PRIMARY NEWS LETTER

Term 3 Week 9

Student Brilliance
Congratulations to our children who showed their brilliance on stage as they performed at the concert. They showcased some great learning in creative and performing arts and demonstrated confidence, creativity and collaboration which are all important focuses for 21st century learning.

Happy Fathers’ Day
Thank you to the dads, grandfathers and significant others who were able to join us for the Fathers’ Day Brekkie.

The educational research tells us that involvement in the child’s life at school by parents/carers has a greater impact on the learning of a student than activities such as supporting homework. The barbeque tasted great too!

Calendar

Week 9
Friday 2/3S assembly
Saturday Cinema Under the Stars

Week 10
Mon 15/9 Stage 3 CARES Excursion
Tues 16/9 Stage 2 Cockatoo Is Excursion
Fri 19/9 K assembly

“Tell Them From Me”
We are continuing to collect reflections and ideas from parents, students and staff to assist us in developing our next three year plan for the school.

We are also hoping to get as many parents/families as possible to complete the parent survey to provide us with this important perspective on how we can support our children.

The survey details are:
https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/login.htm
User name: Wadalba
Password: parents1234

We have been fortunate to have been working with a Canadian expert on student engagement, Dr Doug Willms. Doug does a lot of work at an international level.
We will ensure we provide you with an update on the information gained and how we will be using your ideas to ensure we are continuing to learn and improve. The survey will be open until the end of term.

We will be setting up some opportunities for people to share some of their thoughts each morning and afternoon in week nine with a different focus each day.

**Learning Goal from reports**

It is a great time for children to review achievements in their learning goals. This includes new goals developed following their Semester One reports.

**NAPLAN Results**

NAPLAN results have been received by the school and sent out to home addresses in the mail. Please speak with your child’s class teacher, Ms Allan, Ms Sanday or myself if you would like to discuss any aspects in more detail.

**Excursion Report: Canberra**

On the 18th – 20th of August 2014, years 5 and 6 went on their excursion to Canberra. The purpose of this excursion was for us to learn more about Australia’s government and Parliament. While we were in Canberra we visited many different places including: The Australian War Memorial, Old Parliament House, Parliament House, The Australian Institute of Sport, The Royal Australian Mint, The National Art Gallery, and Questacon. We also drove past the Embassies and High Commissions of other countries. All these places gave us a great experience and opportunity to interact and learn about Australia’s history.

On Monday the 18th of August 2014:

We started the day bright and early at 7:15am to take a 6 hour bus trip to Canberra. As we arrived in Canberra we stopped to look at Canberra’s highest mountain at Mt Ainslie lookout. We had an amazing bird’s eye view of Canberra. After we departed from Mt Ainslie lookout we visited the Australian War Memorial for Vietnam Veterans Day. We learnt about how Australian soldiers lived and fought in the wars, including the tragic story of James Martin who was the youngest Australian to die in a war; he died in WW1 and was only 14 years old. After looking around we walked outside where there were hundreds of thousands of names, showing the soldiers who have died in our wars. We stayed at the War Memorial for a formal ceremony commemorating Vietnam Veterans. Sarah Castledine and Jackson Epps laid a wreath to show our respects and remember those who died in war.

On the 19th of August 2014:

Early Tuesday morning Neil our bus driver took us to Old Parliament House. We visited the education centre at the back of the building where we learnt about the history of voting. We then visited the different areas of old Parliament house. We got to sit in the House of Representatives and Caitlyn Garbutt got to try on a replica of Quenton Bryce’s yellow coat that she wore the day she was sworn in as Governor General of NSW. When we left, we took a short drive to the New Parliament House where we were involved in a role play. We learnt how the House of Representatives and the Senate pass bills and make laws. Later that afternoon, we went to the National Art Gallery. We saw some amazing artworks and sculptures by lots of different artists a class favourite was ‘Blue Poles’ by Jackson Pollock.

After dinner later that night, we visited the Australian Institute of Sport. There we went into rooms where Australian Athletes train for the Olympics and Commonwealth Games.

