



# Keeping In Touch

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**Warragamba Public School**

Term 3 Week 10

1 October 2009

*Blink and you miss it. That's been my motto for term 3; as quickly as the last holidays disappeared, so too did term 3. There has certainly been no shortage of things to make the days go by quickly: NAPLAN, BER, National Literacy and Numeracy Week, assembly items, sport, overnight excursions, ICAS tests, Interrelate sessions, Ditto safety show.....never a dull moment!*

## **BER**

*Well things are certainly moving along at an increasing pace in regard to the plethora of construction taking place at WPS. It's interesting to watch the daily progress as our hall begins to take shape; well, the ground on which it will be built at least. Construction of the slab will hopefully commence this week and I've been told by colleagues at other schools that once the slab is good to go, the pace becomes quite frenetic. The components for the COLA over our netball court are being constructed as we speak and installation is scheduled for the last 4 days of the school holidays; so if the moons align we should commence term 4 with a brand spanking new COLA over our netball court.*

*Last Wednesday our temporary administration block was delivered – much to my dismay given the appalling weather conditions that we woke to that morning. Many of the classes came outside to watch as the crane lifted the various parts of the demountable over the admin block as a rather nervous looking Mrs Poli worked underneath. The contractors worked well into the night to ensure that the job was done correctly, eventually wrapping things up at around 9:00pm. It is anticipated that Mrs Kirkup, Mrs Poli, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Thomson and I will move into the demountable in time for term 4; there is of course the small matter of connecting electricity, water, sewerage and data links, not to mention moving EVERYTHING out of the existing admin block! We shall see what we shall see.....*

## **Thank You**

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank the top blokes at Warragamba Fire Station who very kindly refilled our stormwater tank, the tank having been emptied by the intellectual mammoths that recently vandalised our school. It's fantastic to know that community members and organisations support their local public school, thanks guys.*

## **Gala Day**

*On Friday many of our children in year 3-6 represented WPS at the Razorback PSSA Gala Days in Oztag and cricket. I attended the Oztag event at Kirkham Park; the conduct of the children throughout the day was fantastic, as were the attitudes they displayed on the field. Thank you for the wonderful job you did boys and girls, I was very proud of each and every one of you. The final Gala Day for 2009 will be held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October (term 4 week 2). A reminder that as a condition of participation in the Gala Days all children must wear their full sports uniform, including a school hat.*

## **Area Athletics**

*Due to a tiny bit of dirt being blown around the metropolitan area last Wednesday, the South Western Sydney Region Athletics Carnival was postponed and was held on Tuesday of this week at Campbelltown Stadium. Congratulations to all children who represented our school and zone at the Regional level, it's an achievement that you should all be proud of.*

## **STOP PRESS!!!**

*We are very proud to announce that some of our competitors will now be representing WPS at State. Samantha Moore (6F) 1<sup>st</sup> Girls Discus & 3<sup>rd</sup> Shot Put, Bryce Lowther (6F) 3<sup>rd</sup> Boys Long Jump and Senior Boys Relay Team: Darren Porter, Bryce Lowther, Sam Quinn and Jarrad Sherlock all of 6F. Fantastic effort everyone!!!*

## **CityRail Timetable Changes**

*From Sunday 11 October changes will be made to CityRail train timetables to incorporate the new Epping to Chatswood rail link and this will affect all rail networks. If your child uses the train, please ensure you have an updated timetable. Be aware that bus timetables may also change to accommodate changes to the train timetables. For more information call: 131 500 or go to: [www.131500.com.au/servicechanges/timetables2009.asp](http://www.131500.com.au/servicechanges/timetables2009.asp).*

## **Spelling Bee Champs**

*Congratulations are in order for Tyler Davies (3/4E) and Emily Woodhouse (3P), who competed in the recent Regional Finals for the Premier's Spelling Bee on Wednesday of this week. As I typed this newsletter prior to heading to Canberra the final results were unknown, but what I do know is that Tyler and Emily will have done their very best. Well done Tyler and Emily!*

