



# Keeping In Touch

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**Warragamba Public School**

Term 3, Week 6

3 September 2009

*And so it begins!*

*After much to-ing and fro-ing construction of our hall has finally commenced. In order to ensure that the worksite is a safe environment the pedestrian gate near the crossing on Weir Road will be removed; please access the school via the gate near Block O (just near the Big Tree). We anticipate a touch of upheaval during the construction process and ask that you "grin and bare it" along with the staff and students. Unfortunately the K-2 children will return to the infant's quad for recess for the time being, however with the seating and playground games this area is now a considerably more attractive option for the children. It is also anticipated that the renovation and extension of the school's administrative block and the construction of the COLA over the netball court will commence shortly. It's going to resemble a construction site around here for a while, however a bit of short term pain will certainly be worth the long term gain.*

## **NAPLAN**

*All students in years 3 and 5 sat the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy exams back in May. Results are expected in the coming fortnight and will be forwarded to parents as soon as is practical.*

## **40 Hour Famine**

*Two weekends ago many of our students participated in the "8 Hour Challenge", the K-6 version of World Vision's 40 Hour Famine fundraiser. Congratulations to all children who took part; some children extended their participation by swearing off things such as electricity, TV, computers and bikes as well as fasting for 8 hours. Please endeavour to collect your sponsorship money as soon as possible and return it to Mr Matthews.*

## **National Literacy and Numeracy Week**

*This week is "National Literacy and Numeracy Week", the theme for 2009 being "Getting the Basics Right". To celebrate, we have organised a Literacy and Numeracy "Partnerships in Learning" Day for Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September (this week's schedule was too hectic to fit anything in!). Mr Blain has organised a rotation whereby the students are grouped into stages (Kindergarten, year 1-2, year 3-4 and year 5-6). Each teacher has devised a literacy and a numeracy activity with a twist and children will rotate between classes within their stage, participating in a series of maths activities in the morning session, numeracy activities in the middle session and finally back to their own room and teacher for a writing activity in the afternoon session. This promises to be a great day for the children. For more information please visit [www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au](http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au).*

## **Father's Day Stall**

*Once again the wonderful team from our P & C ran a fantastic Father's Day Stall for the children. The children were able to select from a wide range of gifts, all priced at the princely sum of \$6. Thank you to the P & C and in particular Mrs Catherine Davies and Mrs Nicole Erler for their awesome efforts in regard to organising and running the stall. Thank you also to the following mums who so generously gave of their time to ensure that the stall ran smoothly: Barbara Laria, Yelka Moore, Kylie Lucas, Stella McPherson, April Summerhayes, Bronwyn Dunn, Lisa Dodd, Kelly Joy, Carol Pesl, Michelle McKechnie, Leanne Lowther and Carolyn Lambeth. Thank you also to senior councillors Jordan McMillan and Taylah Sherlock from 5/6B, both of whom were of great assistance with running the stall. I'm sure that all of our dad's will be extremely happy with their pressies come Sunday morning.*

### **Interactive White Boards**

*As mentioned in our last newsletter two Interactive White Boards (IWB's) have been installed in 3/4E and 5K. On Wednesday September 16<sup>th</sup> a friend of mine, Mr Michael Strahan, an assistant Principal at Narellan PS will spend the day with some of our teachers to provide them with some in depth professional learning in regard to the use of the IWB's. If you're curious as to what can be accomplished with an IWB please come and see me and we'll arrange a time when you can see one in action.*

### **Issues Big and Small**

*I often have parents say to me "It's only a small issue but it's been playing on my mind"; if an issue is significant enough to cause you concern please contact the school to address the issue with either your child's classroom teacher or myself. Sometimes the old adage of "nipping things in the bud" is extremely appropriate and can allow us to resolve a situation while still in its infancy, so as to avoid a major issue. If it's on your mind, please let us know so we may be of assistance.*

