Term 2 Week 4

Important dates to put in your calendar.

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>21/5/2015</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>22/5/2015</td>
<td>Biggest Morning Tea</td>
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<td>25/5/2015</td>
<td>Yr 7 camp</td>
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<td>27/5/2015</td>
<td>Reconciliation week</td>
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Principal Report

“High Expectations”

One of the important characteristics of learning that we are keen to promote is “high expectations”. One of the key aspects we look for is “conceptual risk taking”, in everyday speak we would say it is about being prepared to be challenged to try something difficult in order to learn.

Below is a scale that students K-12 could use to reflect on where they are currently and what they could do to move up to level 3 or continue to grow at this level:

1. “I don’t like to try hard”; “I don’t like making mistakes or ‘Having-A-Go’”

2. “I often try hard”; “I don’t worry about making mistakes or ‘Having-A-Go’”

3. “I like work that challenges me”; “I learn from my mistakes”

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment and reporting remains an important part of our focus for this term. Executive staff have been providing some positive feedback about the quality of engagement that students are demonstrating in completing their assessments and feeling confident about being challenged. Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 also completed their NAPLAN assessments and it was great to see how the students approached this assessment in the same positive way.

Student Brilliance

The school has just received copies of our first published book “Writers of the Future” which captures the writing and work of our Aboriginal student writers group from 2014, including those published in Deadly Vibes Magazine. We are currently planning an official book launch.

As part of the book, students responded to five questions:

1. What their strengths were
2. A little bit about where they come from and their background
3. What their goals were
4. What being Aboriginal meant to them
5. Who their biggest role model was.

Here are just a few responses from our students which are presented as quotes in the book:

“I am passionate about public speaking and wanting to make the world a better place”

“I am proud of my culture. Being Aboriginal means everything”

“My biggest role model would be my grandma. My grandma is special to me”

“I want to go to every continent in the world, finish high school in year 12 with a good ATAR”

“My biggest role model would be my parents because of how they deal with everything and how they raised my brothers and me”

“My biggest role model is my dad because he has been through a lot and he’s been strong though it all. And I want to be strong like him”
“My biggest goal is to complete every year of schooling. I also want to be a doctor when I grow up.”

The book, along with recording and publishing of our CD “Soaring” last year, are examples of our focus on product oriented learning which has three driving ideas behind it according to academic Yong Zhao who wrote an influential book called *World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students*:

1. A good project has to have an authentic audience, an authentic purpose. When students create anything, it has to matter to someone. It has to touch emotions.”

2. Through project experiences students have to learn to understand their own strengths and weaknesses so they can seek partnership with someone else.

3. A project has to help a student understand someone else’s needs.

These ideas connect to other project based learning happening across the school.

*Mr J McGrath Principal*

**Deputy Principal Report**

Today is the start of week 5; the term is rolling on rapidly. Teachers are currently very busy writing reports, assessing Students progress for the first semester. Reports will be distributed later in the term with the parent teacher interviews being conducted in week 8 for years 8,9,12 and week 10 for years 7, 10, 11. More information will be given closer to the date, we look forward to seeing as many Parents and Carers as possible to converse with staff around the strengths and areas of improvement for your child to progress positively for the remainder of the year. We are looking forward to the Athletics Carnival on Thursday which was postponed due to bad weather two weeks ago. The students are having meetings today to encourage house support by wearing the appropriate colours and supporting the Wadalba Cup with enthusiasm and spirit. Naplan was very successful for our Year 7 and 9 students last week; they conducted themselves in a very mature and engaged manner. Year 11 Preliminary Half Yearly exams were conducted in week 2 and 3, students are receiving their results and feedback from the teachers, this information is essential for them to assess the progress they are making and evaluate their individual study plans. If any student requires extra support please contact me. The executive are currently looking at the areas of Uniform, Defiance and focusing on Positive behaviours. The cooler weather brings the issue of students coming to school out of uniform, we encourage them to get their uniforms organised the night before, along with their equipment. If there is a problem, we can provide them with a Wadalba uniform to wear for the day. Please remind your child to wear correct uniform every day. Defiance is a problem with students arguing school rules with staff. It is important that they comply with school rules to ensure maximum learning is taking place in the classroom for both themselves and their peers. Phones should be left in bags and on silent students are not allowed to make calls in class time. Recess and lunch are appropriate times for phones to be used. Respect of the learning environment, staff and others students is essential. We had Positive Year Assemblies on Friday afternoon where students were acknowledged for the excellent work they are producing across subject areas and for the contributions they are making to Wadalba Community School.

