Calendar Week 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 16 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17 May</td>
<td>Special Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21 May</td>
<td>ICAS – Computer Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 27 May</td>
<td>PSSA Soccer Match</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29 May</td>
<td>Book Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 30 May</td>
<td>P &amp; C Art Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5 June</td>
<td>ICAS – Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17 June</td>
<td>ICAS – Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18 June</td>
<td>ICAS – Spelling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cross Country
What a fantastic day to hold the Cross Country on Friday 3 May! Everyone who participated and parent helpers had a wonderful time in the sun! Well maybe the participants didn’t have a wonderful time running 2km in Stage 2 and 3km in Stage 3. Everyone put in a wonderful effort!

District Cross Country
We had 10 students represent us at District Cross Country based on times and age groups:
- Olivia - 8 yrs; Stella, Jack, Riley - 9 yrs; Coby, Harry - 10 yrs; Lachlan C, Joel, Jake C - 11 yrs; Lachlan M - 12 yrs.
They did a wonderful job representing us at District Cross Country on Friday 10 May that we came 6th out of 13 schools based on percentage points.
CONGRATULATIONS everyone!

Age group results:
- 8yrs 1st Olivia, Oliver
- 9yrs 1st Riley, Stella 2nd Jack
- 10yrs 1st Coby, Sophie 2nd Harry
- 11yrs 1st Lachlan C Tahlia 2nd Joel, Jake C
- 12yrs 1st Lachlan M

NAPLAN commenced this week. Everyone has had a settled start. We wish them well in their final assessment tomorrow which is Numeracy.

Special Lunch is on this Friday 17 May.

PSSA Soccer Match is on next Tuesday 21 May at Ocean Park Woonona. Thank you to the parents who offered to assist with transport. I will see you at school next Tuesday at 11.45am ready for the game to start at 12.30pm.

PSSA Touch Football: Otford has once again been invited to participate in PSSA Touch Football at St James Park Coledale over the next four weeks on Fridays. A permission note was sent home today for those keen to play with another request for transport over the next four weeks. We will only participate if we have the transport to do so. Hope you can help!
Small Schools Soccer Knockout
We have once again signed up to be part of the Small Schools Soccer Knockout where we travel to places around the region to play other small schools like ours. One very clever principal has suggested that, instead of the four teams who must play each other in the coming weeks travelling all over the region, we all come together to play a Gala Day and get both matches over and done with in one day on a mutually agreeable day and place somewhere in the middle (distance wise) of the four schools. Dates to follow!

WINTER School Uniform
Traditionally most schools introduce WINTER school uniform in Term 2. However, we have had such lovely weather I have been hesitant to do so. Otford has not had anything officially in place to signify the change to WINTER uniform, but Term 2 and 3 are usually the terms when this happens reverting back to SUMMER uniform in Term 4.

In saying that, our school photos are on Wednesday 29 June. I would like full SUMMER uniform to be worn even though it is a GymbaSport day. If you wish to send the sports uniform to school for your child to get changed into later, you may do so, but there is really no need to worry for this one occasion.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
Great to see that some students are well and truly into the Premier’s Reading Challenge. I would really like to see everyone take on this exciting challenge to get reading.

To log on to the site all you need is your school logon and password to enter the books you have read. If unsure of these details please approach the office for your child's details.

Premier’s Sporting Challenge
Yesterday your child was issued a Premier’s Sporting Challenge Log which will remain at school. A letter was sent home explaining how this challenge works. All you need to do, at home every day, is keep a record of the activities your child participates in outside of school hours i.e. going for a walk with mum and dad, riding their bike, playing in the backyard with family and friends. Bring that record to school on Monday and each class will update their activity log as an individual, a class and as a school. Come on OTFORD we can do it!

Book Fair
Our Book Fair will be held on Monday 27 May from 8.15-9.30am. Parents are welcome to come along with their children. Hope to see you there.

Walk Safely to School Day
Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual, national event when all Primary School children will be encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

It will be held throughout Australia on Friday 24 May 2013

The objectives of WSTSD are:
- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
- To promote the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age.
- To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adult’s hand when crossing the road.
- To help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
- To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
- To promote the use of Public Transport.
- To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.
- To reduce the level of traffic congestion.

