From the Principal

Congratulations to 6B for their magnificent technology presentation at assembly on Friday. While I was not at assembly I had my spies out in force...all told me that they were in awe of the Year 6 presentations and their wonderful use of technology as a tool to enhance their learning! Well done Mrs Brett and 6B.

Last week many of our students represented the district at the regional swimming carnival. Congratulations to all competitors for their gutsy efforts.

Parent/Teacher Interviews
During weeks 9-11 of this term parent/teacher interviews will be held for all classes K-6. Timeslots and days will of course vary. Parent/teacher interviews are being held as another strategy to keep parents informed of their child’s progress. Further information will be sent home with booking times in the next week. Formal written reports will still be sent home at the end of Term 2.

Homework Policy
Mrs Cusack is in the process of developing a school homework policy. Parent representatives from the P and C have kindly offered to assist with the development of the policy. Attached to this newsletter is a survey for parents to complete. It is important for all voices to be heard, so please take the time to respond to the statements in an open and honest manner.

Please return all surveys to the blue box in the office area by 24 March 2014.

Chicken Pox
We have had another confirmed case of chicken pox. Attached to this newsletter is information from NSW Health that may be beneficial in identifying symptoms.

I have also been in contact with the Infectious Disease nurse at the Public Health Unit who has advised that students, teachers and parents should be extra vigilant when washing hands to avoid the risk of infection.

Giselle Coltman
Principal

Green Envelopes
An envelope containing change was put into the silver box. This envelope has no details. If you think it belongs to your child could you please contact Marion at the office. There was also an envelope found in the playground last week with no details, which may have been for Voluntary Contributions. Please also contact Marion if you think this could belong to your child.

Also please be reminded that all monies should come to school in a green
envelope for faster processing. These are available at the front desk and can be collected at any time. All notes must go to the class teacher unless specifically stated otherwise in the note.

**PSSA Sport**

Last week an expression of interest for Years 3-6 sport was sent home to all families to assist the school to make informed decisions about sport for Term 2, 3 and 4.

At the time of the expression of interest we were not in a position to confirm PSSA sports. We can now confirm that senior students will participate in Tag Rugby and junior students will participate in AFL. Both will provide great opportunities and experiences for our students.

**Payment is not required at this stage.**

**Paul Kelly Cup venue change**

Please be advised for those students participating in the Paul Kelly Cup this Wednesday 12 March that there has been a venue change. The competition will now be held at Guest Park Fairy Meadow.

**Library News**

**Research Challenge**

We have an Illawarra Flame tree to plant somewhere in our school garden. If you would like to – find out about this local native plant and make a planting suggestion. Post your suggestions in the Library mail box. The mail box can also be used for new book suggestions. Write Mrs Relf a letter including the title and author of books you think would be good for our library.

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**

The PRC website is now open for online entering of books. Use your school login and password to access the site then you can view the book lists and enter the books that you have read. The quickest way to find the site is to type NSW PRC into Google.

**Can you help?**

If you can spare some time there are a lot of new classroom readers that need covering. Books are in bundles of 10. Drop in to the library on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday to pick up or send a note with your child if you would like some sent home.

Your help, as always, is greatly appreciated.

Mrs Relf

**Positive Behaviour for Success**

This week we will be focussing on the value of RESPONSIBILITY.

The focus statement is –

**Do what you know is the right thing to do.**

This includes concepts of personal safety, Integrity

Honesty Excellence Cooperation.

This week PBS lessons will be about responsibility on pathways. Walk on pathways, keep to the left and wait quietly.
Cross Country Program

Please note all times are approximate. We will do our very best to run races at the allocated times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate Time</th>
<th>Age Event - Cross Country</th>
<th>Fun Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00- 9.30</td>
<td>Mark rolls in your classroom then move to the hill area. All ages walking the course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>House Cheering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30 -10.20</td>
<td>12 years girls 12 years boys 11 years girls 11 years boys</td>
<td>5, 6, 7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.20 – 10.30</td>
<td>Presentation of ribbons for 12 and 11 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30 - 11.20</td>
<td>10 years girls 10 year boys 8 and 9 years girls 8 and 9 years boys (8 and 9 year olds will run together as this is what is required at the District carnival. We will allocate 1st, 2nd and 3rd places though to each age group separately at our school carnival)</td>
<td>11, 12 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.20 -11.30</td>
<td>Presentation of ribbons for 10, 9 and 8 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 – 11.50</td>
<td>Recess</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.50- 12.40</td>
<td>7 years girls 7 years boys 6 years girls 6 years boys 5 years girls 5 years boys</td>
<td>8, 9, 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.40- 12.50</td>
<td>Presentation of ribbons for 5, 6, 7 years old</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.50 - 1.00</td>
<td>Eating time on the hill - All teachers to supervise</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.00- 1.25</td>
<td>First lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.25-1.50</td>
<td>Second Lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.50 – 3.00</td>
<td>Teachers and children are back in their classrooms for the afternoon.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are currently seeking coaches, development officers and local sports personalities for the 2014 school cross country. Throughout the day all classes will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of fun activities. We are looking to connect with community members who have ties with sporting associations and can assist us with organising or running an activity.

