook event.*

### **PACER Refund**

*Given that year 5 head off to Canberra next week I thought I'd remind you all of the "PACER" (Parliament and Civics Education Rebate). The Parliament and Civics Education Rebate provides a subsidy for schools travelling more than 150 kilometres to visit the national capital as part of a civics and citizenship education excursion. Schools must visit Parliament House, Old Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial and where possible participate in an education programme at these institutions. The rebate is available for year 4 to year 12 students and is paid on a per student basis at rates varying according to the distance travelled. Funds are used to reduce the costs for individual students; we have deducted the PACER rebate of \$20 per student from the overall cost of both the year 5 and year 6 excursions to Canberra.*

### **Adopt-a-Pensioner**

*Thank you to those of you who kindly donated food and other household items for the Adopt-a-Pensioner Scheme. Your donations are greatly appreciated and have been passed on to the Neighbourhood Centre for distribution.*

### **Where Does The Time Go?**

*It's a tad alarming to think that we're almost at the halfway point for 2009. The time simply seems to disappear. As this is the last newsletter for term 2 I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of our students and school throughout the first half of 2009 and look forward to a productive and enjoyable semester 2. If you're heading away for the break please drive carefully and have a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. The first day of term 3 is a Staff Development Day and supervision for students will not be provided. School resumes for students on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July.*

*Take care.*

**Ben Matthews**  
Principal