Term 4 Week 2

Important dates to put in your calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20/10/2014 – 22/10/2014</td>
<td>Yr 9 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/10/2014</td>
<td>Yr7/8 TSP Challenge day</td>
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<tr>
<td>22/10/2014</td>
<td>Kindy 2015 Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>27/10/2014</td>
<td>Life Education Primary</td>
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<tr>
<td>29/10/2014</td>
<td>Yr 12 Study Skills day</td>
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<tr>
<td>29/10/2014</td>
<td>Midsummers Night Dream</td>
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<tr>
<td>29/10/2014</td>
<td>Yr 12 Info. night</td>
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<tr>
<td>31/10/2014</td>
<td>Luna Park Yr 11</td>
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Principal Report

Welcome
I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our new families who have started at our school recently. I would also like to welcome two new Executive teachers. Mr Matthew Sawyer commenced at the start of this term in the role of Head Teacher Physical Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE). Ms Brenda Holmes commences in the role of Head Teacher English from the start of week 3.

Learning for all is first and foremost
We wished our students well in their HSC exams on behalf of the whole school community prior to their first exam. Feedback from the students shows they have been taking a positive and focussed approach which is great to see. Our learning focuses for this term for the rest of the school are to consolidate those we have introduced over the previous terms:

- Working hard to achieve the learning goal(s) that each student set on their first day of the year. Students were encouraged to review and reset their goal(s) based on the feedback they received from their teachers at the half yearly exams
- Students seeking feedback from teachers about their work and looking at ways to lead their own learning through revision and wide reading.

It is important that we consolidate the learning from this year as part of preparing for next year so that students commence as far in front as possible at the beginning of next year.

Attendance
Over the year we have seen increasing numbers of students achieve our attendance target of no more than five days absent per term or who are continuing already well developed patterns of outstanding attendance. Regular and on time attendance to class supports learning for young people. It also demonstrates qualities for adult life that have been emphasised by our community through our school planning information that we have been collecting.

Student Brilliance
Already this term we have had student art work exhibited at Gosford Regional Art Gallery as part of an exhibition focusing on Mental Health Week. Our students also took out all of the students prizes at the Wyong Council Writing Awards competition.

Jason McGrath
Principal

Deputy Principals Report
Welcome back to term 4, 2014. I’m sure we are all asking where 2014 has gone.

Year (11) 12 – Year 12 commenced Term 4, 2014. Students were given their assessment booklets for 2014 – 2015 this week. There is a lot of valuable information in these booklets including the timing and nature of tasks, a description of the outcomes for each course as well as guidelines to successfully complete the HSC. It would be...
great if parents could sit down with their students and work through the timing of tasks, the nature of the task (research, presentation etc) and record these on a calendar so students can better manage their time in completing tasks to the best of their abilities. I have spoken to students about striving for their personal goal of being ranked as high as possible for each of their subjects in assessment tasks. The assessment booklet also has a calendar indicating timing of Half Yearly and Yearly exams. Fifty percent of the HSC mark comes from assessments and fifty percent from the HSC exam.

At this time of year students are enquiring about dropping subjects. Students are required to complete 12 units to successfully complete Year 11 and a student’s best 10 units are counted towards their HSC. We strongly recommend that students complete at least one assessment task in their six subjects before considering dropping one. We often find that students achieve better in a subject than they originally thought and then end up not dropping that subject. Many students sit the HSC having completed six subjects which allows their best 10 units to be counted towards their HSC. Students were also issued with a booklet of rules and procedures for the Higher School Certificate. The booklet outlines eligibility requirements, eligibility for courses, assessment and HSC examinations (including practical and performance examinations).

On Wednesday 29th October Year 12 students will be attending a session on Study Skills and Time Management. The program will be delivered by a company called Elevate who work nationally and internationally on improving student performance at school and in examinations. Previous Year 12’s have indicated the need and benefit of such courses early in their HSC course. The information provided will allow students to work more efficiently and cater to their learning style to improve results. The cost is $15.00 payable at the front office by Friday 24th October.

Also on Wednesday the 29th October, a HSC Parent Information Evening will be held in the movement studio from 5.00 – 6.00pm. The aim of the evening is to assist parents in understanding HSC procedures and how they can best support their student over the coming year. It would be great to see as many parents as possible on the night. Please contact me at school if you have any questions or concerns about your child as they progress through Year 12.

Cameron Dustin,
Deputy Principal,
Year 8 & 12.

Welfare Report

Recognising student achievement

Term 3 saw the implementation of our Positive Year Group assemblies focused on recognising the achievements of students within our school community. During these meetings students were presented with Bronze and Silver Awards, Faculty Awards, Wadalba Winners were drawn and Community Student of the Term awards presented. Congratulations to those students who were presented with a Bronze, Silver, Faculty and Wadalba Winner Award.

A special congratulation goes to the following students who were awarded the Community student for Term 3. Each high school student received a certificate and $50 with primary students receiving a certificate and $25.

Presented at whole school assembly earlier in the Term:

Senior student: Jason Brock
Junior student: Jessica Smith
Primary student: Sharmaine Stewart

Presented at Year Group Meetings

Year 12: Mikayla Murray
Year 12: Avril Campbell
Year 11: To be awarded due to Year 11 exams
Year 10: Jordan Hawkins
Year 9: Kaitlyn Sloan
Year 8: Georgia Corbett
Year 7: Rorey Rizzi
Junior Primary: Joshua Van Der Meulen
Senior Primary: Kanak Datar

Mrs Melinda Brown
Head Teacher Welfare

We have our new Senior Leadership Team for 2015!

