PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents,

Thank you
On behalf of our entire school community I would like to extend a genuine thank you to each member of our most wonderful P&C. Due entirely to their hard work and fundraising ventures our school now has 31 fully upgraded, high functioning computer units in our school’s Computer Lab. We have also installed either two to three computer units in each classroom. This has only been possible with the financial support of the P&C. These new high functioning units, particularly in our Lab, will greatly enhance our students’ e-learning capacity.

New and continuing teaching and learning programs
Following the extraordinary outcomes achieved by Kindergarten students with the “Language, Learning and Literacy (L3) Program” in 2012 we have extended the program’s implementation to include Year 1 students. Consequently more K-2 teachers will be trained in the pedagogy and methodology of the program. The first L3 professional learning day is scheduled for 01 March 2013. An additional program to be implemented in K-2 this year is the “Targeting Early Numeracy (TEN) Program”. All teachers in K-2 will be trained in this program. The first teacher training day is scheduled for 28 February 2013. This particular program has gained quite a reputation within schools in the Illawarra Region. Student results have been consistently high. Teachers at our school will begin implementing the program soon after the initial training phases have been completed. I look forward to reporting the learning outcomes of both these programs to you later in the year.

Regional Swimming Carnival
We had 25 students represent our school at the Regional Swimming Trials yesterday. While our students swam fast and well, we were unsuccessful in gaining a Regional ‘spot’. Nevertheless, I would like to thank each of our young swimmers for their first rate representation of our school at the trials. Well done guys!

Police presentation to students in Years 5 & 6
I have organised a police seminar for students in Years 5 and 6 on the very real and potent risks they are exposed to through their use of ‘social media’. The Police Youth Liaison Unit at Wollongong Police Station offer age appropriate presentations to school students from Year 5 through to Year 10 on this and many other relevant issues. During a recent conversation with a parent regarding her daughter’s use of social media and a follow-up discussion with students to determine their level of awareness of the risks posed, it became exceedingly obvious that some form of awareness raising was warranted. The presentation by Senior Constable Sian Popp will discuss what ‘social media’ is precisely, and what forms of technology are typically used. She will also discuss the full range of risks presented to young people, from cyber bullying through to the risks posed by the predatory behaviour of paedophiles on the web. The presentation will be staged in-place of the normal Library lesson for Years 5 & 6 next Tuesday, 26 February 2013 at 9.15am. If you would like more information about this presentation or would prefer that your child was excluded please contact me as soon as possible.

As always, please remember that you are more than welcome to contact me directly, at any time, if you have any school related issue or concern you wish to discuss with me. 

Best wishes,
Ernest Vella
PENNANT
Special congratulations to the following students:

ETHAN H – 4/5W

HONOUR CERTIFICATES
Congratulations to the following students:

K/1R BELEN C P
ROISIN S
1P OTIS C
4/5W CHILTON S

MERIT CERTIFICATES
Congratulations to the following students:

GH Issabelle P
K/1R Roisin S Tessa P
Belen C P x 2
1P Sam W Otis C
Finley C
2HT Halle D G Evan G
William A Kasahni T
2/3P Zeke L
3/4vK Piper D G
4/5W Chilton S Andrew A
5/6C Patrick G

K-2 ASSEMBLY - CHANGE OF TIME
Starting from this Friday, 22nd February, K-2 assembly will be held from 12:10-12:50pm, due to 3-6 sport. This time will remain until further notice.

N Hill

YEAR 6 FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE MEETING
All year 6 parents are invited to attend the first Fundraising Committee meeting for 2013. It will be held next Wednesday, 27th February, in the 5/6C classroom from 3.05pm. The committee will be discussing the Year 6 Farewell and school gift.

R Cochrane

SCHOOLS CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY
On Friday 1st March students at our school will be participating in a range of activities as part of the Clean Up Australia Campaign. All activities will be inside the school property, and students from Years 2 to 6 will be involved and are asked to provide their own protective gloves. Large council collection bags will be provided, however, children may bring their own small rubbish bags.

L Ney

SCRIPTURE CLASSES 2013
Scripture classes for 2013 will commence in next term. Currently we don’t have enough teachers to cover all groups and operate scripture properly. Further information will be provided closer to Term 2.

