Term 1 Week 8

Important dates to put in your calendar.

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>26/3/2014</td>
<td>Theme Trivia</td>
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<tr>
<td>31/3/2014</td>
<td>Yr12 Exams start</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/4/2014</td>
<td>Anzac Day Ceremony</td>
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<td>11/4/2014</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
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Principal Report

“Sharing stories that reveal the brilliance is equally crucial to innovation and engagement” Dr Mark Strom

Individual Brilliance

Our school is filled with students regularly achieving success at the highest levels. Four recent examples are:

Mason in Y8 has just become Australian champion for shot put at the Australian Junior Athletics Championships held this month.

Earlier this year Victoria, who is also in Y8, competed in the Australian Formula Future Championship and placed 5th in her age group. The power boat racing team she is part of sponsored by Layne Beachley’s Aim for the Stars.

At this week’s assembly Lisa in Y10 courageously shaved her head for Cancer research. She left a deep impression on everybody about commitment.

Holly F in Y12 was the recipient of the Russ Graham Memorial Award for her etchings, as part of the Central Vision Exhibition at the Gosford Regional Art Gallery.

As well as achieving at the highest level in their field of expertise, these students have great attendance at school and numerous positives about their overall application to schoolwork and citizenship as part of the whole school community.

“The heart of education is a teacher and a learner; nothing should get in the way of this” Sir Ken Robinson

Collective Brilliance

We also have some fantastic achievements across the whole school student team that are worth celebrating. These include:
A fantastic formal assembly led by our student leaders. There were some outstanding performances by the secondary students and a show stopping dance by Mrs Griffiths’ 3G class who did the Cha Cha Slide to much applause.

Our student leaders have also led activities to raise awareness around anti-bullying Harmony Day. It was great to have our local federal MP, Karen McNamara come along on Friday to give her support to such an important focus.

Each of the primary classes have been cooking and studying as part of Harmony Day celebrations. I can confirm they have had some of the tastiest curriculum in the school. Currently, two-thirds of students have attendance results over 90% which is fantastic. Thank you to families for supporting this focus. Ensuring attendance at school each day possible, with no more than 5 absences each term without special circumstances, is a great way for families to contribute to learning achievement.

Changes to the timetable
Timetable changes take effect on Monday as we finalise our staffing based on our final 2014 allocation.

New Reading App
Encouraging reading for enjoyment is another great way that families can support learning. The research on the benefits of reading include increased vocabulary, general knowledge, understanding of cultures, and even health benefits related to social skills and mental health wellbeing.

A new App has just been released to support the Premier’s Reading Challenge  https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/more1.html, at this stage for Windows 8 devices.

Don’t forget to check out the DEC A-Z Handbook for families http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/home which has some great ideas to support homework, study and wellbeing.

Mr Jason McGrath
Principal

Lock Down

Thank you to all students and staff for making the lockdown drill run smoothly on Tuesday. It is important for the school to practise this safety procedure and it was great to see responsible students making safety a priority. If anyone has any questions about the lockdown process please feel free to contact Mr Towney at school.

Mr Nathan Towney
Deputy Principal

Save the Date!

‘Hope you can join us for the 2014 Trivia Night NEXT WEDNESDAY? Fantastic fun and performances by our students with an Australian Rock Theme this year.’ Tickets are available from the Front Office all week.
**Student Recognition**

Congratulations to the following students for achieving an award at this term’s assembly. These students should be congratulated for their commitment to our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence.