Smith’s Hill EXPO
Smith’s Hill High School is the only DEC Academically Selective High School in the Illawarra. We are conducting our annual EXPO on Tuesday evening of 21st May, 2013 from 5.45pm until 8.00pm. We are proud to showcase our wonderful student's activities and achievements, and to promote what our school has to offer the gifted and talented students of the Illawarra.

We invite students and their families from Year 5 and Year 6 (who may have already sat the Selective Schools entrance exam), to come along and

- tour our school and its facilities
- meet some of our students and staff
- view displays of course work
The program begins with a Principal’s welcome in the Multi-Purpose Unit (MPU) at 6.00pm. Visitors are then free to attend displays, presentations and performances throughout the evening. Student guides will be available to assist visitors to find their way around the school buildings and grounds.

Our Canteen will be open and light refreshments available.

We would love you to join us.

Mr Ian Walker
Relieving Principal
Smith's Hill High School

**Otford Art Show**
The budding artists at Otford Public School have been very busy producing some fantastic art work. Come to their art show to view the fabulous work where you will have an opportunity to purchase their art work. There will be a sausage sizzle available for $2 on the evening as well as drinks for $1. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided as part of the gold coin donation entry price.

When purchasing your child’s painting, there will be a clearly marked envelope which will then be placed in a box on exit. Donations will be at the purchaser’s discretion.

There will also be other artworks available for purchase, which have been provided by local artists.

This is a valuable fundraiser with which we are hoping to pay Kevin Butler, an Aboriginal artist, to help the children paint a mural for the school.

Please come and join us!

**WHEN:** Thursday 30 May  
**TIME:** 5pm – 7.30pm  
**WHERE:** Special Purpose Room

---

**Habits of Mind**

**Responding with Wonderment and Awe**

The most beautiful experience in the world is the experience of the mysterious.

—*Albert Einstein*

Efficacious people have not only an “I can” attitude but also an “I enjoy” feeling. They seek intriguing phenomena. They search for problems to solve for themselves and to submit to others. They delight in making up problems to solve on their own, and they so enjoy the challenge of problem solving that they seek perplexities and puzzles from others. They enjoy figuring things out by themselves, and they continue to learn throughout their lifetimes.

Some children and adults avoid problems and are turned off to learning. They make such comments as “I was never good at these brain teasers,” “Go ask your father; he's the brain in this family,” “It’s boring,” “When am I ever going to use this stuff,” “Who cares,” “Lighten up, teacher; thinking is hard work,” or “I don’t do thinking!” Many people never enrolled in another math class or other “hard” academic subject after they weren’t required to in high school or college. Many people perceive thinking as hard work, and they recoil from situations that demand too much of it.

We want students to be curious, to commune with the world around them, to reflect on the changing formations of a cloud, to feel charmed by the opening of a bud, to sense the logical simplicity of mathematical order. Intelligent people find beauty in a sunset, intrigue in the geometric shapes of a spider web, and exhilaration in the iridescence of a hummingbird’s wings. They marvel at the congruity and intricacies in the derivation of a mathematical formula, recognize the orderliness and adroitness of a chemical change, and commune with the serenity of a distant constellation. We want students to feel compelled, enthusiastic, and passionate about learning, inquiring, and mastering (*Costa, 2007*).
Taking Responsible Risks

There has been a calculated risk in every stage of American development—the pioneers who were not afraid of the wilderness, businessmen who were not afraid of failure, dreamers who were not afraid of action.

—Brooks Atkinson

Risk takers seem to have an almost uncontrollable urge to go beyond established limits. They are uneasy about comfort; they live on the edge of their competence. They seem compelled to place themselves in situations in which they do not know what the outcome will be. They accept confusion, uncertainty, and the higher risks of failure as part of the normal process, and they learn to view setbacks as interesting, challenging, and growth producing. However, responsible risk takers do not behave impulsively. Their risks are educated. They draw on past knowledge, are thoughtful about consequences, and have a well-trained sense of what is appropriate. They know that all risks are not worth taking.

