



Keeping In Touch

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Warragamba Public School

Week 5, Term 4

13 November 2008

Well hello there!

I hope this week finds you well. No doubt that with Christmas and the holidays just around the corner the pace of your lives is nothing short of frantic. I can assure you that we're in the same boat at WPS with assessments, reports, Presentation Days, Kinder orientation and graduation, year 6 farewell and graduation, 2009 planning and so on all adding to the fun. I don't know about you but I've found the pace at which 2008 has progressed to be nothing short of scary!

Wooglemai

Year 4 have spent this week at Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre at Oakdale. I had the privilege of attending on Monday and Tuesday of this week and I have to say it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Mr Nicholl and Mr Calabria do a fantastic job of raising the children's awareness of all things environmental and show a definite passion towards their roles. The children received opportunities to complete ropes courses, go canoeing and bushwalking, test their archery skills and (heaven forbid) also test their domestic skills; packing bags and accepting responsibility for organising one's self before bedtime and when getting up in the morning was an interesting exercise! Thank you to Mrs Eccles for her organisation of the camp and to Mr Muller, Mr Smith and Mrs Barlow for putting their real lives on hold and attending the camp. Thank you to Mr Blain, Miss Hopkins and Mrs Bogart for making the trek out and to the following fantastic parents who attended and provided culinary and catering skills of the highest order: Mr Klein, Mrs Clissold, Mrs McCarron, Mrs Porter (and her cast of thousands), Mrs Berg, Mr and Mrs Coote, Meegan Coote, Mrs Hart, Mr Hammond and Ms Smith, Mr and Mrs Glynn, Mr and Mrs Attard, Mrs Jameson, Mrs Summerhayes, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Stubbs, Mrs Sullivan, Mrs Tedesco, Mrs Pallister, Mr and Mrs Pace, Mrs Webb, Mrs Jones and Mrs Attard. Your help cannot have a value placed on it and we couldn't have gotten there without your help. Muchos gracias!

NAPLAN Information Session

Thank you to the small band of parents who attended the NAPLAN Information Session in the library last Thursday afternoon. I hope the myriad of diagrams and graphs were not too baffling and jargonistic and that you found the session to be informative.

Sporting Excellence

Congratulations are most definitely in order for Samantha Moore of 5B who recently competed in the Australian All Schools Track & Field Championship Trials. Samantha achieved the following awesome results in the 10 years girls division: 4th in discus, 5th in shot put, and in the State Schools section 8th in discus and 19th in shot put. Samantha narrowly missed out on gaining selection for the South Pacific School Games team but I'm sure you'll all agree that these are fantastic achievements. Well done Sam!

Kindergarten Information Evening

This was held last Wednesday evening in the school library and was very well attended. I would like to thank Mrs Macias for organising the session, Mrs Cottam, Mrs Jones and Miss Hopkins who addressed the assembled parents, Mrs Kirkup for her administrative assistance and Mrs Sullivan, Mrs Attard and Mrs Cooper who kindly donated their time to open the uniform shop. If you have a child who will be starting kindergarten next year, or you know of someone who has a child in a similar situation and are yet to enrol them at WPS please collect an enrolment form from the office.

2009 Classes

No doubt many of you are beginning to wonder who your child's class teacher will be in 2009. Please be aware that I do not take requests for placements of children in the class of particular teachers. I have confidence in all my staff to provide your children with a progressive, productive, caring and supportive learning environment. We go through a very specific and detailed process to ensure that all children are placed appropriately and have confidence in our ability to formulate all classes in the best way possible. We take into account many facets when grouping the children together and I am of the opinion that we perform this task well. Please do not approach me regarding the placement of your child as I will have to politely decline your request.

2009 School Councillors

Congratulations to all children who delivered their councillor speeches to last week's 3-6 assembly. Boys and girls you all did a wonderful job under very nerve-racking circumstances; you certainly made the voting a very difficult task and I was very proud of each and every one of you. The successful nominees will be announced very shortly.

Selective School Applications

If you are the parent of a year 5 student who is applying for entry into a selective high school for year 7, 2010, please ensure that your application form is due back to me by 3:00pm this Friday, 14th November.

Playground Renovations and Painting

As you've no doubt noticed, the renovations to our North playground have been completed. The area will remain closed for the remainder of 2008 to allow the grass to bed in and fuse together. This week we are hosting a merry band of painters who are painting many of the external surfaces of certain buildings, including doors, window frames, gutters and fascias. WPS is going to look like a brand spanker come 2009!

Carpark Reminder

Please be reminded that carparks are NOT pedestrian thoroughfares. We do our best to educate the children in terms of road safety, please assist us in this regard by ensuring that neither you nor your children walk through the school carparks.

Taxation Information

This newsletter contains an information brochure from the Federal Government regarding the Education Tax Refund. I would strongly urge all of you to read this document; with the raft of reductions in benefits provided to parents the Tax Refund may be a way to recoup some of these losses.