## **Library Blinds**

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank our P & C for providing the school with new blinds for the library. The new blinds certainly modernise the look of our library and provide Mr Muller with more control over light levels in the building. You may also have noticed that new vertical blinds have been installed in the Multi Purpose Room, adjacent to the canteen.*

## **Welcome**

*We have had a number of new enrolments at Warragamba PS lately and are anticipating several more in term 4. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new students and their families to the WPS community; if there is anything we can do for you please contact the office on 4774 1205 to arrange an interview with either myself or your child's classroom teacher.*

## **NAPLAN Website for Parents**

*In May 2009, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 completed the second National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy. The 2009 NAPLAN test results were released nationally on 11 September. Reports to parents and caregivers were dispatched from schools in the week beginning 14 September. To facilitate access to NAPLAN information for parents of NSW school students, a new website [www.naplanforparentsnsw.com.au](http://www.naplanforparentsnsw.com.au) has been developed. In addition to general information about NAPLAN, this website contains documents to assist parents in understanding the student report and the NAPLAN reporting scales. Parents are also invited to provide feedback on NAPLAN reporting by completing an online survey.*

## **Aquatic Activities**

*DET rules governing the operation of unstructured aquatic activities (such as our annual end-of-year pool days) have been introduced. These rules will have a significant impact on our unstructured pool days (not formal swimming carnivals) to the point that such days may no longer be viable. I will discuss these issues with staff next term and inform the school community as soon as a decision is made.*

## **Daylight Saving Starts**

*Don't forget summer time daylight saving commences over the October long weekend when from 2am, Sunday 4 October 2009, clocks are put forward one hour.*

## **Warradale's Next Top Model?**

*No, I'm not going on some sort of reality TV binge....the annual Miss Warradale Pageant was held last Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> September and from all accounts was a fantastic night with all contestants looking amazing; no doubt the judges faced a difficult task. I'm very pleased to announce that three of our students received awards in the crowning ceremony. Congratulations to:*

- *Little Miss Warradale: Taylah Roots (K/1H)*
- *Miss Teen Warradale: Elleisha Connolly (5/6B)*
- *Miss Golden Dollar: Emma-Lea Hamilton (5/6B)*

*Congratulations ladies, I hope you're as proud of your new titles as we all are of you.*

## **Year 6 Canberra Excursion**

*This week Miss Foster, Mrs Barlow, Mr Muller and I are off to Canberra for the year 6 excursion. Thank you to Miss Foster for organising this excursion and to Mrs Barlow and Mr Muller for attending the excursion. I'm sure the boys and girls will have an educational and enjoyable time; parents, I doubt they'll cause you too much grief on Friday evening! If your child is attending the excursion please ensure that an adult is at school to collect him or her at 6:45pm this Friday.*

## **PACER Refund**

*Given that year 6 head off to Canberra this 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.*

## **Fun Holiday Ideas**

*With the weather warming up, it's time to get outdoors with the kids and be active together. There are a host of ideas at the Healthy Kids website: [www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au/topics/2101.html](http://www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au/topics/2101.html) ranging from simple games you can play in your backyard, to cycle paths, walking tracks, sports organisations and tips to keep your child safe while at play. Make the most of the school holidays!*

## **TWUGIA Project**

*This year two of our year 6 students, Catherine Lambeth and Eden Craker (both from 5/6B) have been involved in an Aboriginal Education Directorate gifted and talented program known as the "TWUGIA Project". Catherine and Eden have been working with students from indigenous backgrounds from across the South Western Sydney region for some time now and their hard work culminated in the premier of a film at the Casula Powerhouse centre on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Congratulations to Catherine and Eden for their contributions to the TWUGIA Project.*

