



# WARRAGAMBA PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Ben Matthews

Principal

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

## *Term 2: It's a Wrap!*

Time certainly flies when you're having fun. As quickly as it arrived, term 2 has been run, done and won. Two words spring to mind in regard to this term: rain and eventful. We certainly didn't suffer from a shortage of things to do, with a calendar packed to the point of standing room only. As for the rain, well, actions speak louder than words and the precipitation has said more than its fair share.

- **Seeding Success:** this week researchers from the University of Western Sydney attended the school to conduct the second and final phase of the "Seeding Success" Aboriginal education research program. The researchers were incredibly impressed not only by the quality of information provided by our students but also by their conduct; congratulations boys and girls and thank you for your hard work.
- **Parliament House Visit:** earlier this term Miss Foster trekked to Parliament House in Sydney with our school captains, Tom Summerhayes and Chelsea Moore, for a civic reception. On Monday of this week the Member for Wollondilly, Mr Phil Costa, visited year 6 to present Tom and Chelsea with certificates of recognition. Congratulations Tom and Chelsea and thank you for the wonderful example you are setting for all students.
- **Soccer Star:** last week Melina Manna of 6F took part in the NSW State Soccer Carnival in Bateau Bay, as a member of the South Western Sydney Region girls' soccer team. To be selected in a regional team and participate at such a high level is a massive achievement; congratulations Melina, I hope you're as proud of your achievements as we are of you.
- **Sports Carnivals:** well after several false starts courtesy of Mother Nature's rather irritating sense of humour, we finally managed to hold our K-2 sports carnival and 3-6 athletics carnival. Needless to say weather played a "starring" role, with gale force winds making their presence felt last Friday; had javelin been an event at our carnival I'm quite sure several world record-holders would've been a tad nervous. Congratulations to all children who got in there and had a go; it's not about being the best, it's about doing *your* best. Thank you to Mrs Eccles and Miss Hopkins for organising the carnivals and to the following wonderful parents, grandparents and even siblings who so willingly assisted at the events: Mrs Haddad, Mrs Morris, Mrs Campbell, Mr Hyde, Tarlee Leckie, Mrs Berg, Mrs Foley, Mrs Rollings, Mr McAskill, Mr Dorey, Mrs Stanford, Mrs McKechnie, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Lowther, Mrs Sargent, Mrs Perigo and Mr Quigley. Quite simply the carnivals would not have run as smoothly as they did without the assist and parents. And of course a huge debt of gratitude is owed to Barry and Anne Garnett and Steve Bloem from the Warragamba Little Athletics Club, what we would do without you, well, I don't know!
- **Year 5 Canberra Excursion:** year 5 hit the road at 6:45am on Wednesday morning for a three day excursion to Canberra in support of their HSIE programs. The children will be visiting a number of significant sites around the national capital such as Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial, the National Gallery and Questacon. The children will be arriving back at school at approximately 7:30pm on Friday. Please ensure that you arrive punctually to collect your children.
- **BER:** I still have not been provided with a start date for construction of our hall/COLA and administration block refurbishment. I am hoping that construction will commence imminently.
- **Bullying:** several incidents of bullying have been reported to me lately. Bullying is obviously something that we take a very dim view of at school. If your child is feeling bullied at school please notify me immediately; please don't pass it off as "one of those things", because it's not. Bullying is a very serious issue and can have a seriously negative impact on the life of a child. If your child is

bullying another person I need you to know that I will come down very hard on them; I make no apologies for this stance. Please support the school by instilling in your children the fact that bullying is unacceptable behaviour and should neither be tolerated or perpetrated.

- **AFL Stars:** recently three students from stage 3 – Lachie Cottell (6F), Matthew Zahra (5/6B) and Bryce Lowther (6F) – trialled for the South Western Sydney Region AFL team. Lachie, Matt and Bryce had already made the cut for the zone team and are now in suspense mode as they eagerly await the results of this week's regional trial, which will be forwarded via mail. I would like to congratulate the boys on their achievements and would also like to thank Mr Daniels for all of the time and support he has devoted to the boys to ensure that they were well-prepared for the trials.
- **School Carparks:** thank you to those of you who have heeded my advice in regard to refraining from walking through the school carparks; there has been a marked decrease in people using these areas as pedestrian thoroughfares. I would also like to thank the children who quite often reiterate this point with their parents; it's quite amusing (not to mention reassuring) to see a 6 year old admonishing their parents for even thinking about breaking the school rules!
- **Reminder:** "t-shirts tucked in" crackdown begins day 1 term 3! You've been warned!
- **Staff Development Day:** please be advised that the first day of term 3 is a Staff Development Day and no supervision will be provided. School resumes for students on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have provided for the school over the first half of 2009. Community support is essential to ensure that education is a collaborative effort from teachers and parents. Thank you to our wonderful staff for their hard work both in and out of the classroom. Have a fantastic holiday and please look after yourselves and each other.

Take care, catch you in term 3!

Ben Matthews  
Principal