Working Bee

As previously indicated the P & C will be holding a working bee on Sunday 7th December. The more the merrier, so if you are able to lend a hand please complete the RSVP elsewhere in this newsletter and return it to school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Alan Summerhayes for kindly offering his bobcat services, Mr Mark Robertson for soil donations and Mr Sean Edwards who has offered up pretty much every form of earthmoving machinery under the sun (which will ideally not be too strong on the day)!

Industrial Action

A separate note will go home regarding NSW Teachers' Federation industrial action, to be held from 9:00am – 11:00am next Wednesday, 19th November. As we go to print I am able to inform you that a very high percentage of staff will be participating in the industrial action. More information will be provided via the separate note.

Maths Survey

To aid in the completion of our Annual School Report a mathematics survey is included in this newsletter. It would be greatly appreciated if you could take the time to complete this short survey and return it to school.

Thanking you, have a wonderful weekend.

Ben Matthews

Principal

James' Home Services

Your local 'Interior
House Care' specialist



is Linda Sharp. Linda

will assist you with
cleaning needs within the
Silverdale and Wallacia areas, from
a mini freshen-up to a full spring
clean. For further information please
contact Linda on 0404 059 153 or
freecall: 1800 1 JAMES OR
www.1james.com.au.

Dates to Remember

Monday 17 November – Community Excursion Yr 1 & 2

Tuesday 18 November – Kindergarten 2009 Play Session 10am – 10:50am

Thursday 27 November - Kindergarten 2009 Play Session 10am – 10:50am

Thursday 27 November – Our Community Excursion Yrs 1 & 2

Tuesday 2 December – Kindergarten Assembly & lunch

11:30am – 12:30pm

Wednesday 3 December – P & C Christmas Stall

Tuesday 9 December – Presentation Day



P&C News

Christmas Gift Stall Wrapping Update

Catherine Davies and Nicole Erler would like to pass on a huge thank you to the following people who assisted with wrapping gifts this week: Leanne Lowther, Kiralle Lowther, Bronwyn Dunn, Sharon McMillian, Cathy Sargent, Lynda Bellia, Dale Chalker, Jacinta Campbell, Lisa Dodd, Kylie Rush, Nadia Stubbs, Tanya Car and Kylie Turner. It was amazing the number of gifts that were wrapped in only 3 hours! Well done.

We will be wrapping again on Tuesday 18 November so if you are available please just meet us at the Multipurpose Room at 9am.

P&C AGM Monday 1 December 2008

The next P&C meeting will be the AGM and is being held on 1 December in the Staff Room. This meeting will commence at 4 pm as we would love to see some new faces attend. The aim of the P&C is to provide assistance to the school and our children so we would love your help in achieving this goal.

The P&C meets twice a term and will be voting at the AGM on whether to change the meeting time permanently to 4pm Monday.

The following are the four committee positions of the P&C. If you are interested in any of these positions please attend the AGM:-

- President - Chairperson for all meetings, school representative at official functions, liaison between P & C committee and school
- Vice President - To act in the position of President at any time when the President is unavailable to attend committee meetings.
- Secretary - issue agendas and take minutes for meetings. Prepare articles for newsletters. Maintain contact directory of P&C members.
- Treasurer - Receive all monies, keep accurate records, issue receipts, bank all money received and ensure bank balance as detailed in the Constitution. Present a statement of accounts at each meeting. Provide all documentation for audit prior to the Annual General Meeting.

If you have an interest in helping your children at school then come to the P&C AGM and become involved!

Working Bee Sunday 7 December

The P&C is still frantically seeking volunteers to assist with some general cleaning behind the primary buildings along Weir Road and Fourth Avenue. If you are able to assist on the 7th of December please complete the slip below and return it to your child's class teacher. Please bring a rake and gloves. The more people who come to help the quicker and easier it will be!

Working Bee 7 December

Yes, I will be able to help during the working bee on 7 December.

Name: _____

Child's name: _____

Child's class:

To All Parents and Families,

On Sunday 23 November we will be holding a \$15 Family Portrait day at the school.

The portraits will be taken outside, weather permitting. If it is raining a studio will be set up in the multi-purpose room. The meeting point for photos is the multipurpose room.

What to do now

Simply pay \$15 cash or cheque made out to Warragamba P&C at the office **prior to 23 November**.

This \$15 is non-refundable

Please bring the attached flyer with you to the office when paying your \$15 so that your allocated time can be written directly onto the confirmation slip. Please bring this slip with you on the portrait day and arrive 10 minutes early so that the photographer is kept as close to time as possible.

Times will be allocated on a first in best dressed so return your slips ASAP!

What you will receive

A beautiful 10" x 13" framed family portrait which can be in either black and white or colour.

There is also the option of purchasing an obligation free package. This is entirely up to you and you will be given the details on the day when you can view your portraits. **There will be no hard sell.**

Conditions

- No one can appear twice in portraits on the day.
- Children can appear by themselves (as long as supervised).
- For parents that are separated children may appear in both portraits.

We look forward to your support with this fundraiser!

Kind Regards

Warragamba Public School

P&C Committee

