Calendar Week 9-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17 September</td>
<td>Public Speaking @ Austinmer Public School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18 September</td>
<td>Drama Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20 September</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8 October</td>
<td>Term 4 Begins – Students Return to School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 19 October</td>
<td>School Fair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Principal’s Message
Another busy fortnight for the students and the community of Otford Public School!
First of all a HUGE congratulations to our debating team - Griffin, Joel, Jake C and Alex who represented us extremely well throughout the Seacliff Community of Schools Debating competition. They were very unlucky to miss out on making the finals.
The finals were held yesterday at Bulli High School between Stanwell Park representing the Northern Division, and Waniora representing the Southern Division.
An email last night confirmed that Stanwell Park was victorious! Congratulations!

Class Action
Congratulations to everyone in Years 4/5/6 for your outstanding work on compiling the articles that were printed in the Otford Oracle last Tuesday. It was a very impressive spread. If you missed it you can read it on the website!

Coastal Classic
Last Saturday 7 September we once again had the Coastal Classic run by Maximum Adventure Sports who coordinated a couple of hundred runners to start the race at our school. They run through the Royal National Park to Bundeena. Thank you Maximum Adventure for your donation to our school.

Election Day
Last Saturday as you all know was Election Day. I was approached on Friday 6 September by a couple of very enthusiastic parents, Bronwyn and Shane, asking if they could coordinate a bbq/cake stall while the school was being used as a polling booth. It was an opportunity too good to miss! What a FANTASTIC result!
I believe you raised over $400. Thank you to your wonderful helpers - Dan, Adam, Madeline and Amanda; cake makers - Kellie, Ahn and Pauline. And once again thank you to Shane and Amanda who donated eggs, onions and avocados for the event. What a wonderful team at such short notice! Your time and enthusiasm is very much appreciated by your school and the P & C! However, I am NOT responsible for the very amusing photo of a group of dads in aprons! Thanks Amanda!

Drama Night
Term 3 is fast drawing to a close, but there is still plenty of frenzied activity happening in classrooms. I am hinting of course at Drama Night which is on next Wednesday 18 September commencing at 6.30 pm. Students need to be at school by 6.00 pm. It is probably a good idea to get here early for a good seat. Even though the weather has been fantastic over the past few days, bring something warm with you as it can still be cool in the evenings. I am certainly looking forward to everyone’s performance! Don’t forget to save the date! See you there!
Public Speaking
Next **Tuesday 17 September** is the Seacliff Community of Schools Public Speaking Competition which is being held at **Austinmer Public School**. We wish our representatives - Stage 3 - Griffin; Stage 2 - Huon and last year’s winner of Stage 1- Oliver B, good luck.

Student Teacher
Over the past four weeks 2/3/4 have enjoyed having pre-service teacher Mr Pat Lantry, teaching and learning with us. I wish Pat every success in his final year of study. He will be a wonderful teacher who cares about and motivates his students. **Janelle Cudmore**.

Here are some of the students’ comments:

“I liked doing the ‘Habits of Mind’ where you had to make the blocks of ten into a tower. We used the Habit ‘Thinking interdependently’, which means teamwork.” Finlay

“I liked making the block snake in my group and it taught us to persist and never give up.” Jack

“I liked doing the maths game ‘Double Trouble’ and I became better at doubles and adding up.” Olivia

Yoga
We would like to thank Andrea for teaching us Yoga each Wednesday.

Here are some of the students’ comments:

“It was excellent and I found a new way to go to sleep.” Oliver

“I liked the yoga poses and my favourite one was the downward facing dog.” Rhys

“I liked the tree, bridge & rock game because it was fun and it was hard to hold the pose for a long time.” Stella

By 2/3/4 & Mrs Cudmore

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Otford Spring Fair
Things are starting to heat up! You will notice in this week’s newsletter that there have been a number of requests made for items such as chocolate, bottles and plants. Over the next few weeks and into next term your assistance would be greatly appreciated. An event such as a school fair only comes together with the help of many. I know that many parents have already been working frantically behind the scenes coordinating stalls, activities, waste management, entertainment etc. Even if you can help in any way it would greatly appreciated. We are only a small community, but it would be great if we could share the load. Shortly rosters for assistance on the day will be available. If you can roster yourself for even a couple of hours on a stall everyone gets to have some down time and enjoy the fair themselves. Hope you can help! As the old adage says - many hands make light work! Let’s see if we can make this happen. Thank you to all the coordinators behind the scenes who have already been hard at work for months.

Late Attendance
It has come to my attention that a number of children consistently arrive late to school. Students should arrive at school by at least by **8.45 am** each day to have time to socialise with their peers before school starts. It is an important part of the day! If for some reason you are late please have your child enter the room **quietly** without disrupting the class who have already started their learning for the day. Please do **not** engage the teacher in conversation.

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**OTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL FAIR**

**SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER**

Hello Parents,

As you know our School Fair is coming up Saturday 19 October!

