Calendar Weeks 9 - 11

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 December</td>
<td>Kinder Orientation – 9.00 - 11.15am</td>
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<td>Tuesday 10 December</td>
<td>Yr 6 Excursion – Jamberoo Combined Scripture</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11 December</td>
<td>Bulli High School Adventure Program – ENGLISH Special Lunch</td>
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<td>Monday 16 December</td>
<td>Presentation Day &amp; Parent Afternoon Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17 December</td>
<td>80s Disco 1.30 – 3.00pm Reports Home</td>
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<td>Wednesday 18 December</td>
<td>Last Day of School</td>
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NOTES TO BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL

- Parent Afternoon Tea RSVP
- Dance2bfit 2014
- 2014 Small Schools Swimming Carnival

Principal’s Message

Welcome to Week 9! A HUGE thank you to all the parents who were able to assist with transport during swimming lessons. Well done to the swimmers for your enthusiasm in what was a very difficult two weeks of rain. Thank you also to Pete for transporting K-1 to Symbio on Monday. A great day was had by all!

Unfortunately many parents were unable to attend the Strategic meeting scheduled for last Monday. Thank you to those who sent apologies. (Unfortunately having long service leave in Term 4 was not a good idea and set me behind in terms of having our planning meeting earlier). I have included a FACT sheet on the RAM model for resource allocation for you to read.

Schools will have more flexibility to respond to local student needs through the allocation of staff and resources. They will manage a single budget and be funded directly through a new resource allocation model (RAM).

I have also included an overview of our targets for 2014. A School Plan runs for three years. The last one written was for 2012-2014. Next year we will need to collaborate on our future school direction for the next three years. So hoping for lots of input throughout the year – thoughts and ideas.

I have also included the staff evaluation of programs implemented this year to reach out targets. Staff were asked to say what we did, how successful it was and where to next. Please have a look and email the school with any suggestions you may have.

I have also designed some evaluation surveys on Survey Monkey which you can access via these links:

School Planning-Parents
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HLPQPVZ

Survey about Student Welfare-Parents
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/J3BQ2CC

Science and Technology-Parents
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JF5PFVZ

I hope you participate in all of these surveys so that everyone can have a say about what we have achieved and where to next. Staff and students have also been asked to complete these surveys.

A DRAFT copy of the revised Student Welfare Policy 2013 has also been added to the website for your perusal. Feedback both positive and negative would be appreciated.
Presentation Day
Please make sure you have Monday 16 December marked on your calendar. It all starts at 1:30pm in the 2/3/4 & 4/5/6 classrooms.

Parent Helper Afternoon Tea is also on Monday 16 December in the Library from 12.30-1.30pm just prior to the commencement of the Presentation Day assembly.

Farewell Families
It is with much sadness that we farewell a number of families who have been part of the Otford Public School community for a number of years with older siblings having gone before and paved the way for them.

We say goodbye to the Abela; Crawford; McKinlay; Morris and Singh families. I would like to thank them for their friendship and support in the time I have been at Otford Public School as well as for many years prior to my arrival. They will be sadly missed, but never far away. We hope that you can visit us often to keep us up to date with your next educational journey into high school.

We wish Alex, Lachie, Mac, Nathan, Chloe and Emma all the very best at high school. Of course we will keep up to date through the younger siblings of Alicia, Griffin, Gus, Ruth and Declan.

What a wonderful adventure awaits you! Work hard, have dreams, set goals and go out there and get them. You have been amazing students. I know that you will continue to be. Good luck in 2014 and beyond! We will think of you often!

Reports are due to go home on Tuesday 17 December. Please check your child’s bag for this very special end of semester report.

End of Year Disco
Staff and students are holding an End of Year Disco with an 80’s theme on Tuesday 17 December 1.30-3pm. Parents are more than welcome to attend dressed in 80s gear. Bring something to share and join in the fun. Students are asked to dress in colourful, fluoro clothing with wild hair or sunglasses. You know the drill!!!! If everyone would like to bring a small plate of food to share for a whole school end of year party that would be the icing on the cake. Bring your normal school lunch and we can all share the party food later.

Giving to Others at Christmas
I have been liaising with Major Philip Maxwell of the Salvation Army in Port Moresby Papua New Guinea. They run Lae Primary School in Lae Papua New Guinea where my husband is at present living and working.