D van Kessel / Scripture Organiser

DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL
On Monday 18th February the district swimming carnival was held at Corrimal pool. Congratulations to all our swimmers. They represented our school very well and made us proud. They swam well in the pool and were well behaved during the day. We had several swimmers who placed in their heats but none who made it to the regional carnival. Everyone had a great day and it was wonderful to see so many parents there.

D van Kessel and D Wedeman

CHOIR
Choir will be commencing next Wednesday, 27th February at 8.30am in the school hall. All choir forms must be in by next Wednesday and we encourage all Year 3 to 6 students to participate.

M Hiscocks / Choir Co-ordinator

P & C NEWS
Last night was the first P&C meeting of the year and it was great to see some new faces coming along and meeting the team.

During the meeting it was confirmed that the profits from the 2012 fete have exceeded $17,000 - an amazing effort resulting from the support of the whole school community. The first use of the funds raised from the 2012 fete was a donation of $7,562.80 for the purchase of 17 desperately needed computers for the computer lab. These computers replaced those units which were rendered obsolete with the recent software upgrade and will ensure that each child will be able to have their own fully functional computer during classes in the lab.

It was also decided that the School Staff’s request for an on-site defibrillator be the focus of the fundraising for the upcoming Easter Raffle. We ask you to support this event by selling the raffle tickets which will be sent home in coming weeks. Who knows, you may be enjoying a wonderful arrangement of Easter goodies too!

A reminder that all school uniforms which have become too small or are unwanted may be donated (freshly laundered) at either the school office or the Uniform Shop on Friday mornings. The P&C would like to offer a second hand clothing rack for the purchase of these items - this may only be possible with donations from the school community.

Remember also that uniform orders from WB Sports, our officially endorsed school uniform supplier, may be placed at the Uniform Shop on Friday mornings, or if this is not possible left at the school office. Our P&C volunteers will then collect and take them to WB Sport's warehouse and completed orders will be returned by no later than the following Friday for collection at the Uniform Shop. Thanks again to the Administration Staff who help us out by collecting orders - I'm sure we all appreciate their efforts.
P & C NEWS CONTINUED

The 19th March will be the next P&C Meeting, and in fact the AGM. Nominations will be called for all committee members: in addition to the traditional positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Canteen Co-ordinator, Secretary and Fundraising Co-ordinator the new positions of Fundraising Assistant, and two School Grants Researchers will be called for the first time. For interested parents, job descriptions will be posted on the School's website in the coming days for review or contact me directly on 0488 360 557 for more information. We look forward to seeing you there on the night so you may have your say in electing the committee for 2013.

I look forward to a productive school year.

Shane Gollop
P&C President

CANTEEN NEWS

I hope everyone is enjoying the new Summer menu and have noted the price changes.

I am always open to suggestions on what to include in our canteen menu so if there is something that you think would be popular and is relatively healthy then please email me at the address below. I will start working on the Winter menu for terms 2 & 3 in the coming weeks so it will be good to get some fresh ideas.

Lastly, I would like to say a special thank you to Kate Murray and Sharon Jordan for volunteering their time in our canteen. Both families are only new to our school this year and did not hesitate to put their name on the roster. Thank you again and I hope that you enjoy it.

February Special: Re-usable lunch bags only $5 each!

Roster
Wed 27/2 Emma & HELP NEEDED
Thurs 28/2 Leeca & Kim
Fri 1/3 Leanne & Lisa

Kym Brown, Canteen Manager
kymbrown5@bigpond.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Year 5 & 6 Parent Evening at Bulli High School Tuesday 5 March

On Tuesday 5 March Bulli High School will host its special Expo evening for the parents and students of Years 5 and 6, 2013, from our local primary schools. This event will commence at 6.30pm with an informative presentation in the school's hall followed by guided tours of the school's facilities led by Student Representatives. Call 42848266 for more details.

Breakfast Club is a free service run by Northern Illawarra Community Connections. It operates out of our School Canteen from 8.00am until 8.45am every Monday morning except for the first Monday of the term. They offer our students a choice of cereal, toast, yogurt, juice and milo. Everyone is welcome.

Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts Expo Evening

Are you considering Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts as your choice of secondary school? If so, come and meet us at Expo Evening. You will see that we offer a first class comprehensive education as well as excellent opportunities in the performing arts.

Date: Thursday 28 February 2013
Time: 5.30-7.00pm

We look forward to meeting you.

Academic Excellence
Excellence in the Performing Arts
Quality Teaching
Outstanding sporting opportunities
Brilliant HSC results
High Expectations

Looking for Volunteer Host Families

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student arriving in July 2013. Our students from Italy, Belgium, Finland, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands and South America are looking forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new friends and becoming a member of an Australian family soon.

Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family.

Phone: 1300 884 733
Email: info@wep.org.au
Online: http://www.wep.org.au
Mt Ousley Physie Club
Dance, exercise, fitness and fun for girls and ladies
Classes at Fairy Meadow Demonstration School
Tuesday afternoons for girls 3 to 8 years
Monday afternoons for girls 9 to 12 years
Classes also for senior girls and ladies
First three lessons free for new members
Check our website www.mtousleyphysie.com
Or call Elizabeth 0411 288 291 or Kellie 0413 249 707
or see Miss Hill

Hope Market
A compassionate project supporting sustainable farming and education in Tonga.
Fairtrade, Homemade, Recycled Stalls and Carboot Sale, Food, Jumping Castle Kids Activities
Saturday 16th March 10am till 1pm
Bulli Anglican Church
66 Park Rd, Bulli (opposite railway station)
If you would like to book a stall contact the church on 4284 3021 or bullianglican@bigpond.com

Shamrocks Junior Rugby
Registration Day 2013
Wed 20th Feb 5pm - 7pm
Age groups - U7’s, U8’s, U9’s, U10’s, U11’s, U12’s, U13’s, U14’s, U15’s, U17’s
New players welcome.
Registrations to be held at Ocean Park Woonona
Contact: Andrew Cracknell on 0432 944 543 or Megan Cracknell on 0403 796 246.
Birth certificate required for new players

Grand Pacific Walk Information Session
Wollongong City Council is developing the Grand Pacific Walk, a 60km path that will run from the Royal National Park to Lake Illawarra. The share-path will follow the Grand Pacific Drive route, giving pedestrians and cyclists safe access to enjoy the views and attractions of this beautiful area. The Grand Pacific Walk will provide means for healthy and environmentally sustainable activities while promoting connections between local communities. Council invites the community to be involved in the development of this project by having their say at one of the following forums in the upcoming weeks:
Wednesday 20th February
Stanwell Park CWA 6pm - 8pm
Sunday 24th February
Colesdale Markets 10:30am - 1:30pm
Tuesday 26th February
Thirroul Community Centre 6pm - 8pm
For more information visit the Council website at www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/grandpacificwalk or call Paula Kennedy on 4227656.

Northern District Tigers Junior AFL
Registration is underway for the 2103 season AFL caters for boys and girls from 5 to 16 years
For further information
Contact Evie (Club Registrar) on northerndistrictjuniortigers@gmail.com

ADHD Support Group
Citylife Community Initiatives ADHD Support Group
Coffee and drop in morning last Friday of each month. These mornings provide a place for parents and carers to find information on ADHD and other associated disorders, to share with one another, learn from each other and to encourage one another.
Our next meeting
Theme: What's your story?
Date: Friday Feb 22,
Time: 10:30am
Venue: Citylife Church 129 Jardine St, Fairy Meadow
Cost: No cost, donations appreciated.
For information phone 42844414 or 0413048453

Every child can shine
Kumon’s maths and English programmes work to support your child in building confidence while developing a thorough skill-set to foster a love of learning for life. Contact your local Kumon Centre to find out more today.

Come & Try Rugby League
Join in & see how much fun you can have playing rugby league
Thursday 21st February from 4.30pm
Or any Thursday in March @ Hollymount Park
Princess Highway Woonona
AGES: 5 to 16 years - boys & girls
(We do need more kids for our U6 & U7 teams)

***UNDER 6'S GET FREE REGO!!!***
The Bushrangers, your local team @ Hollymount Park a fun place where every child gets a game!