*Jane Harris Deputy Principal*

**Middle School**

It has been a very busy start to Term 2. The students have settled into classroom routines and produced some fine work. In PDHPE, Year 7 were well represented across all classes in the school Cross Country with several students moving onto Zone level. The History excursion to IMAX and Macquarie University was a huge success. All of the students represented Wadalba in a commendable manner. The exposure to Ancient cultures during the trip was certainly interesting and one that the students can use in the classroom throughout the term. Congratulations to all of the year 7 students who took part in NAPLAN
for 2015.

Beverly Partridge
Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning

SCHOOL EXEMPTIONS/HOLIDAYS:
The Department of Education and Communities (DEC) has now changed the procedures for registering Exemption from school requests. From the beginning of 2015, family holidays and travel are no longer considered under the Exemption from School Procedures. Travel outside of school holiday periods needs a Certificate of Extended Leave – Travel available from the school. A principal should accept a reason for travel during school term if it is in the best interests of the student, such as educational, social and participation reasons; this also includes family business, bereavement or other reasons, which should be specified on the application.

On accepting a parent’s Application a Certificate of Extended Leave – Travel must be issued. The certificate is provided to the parent. A principal may decline to accept a parent’s Application of a Certificate of Extended Leave – Travel, the parent will be advised in writing.

Travel outside of the vacation period is now counted as an absence for statistical purposes by DEC and will be recorded as L – Leave and will count as an absence on your child’s school report. Any attendance related questions can be directed to Mel Brown HT Welfare on 43925000.

WADALBA COMMUNITY SCHOOL UNIFORM

As the weather is starting to become cooler, I thought it timely to remind students of the uniform expectations at Wadalba Community School. WCS has been endorsed as a uniform school by the P&C and students are expected to wear full school uniform at all times. It has been fantastic to see nearly all students wearing their uniform with pride. Uniform can be purchased at the canteen or using the online canteen ordering system. If you need assistance in purchasing uniforms please contact Mel Brown to discuss options.

Wadalba Community School

Melinda Brown
HT Welfare

Mathematics

The Mathematics faculty have been targeting our school focus of Responsibility. Students are to be commended on ensuring they have a maths book and pen for every lesson.

As of Monday 18th May all students will be expected to have a book, pen and calculator for every lesson. Calculators can be purchased from the school canteen. We recommend the Casio fx 82 AU plus model. Please speak to your classroom teacher, Mrs Hancock or Mrs Brown if you have any concerns regarding having this equipment for every lesson. Calculators can be engraved by the Maths Faculty.

Students completed assessment tasks at the end of last term and the following students are to be commended on their efforts. All students were able to utilise their maths work book during the exam.

Year 8  Elissa Hulm with 100% Jake Carey, Xavier O’Donoghue, Paris Webster with 98%

Year 9  Matthew Bull 100% Tahnee Dean –Guilt, Kayla Harvey, Jaron Purcell and Clarisha Vierent with 98%
Year 10  Jamie Milne 99% Bailey Trigg 98%

During term 2 students will complete a task in which they are able to create a 1 page summary sheet to assist them during the task. Students are encouraged to ensure they have a well prepared and set out summary sheet prior to the assessment date.

Year 11 have just finished their half yearly exams. Some outstanding results including;

General: Chloe Burgess-Jones and Matt Gray who tied for first place with an amazing 96%
Mathematics Jayden Worsley
Extension Mathematics Katelyn Goulding

Student in year 12 General Mathematics will be starting a task focused around the water shortage concerns on the Central Coast. They will calculate the area of our dams, the rainfall and then compare this to the average usage of residents. We look forward to seeing their findings.

