



Keeping In Touch

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Warragamba Public School

Week 1, Term 3

24 July 2008

How goes it one and all?

I hope you all had a fantastic holiday and that you managed to actually include a bit of relaxation in your schedule. No doubt you were all very excited at the prospect of being able to watch the largest annual sporting event in the world, Le Tour de France, each night. The teachers were kept busy on Monday's Staff Development Day, spending the day learning about nutrition programs and our new PD/Health/PE units, and working on our Mathematics scope and sequence (more info further down the page). It was wonderful to see how positive the children appeared to be about coming back to school, at Monday's assembly. As is always the case it's "Thunderbirds are Go" here at WPS (without the bizarre walking techniques of course!).....

Welcome

This term we have several new enrolments at Warragamba PS. On behalf of the staff, students and school community I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our new students and their families to our school and hope that you'll enjoy being part of our school community. If there's anything we can do to assist you in your child's transition to WPS please come and see either myself or your child's class teacher.

Excursion Notes and Payments

Please note that as of this term, ALL school excursions and events will have a cut-off date for the return of payments and permission notes. After the advertised date, no payments or permission notes will be accepted. This is not the commencement of the path to fascism but merely ensures that all organisation for excursions can be completed prior to the event; this assists teachers, administrative staff and also venue owners in ensuring that excursions are organised in the most efficient manner possible, which in turn ensures that the experience is as rewarding as possible for the children. If you are encountering financial difficulty in regard to payment please contact me; all such discussions are treated with the utmost confidentiality. While I have no intention or desire to upset children by excluding them from excursions and events, the policy will be rigidly adhered to. Please assist us in this regard by returning all payments and permission notes by the advertised date.

Faux Pas!

Will the real hat-tricker please stand up!? Last term I included in the newsletter an item congratulating one of our young soccer stars on a fantastic achievement; scoring a hat trick of goals at a recent soccer Gala Day. Well while I had the right family, I named the wrong family member! So allow me to consume a sizeable portion of humble pie while congratulating Billy Summerhayes of 3/4B on a wonderful feat; scoring three goals in one day is brilliant work mate. Congratulations, well done.....and sorry!

The Cat is Out of the Bag

At Monday's assembly I buckled and informed the children as to what the big secret is in regard to August 6th. Those of you who watch Channel 9 news will be aware that the news closes each day with a segment about a primary school; newsreader Mark Ferguson visits the school in the Channel 9 helicopter, speaks to the children about the news and shows off his mode of transport. The whole visit is filmed and it appears on the news that evening. Well in a classic case of "it's not what you know but who you know" I managed to secure one of the last 3 available dates for 2008, so on August 6th we will host Mr Ferguson and the helicopter right here at WPS. The helicopter will be landing in our playground at approximately 9:30am and departing about an hour later. More details to come regarding what should be a very exciting opportunity for the children.



Persistence Pays Dividends

As you are no doubt aware the North Playground (on the roundabout) has been of some concern in the past due to the presence of fibrous material. Well after much persistence the DET will be completely renovating this playground, with work scheduled to commence in the next holidays. The entire grass area will be returfed, with the existing grass being removed and a special geo-fabric matting being placed on the ground to contain any existing fragments. This will then be covered by 200mm of topsoil, and finally turfed. In addition a mulch bed will be constructed around the entire perimeter of the playground, from the teachers' carpark around to the pedestrian gate on Farnsworth Avenue. This garden will be retained with sleepers so that the mulch will not be washed away during rain. The old barbecue will be removed and pathways constructed between the gate and the existing pathway behind K/1H and 2G and also along the bottom end of the year 6 rooms. Potentially dangerous branches on all of the large trees in the playground will be removed and some of the seating will be rearranged to ensure that it is located in shaded areas. The work will take approximately 8 weeks and the playground will be closed for this time; depending on how quickly the turf beds in there is a possibility that the playground will be closed for all of term 4. Alternate playground arrangements will involve the use of the "Big Tree" area.

Maths Planning

On Wednesday of this week Mr Smith, Mr Daniels, Mrs Cottam, Mrs Gerri and Mrs Johns spent the day working on our Mathematics scope and sequence. A scope and sequence is a document or series of documents that sets out what syllabus content will be taught and when. It enables teachers to ensure that their programming accurately addresses syllabus content, in this case from the K-6 Mathematics syllabus and allows them to sequence concepts so that related ideas flow on from one another in the teaching and learning cycle. Thank you to our Mathematics Team for all of their hard work in this area.

