

Greetings one and all,

I trust that you're all well and have set aside a few hours to help us celebrate our 60th birthday this Saturday. Ideally the rain will have subsided by then and we can cast aside this week's "beautiful one day, very ordinary the next" weather patterns.

60th Birthday

Yes, despite our youthful good looks (and rampant modesty) Warragamba Public School will celebrate its 60th birthday this Saturday, 6th September, between 10:00am and 1:00pm. There'll have plenty to see and do; photographic displays, children's work on display, a birthday cake (of course!), jumping castle, petting zoo, race car display and some amazing prizes on offer through raffles. The prizes have been donated by the following wonderful, supportive local businesses:

Botanica Nursery,

Dam Fine Wines, Dani's Hairport, Dutchy Automotive Pty Ltd, Envy Jewellery – Mrs Hollier, Erler Plumbing, Good Guys – Penrith, IBIS – Penrith, Mistique Hair & Beauty, Mr and Mrs Saliba's Fruit Shop – St Marys, Murray-Sibbritt Family, Nutrimerics – Sharmaen Stanford, Panthers – Wallacia, Shop Sense Warragamba, Silverdale Landscape Supplies – Walther Family, Sunset Nursery, Tony & Niki's Takeaway, Tupperware – Catrina Santas, Ultra Fresh Fruit Market, Emu Plains – Rositano Family, Valentino's Pizza Restaurant, Warragamba Post Office, Warragamba Service Station, Warragamba Workers Club, Welcome Chinese Restaurant. Please show your gratitude by supporting the local businesses that support our school. Although the intention was to keep the event relatively low key we've had interest from people all over the country who at some time were students here at WPS. Saturday will hopefully be a great opportunity for people to catch up and relive past glories; we've got plenty of space here so bring a blanket and a picnic lunch and make a day of it. The canteen will be open and will also be holding a sausage sizzle, while our P & C will have a coffee and cake stall. Our wonderful office ladies will also be selling school memorabilia including mugs, lanyards, badges and spoons.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Sue Hopkins and Mrs Genene Dolan for the massive amount of work they have put in to ensure that a great day is had by all; ladies, your efforts are greatly appreciated by all.

SAAS Week.

Last week was "School Administrative and Support Staff Week" across NSW. This is an annual event whereby the efforts and contributions of school administrative and support staff are acknowledged across the state. Great SAAS staff help to make a great school and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Kirkup, Mrs Poli, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Thompson, Mr Steinweiss, Mrs Hooper and Mrs Dowsnell for the amazing work they do for the students, staff and community of WPS. Thank you so much guys for all that you do.

Sport, Choir and Dance Group Photos

Next Friday photographers will return to school to take photos of our sporting teams, choirs and dance groups. Information will go home this week to those children involved, on a separate letter; no money is yet required, this will be addressed after the photos have been printed and provided to the school for display. Photographs will be taken of our 3 choirs, 2 dance groups, 3 zone sporting teams (swimming, cross country and athletics) and our Gala Day teams.

Industrial Action

Please be advised that those children who did not attend school on Tuesday 2nd September (either a partial or full day absence) will NOT have their absence counted in the annual absence tally, so yes,

they may still be eligible for a 100% Attendance award. On the subject of the attendance award, we have of late had several children sent to school when they are quite obviously unwell, so that 100% attendance may be maintained. Please be aware that I object to this practice and will send home any child that is unwell; I'm sure you'll all agree that the health of a child far surpasses a piece of paper in terms of importance.

Car Parks

Please refrain from walking through the teachers' car park when entering or leaving the school grounds. I admire the diligence that the children apply to avoiding this area and would be greatly appreciative if all parents could exercise the same degree of caution.

A New Chapter

A new chapter will shortly begin for Mr and Mrs Haste. This Friday is Mrs Haste's last day before she commences maternity leave prior to the birth of her first child. I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing Mr and Mrs Haste the very best as they embark on the never-ending journey that is parenthood! All the best guys.

Indigenous Games

Last week as you know was the week of cancellations, one of the victims of this curse being the planned indigenous games sessions. The sessions will now take place this coming Tuesday, 9th September. If you'd like to attend the session please check with your child's class teacher regarding timeslots.

National Literacy & Numeracy Week

This week is "National Literacy and Numeracy Week" and to celebrate, we held a Literacy and Numeracy "Partnerships in Learning" Day on Monday. Mr Blain organised a rotation whereby the students were grouped into stages (Kindergarten, year 1-2, year 3-4 and year 5-6). Each teacher devised literacy and a numeracy activity with a twist and children rotated 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. The children had a great day; thank you Mr Blain for organising the event for our students.

Finally!

Well I'm pleased to announce that the junior boys cricket team defeated my old school, Narellan Vale PS, at last week's Gala Day! I'm also pleased to report that our attending teachers were impressed by the behaviour and conduct of our students and also the level of support provided by our parents. Thank you parents and congratulations to all children who did such an exemplary job of representing WPS.

P & C Meeting

The next P & C meeting will be held in the staffroom at 7:00pm on Monday 15th September. It'd be great to see you all there, come along and have a say and support our school.

Canteen

The lease for the canteen contract expires at the end of 2009. We will again be advertising for tenders so if you're keen to run a school canteen get your thinking caps on so that when the time comes you'll be ready to go.

Have a great week everyone; thank you for the ongoing support you provide for the children and staff of WPS, we greatly appreciate it. See you all on Saturday!

Ben Matthews

Principal