Risk takers can be considered in two categories: those who see the risk as a venture and those who see it as adventure. The venture part of risk taking might be described in terms of what a venture capitalist does. When a person is approached to take the risk of investing in a new business, she will look at the markets, see how well organized the ideas are, and study the economic projections. If she finally decides to take the risk, it is a well-considered one.

The adventure part of risk taking might be described by the experiences from Project Adventure. In this situation, there is spontaneity, a willingness to take a chance in the moment. Once again, a person will take the chance only if experiences suggest that the action will not be life threatening or if he believes that group support will protect him from harm (e.g., checking out the dimensions of weight, distance, and strength of a bungee cord before agreeing to the exhilaration of a drop). Ultimately, people learn from such high-risk experiences that they are far more able to take actions than they previously believed. Risk taking becomes educated only through repeated experiences. It often is a cross between intuition, drawing on past knowledge, striving for precision and accuracy, and a sense of meeting new challenges.

We hope that students will learn how to take intellectual as well as physical risks. Students who are capable of being different, going against the grain of common thinking, and thinking of new ideas (testing them with peers and teachers) are more likely to be successful in an age of innovation and uncertainty.

**Merit Awards**

K/1 Freya, Sam, Isabella
2/3/4 Cooper, Stella, Jake, Chloe
4/5/6 Elena, Emma, Huon, Jake

**May Birthdays**

Sam
Alicia
Grace
Laura
James
Huon
We love to hear about our current students and former students achievements. Send us an email and we will publish it in the school newsletter each fortnight.

Daniel Everingham competed at the Nationals held at Tamworth in early May; Daniel successfully took out the Under 11’s Paddy Ride with an impressive score of 72 points and winning a belt buckle.

We thought we should let you all know that Hannah (my daughter) and Eve D (who just left Otford Public School) are in a professional dance production at IPAC next weekend, May 17 and 18 in a contemporary piece about schizophrenia. Absolutely amazing!

Choreographer Eva Crainean used to be with Sydney Dance Co. Please support - grab a few girlfriends and check it out. They gave up school holidays to rehearse. They don’t get paid. They want to take it to Melbourne and Sydney, but need a good turnout to be able to do so (they don’t have the money otherwise).

Hannah wants to be a professional dancer. I’d love you to see it. I’m going both nights, and would love to meet any of you beforehand if you want?

Check out the link: http://merrigong.com.au

Check out the facebook page of Dansatori.

Hope you can come
Karen B

The Illawarra Youth Girls AFL invite all girls aged 12-16 to join them for season 2013!

First games are on Friday May 17 at North Dalton Park, Towradgi, under lights at 5.30pm. All games will be played on Friday nights in Shellharbour, Wollongong and Woonona. This is going to be a lot of fun and no experience is needed! Bring a team or bring yourself!

Only $50 for the entire season including a free football!

Mums and Dads - To register your interest go to girlsafi.com This is not a club registration – it just helps us to plan. Or contact Illawarra Youth Girls Coordinator, Jessie Mulholland on 0431 087 092 or iygafi@hotmail.com

CITYLIFE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
ADHD SUPPORT GROUP

Coffee and Drop in Morning
WHEN: Last Friday of the month - 10.30am – 12.00pm
WHERE: Citylife Church, 2/129 Jardine St (West end), Fairy Meadow 2519. Information: 0242844414, 0413048453 or 0434783710. Gold coin donations appreciated

Enrolments for next year - now is the time we start looking at Kindergarten enrolments for next year. If you know of anyone who may be coming can you ask them to visit the office to get an enrolment form.

GREAT NORTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT CAMP

The NRL will be conducting a Rugby League Development Camp this July School Holidays. This residential camp is for boys aged 10 to 14 years and is to be held at Berry Sports and Recreation Centre, Berry NSW.

Professional coaches will be on hand to instruct the players through an intensive program of Rugby League skill sessions. I would thoroughly recommend the camp to any aspiring Rugby League players.

