FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Semester One Reports – Go home on Thursday
Student reports are being sent home on Thursday. Teachers have worked extremely hard this term to assess student achievement and report student progress accordingly. This week’s article by Michael Grose on page 5 is called Reading Your Child’s Report. It contains some helpful ideas to consider as you read your child’s report. If you have any concerns and need to discuss your child’s report, please contact the class teacher to make an appointment.

Term 3 School Calendar
A copy of the ‘Term 3 Calendar’ is accompanying the newsletter today.

Kindergarten Enrolments for 2015
If you are aware of any in-area children intending to enrol for next year (who haven’t already done so), please advise them to contact the school as soon as possible to fill in enrolment forms.

Education Week & Book Week – Advance Notice
This year we are combining Education Week and Book Week. We have planned a wonderful week of activities for students and parents this year which include:

Monday 28th July
• Gymnastics – Years 3-6

Tuesday 29th July - OPEN DAY 9.30am – 12.15pm
• Book Parade & Book Fair
• Morning Tea for Parents/Caregivers
• Open Classrooms

Thursday 31st July
• Parent Session – ‘Homework’ 7.00pm - Staff room
  A repeat of the session held earlier in the year during the day, will be presented in the evening for parents who could not attend. Parents will be asked to RSVP before the date. More details in the next newsletter.

A flyer with all details will be sent home early next term.

Maxelle Matthews

TERM 3 – NO PUPIL FREE DAY
All staff and students return to school on Monday 14th July.
FROM THE DEPUTY

Disco - What a Night!
Wow! Another great disco! Many thanks to the SRC and the fund-raising committee for organising another brilliant disco. It was great to see all the kids participating in the games and dances and the team of parent helpers waving their arms in the air, while handing out drinks and preparing the food. It was definitely a team effort made successful by the enthusiasm of the Winston Hills’ kids. We are aiming to have another one later in the year, so don’t ‘moth ball’ your dancing shoes yet.

PBL - Bullying Survey
In the school’s on-going attempts to provide a safe and secure environment for our students, Stage 2 and 3 students last week participated in a bullying survey. Following a discussion on the definition of bullying and the various types of bullying that can occur in a school, the students were asked to quietly and anonymously complete a one page survey. The questionnaire asked the students if they had witnessed any bullying or been a victim of bullying. It also asked students to list names of potential victims and perpetrators. Other questions involved the time, place and types of bullying witnessed by the children. The information gained from such an exercise, combined with data from the playground and classroom behaviour referral system allows the PBL committee to find patterns in student behaviour and in turn implement appropriate student welfare interventions and structures.

Teacher Feedback - Student Interviews
Research shows that the teacher intervention that most improves student academic outcomes is teacher feedback. If a student is aware of what they can achieve, their areas of development, what they need to learn next and how they are going to achieve that, their learning not only improves but they also take increased ownership of the learning process. As expected the key factor in this process is the type of feedback the student is receiving from the teacher. The staff has started on a long professional learning journey on teacher feedback, on-going assessment, setting learning goals and the different types of teacher feedback. To give the school some benchmark data on how students perceive teacher feedback at the beginning of this teacher journey, many students participated in an interview conducted by members of the PBL committee. Participating children were asked about their learning goals, what they do if they experience difficulty with a task and how they are made aware of the skills they have mastered and the areas needing further development. This gives the school a direction to head in with planned professional learning over the next few years.

More Teacher Professional Learning
This week Early Stage 1 and Stage 3 teachers will be refining their skills in delivering the new Maths syllabus, by participating in a Lesson Study program. Earlier in the term, each stage collaboratively planned a lesson focusing on the new syllabus’ investigative approach. This week that lesson will be taught by one teacher as the other teachers observe and collect data on how the students are completing the set tasks. The teams will then be given time analyse that data, reflect on the lesson and plan a future lesson using the information gained. This lesson study is a proven professional learning tool that dramatically improves teacher learning and has already been wonderfully successful with other stages.

Ian Short

PRINCIPAL’S MORNING TEA

Congratulations to the recipients of the Principal’s Awards for Term 2.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

Hello to everyone and I am sure that you are looking forward to the term holidays! Term 3 school accounts will be going home later this week.

Activities for Term 3 are a whole school incursion called ‘Drum Beats’ ($5.00 per student) which will be held on 25th August and Gymnastics for Years 3-6 (mainstream) and 3/6F and 3/6S (support) which will cost $45.00 per student. The Term account needs to be finalised by Friday, 18th July (first week back). If your child is participating in the abovementioned activities, please ensure that permission notes are returned to the class teacher by the due date.

School camps will also need to be finalised by their due dates.

Payments by the Parent Online Payments systems (P.O.P) can be made for all outstanding accounts and camp payments. Payments can also be made by Cash and Cheque as well as sending in credit card details. Please note that we will be phasing out the written credit card payment option by the end of 2014.

If you have any concerns regarding your account, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 9639 1931 to discuss the matter.

Judy Jones – School Administration Manager

YEARS 3 - 6 GYMNASTICS

Our primary gymnastics program will be starting in Term 3. This program provides the students with an opportunity to complete an important part of the PDHPE syllabus with the guidance of the experts from Sports Pro. The permission note is accompanying this newsletter. Please note: a timetable of which classes will have gymnastics on Tuesdays and Wednesdays will be sent home later this week.

