Wednesday 26 June 2013

Calendar Week 9

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Principal’s Message

Well Term 2 is almost at an end! Looking back on the term, we have been very busy!

Small Schools Soccer Knockout

On Friday 14 June Years 5 and 6 travelled to Galston Park, Hornsby for a Small Schools Soccer Knockout Gala Day. Otford played Avoca and won 3-1. Wyong Creek played Hillside and won 3-0. Otford then played Wyong Creek and continued our successful run by winning 3-0. All goals were scored by Lachlan Mc with a fantastic team effort by all. Joel was exceptional in goals with his green gardening gloves, the only goalie gloves we could find. Well done team! We are now in advance of the draw and will have to wait and see where to next!

Athletics Carnival

A HUGE thank you to the Otford community! Without your assistance our Athletics Carnival would not have been a success. Thank you for the feedback about what a wonderful day it was, despite the very shaky start. It is the first time we have tried this format and we would be very keen for your thoughts on how we can improve again for next year. Due to the hectic nature of schools around report time, the results of the carnival and who was successful in getting to the District will be announced next term. District Day 1 will be Monday 22 July and Day 2 Wednesday 24 July. If you think you may have been successful mark these dates in your calendar.

Rugby Backyard League

On Thursday 20 June our school had a visit from the St George Illawarra Dragons to present a number of workshops on skill development for sport. They presented the school with three footballs, Rugby League magazines and posters. A great time was had by all!

Reports

Reports went home today. If you have any concerns regarding your child’s report please do not hesitate to make an appointment with your child’s teacher to discuss either this week or early next term.

School Murals

Thanks to the wonderful fund raising efforts of the P & C we have been privileged to have Kevin Butler working in the school over the last few weeks. Kevin has been working tirelessly with our students to create three murals which will take pride of place in our school grounds. Kevin and I have planned an unveiling of the murals on Wednesday 31 July. He has offered to invite local Aboriginal elders to attend. At this stage draft plans include having a ‘special lunch’ then an afternoon tea for our special visitors leading into the unveiling assembly under the COLA between 2-3.00 pm. Details to follow, but put this date on your calendar. We thank Kevin for his hard work! I am sure he will be looking forward to a well-deserved break over the holidays.
Leadership Day
Our school leaders for Term 3 are Emma, Alex and Gus. They will attend a special Leadership Day being held at Bulli High this Thursday 27 June. I am sure they will get a lot out of the day. Have fun!

Last Day of School
This Friday 28 June is the last day of school. Teachers will return to school on Monday 15 July and will be attending Scarborough Public School for a combined School Development Day along with Coledale Public School. Students return to school on Tuesday 16 July. Happy holidays everyone!

OC Test
OC test for those students who have applied is Wednesday 24 July. Details of where and times will follow. Good luck!

Education Week
Education Week commences Monday 29 July. We will incorporate Grandparents Day sometime during the week. Staff will discuss organisational issues next term and let you know the details when finalised.

Community of Schools Education Day
Education Week commences on Monday 29 July. We will plan our own school activities for parents to attend with details to follow. However, our Seacliff Community of Schools applied for and were successful in obtaining a grant to put together a project for Education Week. On Thursday 1 August nine schools will be involved in an Indigenous Games day held at seven schools. The theme is “Learning Together” and commences at 11.00am and finishes at 1.00pm.

Hosting Schools
1. Austinmer PS – Kinder 5. Bulli PS – Year 4
2. Helensburgh PS – Year 1 6. Thirroul PS – Year 5
4. Coledale PS – Year 3

Program Overview
9:15am – 10.45am Buses pick up and drop off as set out on bus organisation schedule
11:00am – 12:30pm Yalunga Traditional Indigenous Games Rotations
12:30pm – 1:00pm Sausage Sizzle Lunch
1:00pm – 2:30pm Buses pick up and return to home schools.

Debating and Public Speaking
The Seacliff Community of Schools Debating and Public Speaking competitions will commence in Term 3. If you have a talent in this area start practicing. Classes will be running their in school programs next term with a view to finding a representative in Stage 1,2 and 3. We hope to have a debating team made up of students in years 5 and 6.

Class Action
Class Action is an exciting project which offers primary and high schools the opportunity to produce their own “mini newspaper” in the Illawarra Mercury every Tuesday. Otford Public School’s article will be published in the Mercury on Tuesday 3 September. As part of the project, every school which takes part receives a free subscription to the Mercury for 10 weeks leading up to the publication. Free newspapers are available daily to our community, come in and grab one. They are kept in the foyer of the school office.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
Premier’s Reading Challenge closes on Friday 30 September so if you haven’t started - Get reading!

Premier’s Sporting Challenge
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 Mondays and each class will update their activity log as an individual, a class and as a school. Come on OTFORD we can do it!

Lesley Matthews
Principal

Awesome Attendance

We have 3 students who have had no days absent for this semester. Congratulations to the following students: Oliver C, Lachie C & Gus.
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.

**Well done Huon!!**
Huon’s representative hockey team won their division in Sydney a couple of weeks ago. He is now off to Tamworth to compete this weekend. Good luck 😊

**K/1 Bronze Awards**
Isabella, Eadie, Freya, Soraya, James, Joshua & Ava

*Congratulations everyone 😊*

**ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS JULY HOLIDAY CLINICS**

LOOKING FOR A FUN DAY OUT THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS? WHY NOT EXPERIENCE RUGBY LEAGUE FIRST HAND AND MEET SOME DRAGONS AT THE SAME TIME.

THE DRAGONS AND NRL ARE CONDUCTING TWO CLINICS THIS JULY; HEAD TO DRAGONS.COM.AU/CLINICS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

**This July school holidays** Join the Artspace Artists and invited guests for Music, Filmmaking, Jewellery and Fashion design, Architecture, Sculpture, Painting, Theatre, Drawing, Book Making and so much more!

It’s at our Studio in Corrimal and it’s for kids aged 3-13yrs. Bookings essential! Artspace places are limited so get in quick. To book, complete the enrolment form on our website, or call Artspace on 4283 9967. Follow this link to see the Artspace School Holidays Program - Artspace School Holidays Program

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**K/1**
Edward & Freya

2/3/4
Jack, Florian & Oliver

4/5/6
Lachlan Mc, Gus & Chloe

**Merit Awards**

**News Flash**

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Huon’s representative hockey team won their division in Sydney a couple of weeks ago. He is now off to Tamworth to compete this weekend. Good luck 😊

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**Community News**

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*Congratulations everyone 😊*
Schoolkids Bonus

The second instalment of the Schoolkids Bonus will be paid in July and eligible families who have not updated their child’s education details with Centrelink have until 29 June to do so to ensure they receive the correct payment in July. Eligible families who have updated their child’s education details with Centrelink do not have to do anything. This means eligible families will have extra money on hand to help with mid-year and ongoing education expenses, like school excursions, winter uniforms, new stationery and other school supplies. We have a range of information materials, including:

- an information brochure and factsheet (in English and ten languages)
- a pathfinder to help families understand if they are eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus

You can download these materials at australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus. Hardcopies of the brochure and factsheet are also available (free of charge) and can be ordered by contacting us at schoolkidsbonus@fahcsia.gov.au