



Keeping In Touch

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Warragamba Public School

Term 3 Week 8

17th September 2009

Welcome to the first edition of the Warragamba Construction Zone Bulletin.

Despite the fact that things look a tad chaotic around here I can assure you all that it's "business as usual" in the classrooms, although the teachers now have some pretty fierce competition in regard to holding the children's attention. It's no mean feat to compete with an excavator, a bobcat, a crane or a truck! Rest assured though that all of the inconvenience will be relegated to past tense once our hall, COLA and administration block extension have been completed.

BER

As the opening paragraph indicates construction is in full swing. The large site along Weir Road is where our new hall and COLA are being constructed and the new site behind the administration block is where a demountable will go; Mrs Kirkup, Mrs Poli, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Thomson and I will be housed in the demountable while the administration block is extended and renovated. If all goes to plan both projects will be completed for day 1 term 2 2010. Cross those fingers!

Annual School Report Surveys

As mentioned previously surveys are being sent home with some children to assist in the school's self-evaluation and annual school report processes. The surveys have been sent home to every fifth child on the rolls in years 2 to 6. It would be greatly appreciated if you could take the time to complete these surveys and return them to school by Monday September 28th. Tell us the good, the bad and the ugly; all information is treated in the strictest confidentiality and no names are necessary.

Environmental Expo

On Wednesday of this week Mrs Barlow accompanied 7 children from stage 3 (years 5 and 6) to the Macarthur Sustainable School Expo, held at Belgenny Farm in Camden. The expo provided the children with an opportunity to investigate some of the fantastic environmental programs operating in schools in the Macarthur, Campbelltown and Wollondilly areas. The children had a great day and returned to school with, of all things, a worm farm! Hopefully they (the children, not the worms) have been inspired to up the ante in regard to environmental education here at WPS.

NAPLAN

On Monday students received their copies of the results of this year's National Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Program (NAPLAN) tests. The children achieved some fantastic results with year 3 students achieving above the state average in all areas. Some of the year 5 children have made very impressive gains since year 3 also. Congratulations on your results boys and girls! Please remember though that the NAPLAN test is a one off test and while of importance it should not be used as the only yardstick when gauging your child's performance at school. If you have any queries regarding your child's results please contact the school to arrange an appointment with his or her class teacher.

Karate Kids

Last weekend several of our students participated in the World Martial Arts Tournament. Competitors had travelled from far and wide, with representatives from countries as diverse as Canada, Germany and the USA competing against a sizeable Australian contingent. The children competed in Kata, weapons display, grappling, sparring and sports jujitsu. All of the children were representing the United Kempo Martial Arts Academy (Silverdale) and placed very well in their events. WPS students who competed were Jake Davis (2D), Bryce Davis (K/1H), Jacob Hansen (3P), Kai Hansen (K/1H), Brennon Spicer (2G) and Brodie Santas (1B); Brodie achieved a gold medal in point sparring, a silver medal in continuous sparring and a silver medal in Kata for the 6 years girls division. Well done Brodie and congratulations to all children who competed. If ever we need a security detail for a school event I'll know who to ask!

Kindergarten Information Evening

On Wednesday evening an information evening was held for parents of children commencing kindergarten at WPS in 2010. The parents were taken through an overview of the first year of school and hopefully left the meeting more informed than when they arrived. Thank you to Mrs Macias for organising the evening and to the following staff who assisted on the night: Mrs Cottam, Miss Hopkins, Miss Hall, Mr Smith, Mrs Kirkup and of course Mr Bloem, Mrs Laria, Mrs Sullivan and Mrs Attard from the P & C.

Musica Viva Performance

On Thursday of this week our children viewed another performance from the talented folk at Musica Viva, entitled "Jacana". Jacana is a classical musical ensemble of four vibrant and imaginative musicians. The children had a great time; one cannot underestimate the value of providing the children with opportunities to experience many genres of music from rock to classical and all points in between. Thank you to Mr Daniels for organising this latest visit from Musica Viva.

Glenmore Park High School

Just a reminder....if you'd like to be part of a visit to Glenmore Park HS to meet the principal and inspect the school's facilities please contact me as soon as possible, as I'd like to organise the visit for early in term 4. The more the merrier!