Ian Short
Organiser
SCHOOL NEWS

PSSA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round 9</th>
<th>Round 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Football</strong>&lt;br&gt;Grounds closed. No game played.</td>
<td><strong>Football</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jnr’s Vs Winston Heights PS lost 0 - 5&lt;br&gt;Snr’s Vs Winston Heights PS lost 0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Netball</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jnr A’s Vs Sherwood Ridge PS lost 1 - 6&lt;br&gt;Jnr B’s Vs Winston Heights PS won 3 – 0&lt;br&gt;Snr A’s Vs Oakhill Dr PS won 8 - 5&lt;br&gt;Snr B’s Vs Matthew Pearce PS drew 4 - 4</td>
<td><strong>Netball</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jnr A’s Vs Jasper Rd PS drew 2 - 2&lt;br&gt;Jnr B’s Vs Jasper Rd PS won 3-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Newcombe Ball</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jnr’s Vs Baulkham Hills North PS won 63-42 3 sets to 0&lt;br&gt;Snr’s Vs Baulkham Hills North PS won 38-63 0 set to 3</td>
<td><strong>Newcombe Ball</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jnr’s Vs Winston Heights PS won 63-50 3 sets to 0&lt;br&gt;Snr’s Vs Winston Heights PS won 63-50 3 set to 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rugby League</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jnr’s Vs Kellyville PS lost 6 - 42&lt;br&gt;Snr’s Vs Kellyville PS lost 0-36</td>
<td><strong>Rugby League</strong>&lt;br&gt;Jnr’s Vs North Rocks PS lost 6 - 16&lt;br&gt;Snr’s Vs North Rocks PS lost 6 - 26</td>
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**Training**
Football – Friday 8.15am  
Netball – Thursday Snr  8.00am  Jnr 8.15am  
Newcombe Ball – Friday 8.30 am  
Rugby League – Thursday lunch time

**Draws & Tables**
Can be located on Castle Hill PSSA website  
http://www.chpssa.com/

**PSSA CONGRATULATIONS**
Congratulations, Ben MacSporran 5/6T.  
Ben has been selected to represent Sydney West PSSA at the State Cross Carnival. This will be held from Friday 18th July at Eastern Creek.

Melissa Johnston  
Sports Organiser

ANNUAL 3-6 ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

This year the school athletics carnival was a great day at Alfred Whaling Reserve. All students from years 3-6 attended this compulsory school event and loved participating and cheering each other on. It started with the 800m and 100m events followed by the field events.

Without the commitment and support of our parent volunteers for field events they could not have run, as smoothly as they did on the day. Your time and commitment is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all the parents and friends who came out to the oval to support the students. Thank you also to Scott Luther, Noeline Luther, Steve Freney, Ian Short, the K-6 teaching/support and office staff for your support on the day.

Melissa Johnston  
Sports Organiser

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
MONDAY, 30th JUNE – FRIDAY, 11th JULY, 2013
ALL Students and staff return to school on Monday, 14th July (there is NO Staff Development Day)
P & C NEWS

BAND NEWS

Yet again we have had another successful term.

Band Eisteddfod
As the holidays draw near I request that over the holidays your child spends time practising for our first upcoming festival performance on Sunday 3rd August.
Reminder –
- Training Band arrival time 8am
- School Band arrival time 10.30am,
- Performance Band arrival time 12.15pm.

Band will resume on Monday 14th July. There WILL be a Performance Band rehearsal at 8am first day back.
Have a safe and happy holiday.
Band Committee

P&C FUNDRAISING

School Disco
The Disco was a great success. Thank you to Mr Short and to all the staff and parent helpers for their assistance.

DISCO QUEENS!!

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

Bus Shopping Trip
Our first Bargain Buys Bus Shopping trip will be on Saturday 25 October. More details to follow early 3rd term.

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Hours
Open during School term every Thursday morning’s 8.40-9.30am. 1st Thursday night of each month 6.00-7.00pm

New Uniforms
- Raincoats $17, Scarfs $10
- Sports Polo’s size 6 and 8 are in stock.

Rosters
26th June: Julia Maguire, Melissa Thomas, Kate Salmon.

Alterations
For all alterations to school uniforms, please drop your clothes off at Uniform Shop on Thursdays. Finished alterations will be available for pick up the following Thursday. Thanks to Bernice Harker for this service who is also donating 10% of sales back to the school.

Uniform Shop Contact Details
Please email Kellie Bramble at kellie_irish@live.com to place an order or for any enquiries. Email orders can be delivered to your child’s class on Thursdays only.

SCHOOL NEWS

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Congratulations to our junior finalists – Frangi & Chloe and our senior finalists Dillan & Fintan who represented our school at the district finals at Jasper Road Public School on 12th June.

STAGE 2 EXCURSION

Last week and this week, Stage Two explored the history of the landing of the First Fleet and investigated the stars and planets that make up our solar system.
Upon arriving at the Rocks, we all got dressed in our appropriate attire and instantly became Convicts, Captains or Red Coats. We walked all around the Rocks and Circular Key, re-living the arrival of the first ships into Sydney, listening to stories of amazing people and learning about the life of a convict.
Did you know, that since most convicts could not read or write, they would carve their own unique patterns into the sandstone blocks before placing them on the wall, so that the blocks could be identified?
After a well deserved lunch and a walk up to the hill, we were transported into the world of Space. We were able to view the Sun, through a telescope, looking at the big yellow mass and it’s black spots. Following that, we were entertained by two 3D movies which showed us the big and little things in space. Amazing! The last part of the tour was a visit to the planetarium, where we discovered the stars, constellations and planets that make up our Solar System.
What a wonderful and exhausting day was had by all!
Thank you to all the parents who joined us.
Reading your child’s report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder…always does her best…lacks concentration…easily distracted…a pleasure to teach…

Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar?

Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind.

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?
Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?
There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than denigrate it?
Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future.

The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment. Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.
In 2014

1A & 1W enjoyed

Throwing Boomerangs

Visiting Muru Mittigar

Aboriginal Art

Dreamtime stories

Didgeridoo performance

The Danceathon

Mothers Day breakfast