On the 20th of August 2014:

This was our last day in Canberra and we had to have our bags packed and on the bus ready to go by 8am. We departed the Carotel on time and first stop was the Royal Australian Mint. Here we saw how our coins are made and how a robot named Titan lifts barrels of coins weighing 750kg each into coin pressers. While we were there we purchased a custom made coin for 2014 that is only available in Canberra. The last place we visited in Canberra was Questacon. There were many different science activities to do, and 2 of the main attractions were the free fall slide; which was 6 meters high and the earthquake house.

Canberra was a great excursion. It was a wonderful experience for everybody.
Mr Smith’s time in 6M

This is a brief reflection of my time at Wadalba Community School in class 6M and for those whom I have not had the pleasure of making an introduction. I am Mr Smith (Brenton) and I am doing my internship in 6M this term. This term, we have been looking at Government and Space; 2 topics that I myself take an interest in. I enjoy seeing students learn through hands on experiences. I started the Government unit with a lesson on ‘the difference between a democracy and dictatorship’. The students chose which system of government they thought would work best and were split into groups accordingly. Student’s then had to create a tower out of marshmallows and skewers. This activity gave students a real life experience either working together to create the best tower possible or
for others working under the dictatorship of one person. Students recently had the opportunity to build on this knowledge when we travelled to Canberra for 3 days. This was an amazing experience and gave me the opportunity to bond with the students outside of the classroom environment.

While working at Wadalba I have also had the opportunity to coach the LMG touch football side. This has given me a great insight into the very busy schedules of teachers and parents.

With the end of the term around the corner, I am excited for the events ahead. I have been working with Year 6 boys on their concert performance of Pirates of the Carribean and look forward to seeing them perform this at the Primary concert next Wednesday night. I also have the opportunity to attend the Primary Zone Athletics Carnival this Friday and look forward to seeing our students excel at their given sports. My experience on Year 6 thus far has been very rewarding and I look forward to continuing to work with Wadalba students and staff at the conclusion of my internship.

While working at Wadalba I have also had the opportunity to coach the LMG touch football side. This has given me a great insight into the very busy schedules of teachers and parents.

With the end of the term around the corner, I am excited for the events ahead. I have been working with Year 6 boys on their concert performance of Pirates of the Carribean and look forward to seeing them perform this at the Primary concert next Wednesday night. I also have the opportunity to attend the Primary Zone Athletics Carnival this Friday and look forward to seeing our students excel at their given sports. My experience on Year 6 thus far has been very rewarding and I look forward to continuing to work with Wadalba students and staff at the conclusion of my internship.

Year 6 Science day

On the 21st of August, Year 6 students from Wadalba, Warnervale, Woongarah, Tacoma and Kanwal attended a Science day in the High School. The day was planned to show us all the different types of experiments and activities that we will get to experience when we are in high school. First we had an assembly where we were told where our groups were going for the day. We stayed in our class groups and our first activity was with Mr Sorecca where we learnt about the quality of water and how to test the different PH levels in water.

Our second activity was a visit to the Agriculture farm. Mr Drury took us on a tour and showed us all the different animals. There were cows, chooks, sheep and some new baby lambs that were only a couple of weeks old. We also go to see the aquaculture centre where they grow different types of trout. We also learnt about all the different filters that are needed to keep the water at a specific temperature and quality for the fish to survive and thrive.

After we left the farm we headed to the Science labs to dissect a cow’s heart. We were all pretty grossed out at the thought of cutting up a cow’s heart, but when we got in there we all actually enjoyed the experience. The outside of the heart was really strong and tough but the inside was really squishy and tender. It was quite smelly but it was a lot of fun.

Last but not least we got to do the static electricity activity. Mr Davis was the teacher who ran this session and he taught us a lot about static electricity. We rubbed balloons on our heads and then
moved them away; this caused our hair to stand up on end.

At the end of the day we all got to enjoy a sausage sizzle lunch. The high school teachers also surprised us with a rocket activity where they fired 2 rockets into the sky. We had to guess whether we thought the lighter rocket or the heavier rocket would travel the furthest. The Science day was such a great day. We all can’t wait to do Science in the High School next year.

Stage 3 students from our recently undertook an education tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributed funding of $20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. This meant that the school was able to offer the excursion at a discounted rate to students.