Calendar Week 5

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Principal’s Message
Well it is now Week 5! I can’t believe that we are almost half way through the term. Once again we have had a busy two weeks since the last newsletter.

What a FANTASTIC day everyone had visiting other schools in our Seacliff Community of Schools Yalunga Indigenous Games Day, to celebrate Education Week on Thursday 1 August. Everyone came back to school with lots of stories to tell. Congratulations teachers and students for not getting on the wrong bus and being able to follow some very explicit instructions to ensure that day went off without a hitch. We can thank our lucky stars that we had such beautiful weather. There were 2938 students from 9 schools moved by MANY buses to 7 schools on the day. WOW! There is a lot to be said for Public Education!!!!

On Tuesday 6 August we had our annual Surf Safety talk. It is an essential part of our PD/Health/PE syllabus and a timely reminder of how to look after ourselves when the summer sun hits us once again.

On Wednesday 7 August our Otford debating team-Joel, Jake, Griffin and Alex took on Helensburgh and won. The debate - That everyone should become a vegetarian. Congratulations boys your arguments were very convincing opposing this concept. My apologies to all the vegetarians in our school community! Our debate today was - Primary school children are becoming too reliant on technology. We were the affirmative team but unfortunately we didn’t win. We were in very close competition with Stanwell Park and were just pipped at the post. The debating finals will be held at Bulli High School on Tuesday 10 September - Let’s hope we get there! No pressure boys!!!!

Southern Stars - Expressions of Interest
The annual Southern Stars concert is the biggest musical event on the South Coast school calendar, and this year the show has a newspaper flavour. Featuring over 3000 young people, all choreographed and in costume, the event is a chance to showcase the singing and dancing skills of our primary and secondary public school students in the New South Wales South Coast. This year the theme is ‘Extra’ as the show flicks through a broadsheet newspaper and its transition into the digital world. Tickets are $20 for the schools matinee Performance on Friday 30 August. If you are interested in attending, please return the note, which has been sent home today, to the school office. If we have enough people interested we will also need to organize parent transport.

Next Monday 19 August is a very special day! We are celebrating Grandparents Day and Book Week. Please remember to put this date on your calendar. Grandparents and visitors are invited into our classrooms from 10.00-10.30am. We will then have our Book Character Parade (don’t forget to dress up as your favourite book character) from 10.30-11.15am. We would then like everyone to stay and have lunch with us. Please bring a yummy packed lunch to have with your grandchild. Tea and coffee will be provided in the Special Purpose Room. We look forward to you visiting!!!!!
Drama Night Date Change
Due to unforeseen circumstances we are changing our Drama night from Thursday 19 September to Wednesday 18 September. Sorry for any inconvenience. Karen Cobban.

Special Lunch
On Wednesday 21 August the P & C will be making a Japanese lunch. Order forms have been handed out and they need to be returned to the school office by Thursday 15 August.

JollyBops Science Show
The JollyBops Science Show is a character based science show, bringing science alive for primary school students through exciting, stimulating and interactive demonstrations. The shows combine colourful and explosive demonstration, witty one liners, scientific dialogue and even science songs for the younger audiences. On Tuesday 27 August JollyBops will be here at Otford. The show will commence at 9.00am sharp, students will need to be at school at 8.45am. The cost of the show is $9.00 per student. A permission note has been sent home today.

Public Speaking
The finals will be held at Austinmer Public School on Tuesday 17 September. Years 4-5-6 have been asked to prepare their Public Speaking speech by Monday 19 August, Week 6. Check with your child's class teacher for when their speech is due. Years 4/5/6 need their speeches ready by next Monday 19 August.

Premier’s Reading Challenge closes on Friday 30 September so if you haven’t started - get reading! Student Reading Records must be entered online by parents. There is a Personal Reading Log print out to record what you read until you get time to enter your books online.

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!

Bulli High School Information
Uniform Shop Orders for Year 7 2014. Wednesday 9 October from 3.00-5.30pm is the fitting date and time for Otford Public School students.

Lesley Matthews
Principal

Maritime Museum Photos
More photos are on our school website.
Endeavour and Maritime Museum Excursion

Last Thursday, Years 3 to 6 went on an excursion to Sydney. We left on the bus at eight o’clock and stopped at the Maritime Museum. We saw Aboriginal paintings and learned all about their culture. Every painting told a story or a lesson. In one room we got to draw our favourite place using patterns and symbols. The museum had so many interesting things to look at. There was a large wooden anchor, a gigantic light from a lighthouse, a tapestry and a sculpture of a whaling boat, a model ship inside a bottle and lots of pictures and information on the walls.

