Calendar Week 5

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>Thursday 30 May</td>
<td>P &amp; C Art Show</td>
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<td>Friday 31 May</td>
<td>4/5/6 Touch Football</td>
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<td>Wednesday 5 June</td>
<td>ICAS – Science</td>
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<td>Friday 7 June</td>
<td>4/5/6 Touch Football</td>
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<td>Friday 14 June</td>
<td>Sml Schools Soccer Gala Day</td>
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<td>Monday 17 June</td>
<td>ICAS – Writing</td>
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<td>Tuesday 18 June</td>
<td>ICAS - Spelling</td>
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<td>Wednesday 19 June</td>
<td>Sml Schools Athletics Carnival</td>
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Principal's Message
Welcome back Mrs Marshall who had a well-deserved break!

NAPLAN
Well NAPLAN is over for another year. Well done everyone for your sensible approach to the assessments carried out on Tuesday 14 May. Thank you everyone else for being so flexible and understanding the need to be quiet during assessment times.

Soccer
On Tuesday 21 May Otford PS soccer team travelled to Ocean Park Woonona to play Woonona PS in a PSSA Knockout competition. Woonona were just too good for us on the day, but everyone played extremely well as a team. Congratulations everyone on a wonderful effort. A special mention must go to Lachlan Mc for scoring the only Otford goal. I also need to thank five members of our team who trained, coordinated and planned strategic positions for 20 participants, which is no mean feat in itself. Thank you Lachlan Mc, Lachlan C, Nathan, Joel and Jake. We wouldn’t have got there without you.

Kevin Butler
Last Thursday, Kevin Butler, a well respected Aboriginal artist came to our school. We discussed and planned for some artworks to be placed around our school. Kevin used the Interactive White Board to showcase his beautiful artwork that is displayed in other local schools around the Illawarra. Kevin has agreed to work with our students every Wednesday over the next three weeks, with the exception of the Athletics Carnival on Wednesday 19 June. He has suggested that we have a great unveiling of the artwork on Wednesday 26 June. He would like to invite the community and other Aboriginal elders to visit Otford in the lead up to NAIDOC week, which is in the holidays. There are certainly exciting times ahead. Planning has already started!

Otford Art Show – It's on Tonight!!
5.00 - 7.30pm
The budding artists at Otford Public School have been very busy producing some fantastic art work. Come to the 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, to help the children paint a mural for the school.

Please come and join us!
Touch Football
Unfortunately PSSA Touch Football was called off due to inclement weather last Friday, but everyone is excited and ready to go this week. Thank you to the parents who said they could assist with transport. A note was sent home on Tuesday to remind you who you are. See you Friday at 12.00pm to travel to St James Park Coledale. Go OTFORD!

Book Fair
Mrs Dufty coordinated the Book Fair on Monday with many parents having the opportunity to purchase a book or two. Thank you to the parents who also purchased a book for the school library. Your very generous gesture is very much appreciated! Books are still available until this Friday 31 May before being sent back. Get in quick! See Mrs Marshall if you wish to purchase anymore books.

Athletics Carnival
Our athletics carnival will be held on Wednesday 19 June. Notes will be sent home soon as soon as costings have been finalised. Everyone is expected to travel to the venue by bus.

Reports
Teachers are busy finalising assessments and have started writing reports. Reports will be sent home on Wednesday 26 June, but if you have any concerns before then please don’t hesitate to contact the school to make an appointment to see your child’s teacher.

Kindergarten 2014
If you have a child starting Kindergarten in 2014 could you please let the office know. Also, if you have any neighbours that you know will have students starting school in 2014 please pass on that information.
Finding Humor

You can increase your brain power three to fivefold simply by laughing and having fun before working on a problem.
—Doug Hall

Why we laugh, no one really knows. Laughing is an instinct that can be traced to chimps, and it may reinforce our social status (Hubert, 2007). Humor is a human form of mutual playfulness. Beyond the fact that laughing is enjoyable, it may have medicinal value as well. Laughing, scientists have discovered, has positive effects on physiological functions: blood vessels relax, stress hormones disperse, and the immune system gets a boost, including a drop in the pulse rate. Laughter produces secretion of endorphins and increased oxygen in the blood. Humor has been found to have psychological benefits as well. It liberates creativity and provokes such higher-level thinking skills as anticipating, finding novel relationships, visual imaging, and making analogies. People who engage in the mystery of humor have the ability to perceive situations from an original and often interesting vantage point. They tend to initiate humor more often, to place greater value on having a sense of humor, to appreciate and understand others' humor, and to be verbally playful when interacting with others. Having a whimsical frame of mind, they thrive on finding incongruity; perceiving absurdities, ironies, and satire; finding discontinuities; and being able to laugh at situations and themselves.

Some students find humor in all the wrong places—human differences, ineptitude, injurious behavior, vulgarity, violence, and profanity. They employ laughter to humiliate others. They laugh at others yet are unable to laugh at themselves. We want students to acquire the habit of finding humor in a positive sense so they can distinguish between those situations of human frailty and fallibility that require compassion and those that truly are funny (Dyer, 1997).

Thinking Interdependently

Take care of each other. Share your energies with the group. No one must feel alone, cut off, for that is when you do not make it.
—Willie Unsoeld, mountain climber

Humans are social beings. We congregate in groups, find it therapeutic to be listened to, draw energy from one another, and seek reciprocity. In groups we contribute our time and energy to tasks that we would quickly tire of when working alone. In fact, solitary confinement is one of the cruelest forms of punishment that can be inflicted on an individual.

Collaborative humans realize that all of us together are more powerful, intellectually or physically, than any one individual. Probably the foremost disposition in our global society is the heightened ability to think in concert with others, to find ourselves increasingly more interdependent and sensitive to the needs of others. Problem solving has become so complex that no one person can go it alone. No one has access to all the data needed to make critical decisions; no one person can consider as many alternatives as several people.

Some students may not have learned to work in groups; they have underdeveloped social skills. They feel isolated, and they prefer solitude. They say things like "Leave me alone—I'll do it by myself," "They just don't like me," or "I want to be alone." Some students seem unable to contribute to group work and are job hogs; conversely, other students let all the others in a group do all the work.

Working in groups requires the ability to justify ideas and to test the feasibility of solution strategies on others. It also requires developing a willingness and an openness to accept feedback from a critical friend. Through this interaction, the group and the individual continue to grow. Listening, consensus
seeking, giving up an idea to work with someone else’s, empathy, compassion, group leadership, knowing how to support group efforts, altruism—all are behaviors indicative of cooperative human beings.

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**Woolworths Earn & Learn**

From **Monday 8 April** until **Sunday 9 June 2013**, when you shop at Woolworths you will be given a Woolworths Earn & Learn Point. There’ll be one Woolworths Earn & Learn Point for every $10 spent. Collect these Woolworths Earn & Learn Points and our school will be able to redeem these for educational resources. Woolworths at Engadine will have a box for Otford Public School at the checkouts. Just pop your point sheets into the box and they will be added to our total points, or bring them into the school office.

**Helensburgh Public School P&C Car Boot Sale - Sunday, 2 June, 9am to 1pm**

Fill your car with all those old books, CDs, toys, knick-knacks, unwanted presents, too small kids’ clothes and book a site at our car boot sale for only $20, as we transform the playground into a car bazaar! No trucks or trailers, but you can bring a table. No food or drinks - the P&C is catering (mmmm - bbq!). This will be a great family day, with something for everyone, so book a site by contacting Susan on 0409 661 169 or start saving your pennies for that treasure you know you will find!