I am currently very busy cleaning out years of teaching resources that we can no longer use with the implementation of the new syllabus over the next four years. He said he would be very grateful for anything we can spare. Quite a few boxes will be freighted up there over the holidays.

I asked him how our students could be of assistance in terms of donating school items for his students to begin school next year. He requested anything such as - packets of coloured pencils, textas, lead pencils, rulers, exercise books etc.

In lieu of a GOLD coin donation for the disco I would like to ask if everyone can donate any of the items above to be sent through to PNG before the start of next year. I know that Otford will set the example as I am then going to ask our Seacliff Community of Schools to do the same thing at the beginning of next year. I hope to get Bulli High School and our feeder primary schools such as Waniora, Bulli, Thirroul, Austinmer, Coledale, Scarborough, Stanwell Park and Helensburgh to do the same. Imagine the impact we could make with a combined effort.

I know this is a hectic and often expensive time of year, but wouldn’t it be great to give a little back to someone who doesn’t have as much as us. I hope you will support this initiative. I would love to be there to see the faces on the students as they receive our little care package as Lae Primary School has over 750 students. Let’s see what we can accomplish!

Lost Property
Our lost property basket has been growing by the day. Please take the time and have a look through if your child has lost articles of clothing throughout the year. At the end of the term I will take everything home to wash and donate to charity.

Lesley Matthews
Principal
We love to hear about our current and former students’ achievements. Send us an email and we will publish it in the school newsletter each fortnight.

Dinovember
Cute alert! Look at the lengths these parents go to every November to convince their kids their plastic dinosaurs come to life at night and frolic through the house. See the dinosaurs: http://bit.ly/1e70E5b

Lions Club Wishing Tree
Please shop locally to buy a gift for a baby, toddler, child, teen, mum or dad, granny or grandpa and leave it, unwrapped, under the Lions Wishing Tree in the foyer of the Helensburgh Workers, Social and Sports Club before 20 December. Gifts will be distributed to the Wollongong and Warilla Women’s Refuge and the Salvation Army. Remember, your thoughtful gift may be the only present under the tree for some this Christmas. Donations of good quality second hand children’s clothing would also be appreciated. Wishing you the best of the Festive Season, the Helensburgh Lions Club

School Holiday Camp Competition
School holiday camp is great. Free school holiday camp is even better! Enter the competition to win a Kids’ Holiday Camp for your child and a friend. The prize is valid for summer and Easter holiday camps. Enter the competition: http://www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/win/

Twilight Market@Sunrise Nursery
Thursday 12/12 from 4.30 to 8.30 - visit Sunrise Nursery to browse among stalls, enjoy an RFS bbq or Otford PS curry and listen to some fabulous live entertainment - all at the Twilight Market@Sunrise Nursery. Women’s and children’s clothing, giftware and more - grab a lift with a friend and bring your shopping bag and last minute gift list! This is a plastic bag free event and all stall profits are donated to charity. Enquiries: contact Gina at nhork@yahoo.com

Junior Golf for School Kids Illawarra
"COME 'N' TRY" GALA DAY - $ FREE $
prizes, games, fun
Complimentary sausage sizzle for all the family
Friday 10th Jan 2014, 2-4pm

School age kids can play golf at Wollongong Golf Club for $12 includes green fee, hire clubs cost included, free use of donated golf balls, plus tees.
For enquiries and bookings: 02-42223114 proshop@wollongonggolfclub.com.au www.wollongonggolfclub.com.au

Homework & Study
Have your say and tell us what you need to effectively help your child with homework and study. Complete the School A to Z survey: http://bit.ly/184BFR3

News Flash
We love to hear about our current and former students’ achievements. Send us an email and we will publish it in the school newsletter each fortnight.
Helensburgh Junior Rugby League Football Club

Early Bird Registrations $80 including shorts and socks. Saturday 1/2/14 10am-1pm, Walker Street (outside Pizzarama) and Tuesday 4/2/14 6pm-8pm, Helensburgh Workers Club. Boys (5 - 17yrs) and Girls (5 - 12 yrs) welcome. New players need to bring Birth Certificate and Medicare Card to registration day. Those who played in 2013 and wish to re-register now have the option of doing so online and paying by credit card just visit helensburghjrl.leaguenet.com.au. If you have any questions please contact registrarhjrlfc@hotmail.com or phone Nicole on 0416 148 081.

Symbio Excursion