**Year 7**

**Class Award Winners Week 5**
Kayla Aitken 7A  
Nicholas Hoban 7B  
Leilani Handforth 7C  
Chloe Hunt 7D  
Andrew Halton 7E  
Tim Dixon 7F  
Kyle Von Pralitz 7G  
Logan Easton 7H  
Paige Godina 7I  

**Bronze Awards**
Emily Honeyman  
Chance Hamon

**Year 8**

**Bronze Awards**
Georgia Adams x2  
Jayden Alderman x2  
Heath Anderson  
Willoughby Baker  
Abby Bales  
Michaela Ban  
Julia Bannerman x2  
Lachlan Barnett  
Sarah Barnsley  
Benjamin Batten  
Trent Battese  
Victoria Beasley  
Joshua Bell  
Lucy Blackford  
Jacob Broomfield  
Jasmine Brown  
Matthew Bull  
Clarisse Burlat  
James Burton x2  
Rhia Cartwright  
Brittany Chatfield  
Liam Chauncy  
Zac Chester-Mustchin  
Keely-Shae Cogoi  
Bree Collier x2  
Charlotte Cooke  
Gemma Corbett  
Georgia Corbett  
Molly Couch  
Mitchell Cox  
Melissa Crocker  
Jazmine Davies  
Brandon De Luca  
Tahnee Dean-Gault  
Maddison Dickey  
Jordan Farlow  
Daniel Fonti  
James Foody  
Beth Foster  
Nathan Fox  
Renae Frost x2  
Hannah Fryday  
Christopher Gardiner  
Emma Garlick  
Tyler Gasson  
Nathan Gaunt x2  
Jesse Gibbin  
Rachel Gray x2  
Reece Hall  
Matilda Hallett  
Bronwyn Hansen  
Luke Hansen  
Chloe Hartley  
Kayla Harvey  
Jack Hawkins x2  
Sam Byrnes  
Eliza Heaton x2  
Dylan Holt  
Emilee Huntington  
Maddison Hutchison x2  
Jack Innis  
Jacob Jacovides  
Ebonnie Jager  
Christopher Jarvis  
Nathan Jones  
Paige Kavanagh x 2  
Sarah Kirk  
Amber Koen x2  
Jade Kusic  
Matiese Lee  
Mason Leef  
Jacinta Lees  
Dylan Leese-Aispuro  
Emily Little x2  
Antonio Malhotra  
Kaitlyn Mann  
Tristan Marsden  
Dylan McDonald  
Wade McDougall  
Jacob Mcpherson .x  
Eden Middleton  
Bryce Moffat x2  
Tianah Moran  
Lilly Moreau  
Ziggy Murray x2  
Hannah Norman  
Tyson O’Grady  
Daniel O’Toole  
Brianna Paes  
Alex Payne  
Connor Peden  
Emelia Perry  
Kieran Peters  
Jayden Peterson  
Katelyn Player  
Joshua Price  
Jaron Purcell  
Ashton Rennie-Kay  
Rayden Richardson  
Avalon Robinson  
Tayhla Robinson x2  
Daniel Ronis  
Jaiden Rush-Wichelow  
Kelsey Rush-Wichelow x2  
Bree Russell x2  
Ethan Ryan  
Henry Sarson  
Michelle Scascighini  
Bradley Scott  
Kiana Scott  
William Grew x2  
Lachlan Perricone x2  
Isabella Setchell x2  
Rebecca Simpson  
Laura Skinner x2  
Courtney Smith  
Ashlee Stanford  
Arona Taula  
Jarrod Taylor  
Manusiu Tonga  
Ngoc-Duyen Tran  
Cassidy Turner  
Jade Turner x2  
Jack Twyford  
Hayley Unterholzer  
Chloe Waddell  
Alexander Waite x2  
Jordyn Watts  
Jordan Wells
Nathan White
Samantha White
Shaun Whitwell
Sam Wicks
Jamie Wilkins x2
Joshua Wilkins
Alex Wilson x2
Tara Woods
Nicolas Zapantis

Silver Awards
Willoughby Baker
Matthew Bull
Bree Collier
Lachlan Perricone
James Foody
Williams Grew
Sam Brynes

Year 9
Bronze Awards
Jordan Smith
Daniel Setchell

Silver Awards
Jordan Smith
Daniel Setchell

Congratulations to these students. Please encourage your children to hand in all commendations and postcards so that they can be acknowledged for their efforts through our rewards system.