### **Peer Mediator Training**

*From time to time (actually it's roughly every 35 seconds....) teachers need to mediate in regard to minor differences of opinion in the playground. The Peer Mediator Program trains year 6 students to assist in resolving minor playground disputes. On Monday of this week Miss Elise Mitchell from Narellan Vale PS attended our school to train our year 6 students (I've been making great use of the phrase "Thanks mate, I owe you one" lately) and was extremely impressed not only by the way in which our year 6 students participated in the training but also by the level of courtesy demonstrated by the students of WPS as a whole; thank you boys and girls, having a visitor from another school walk away with a positive impression of our school means a lot and is a fantastic reflection on the way in which you conduct yourselves, congratulations and thank you. The Peer Mediator Program will commence shortly, just look for the orange fluoro vests.*

### **Annual School Report**

*Even though there's still a term and a half to go, we will shortly commence our school self-evaluation process as part of the 2009 Annual School Report. Surveys of various natures will be sent home to students in certain classes; the feedback you provide to us via these surveys is invaluable so if you could take a few minutes to complete one and return it to school we'd be greatly appreciative. All surveys may be returned either via your child's classroom teacher or directly to Mr Matthews.*

### **Zone Athletics Carnival**

*Last Friday saw the running (literally) of the Razorback PSSA Athletics Carnival for track events. Congratulations to all children who competed, you did a wonderful job of representing our school and from my position as a timekeeper it was very rewarding to be associated with you and your efforts at the carnival; I hope you're as proud of yourselves as I am of you. Thank you to Mrs Eccles and Miss Pollock who did a fantastic job as carnival convenors, Mr Smith and Mrs Barlow who assisted so ably on the day and to the teachers who remained at school and supervised additional students for the duration of the carnival. Thank you to the parents who kindly provided transport to and from the event and good luck to all students representing Razorback PSSA at the South Western Sydney Regional event on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

### **Interrelate Reminder**

*Just a reminder that the Interrelate human sexuality program will be held here at school next Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September. Interrelate Family Centres provide a range of services; the one we are utilising revolves around the delicate issue of sexuality education for students in year 3-6. Although I'm sure that many of you look forward to the "how does this happen?" and "why would that happen?" discussions that the onset of puberty invariably provides, Interrelate provide a non-confrontational yet informative opportunity for such issues to be addressed. We will be running two sessions: "Where Did I Come From?" is for students in years 3-6 and explains the differences between male and female bodies while the "Preparing for Puberty" session is for children in years 5 and 6 and helps to prepare children and parents for the emotional, social and physical changes associated with puberty. The sessions run for 60 minutes and are \$15 each or \$20 for both. **Please send your permission notes and payments directly to the office, NOT to your child's class teacher. PLEASE NOTE THAT CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO INTERRELATE.** For more information please visit [www.interrelate.org.au](http://www.interrelate.org.au).*

## More Sporting News

*Congratulations are in order for Jordan McMillan (5/6B) and Jarrad Sherlock (6F) who have made it to round 2 of the cricket selection trials for the Razorback PSSA team; good luck boys! Sam, I'm sure you did your best mate, well done.*

*Have a great weekend; to all the dads I hope you have a corker on Sunday. My wife and boys are taking me to the World Mountain Bike Championships in Canberra; maybe I'll see some of you there!*

Ben Matthews

Principal

## Sacred Heart Parrish Sacramental Process – Reconciliation, First Communion & Confirmation

*The 2009/2010 Sacramental process will commence on Wednesday 9 September 2009 with an Enquiry (Information) Session to be attended by parents of children in Year 3 and above, who wish to enrol their child in this year's Sacramental process. The Enquiry session will be held at the Holy Family Parish Centre, Lot 1 Willowdene Avenue, Luddenham at 9:15am and 7:00pm. For further information please phone 4773 4321.*

## **Wollondilly Shire Library – October School Holiday Activities**

### **The Magic Jester Show**

The Magic Jester is one of Australia's leading entertainers, with 15 years of award winning experience in all types of magic.

He will entertain the smallest of children right through to the oldest of adults.

