



Keeping In Touch

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Warragamba Public School

Week 9, Term 4

11 December 2008

Well, we're almost there....

The end of the 2008 school year may be near, but the pace shows no sign of relaxing here at WPS. Presentation Days, Kindergarten and Year 6 Graduations, Year 6 Farewell, pool days, Glenbrook Theatre excursion, moving day, formation of 2009 classes, Anaphylaxis training, there appear to be more things to do than there are hours in the day!

Presentation Days

Congratulations to all children who received awards at this week's Presentation Day ceremonies. The children have all been working hard and the ceremonies provided an opportunity to recognise this hard work. Thank you to all of the teachers who assisted in the organisation of the Presentation Day ceremonies: Mr Smith, Mrs Macias, Mrs Jones, Miss Foster, Miss Hopkins, Mrs Kirkup, Mrs Poli and Mrs Wilson. And how amazing were the choirs! (I deliberately omitted the question mark). Thank you to Miss Foster, Mrs Gerrie, Miss Hall and Mrs Jones for their expertise; who needs to line Andre Riue's wallet when you can see the real deal at WPS? From my vantage point on stage (despite the risk of third degree burns from the stage lights and dehydration; note to self – black suit + Town Hall + 35 degrees = bad idea) I could see the faces of all the parents and the sense of pride and joy that seeing your child receive an award arouses must be an amazing feeling. At our stage 3 ceremony the major awards for year 6 were presented and I'd like to congratulate the following children (and one amazing mum) on their fantastic achievements:

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| <i>1. School Service Award (parent)</i> | <i>- Mrs Novea Riley</i> |
| <i>2. Dux for 2008</i> | <i>- Amber Ible & Simon Berry</i> |
| <i>3. Sports Person of the Year</i> | <i>- Amber Pallister</i> |
| <i>4. Workers' Club Sport Encouragement Award</i> | <i>- Dylan Sparkes</i> |
| <i>5. Sydney Water Cultural Award</i> | <i>- Danielle Attard</i> |
| <i>6. Citizen of the Year</i> | <i>- Alana North</i> |
| <i>7. Excellence for Effort</i> | <i>- Rachelle Walker</i> |
| <i>8. Workers' Club Scholarship</i> | <i>- Karanda Jung</i> |

Thank you to those parents and family members who set aside their hectic schedules to attend the Presentation Days, it was wonderful to see you all at the Town Hall supporting your children. Thank you also to The Warragamba Parents & Citizens Association, Warragamba Workers and Sporting Club, Sydney Water and the Wallacia-Mulgoa Valley Rotary Club for their ongoing support and provision of prizes for our Presentation Days. Congratulations to all of our wonderful children; not only those who received awards, but for the excellent audience manners they all displayed. The Year 6 Graduation will be held in the Town Hall from 9:30am this coming Monday, 15th December.

School Reports

Student reports were sent home with children on Wednesday. If you have any concerns or queries regarding your child's report please contact his or her teacher to arrange a mutually convenient meeting time. I read through each child's report and found it very satisfying to see the children's achievements and the progress that many of them have made this year; congratulations boys and girls. I would also like to thank the teachers for all of the hard work they directed towards the assessment and reporting process, it can be a very arduous task at times!

Working Bee

On Sunday an enthusiastic and dedicated band of parents spent the day at school cleaning up the area behind blocks O and P and spreading topsoil in the Big Tree Playground. Fortunately the weather wasn't quite as oppressive as that encountered on Saturday and a hard day's work was completed by all. Thank you Steve Bloem, Robert Stubbs, Alan Summerhayes, Tania Car, Joshua Car, Julie Robertson, Mark Robertson, Todd-Anthony Robertson, Graham Dunn, Brad Dunn, Brett Hooper, Steve Blain, Max Lambeth, Nathan Smith, Steve Muller, Mick Clissold, Hans Steinweiss and Neville Slender, I cannot place a value on your contributions. Mr Summerhayes has kindly offered to spread the remaining soil/fertiliser mix on the South Playground after school breaks up next week so that it too may receive a boost. I would ask for your co-operation in ensuring that your children remain off the school playgrounds during the holidays so that our grass areas may regenerate.