The P&C team have been busy for the last few months organising the stalls, entertainment and logistics for this huge event. Thanks to everyone who has put in their time and effort!
We would like to ask for some help as we come closer to the day...
Much of the organisation has been done, mostly we need people to volunteer their time on the day...even an hour or two to help out on a stall would be fantastic!

A roster will go up on the 2/3/4 noticeboard shortly or you can contact the stall organisers directly.

**Cake Stall:** Kellie and Liz would love some helpers to work on the stall with them! Liz Turner 0459 517 625  
Kellie Bollard 0408 436 819  
They will be selling local home grown produce, so if you have any fruit, veg or herbs to donate, start growing now!  
If you have chooks, there will be egg cartons available from October for egg donation. Homemade jams, pickles and chutneys are welcome, as are any small glass jars.  
Of course, they need home baked goodies to sell on the day too. Cellophane wrap and cake boxes will be available from the office during October.

**Plant Stall:** Narelle would like any home grown seedlings or cuttings to sell on the day. Narelle Happ 0404 123 747

**Food at the Fair:** This year we will be offering a variety of food at the fair and hope that many people will be tempted to stay for lunch and/or pick up a takeaway for dinner!  
All of the food will be prepared in advance but we need volunteers to help out on the stalls, reheating and serving food throughout the day.  
Please contact:  
Karen Barnett Curry Stall 0466 418 824  
Amanda Roberts Salad Bar, Pulled Pork Rolls and Sausage Sizzle 0424 471 080

**Chocolate Stall:** Blocks of Chocolate still required.  
Monica Wendt 0418 600 698

**Bottle Stall:** Bottles of things like wine, olives, chutney, maple syrup, body wash, soft drink, bubble bath...anything you would love to win yourself!  
Donations box in the school office.  
Kaz McDougall 0403 789 617

**Tie Dye Stall:** any large plastic containers/tubs for the dyeing and rinsing of garments are required.  
Andrea O'Brien 0411 346 386

**White Elephant Stall:** any items of second hand treasure required! Magazines, kids toys and clothing, bric a brac, ladies clothing especially required! Collection box in the school office.  
Bronwyn Xavier 0450 590 515  
Madeline Bronar 0402 005 767

**Raffle:** The Raffle team are hard at work collecting donations. The more prizes the merrier! If you can make a donation or assist in collecting/visiting businesses, please call Sheree Host 0402 977 612

**Entertainment:** If you can spare an hour or two helping out with any of the entertainment events; sack races, tin can alley, tug-o-war...  
Tin cans required (440g baked bean tins ideal!), donations can be left at the school office.  
Hayley Moriarty 0409 660 469

**Miscellaneous:** Eskies will be needed for the drinks stalls: see Amanda or Liz

Thanks everyone for your ongoing support, and we look forward to hearing from you!

Liz Turner  
P&C President

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**PLANTS, PLANTS, PLANTS!**

Plants and pots needed for the Otford Fair.  
Seedlings, potted plants, glazed and terracotta pots and a couple of helpers on the day needed.  
**Happy to pick up.**  
Please contact Narelle (Griffin and Freya’s Mum)  
0404 123 747
SCHOOL’S OUT TOO OFTEN FOR PAMPERED STUDENTS

Rampant absenteeism is crippling the academic performance of thousands of students and contributing to Australia’s slide in the international education rankings.

Parents and educators are so concerned about the levels of school absenteeism they have called for a community campaign to ensure children attend class every day.

However, schools have revealed they are not only grappling with hardened young truants – parents are also increasingly encouraging their children to skip class to go shopping, attend a birthday party or take an early holiday.

A major study of 415,000 school students conducted over five years to 2012, Student Attendance and Educational Outcomes: Every Day Counts has linked increasing rates of absenteeism with declining scores in national literacy and numeracy tests.

The study conducted for the federal government by the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in Western Australia warns: “Parents need to be aware that when their child misses school it can have an ongoing impact on their learning.”

They (the Telethon Institute) have found a direct link between student absenteeism and NAPLAN scores. It’s a worry. We have a target to be in the top five countries in the world (for education) but if you want to lift the performance of students then they have to be at school every day,” he said.

“Schools and parents need to know that school is for the full year – it needs to be a partnership between parents, students and schools”, said Rachel Sowden, spokeswoman for the Federation of Parents and Citizens’ Association.

Visit your local bush fire brigade on Open Day – 28 September 2013

Otford RFS Brigade will be participating in our State wide NSW RFS Open Day. The Open Day is a chance to meet the volunteers who protect your community, as well as learn more about preparing for bush fires. As you all know the Bushfire season has already begun with numerous large fires, this week alone. To learn more about your local Brigade, how to protect your home and to keep your family safe, including creating your own Bushfire Survival plan, please pop into our Station between 10-2 on Saturday 28 September. There will be activities, handouts and loads of information (and fun) for everyone.”

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. 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.