Wadalba Galleryvants Around

Last Wednesday Wadalba Art Students set off to view the Art Galleries. First stop was Gosford Regional Gallery where we viewed ‘A Central Vision’ – the top works from Central Coast High School students. Wadalba was lucky enough to have six works selected. Yr8 students Emelia Perry and Kaylee Roper and Yr11 Student Kiarn Forrest were very excited and proud to see their works exhibited amongst the best.

We also enjoyed two other exhibitions on show at Gosford, 4+1 = 1+4, an exhibition that included five local women who have responded to each other’s work. Yr12 Students were happy to see some works based on The Raft of Medusa, a Romanticism piece they studied last year.

We then travelled to Sydney Olympic Park, where a good stretch of the legs was welcomed. Students ate recess, explored the amazing playground, with tunnels, swings, lookouts and rest areas. Yr9 Photography students found some great Shapes and Shadows to photograph with the SLR cameras. After our break we walked to the Amory Gallery where last year’s HSC Visual Arts Body of Works were on display. Our students were amazed and inspired. Many students asked questions about the subject matter, materials and techniques. Lots of discussion was also about who each were voting for as their favourite work.

It was a great day. The 53 students were a delight to take out for the day. All students represented the school with their best behaviour and manners.

Miss Melissa Norris
Visual Arts/Photography

Scripture
This is an open invitation for all students in Year 7, to come and join us for Scripture. Scripture is group of Year 7 students hanging out together talking about what it means in today’s world to believe in Jesus and applying God’s word to our daily lives. We enjoy open discussion on topics like: God the creator of the world, God is love, God is all powerful, knowing and present, God is merciful and just, sin and death, grace and forgiveness, faith and Jesus, and the purpose for life; and much more. So if you’re interested in joining Rev. Paul O’Rourke, and some other Year 7 students, in a relaxed and fun atmosphere, chatting about this stuff, please contact Melinda Brown, for details of classes.

Thanks and God Bless,
Paul O’Rourke
0418 812 166
A SPECIAL MENTION....

To Lisa Clare of Yr 10, who bravely shaved off her locks for a good cause today in front of her family and peers. Lisa has been fundraising for Cancer Research and honoured her pledge to sponsors by shaving her head. Her efforts are twofold, in that while gaining sponsorship for the ‘Be Brave & Shave’ initiative, she also donated her hair for the purpose of making a wig for patients undergoing therapy.

Congratulations, Lisa. Your attitude and commitment to this cause are admirable. You make us all stop and think. You also make us very proud.

Ms Angela Moir
XLR8 / Capa Teacher

“Say no to Bullying’

The students are participating in Anti Bullying lessons leading up to Anti Bullying Day which is this Friday 21st March. Below are some of the entries that have been submitted for an anti bullying poster competition.

Students at Wadalba Community School have been exploring bullying and the role of bystanders in classroom lessons leading up to National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. The leadership team and Ms Miller, the Student Support Officer, worked collaboratively in sending the message that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time.

This annual day provides a focus for all schools to say Bullying. No Way! Last year more than 1400 schools across Australia participated in National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. This year students wore an orange T shirt and orange accessories to promote the day. Local Federal Minister MP Karen McNamara came down to the assembly to watch the releasing of the orange helium balloons with messages tied to the bottom from students and were given wrist bands with messages about taking a stand together.

Ms Miller
Student Support Officer
Respect

Wednesday’s Full School Assembly was a wonderful example of our Core Value - Respect. The speeches, awards, performances and community items were very engaging and the student audience gave their full attention.

Congratulations to Jack Sampey (Yr 10) and Jayden Hall (Yr 9) who presented information about the Army Cadets, of which they are a part. It was evident the valuable part their cadet training and experience plays in their lives. Mr Stan Baric (staff) was exceptionally proud of their effort. They also looked fantastic in their uniforms!

Good Luck and Congratulations to Mrs Belynda Henry who has the opening of her exhibition Jigsaw at Anthea Polson Art Gallery in QLD next Saturday 29th March.

