

Happy Education Week!

This time last year, Education Week and pen Day was the first major Warragamba PS event I attended and I was blown away by the amount of support received from the community. This year's event served only to heighten my appreciation not only of our wonderful school, students and teachers but also of the parents, relatives, friends and community members who showed their support and appreciation of WPS. The value of such support cannot be underestimated and on behalf of the staff of WPS I thank each and every one of you who attended our Open Day. Special thanks to our Assistant Principal Mrs Macias who I think you'll all agree organised a brilliant day for everyone involved. And to do so with an arm broken in two places, THAT'S impressive!

National Reconciliation Week

This week is also National Reconciliation Week, the theme being "Reconciliation: It's All Our Story". Now would be a great time to address this issue at home with your children and instil in them the importance of Reconciliation Week; such appreciation and recognition can only lead to a better future for us all. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all WPS students and families with Aboriginal heritage, particularly those of the Gundungurra people, the traditional custodians of Warragamba.

Industrial Action Absences

Despite advice that I have provided to the contrary, those children who did not attend school on Thursday 22nd May due to industrial action by the NSW Teachers' Federation will NOT be marked as absent. I apologise for any confusion this may have caused and can assure you that these absences will not be counted in class rolls.

Book Character Parade

How good were the costumes?! More of a statement than a question but one that needed to be, um, stated! Thank you to all the children and family members who obviously directed a tremendous effort towards ensuring that each child looked sensational; even some of the fairies....! Note to self: check who's under the mask before asking a question. Ah, if one cannot laugh at oneself, all is lost! Thank you to Mrs Macias for organising the parade as well as the presence of local author Jan Lephed, who read her book "Breezy the Greedy Seagull" to the children; what a great opportunity for the children. Thank you also to Mr Blain for his assistance and to Miss Foster and Mr McMullen who did a great job with the sound, as per usual.

Book Fair

Thank you to our librarian Mr Muller who, ably assisted by Mrs Wilson and Mrs Glynn amongst others, sold a rather large quantity of books from the Book Fair this week. Thank you to those of you who purchased books; a percentage of each book sold is donated back to the school, so by purchasing a book you've donated to our school, thank you muchly! Thank you also to Mrs Cottam for her assistance in setting up the book fair.

Year 5 Camp

As we speak the children of year 5 are braving the elements at Hill End, as are Mr Blain, Mr Smith and Mrs Bogart. From what I hear the ride I was a tad on the bumpy side but all arrived safe and sound around lunchtime on Wednesday. Those of you who are worried about your children becoming homesick, fear not, the itinerary is such that they won't have time to become homesick! The children are due back at 4:00pm on Friday; please make sure that you are here punctually to pick them up. Thank you to Mr Blain, Mr Smith and Mrs Bogart for putting their "real" lives on hold to attend the camp.

P & C Meeting

The next P & C Meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Monday June 16th in the staffroom. All are welcome and the more the merrier. Please come along, we'd love to see you there.

Public Holiday

Please remember that Monday June 9th (week 7) is a public holiday and that the school will be closed on this day.

When Your Child is Absent.....

If your child is going to be absent for more than 3 days due to illness, please phone the school to inform us. This allows us to ensure that our rolls are kept accurately and also puts our minds at ease; we do tend to become concerned if a child has been absent for a length of time without explanation. When your child returns to school after an absence please ensure that you provide a short note explaining the absence. Different codes are used to mark the roll depending on the reason for the absence so an explanation is extremely helpful. Please remember that if a note has not been received after one week/five school days, the absence is marked as "unexplained".

Updating Contact Numbers

Lately we have encountered difficulty in contacting parents due to changing phone numbers. If your phone number is changed please notify the school as soon as possible so that we are able to quickly contact you in the event of an emergency.

Tah-Man!

Tah-Man is the official mascot for the Waratahs rugby union team and he'll be visiting us next Wednesday June 2nd for a quick visit to promote rugby union. There'll be a few prizes and giveaways for the children; check out Tah-Man's web page, there's a link on the school website.

Thank You....

I'll finish off by continuing the Education Week theme, this time to thank all of the wonderful staff at Warragamba PS for the fantastic job they do with our children. Thank you Mrs Jones for your wonderful work with choir and KJ; Mrs Macias for the great job you do as an AP and with the Learning Support team; Miss Hopkins for your work with K/IH and as our resident historian; Miss Pollock for your wonderfully clam demeanour with 1P; Mrs Haste for your visual arts expertise; Mrs Gerrie for your work with 2G and our choir; Mrs Johns for your compassionate rapport with the children; Mr Daniels for your work with University Competitions, Tournament of the Minds and soccer; Mrs Barlow for your work with 3/4B and sport; Mrs Eccles for your sporting expertise and efforts; Mr Smith for your supervision of stage 2 and of course the Superman costume; Mr Blain for your supervision of stage 3 and water-conservation efforts; Mrs Barlow for your work with 5/6K and in Science and Technology; Miss Foster for your technological expertise, choir and Senior Councillors; Mrs Cottam for the wonderful things you do with Reading Recovery; Miss Hall for the excellent work you perform with special needs children; Mr Muller for your library skills and reptile-keeping prowess; Mrs Kirkup, Mrs Poli, Mrs Glynn, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Thomson and Mrs DeWitt for the amazing job you do with keeping the administrative side of our school in check; Mr Steinweiss, curator of our own Botanical Gardens; Mrs Hooper, Mrs Dowswell and Mrs Hobbs for the wonderful work you do with special needs children; Mrs Pomfrett and Mrs Walker for keeping our wonderful school clean; and Joan and Pauline in the canteen for keeping us well-fed. Thank you to all the mums and dads who come up to school to help with reading, sport and other classroom activities and to the scripture teachers who volunteer their time to provide religious instruction for the children. Last but definitely not least I'd like to thank our P & C for the great job you do, particularly Mrs Laria who seems to spend an inordinate amount of time here for a volunteer!

Have a great weekend everyone.

Ben Matthews
Principal