The Magic Jester's show includes a dove and rabbit and stage illusions.

Date: **Wednesday 7 October 2009**

Venue: Wollondilly Shire Hall

Time: 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Ages: 3+

Cost: \$5.00

Bookings Essential - phone 4677 8300

### **Mosaic Workshop**

Join local artist Freya Jobbins for a fun-filled Mosaic Workshop.

Create an artwork that reflects how you feel about Wollondilly Shire.

Pizza lunch and drinks provided.

Wear old clothing

Date: **Tuesday 13 October 2009**

Venue: Wollondilly Shire Hall

Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Ages: 12 +

Cost: Free

Bookings Essential - phone 4677 8300

### **Xbox Vs. Wii Night**

Gaming and Pizza @ your library, Xbox 360 - Halo 3 (M), Wii - Dance Revolution Hottest Party 2 (G)

Pizza and drinks provided.

Date: **Thursday 15 October 2009**

Venue: Picton Library

Time: 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Ages: 8 +

Cost: Free

Bookings Essential - phone 4677 8300

Keep an eye out for information about our Wollondilly Garden Competition in September. Applications forms available on our website on [www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au) or call 4677 8255

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Friday 4 September – Gala Day 1 (Oztag & Cricket)

Wednesday 9 September – Kindergarten Excursion – Featherdale Farm

Thursday 10 September – Interrelate Evening Sessions 6pm – 8pm

Monday 14 September – Cricket Clinics (K-2)

Wednesday 16 September – Kindergarten 2010 Parent Information Night 7:00pm

Thursday 17 September – Musica Viva 'Jacana'



## PDHPE

This term all students K-6 are studying units of work related to Drug Education. In Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 this focuses on safe use and safe storage of medicines, keeping safe around poisons and getting help in an emergency. Primary students are doing units about tobacco or alcohol and the effects they have on the body. All Drug Education lessons focus on safety, positive health choices and informed decision making. If you would like information on tobacco, alcohol or other drugs, there is a parent information kit available for borrowing from the library. This is not a student resource - it is specifically for parents. If you have any questions about the Drug Education programs please contact your child's teacher.

## PE

Teachers are continuing to teach Fundamental Movement Skills as part of Physical Education lessons. New resources distributed to staff this year allow us to focus on correct stance and movement, and to follow a sequence of lessons for skills such as the leap, dodge, kick, strike, vertical jump and side gallop.

## HEALTH

"Crunch and Sip" time is being implemented in the classrooms each day and it is good to see the majority of students bringing fruit and vegetables to school. Next week is Fruit and Vegie Week in NSW schools, and extra activities will be done across the school to reinforce the message of healthy eating.

## STUDENT WELFARE

Congratulations to Todd Anthony Robertson and Darcie Erler who earned a Warra Winner certificate this week! Their efforts at being good citizens in the playground are greatly appreciated.

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009, students from Years 5 and 6 at Prairievale Public School in Fairfield District will be coming to visit our school. This visit is part of an initiative funded by Camden Council to encourage tolerance and understanding of others who may be different from ourselves. Prairievale Public School has a high multicultural population and our students are looking forward to meeting children from different backgrounds. We will be sharing information on our own family backgrounds, looking at what we are learning at school this term, and joining in games and team building activities at the soccer oval. Students will be having a picnic lunch. It is anticipated that the day will promote the acceptance of diversity within our local communities and the broader Australian community. More information will be given to the students involved shortly.

Jenny Macias

## Stewart House Clothing Appeal

*Students will be bringing home Stewart House Collection bags. Once again we appeal to your generosity of the past to donate any unwanted clothing that is in good condition. The collection date for the next collection is **28 September 2009**. Please leave all clothing collection bags at the AV Room. Thank you!*



The Warragamba/Silverdale Thursday Craft Group will hold their biennial Exhibition and Fair on **Saturday 19 September 2009** from 9:00am till 3:00pm in the Warragamba Baptist Church. Devonshire Teas and Light Lunch available. Entry Gold Coin Donation!