After lunch we went on a warship called “The Vampire”. It was really rocky. Inside was dark and the walkways were claustrophobic. We went into a room that was filled with lots of beds, but the beds didn’t have railings, so if you rolled in the night you would fall off. Every door had giant steps so high that I nearly fell over. We explored the ship and the bridge. The 4/5/6 class even went to look at the enormous guns at the front of the ship.

Our next adventure was on the Endeavour. We had to go down this very, very, very steep staircase where we studied plankton through microscopes with marine biologists. From there we had to crawl into little rooms and down a pathway into a room with a low roof. There we saw a cosy hammock with lots of blankets and a piece of paper covered in information about discovering new plants. Then in the Captain’s room we became botanists and investigated Banksia plants. We even got to fire a paperball out of a canon. It was very loud.

Even though it was a bit wet and cold the harbour looked fabulous and the whole day was spectacular. Everyone thought it was the best excursion Otford has ever had.

By Stella

Maritime Museum Excursion

On Thursday 8/8/13, the children from years 3-6 travelled to the Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour in Sydney. We travelled on the bus. It was a loud but fun trip. When we arrived, we had our morning snack and were attacked by seagulls. After we had finished our snacks, we broke into two groups and headed into the Art Gallery to look at some Aboriginal artworks with our teacher guides Beryl and Graham. They were all so detailed and our guides told us lots of interesting facts about the artworks. After our tour, we made our way into the craft room and we each created a number of clever designs.

After we had finished our activities with Beryl and Graham, we had some lunch and then made our way onto the destroyer, Vampire. It was cool! We even had the opportunity to sit in the captain’s chair on the bridge of the ship. After exploring the Vampire, we headed onto the Endeavour.

On the Endeavour, we met the staff and did some interesting scientific activities on board. We looked at some microorganisms under a microscope and counted how many different organisms we saw on a special counter. Up in Captain Cook’s and Joseph Banks’ quarters, we studied two different types of banksias, particularly, their leaves and noted their different characteristics.

We then moved up onto the deck and watched the cannon being loaded and fired. It was very loud but great!! They also explained and demonstrated to each group how the ship’s speed came to be measured in knots and how they sounded the ocean’s depth.

After that we just looked at the beautiful view and took a lot of photos. It was excellent going under the Harbour Bridge. It looked like we were going to snap off the mast, but we didn’t!

Finally, we arrived back at the wharf. The boat is difficult to manoeuvre so they needed a little speedboat to bump it into the wharf. We moored, thanked the captain, sailors and scientists for a great adventure with a big clap and cheer. We then disembarked, all loaded onto the bus and travelled back to school. It was a really fun day that everyone enjoyed!!

By Chloe and Ruth
Make sure you like the Otford Public School Facebook page. This page is run by the P & C.

OPS School Fete
Chocolate Toss Stand
We are running a stand at our upcoming school fete that requires loads of chocolate bars to make it a huge fundraising success. We are seeking parents support to gain as much chocolate as possible by running a few mufti days and all that is required is a donation of chocolate on each mufti day. So please put Wednesday 7 August, Thursday 29 August and Wednesday 11 September in your diary and start bulk buying your chocolate now!

You can donate any type/flavour of chocolate block but please ensure its large enough (e.g. family sized block of chocolate approx. size 200g) for a $1 coin to land on, as that is the game – players toss a coin and if it lands on the chocolate, they win it.

If you forget to buy the chocolate (or eat it before the day!) then a gold coin donation would be appreciated instead which will go towards buying chocolate for the stand. If you have any questions, call Monica Wendt 42948101. Thanking you all in advance.

White Elephant Stall
Please save any bric a brac, kids and adults clothing, books, magazines, toys and anything that might be used for our white elephant stall for this year’s fete. Goods can be dropped off at the school office and placed in the marked bag.

Thanks for your help,
Bronwyn and Madeline.

MindQuest 2013
ST GEORGE GIRLS HS
VICTORIA ST KOGARAH
On Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September 2013 the 70th NSW Talent Enrichment Weekend MindQuest will be held for primary students from Years 1-6 at St George Girls HS. These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with above average ability with a special interest. Students will have an opportunity to participate in over 38 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, drama, lego robotics, art and much more, much more. Many of these highly successful courses have been run in the past and students’ evaluations suggest that they have been challenged and enriched by the experience. The cost of the weekend is $170 (including GST). Contact Otford Public School Office for a brochure. Closing Date: Friday 16 August

Scarborough ArtShow
The annual Scarborough Art Show is being held this year on the weekend of 5/6 October 2013. The Art Show will again feature the ArtsSpark competition which seeks young talented students attending public schools in the Northern Illawarra to submit an entry. The theme for this year’s exhibition is ‘Water’.