## **Speaking of the Holidays....**

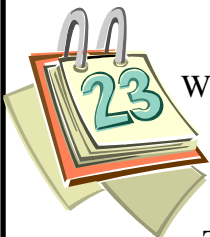
*I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of our school throughout term 3. Thank you especially to those of you who have taken the time to let your child's class teacher know they're doing a great job – some of the letters and cards we've received have been quite heart-warming and I must admit that one even brought a tear to my eye (and no, it wasn't because of last Wednesday's dust storm). Have a fantastic holiday and please look out for each other; when we're in relaxation mode we often let our guard down and that's when accidents happen, please stay vigilant in regard to safety. If you happen to see anything untoward occurring at our school over the holidays please phone the police on 000 or the School Security Unit on 1300 880 021 (this line is manned 24 hours a day).*

*Take care, catch you all on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October.*

*Ben Matthews*

*Principal*

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**



Wednesday 30 September to Friday 2 October – Year 6 Canberra Excursion

Friday 2 October – Last Day of Term 3

Monday 19 October – First day back for Term 4

Thursday 22 October – Kinder 2010 Play Session 1, 10:00am – 11:00am

Tuesday 27 October – Kinder Play Session 2, 10:00am – 11:00am

Friday 30 October – Gala Day 3 (Oztag & Cricket)



## Nepean Golf Academy School Holiday Clinic

**Where:** Wallacia Golf and Country Club

**When:** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of October

**Cost:** 4-6 years \$50 9:30- 12:30

7 and up \$70 non members 9:30am - 2:30pm

\$50 members 9:30am - 2:30pm

**Includes:** All equipment can be supplied, morning tea,  
Lunch and Green fees

**For bookings contact:** Sue New 0418275679

Please contact me before Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> October 5pm

## Warragamba Netball Registration Day

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009**

**for 2010 Winter Season**

**9:00am to 2:00pm at Video Ezy Silverdale**

Wanted: Players, Coaches and Umpires

Registrations for 2010 season

Season starts 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010

Enquiries: Paul & Maureen Skuratowski – President/Secretary  
on 4774 2153 or Novea Riley – Registrar on 4774 1675

Fees: Netta (5-8yrs) \$110.00/player

Junior (9-16yrs) \$130.00/player

Senior (18yrs+) \$150.00/player

### Grading will probably need to take place for some teams!

(If you are required for Grading a member of our Committee will contact you after our registration day) This will depend on numbers!

Check out the Penrith Netball Association Website:

<http://www.isport.com.au/netball/penrith/> and look up the  
Warragamba Netball Home Page or send an email to:  
[warragambanetball@hotmail.com.au](mailto:warragambanetball@hotmail.com.au)

\*Price may increase as a badged umpire is required for each senior team. **Note: All players will need to be paid in full by the first game on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010.**

## Dam Fest 09!

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2009.**

**Warragamba Recreation Reserve  
(Picnic Grounds) 10.00am to 4.00pm.**

It's that time of year again. There will be Rides and Stalls – Car and Bike Show – Billy Cart Races - Emergency Services Tug-of War, displays and more. The live entertainment will include several young, up and coming country performers and some great bands.

Entry is by a gold coin donation, this money will go to the RFS, SES and the Warragamba Silverdale Neighbourhood Centre to be put back into the community.

Don't miss this fantastic family day out.

**DAM FUN FOR EVERYONE!!!**

Dam Fest RIDES – \$20.00 WRIST BANDS will be available for purchase from WARRADALE WIGWAM on 47742450 or at the CANTEEN at WARRAGAMBA SCHOOL from 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2009. Pre-order, pay and save.

Bands will be valid from 10.00am to 3.00pm

Wristbands purchased on the day will be \$25.00. If you would like to be a part of this great day, as a performer, a volunteer or to have stall, please contact Leanne at Warragamba Silverdale Neighbourhood Centre

on 4774 1273 or email [damfest09@hotmail.com](mailto:damfest09@hotmail.com) for more information google DamFest or go to [www.damfest09.warragamba.net.au](http://www.damfest09.warragamba.net.au) .

## **Teddy Bear Cottage Spring Fair**

Apologies to all the disappointed children and families for having to cancel the Spring Fair. The strong winds created a dangerous environment in the park. The good news is that most of our activities will now be held at Dam Fest on the 25<sup>th</sup> October – including our fantastic kids showbags.