The successful candidates and their roles are:

School Captains: Elizabeth Parker and Oscar Waite
School Vice Captains: Jake Fonti and Abrahim Pashtoon
Hall House Captains: Lauryn Lawes and Shanice Manuikia
Thorpe House Captain: Chloe Barnes
Freeman House Captains: Kacper Wrojck and Tahlia Shiah-Scott
Bradman House Captains: Vanessa Jade-Jager and Brodie Evans
Year 12 Student Voice Ambassadors; Rhiannon Hines, Teagan McBeath and Patiola Tonga
Year 11 Year Representative: Jesse Chapman and Tarni Heath

Coordinating teachers and senior leaders will be running the voting for the Year Representative positions for 2015 years 8, 9, 10 and the Vice House Captains. If you are interested, please stay alert for messages.

We would like to also take this time to thank all the students who were involved in the 2014 Leadership Team for all your effort and enthusiasm throughout the year.

Melanie Coghlan
English and Drama Teacher

Library Report

Over the past year the library has been busy building on the collection of resources available to staff and students for research and recreational reading with a focus during 2014 on resourcing the new curriculum.

During 2014 Year 10 students have been involved in library lessons where learning activities have been designed to assist students in understanding how to use information in their library and to access and use resources.

The library has information for students on using the school library, copyright and plagiarism as well as how to write bibliographies. Library staff welcomes students to use the library for study, research, reading for enjoyment and encourage visits during break times before school, recess (excluding recess Monday & Friday) and lunch.

Throughout the year students receive overdue notices for the return of books. Our two week loan period is generous and does not carry a fine, however we do ask families to replace or pay for any item which cannot be returned. Not carrying an overdue item will ensure a speedy book circulation at the library desk for students.

Mrs Taylor.
Teacher Librarian (Secondary)

Wyong Shire Short Story Competition 2014

Recently, several of our students who participated in The Wyong Shire Short Story Competition attended an awards ceremony at Wyong Civic Centre. Judges of the competition were impressed by the creative talents and standard of writing submitted by our Wadalba writers. Our students blew the competition out of the water, winning both junior categories. Congratulations go to Talia Walsh for first place in the children’s division, to Holly Schwebel for first place in the youth division and to Rebecca Coleman for second place in the youth division. First prize in each division was a 16GB ipad and all students had their work published in an anthology of short listed entries. Well done girls!

Mrs Taryan Walsh
Learning Choices Teacher

Middle School News
Year 7 Water Fun Day

This term Year 7 will be participating in a Water Fun day at Wyong pool. Students will increase their water skills and confidence in the water while completing fun and enjoyable activities.

Permission will be issued later this term once all details are finalised.

Ms Beverly Partridge
Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning
Year 9 Camp:

Week 3 year 9 will be off to Adventueland Forster. Students will need to pack the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toiletries</th>
<th>Hat or cap and beanie</th>
<th>1 raincoat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pyjamas</td>
<td>Torch (make sure it is working before you bring it on camp)</td>
<td>1 water bottle (1 litre capacity minimum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimmers</td>
<td>Hair tie for abseiling (if you have long hair)</td>
<td>Insect repellent and Sunscreen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 towels (1 for outdoors, 1 for showers)</td>
<td>2 pairs of sensible joggers or boots (1 old pair that you can get wet - no thongs!)</td>
<td>2 plastic bags to put your dirty or wet clothes in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pillow and pillow case</td>
<td>Optional Items – Camera, Souvenir/Shop Money</td>
<td>3 T-shirts (no midriff or sleeveless shirts allowed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sleeping bag or sheet/s with blanket</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 pairs of shorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mess Kit – 1 plate, 1 bowl, 1 fork, 1 knife, 1 spoon, 1 cup and tea towel (mess kit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spare socks and underwear</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 pair of long pants for cold weather</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 long sleeve shirts or jumpers</td>
<td>Note: In addition to the above items it is also recommended that you bring a small day pack so that personal items such as medications, water bottles, hats, raincoats, insect repellents and sunscreens can be easily carried during the day.</td>
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We will be catching buses from school **Monday 20th October 8:15am** and **returning to school Wednesday 22nd October before 2:29pm. The full payment of $230 must be paid before Monday.**

There are a range of activities at camp: archery, canoeing, challenge ropes, flying fox, fencing, giant swing, go carts, icebreakers, initiative exercises, night activities, mud world, quad bikes, raft building, sports, teamwork challenge, waterslides and zorb/waterballs. Please complete the last 3 pages of the form and give back to Miss White in the Middle School staffroom. Please call Miss White (02) 4392 5000 for more information or a payment plans.

**TSP**

Thank you to all of the students who tried out for TSP 2015. Successful and unsuccessful letters are in the mail. If you have been unsuccessful this year, please keep working on your skills and participate in the community teams. We would love to see you again at trials the following year.

**RAW Challenge**

It was a muddy day at RAW this year. We apologise for the delayed buses and thank those teachers who dropped students home that had missed their bus. We have some great photos that we look forward to showing at our next assembly.

Ms Jennifer White
MPS Teacher/Year 9 Advisor/TSP Coordinator
Primary Swimming Scheme

Term 4 has been very busy already with 60 primary students attending Toukley Aquatic Centre for intense swimming lessons every afternoon for the first two weeks of school. The students have been learning all about water safety.

Students have been broken up into smaller groups and been taught survival skills such as floating on their backs, back sculling and refining their swimming strokes. On the last day, we are super excited to be able to wear our pyjamas in the water. This is so that we can feel what it is like to fall into a pool fully clothed and how to take them off in the water to enable us to swim or float to safety. It has been fantastic to see students that were unable to put their head underwater being able to float and even doggy paddle. All students have been excellent and should be very proud of their behaviour and efforts whilst attending swim school. Just in time for summer!

Danielle Green
Classroom Teacher