If your child would like to enter please come and get an entry form from the school office. All art works will need to be returned to school by Thursday 12 September.
Helensburgh Lions Club Annual Fair

Our annual fair will be held on Saturday 26 October in Charles Harper Park with loads of new stalls, a fantastic line-up of entertainment, delicious food and new rides. The Lions Club will be holding a second-hand book and CD stall and would love your donations of good quality books and unscratched CDs. Remember, all money raised by your local Lions is spent on community initiatives and selected national and international programs, so help us raise some serious money and clear out your dusty bookshelves at the same time! Any book and CD donation can be left at Civic Video and the Lions would like to thank Nicola, Zoe and the Civic team for their generous support and space :) Contact Gina on 4294 1371 or at nhork@yahoo.com for more information.

Govinda Valley’s Annual Springfest

SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

11.00 am: “SPRINGFEST” STARTS

The day will feature inspiring talks, mind blowing entertainment and a sumptuous banquet!

12pm Welcome address

By Govinda Valley Director Andre Melis.

12.10pm Guest Speakers

12.40pm Yoga demonstration

Mahayogi Gokul - Famous International yogi and guest presenter Mahayogi Gokul will inspire us with an awesome display of what can be accomplished through the intense physical practice of hatha yoga.

1pm Mohini Cox on stage

Mohini Cox will perform an incredible mix of her own music and devotional songs.

2pm Vegetarian banquet

Experience Govinda Valley’s exquisite cuisine. A highlight of the day!

3pm “Sri Prahlad Kirtan Band”

Sri Prahlada was practically born into kirtan and has been singing and leading kirtan across the globe since childhood. Now based in Sydney, Sri Prahlada often performs with local musicians, blending a fusion of traditional instruments with rhythmic base and acoustic guitar, melodic flute, trumpet & saxophone.

4pm End of Springfest

See you next year! Safe travels home.

Coalcliff Nippers every 2nd Sunday Rego Online at www.coalcliffslsc.com.au or (10am to 12) at Helensburgh Sat 31 Aug & Sat 7 Sept or at Coalcliff on Sun 1 & 8 Sept.

Why not come and join us this summer for Nippers at Stanwell Park Beach

We are welcoming any child between the age of 5 and 13

The 2013/2014 Season will commence

Sunday 13 October 2013

Registration can be completed either via

The Club webpage www.stanwellparksurfclub.com

or

Registration Days

Saturday 7 September 2013 – 9am till 12 noon

Outside Pizzarama, Walker Street, Helensburgh

or

Saturday 14 September 2013 – 10am till 1pm

Helensburgh/Stanwell Park Surf Life Saving Club

Beach Road, Stanwell Park

Please note: For all new memberships please bring your child’s birth certificate to registration.

Membership renewals are required by 30/9/13 or a late payment fee will apply.

Please feel free to contact the Junior if you have any questions on executisl@stanwellparksurfclub.com

www.stanwellparksurfclub.com.au

Nan Tien Happy Camp

Clay Sculpting / Printmaking/3D Arts/Storytelling/Drama/ Puppetry

Venue: Nan Tien Temple, 180 Berkely Rd, Berkeley NSW 2506

Date: Saturday, 21st September 2013

Time: 9:30am (Registration at Dining Hall)

Ages: 5~12 years old

Cost: $10 per attendee (including morning tea, vegetarian lunch and refreshment)

NOTE: Activities indoor & outdoor, so please wear appropriate comfortable clothing, secure footwear, socks, hats/sunscreen please!

Parents/Guardians are kindly invited to share and supervise the learning and fun time with your children. Other family members and friends are most welcome.

When lunch comes home ... again

Almost nine out of 10 Australian parents say children's resistance is a major obstacle in their efforts to provide a healthy diet, and in many cases school lunches are one of the battlegrounds. But it’s a battle families can do without and there are some simple steps to help avoid it. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/when-lunch-comes-homeagain
School attendance is important. Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps to build and maintain friendships with other children.

If children miss the basic skills in the early years of school, they often experience difficulties in coping with their schoolwork in later years.

You can help your child by getting involved with their learning right from the start and encouraging them to go to school.

What does my child’s teacher have to do?
Teachers at school will:

- Mark attendance rolls every day
- Request a note of explanation if your child has been absent
- Inform the relevant contact person if your child is absent
- Make phone calls home to check on your child’s wellbeing if your child is absent a lot

Please make sure that your school has your up-to-date daytime contact details.

What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?
It is important to let the school know when your child will be away and why your child is absent.
Please provide a written note explaining the absence or contact the school by telephone.
Any absence from school needs to be explained within seven days of the absence.

In NSW, all children between six and 15 years of age* are required to attend school regularly. (Education Act 1990)

As a parent or caregiver, you have a responsibility to ensure that your child attends school every day.

*Current as of October 2008. Please check the compulsory school age with your local public school.

Today all students from K-6 have been given a yoga session.
Thank you for your time Andrea.