Wadalba’s Teachers doing their stuff

Not only are the students at Wadalba doing great things at the moment, our teachers are also out and about excelling in their own areas.

Congratulations to Mr Darren Ponman and his band The Gemini Project who played a great show at Lizottes in Newcastle on Wednesday night.

Miss Melissa Norris
Visual Arts/Photography

NSW Combined High Schools Tennis team.

Congratulations to Jeremy Slee in Year 12 for being selected in the NSW Combined High Schools’ Tennis team. Jeremy will compete in the NSW All School’s Championships in Bathurst on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 of March. Jeremy gained selection in the team after a successful Sydney North campaign where he was ranked number 1. We wish Jeremy all the best of luck as he takes on the best tennis players from across the state.

MPS Update

Thank you to those families who attended the Year 7 progress evening. It was highlighted that Year 7 students have been working hard during theory and practical classroom activities. A range of practical and group assessment tasks have been implemented this term, providing opportunities for students to demonstrate their understanding of the topics covered. MPS practical PE lessons have supported students in training for our school athletics carnival which was on Friday 14 March at Mingara athletics field. As MPS teachers we have been working hard to teach Year 7 the necessary skills in both track and field events for this day. Our next sporting event is the Cross Country.

Students have begun training with lots of talented athletes showing their skills and commitment.

May I also take this opportunity to remind students to have their PE uniform to change into and a water bottle during PE classes.

Mr Robert Ristuccia
Year 11 Year Advisor, MPS and PE teacher

Fresh is Best

XLR8 embraced the ‘Fresh is Best’ theory today by whipping up a delicious Chicken Stir Fry. With no less than five different veges in the mix, they got their dose of good health today. ‘Clean Eating’ is sweeping the country at the moment and the benefits of it are plain to see. It also tastes pretty good.

We may need another lesson in how to cook perfect rice, however!

Ms Angela Moir
XLR8/ Capa Teacher
Year 11 RYDA Day

On Wednesday 12th March a large portion of Year 11 attended the RYDA course. The RYDA course targets youth in educating students to become responsible drivers. The aim of the program is to reduce teenage car crashes on the Central Coast.

On this day students completed 6 interactive sessions including – designing your dream car with your friends; getting into a car with a driving instructor and experience the physics of different stopping distances at different speeds. The Police advised students of the most common offences for young drivers (What they are looking for) AND how to avoid them. There was a simulated Hazards Perception Test and some other funny videos. Students also had the opportunity to share a young person experience by meeting and talking with a young crash survivor with a brain injury. The messages delivered on the day were powerful and relevant. The day was a worthwhile welfare experience for Year 11. Every student that attended received a certificate of attendance that they can use to show to future employers.

Can I thank all students, teachers and parents for seeing the value in this program by supporting this day. As a Year Advisor I would also like to thank the Rotary volunteers, NRMA and Brian Hilton Toyota for making this day possible.

Mr Robert Ristuccia
Year 11 Year Advisor, MPS and PE teacher

The Wyong Shire Photographic Prize returns again this year – with a new look and increased cash prize pool worth $3500.00!

Entries will open on 1 May, but in the meantime we’re offering free workshops to hone your photographic skills.

Please check the Wyong Shire Council website for updated information.

WADALBA COMMUNITY SCHOOL
PRIMARY HALL

TUESDAY NIGHT – 7.30 PM

PLEASE CALL IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND

Debbie: 0449 992 837

Fun, laughter, fitness
$10 per class – 10th class free
Uncomplicated footwork – you can do it!

Email: deb.scott@bigpond.com
Website: http://debbiejames.zumba.com/

SCIENTISTS IN 4/5S

There have been some busy scientists in 4/5S this term. We are completing a unit on Antarctica and have been investigating aspects of Antarctica through the field of science. We have discovered how salt water has an effect on the way an iceberg floats, that ice, snow and water have different densities and we now know what materials have the best insulating properties. With each experiment, we came up with a hypothesis, conducted the experiment and discussed the results that we expected and those that we were surprised about.