If you are interested in attending - you can register online by going to www.greaternorthernRL.leagues.net.com.au or please complete the attached application form and return it along with the amount of $220.00 to the address shown as soon as possible.

Please note that positions are filled on a first in basis.

VENUE: Berry Sports and Recreation Centre, Berry NSW.
DATE: Monday 8th July to Wednesday 10th July
TIME: 10.00am Monday – 6pm Wednesday
AGE: 10 - 16 years (Turning 12 in 2012 is ok)
COST: $220.00 including GST

ALL CAMPER WILL RECEIVE:
- T-Shirt
- Cap
- Football
- Water Bottle
- Camp Group Photo
- Participation Certificate
- Top Class Coaching
- Comfortable Accommodation
- All meals provided
- Guest NRL Players

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO BRING WITH YOU THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:
- 2 pairs of casual shoes and a pillow or sleeping bag
- 1 bath towel and toiletries
- Swimming costumes
- Joggars & Football boots
- 3 days of clothing (1 T-shirts, shorts, socks, sufficient underwear and pajamas)
- Sun hat and sunscreen

For further information or to register online go to www.greaternorthernRL.leagues.net.com.au or you can contact Kelvin Edgerton on 0412 296 97

Proudly supported by
Bullying

What you can do to stop bullies – Be a supportive bystander

If you are being bullied or know or see someone being bullied, it is important that you read this fact sheet to find out how to be a supportive bystander. If you are being bullied and need help please contact a support service.

A bystander is someone who sees or knows about bullying or other forms of violence that is happening to someone else.

Bystanders can be either part of the bullying problem or an important part of the solution to stop bullying.

Bystanders can act in different ways when they see or know about bullying:
1. Some bystanders take the side of the bully by laughing at the victim, encouraging the bully or by passing on text messages or messages on social media sites like Facebook and YouTube
2. Some bystanders will give silent approval or encourage the bully by looking on
3. Some bystanders may watch or know about the bullying but don’t do anything. They may not know what to do or are scared. This group of bystanders knows that bullying is not ok.
4. Some bystanders will be supportive and take safe action to stop the bully, find help or support the victim

Supportive bystanders

Just as we have human rights we also have responsibilities to respect and protect the rights of others. A supportive bystander will take action to protect the rights of others.

A supportive bystander will use words and/or actions that can help someone who is being bullied.

If bystanders are confident to take safe and effective action to support victims then there is a greater possibility that bullying can stop and the person who is bullied can recover.

People respect those that stand up for others who are bullied but being a supportive bystander can be tough. Sometimes it is not easy to work out how to help safely because bullying happens in different ways and places such as online, at work or school.

There is no one size fits all approach to being a supportive bystander. For supportive bystanders to take safe and effective action here are some suggestions:
• Make it clear to your friends that you won’t be involved in bullying behaviour
• Never stand by and watch or encourage bullying behaviour
• Do not harass, tease or spread gossip about others, this includes on social networking sites like Facebook

• Never forward on or respond to messages or photos that may be offensive or upsetting
• Support the person who is being bullied to ask for help e.g. go with them to a place they can get help or provide them with information about where to go for help
• Report it to someone in authority or someone you trust e.g. at school to a teacher, or a school counsellor; at work to a manager; if the bullying is serious, report it to the police; if the bullying occurs on Facebook, report it to Facebook.

Get Help

If you have been bullied or witnessed others been bullied and need help contact:


Lifeline (13 11 14) is a free and confidential service staffed by trained telephone counsellors. http://www.lifeline.org.au

The Australian Human Rights Commission (1300 656 419) has a complaint handling service that may investigate complaints of discrimination, harassment and bullying http://www.humanrights.gov.au/complaints_information/index.html

Other useful resources

Download the Cyber-safety Help Button, a free Australian Government initiative, designed to keep children and families safe online.


To find out about cyberbullying and how to get help you can also go to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) Cybersmart Program


National Centre Against Bullying

http://www.ncab.org.au

The Australian Human Rights Commission has information on cyber racism and actions that can be taken to report cyber racism.


Think U Know conducts internet safety programs and provides advice for teachers, parents and carers.

http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/site/