Students are reminded that tutorial sessions for seniors are held on a Tuesday afternoon in week A. Homework Centre is also available on a Wednesday afternoon in the library. Individual teachers also run many lunchtime tutorials to assist students with their learning.

Mrs L Hancock
HT Mathematics

Year 7 IMAX excursion

Year 7 students went down to Sydney to learn about Ancient Egypt. First went to IMAX and watched a movie. It was called Ancient Egypt 3D. It was great but really disgusting in parts, especially the mummified bodies! The popcorn was really good too! Next we went to the Macquarie University museum where we did a lot of things. We learnt about Ancient Egypt, Rome and Greece. We got to look at and hold different artefacts and viewed a PowerPoint about the pyramids. Before I knew it, it was time to get back on the bus and go home. I thought the excursion was amazing and it was great chance to learn more about Ancient Egypt.

by Rebecca Panjer
Year 7 Year

Year 7 have just completed NAPLAN and will begin new topics in their subject areas. Camp is going ahead Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Week 6. An information note is going out this week so ensure your child brings one home if they are attending. All students who are not attending camp are to attend school as normal. Classes will be collapsed and lessons delivered in their various subjects.

Students have completed assessment tasks at the end of last term. If they did not submit their work, teachers will be contacting home through letters of concern or phone calls.

Positive Year Meetings were Friday, Week 4 and an incredible amount of students received Bronze, and even Silver Awards already. If your child brings home commendations, Bronze or Silver Awards you should be impressed by their outstanding positive behaviour in class.

As the cold weather approaches, I would like to remind all families that students need to wear full school uniform, including dark blue jumpers and pants. Girls can wear their skirts with stockings and a long or short sleeve plain white shirt under the school shirt can help keep your child warm. If you are having issues with your child having the correct uniform, they can come to the Welfare Room or see Ms Coghlan.

There is a homework centre available for students, free of charge, on a Wednesday afternoon in the library for all subjects and a homework centre just for English on a Monday afternoon in the top of J Block. Year 7 students are encouraged to attend to help them with their classwork, assessments or homework. As well as the Homework Centre, your child is encouraged to study at home. High school homework does differ from primary as students have numerous teachers and subjects to juggle. A diary or organisation smartphone app can assist students. A different idea is to have a document or plastic sleeve folder for students to have in their bag everyday for school; in this folder they place all their information/permission notes from school, homework and assessment tasks they need to complete. This way you have access to what the students have due and they can remain organised. If your child does not have work due for any of their subjects they can study by researching topic areas relating to their subjects on the internet, reading over their class notes, watching documentaries relating to their studies or reading a novel. It is important for students to be engaged in study beyond the classroom, even if it is a novel they are reading for enjoyment, a narrative they are writing for fun or a painting they are creating for a Mother’s Day present.

Just a reminder that half-yearly reports will be going out at the end of this term and all students should have their school photos by now.

Melanie Coghlan
Year 7 Adviser
Dear Parents,

As part of our initiative to improve writing skills in our primary school, we have invited children’s author, Susan Berran to come to our school library on Thursday 4 June. She will give writing workshops with each Stage of students in the school. Susan’s aim is to excite and encourage children to read and write.

The cost is relatively small and each student is only asked to pay $2.50 to participate. If this is too difficult for parents with several children, parents can speak with Mrs Crowther or Ms Sanday and we will make every effort to accommodate your children. It is very important that our students immerse themselves in books that demonstrate excellent writing techniques in order to develop their own writing skills.

Susan Berran writes humorous books that most students in primary school could relate to and enjoy. She will take the Stage 3 students for the morning session, the Stage 2 students for the mid-morning session and the Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 students for the afternoon session. It is expected that our students will learn lots and have a great deal of fun!

Susan will donate several of her books to the school and we will be looking to buy several as well. If you would like to check it out, her website is http://www.susanberran.com/schools-libraries-visit-info.html

Kerry Crowther
Primary Teacher/Librarian