During our science experiments, we needed to read, write, think mathematically and logically and
work as a cooperating group in order to achieve our goals. 4/5S love science experiments and we hope to make them a part of each term.

Mrs Kylie Snell
4/SS Teacher

Debating
Mrs Collins is training a team of students to represent our school in the regional debating competition. They attended an all day workshop on Monday which was aimed at helping them develop their debating skills.

Harmony Day
‘A Taste of Harmony’
Harmony Day 21 March is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it. Students in the Primary will be engaged in cooking activities sampling recipes from a variety of cultures.

Easter Raffle
The Wadalba Community School P&C is holding an Easter Raffle, raising money to purchase computer tablets for use in Primary classrooms. We would greatly appreciate your generous donation of Easter eggs or other suitable Easter gifts for the raffle, by Tuesday 1st April.

Maths A to Z
Brush up on some of the maths terms your child uses in the classroom. The Maths A to Z glossary provides straightforward explanations and illustrated examples. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/maths/maths-a-to-z

Great Books for ‘Tweens’ to Read

At Wadalba Community School, we commenced teaching Bounce Back lessons this term.

What is Bounce Back?
A whole school social and emotional learning curriculum program that Promotes positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience for students and teachers plus safe and supportive class and school learning environments.

What outcomes can we expect from Bounce Back?
Improvement in students’ social and emotional skills and pro-social behaviour
Improvements in mental health for all students, but especially for those who could be considered ‘at risk’; a reduction in emotional stress (i.e. anxiety and depression)
A more positive, supportive and pro-social school culture that contributes to the reduction of school bullying
Higher levels of student connectedness to school

Wadalba Swim Stars
Seven students represented our school at the Zone Carnival at Mingara on March 6. The team consisted of: Abbie, Leila, Annaliese, Lachlan, Nick, Liam and Thomas. Congratulations to them all on their great effort.

Parent / Teacher Interviews
Thank you to all the parents / caregivers who took the opportunity to attend the P/T interviews last week. The feedback from teachers was very positive.
Greater likelihood of students offering peer support to friends and classmates
Improvements in students’ academic learning outcomes
Higher levels of teacher resilience and wellbeing
More effective teacher support and counselling for students

**Understanding Home Reading Levels**

One of the most common areas about which questions are asked is home reading and what the level system means. There are some important points for parents to know:

- The level students bring home is lower than what they read in class. These levels may in fact be 1-5 levels lower (sometimes more).
- Home reading should be easy for the child. It should be a relaxing time to enjoy reading with a family member or friend.
- The Home Reading Boxes contain many different styles of books from different publishers. This means that sometimes books in the same box are harder or easier than others even though the same number is on the front. If you get a book that seems too hard for your child it is okay to help them read it or even read it to them. It is better to do that than frustrate your child (and get frustrated yourself!).
- It is okay if your child chooses to bring home the same book more than once. After all, as adults we often read the same book again if we enjoy it!
- Teachers are trained to recognise when a child needs to progress through the levels.

This may not always be through formal testing but also by the way they are performing in class.
- It is important to remember that reading aloud is only a small part of literacy. When a child is moved onto harder books too quickly it is difficult for them to develop other skills such as fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. This can cause more serious problems if not rectified.
- Students will initially move faster through the levels then plateau as teachers extend their knowledge in other areas.
- We try hard not to place emphasis on the level of text the child is reading. Students that focus on the number can feel disheartened when they feel they aren’t progressing. We ask that parents try to do the same.
- Sometimes it may seem as though your child has made little or no progress. Rest assured, if there is a concern with your child the classroom teacher will discuss it with you. If you do however have any concerns about your child in any area please make an appointment to see your child’s teacher.

Please remember that our teachers at Wadalba want your child to succeed and work hard both in and out of the classroom to help your child do just that.

*Ms Roxanne Sanday*
*Assistant Principal*