Vandalism

Recently vandals attacked our school in an absolutely senseless display of wanton destruction. Several playground seats were damaged, as was a fence and a security camera. A large hydraulic lift was used to cause the damage and it in turn was rendered inoperable by the perpetrators who saw fit to damage the machine's engine and empty diesel fuel all over the carpark prior to emptying a 5 000 litre water tank. I'd hate to think that any members of the community were responsible for this deplorable act; if you have some information in regard to the vandalism please contact me during school hours on 4774 1205. Thank you to those parents who kindly contacted the school and offered to assist with the cleanup, I'm extremely grateful.

More Sporting News

Next Wednesday several of our students will represent Razorback PSSA at the South Western Sydney Area Athletics Carnival at The Crest, Bankstown. The following children will be competing:

- *Samantha McKechnie (4B): 9 years girls 100 metre*
- *Brendon Walther (4/5S): junior boys discus and shot put*
- *Samantha Moore (6F): 11 years girls discus and shot put*
- *Bryce Lowther (6F): senior boys long jump, 12 years boys 100 metre*
- *Caitlin Hope (6F): senior girls discus*
- *Senior Boys Relay: Jarrad Sherlock, Sam Quinn, Bryce Lowther and Darren Porter (all 6F)*

I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing the boys and girls the very best of luck at the carnival.

Premier's Spelling Bee

On Wednesday 30th September Tyler Davies (3/4E) and Bella Penson (3P) will represent WPS in the Regional Finals of the Premier's Spelling Bee at Prestons Public School. Tyler and Bella have been hitting the books – well, at least the Macquarie Dictionary – in preparation for the event and I'm sure that these talented students will do a fantastic job. Good luck Tyler and Bella, we know you'll be great!

Special Canteen Day

The canteen will be holding a special day on Monday 21st September. For \$5.50 the children receive 1 chicken tender, hot chips or potato smiley faces, gravy and a can of drink. Please place your order early to avoid disappointment; order forms are available from the canteen or the office.

School Website

Yes, I know I've been slack of late in regard to updating the school's website; I've been a tad pre-occupied with all things construction-oriented. I'll endeavour to update the website in the next week.

P & C Meeting

The next P & C meeting will be held this coming Monday, 21st September, from 4:00pm in the staffroom. All are welcome.

Gate Talk

On my afternoon walk around the school I hear all manner of stories; some are on the money, some are so far off the mark that it's laughable. Please be wary of gossip; if you have a question regarding a school matter please don't speculate, contact the school and we'll do our best to clarify things for you. Speculating on matters and spreading theories can have a damaging and lasting effect on people, please think twice before engaging in such behaviour.

Have a great weekend.

Ben Matthews

Principal

Medication at School

Please be aware that we are not permitted to administer any medications at school bought over the counter without a prescription. Any medications, prescribed by a doctor for your child, requiring to be administered during school hours must be brought to the office, by an adult, in the container in which it came; labelled with your child's name, dosage and name of medication. A medication authority form available at the office must also be completed by the parent or caregiver.

P&C Father's Day Stall Update

The P&C raised \$1 022.00 at the Father's Day Stall. This money will go towards resources for the school. We would like to thank all parents who supported this event and we hope all fathers enjoyed their gifts. The P&C would like to give an enormous thank you to Mrs Nicole Eler and Mrs Catherine Davies for all their hard work in organising this year's Father's Day Stall. Well done!

THE DILLY WANDERER – 0408 219 393

Stress Less Day Rock & Water – Build Resilience / Increase Self Esteem / Physical Fun

Family fun for all ages - Wednesday 7th October 2009 10:00am to 12:00 noon at the Silverdale Progress Hall, 1984 Silverdale Road, Silverdale. In partnership with: At Full Potential – Katrina Langhorn, Wollondilly Shire Council, The Dilly Wanderer and St Anthony's Family Care, Croydon. For more details contact: The Dilly Wanderer – 4677 8211 Fiona Devine or email council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.



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!



DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 21 September - P & C Meeting 4:00pm

Wednesday 23 September – Area Athletics

Thursday 24 September – Primary Assembly 3P

Friday 25 September – Gala Day 2 (Oztag & Cricket)

Wednesday 30 Sept. to Friday 2 Oct. – Year 6 Canberra Excursion

Friday 2 October – Last Day of Term 3

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