Excursions

This week and next week see many extra-curricular activities and excursions being held for the children. In keeping with school policy all excursions have a cut-off date, after which time no payments and permission notes will be accepted. Please avoid disappointing your child and ensure that all notes and payments are returned by the indicated date; if you are encountering financial difficulties and require an extension for your payment please contact me directly on 4774 1205 prior to the closing date. Those of you with children in years 3-5 will have received a very detailed swimming competency note; in the wake of the tragedy at Glenbrook Pool several years ago, the DET now requires parents to provide this information prior to any child participating in aquatic activities. Those children not returning the swimming competency form WILL NOT be permitted to swim; you can be state swimming champion, but if you don't return the form, you won't go in the water. Another swimming competency note will be sent home on Monday regarding the 3-6 Pool Day on the last day of school.

K-2 Picnic Venue Change

Due to the renovation of the Big Tree Playground, the K-2 Picnic organised for the last day of school will now be held in the South Playground. Due to the lesser amount of shade in this area you are more than welcome to bring up a shade shelter; I would ask that these be set up around the edge of the playground, so as to keep the middle area clear for the children to play in. The picnic commences at 12:00pm. Please be advised that if you wish to take your children home prior to 3:00pm you MUST see your child's class teacher prior to leaving, so that their departure may be recorded.

P & C News

WPS is very fortunate to enjoy the luxury of a dedicated and supportive P & C who through tireless fundraising this year have provided the school with valuable resources ranging from reading boxes to working bees. I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Steve Bloem, Vice President Carolyn Lambeth, Secretary Catherine Davies, treasurer and uniform co-ordinator Barbara Laria and uniform co-ordinator Helen Sullivan for their invaluable work over the last 12 months and also Jenny Cooper and Maria Attard for their assistance of with uniform sales; a special mention must be made in regard to the efforts of Nicole Erler with the various stalls held over the year, thank you Nicole. I would also like to welcome our 2009 committee of President Steve Bloem, Vice President Caroline Lambeth, Secretary Karen Klein and Treasurer Barbara Laria in whom I have complete confidence in saying that I know they'll do a fantastic job. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the P & C for their generosity in donating all of the prizes that the award winners at our Presentation Day ceremonies received and for the pens to be presented to Year 6 at next week's graduation ceremony.

Ongoing Permission Notes

All students in the school returned their ongoing permission notes earlier in the year; these notes consent to each child's participation in a number of ongoing programs for the entire duration of their enrolment at Warragamba PS. Their appears to be a great deal of confusion regarding Human Sexuality programs; please be advised that these are only taught to students when they reach year 6, the content being derived directly from the appropriate syllabus documents. To be honest, the content is extremely tame when compared to the information that children can readily access through the internet and other forms of media.

This will be the final formal newsletter for the year, however I will send home a short message next week.

Have a fantastic weekend.

Ben Matthews

Principal

Wallacia/Mulgoa Rotary Club

A very big thank you to Wallacia/Mulgoa Rotary Club for their kind donation to the school.

Uniform Shop

Just a reminder that the uniform shop operating hours are: Mondays from 8:30am to 9:15am and on Thursdays from 2:30pm to 3:15pm. Please note that the uniform shop will also open the day before students return in 2009 (Tuesday 27th January 2009 from 9:30am to 10:30am for your convenience).

Dates to Remember

Friday 12 December – HAWK Award Day

Yr 6 – Don Bosco Ctr., K-2 – Glenbrook Theatre,

Yrs 3-5 – Warragamba Pool

Monday 15 December – Year 6 Graduation 9:30am

Friday 19 December – Years 3-6 Warragamba Pool

**Kindergarten – Year 2 Special Visitor, parents welcome
to have lunch with children commencing at 12:00pm**

Friday 19 December 2008 – Last day of school!



The staff at Warragamba Public School would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the very best in the New Year!