Please contact Jo Jordon (3/4JM) or Jenna Duffy (1D) in regards to this event.

Thank you

Mrs Jordan and Miss Duffy
Gardening Club

This week we had lots of fun planting strawberry runners that Rachel brought back from her Grandparents farm at Mudgee. Now we can’t wait to eat the strawberries! Thanks Rachel.

Textbook monies

Please ensure that all textbook money is sent to school this week as students without their books are missing valuable learning. Any family experiencing financial difficulties please contact the office for confidential assistance.

Performing Arts

Congratulations to Kaiah, Montana and Abbey who were selected in the Southern Stars performing Dance Company yesterday. Good luck to the students who have nominated to do vocal auditions.

Mrs Cameron

Hot Shots Tennis

Just a reminder that all Stage 2 students who are participating in the Hot Shots Tennis program should have forwarded their $8.00 to the front office by now. The last day of payment was week 6. please forward any outstanding money as soon as possible.

Thank you
Mrs Jordan

Nareena Hills Public School Chess Club

This week we began our chess club. The response has been overwhelming, so we are limiting the participation to Years 2-6. There are a few Year 1 students who have a particular interest and if they would like to join, then please see me.

Later this term, we will begin a competition based on Year levels.

We have plenty of chess boards, but the pieces have gone missing, so if you have a set at home, that you no longer need, we would love to use it this year.

If you (or anyone you know) would like to join us and lend a few tips to our budding chess players, it would be greatly appreciated.

Cindy Cusack
Chess Club co-ordinator

Stewart House Day

Stewart House envelopes have gone home today with students. A donation of $2.00 puts your family in the draw, for the chance to win a $4,000 family holiday. Please return all donations by Stewart House Day, Friday 9 May 2014 to enter this draw.
Notes that went home last week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Fun Run Sponsorship Form</td>
<td>6 Mar</td>
<td>K-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Sausage Sizzle note</td>
<td>6 Mar</td>
<td>K-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Enrichment Class</td>
<td>6 Mar</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notice for parents with a child in Years 4, 5 or 6

In 2001 the Government introduced the ‘First Child Tax Offset’ and surprisingly many Australians did not know about it and have not claimed any benefits. If you have any child that was born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2004 you may be eligible to receive entitlements. The government has a 30 June 2014 deadline on this entitlement so please email childoffset@twelve.com.au to receive more information.

Canteen News

**Wednesday 12 March:** Paula Moss, Renae Hancock, Danielle Pearce, Leone Paiola

**Thursday 13 March:** Sarah Allen, Jenna Folino-Gallo, Kate Johnson, Catherine Robinson

Community Notices

PCYC Lake Illawarra will be running their KidzCare school holiday program each day (excluding public holidays) from 8.30am – 5.30pm. For further information call 4296 4448 or 0407 252 912.

CatholicCare Wollongong can now offer individual Thursday evening appointments from 5pm for full time workers or those with full time care responsibilities. Please call 4227 1122 to find out more.

Figtree Heights OOSH News!

We are happy to announce that we have been awarded the rating of **“Meeting the National Quality Standard”** with a separate rating of **“Exceeding the National Quality Standard”** in the area of Staffing, as a result of our detailed assessment by the Department of Education and Communities (DEC). This rating is exceptionally high under this new framework especially for first time services going through this process and we are all extremely proud of our hard work and the service we provide. As of January 2013, our service was required to operate under the National Regulations and Law for children’s services. This transition involved a lot of extensive work from our volunteer committee family members, staff members, children and families attending our service. This included:

- Amending all of our policies and procedures
- Submitting a detailed Quality Improvement Plan spanning at least 3 years.
- A personal visit from 2 Assessment Compliance Officers from DEC who came and assessed our service in great detail covering all aspects of our centre. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our schools currently registered with our service, Figtree Public School, Mt St Thomas Public School, Nareena Hills Public School, Lindsay Park Public School and Figtree Heights Public School. Thank you to all teachers, children and especially families who support our service and are involved in the continued operations of service we provide. If any families are in any need of after school care or holiday care, we offer a high quality service with exceptional caring staff that will guarantee your child a wonderful experience in our service. Please feel welcome to come and see us any time!

Thank you

From the Team at **Figtree Heights OOSH**

**Figtree Heights Out Of School Hours Care**

**Figtree Heights Public School**

**St George Av Figtree 2525**

**PH:** 42272515

**Email:** centre@fhoosh.net