PD/H/PE

Mrs Macias, Mrs Eccles and Mrs Barlow have been busily working on new school policies for the Personal Development/Health/Physical Education Key Learning Area and these were presented to staff at Monday's Staff development Day. The new documents outline a scope and sequence for this Key Learning Area and provide updated syllabus resources and content to ensure that our students receive the best possible learning programs for areas such as sport, nutrition, drug education, Life Education and so on. Thank you to our PD/H/PE Team for all of their hard work.

Don't Forget.....

Our 60th Birthday Party will be held right here at school on Saturday 6th September. You're all invited and we'd be very disappointed if you couldn't make it. If you know anyone who is an ex-student or staff member bring them along, the more the merrier.

Wishing you all a great week!

Take care.

Ben Matthews

Teddy bear cottage and Warragamba / Silverdale neighbour hood centre are hosting the following workshop, which is available to all community members.

Surviving Sibling Rivalry

Brothers and sisters can be great friends and playmates for one another but all too often we feel like they are always "at each other" or fighting for our attention, driving each other crazy and us as well.

In this **2 part workshop** we will look at understanding and dealing with sibling conflict as well as strategies to promote harmony between kids.

Topics will include:

Part 1 -11th August - 10.00am -12.00pm

.Why does it happen?

.What's normal?

.If it's normal does that mean I just have to put up with it?

.What's good about sibling rivalry?

.What parents can do ?(including prevention)

Part 2 - 18th August 10.00am - 12.00pm (builds on part 1- not suitable for attending as a stand alone workshop)

.What parents can do continued (prevention, coaching & management strategies)

* The workshops will be held at the neighbourhood centre, Weir Rd Warragamba.

* The cost for the workshops is \$5.00 per person, per session. Child care is FREE.

Bookings are essential. Please contact Leanne 47741273 or Lorriene 47741940

Dates to Remember

Friday 25 July 2008 – State Cross Country, Eastern Creek

Wednesday 30 July – Fire Brigade Safety Talk – Year 1

Thursday 31 July 2008 – Primary Assembly – 4/5S

- Fairfield City Farm Excursion Yr 1 & 2

Monday 4 August 2008 – P & C Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday 6 August 2008 – Channel 9 visit

Friday 8 August 2008 – Gala Day Soccer/Netball



P&C Meeting 4 August

The next P & C Meeting will be on Monday 4 August at 7pm in the Staff Room. We would love you to come and discuss options for fundraising for our school and what facilities and resources would benefit your child.

Come and enjoy a cuppa - everyone is welcome.

Family Photo Day

The family photo day was a great success last year with many families purchasing a beautiful family portrait for only \$15! Parents who purchased a portrait last year have asked that the P&C organise another Family Photo Day.

So on Sunday 23 November Laura Jean Photography will again be taking family portraits.

More information on booking a family portrait on 23 November will be provided in future newsletters. Keep the day free for a wonderful family keepsake – also a great idea for Christmas gifts!

TERM 3 2008

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	21 July Staff Development Day	22 July School Resumes K-6 Assembly	23 July	24 July	25 July State Cross Country (Eastern Creek)
2	28 July	29 July	30 July Year 1 Fire Safety Talks	31 July Year 1 & Year 2 Fairfield City Farm Excur	1 August
3	4 August P & C Meeting 7:00 pm	5 August	6 August Channel 9 Visit	7 August	8 August Gala Day 3 (Winter Sports)
4	11 August Cricket Clinics	12 August	13 August	14 August	15 August Zone Field Events Carnival (Campbelltown)
5	18 August	19 August	20 August	21 August	22 August Zone Track Events Carnival (Campbelltown)
6	25 August Musica Viva	26 August	27 August Year 1 "Alleycats" Hygiene Show Golf Clinics	28 August	29 August Gala Day 1 (Summer Sports)
7	1 September	2 September	3 September	4 September Fathers' Day Stall	5 September
8	8 September	9 September	10 September Kindergarten Featherdale Farm excursion	11 September	12 September Sport Photos
9	15 September P & C Meeting 7:00pm	16 September	17 September Area Athletics (Bankstown)	18 September	19 September Gala Day 2 (Summer Sports)
10	22 September Choral Concerts	23 September	24 September	25 September	26 September Gala Day 3 (Summer Sports) Last day Term 3

