HILLS HIGHLIGHTS

COMING EVENTS

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Wednesday 23 March</td>
<td>School Assembly – 5/6L item</td>
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<td>Thursday 24 March</td>
<td>Paul Kelly Cup</td>
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<td>Friday 25 March</td>
<td>PSSA</td>
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<td>Monday 28 March</td>
<td>S2 Excursion to Fitzroy Falls</td>
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<td>Thursday 31 March</td>
<td>Easter Mufti Day</td>
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<td>Friday 1 April</td>
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<td>Wednesday 6 April</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade</td>
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<td>Thursday 7 April</td>
<td>Stage 3 - Minnamurra Excursion</td>
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<td>Friday 8 April</td>
<td>School Cross Country @ Stuart Park</td>
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<td>Friday 8 April</td>
<td>Last Day of Term</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27 April</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
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<td>Thursday 28 April</td>
<td>Students return to school</td>
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<td>Friday 29 April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Service both in Wollongong and at school</td>
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PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

MOTHER NATURE AT ITS WORST

2011 has shown that for all our advances in technology and science, we are powerless against the forces of nature. Floods in the eastern states of our own country plus the recent devastating earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan (as well as the tsunami that hit Japan after the quake) have left a number of our families concerned for the welfare of friends and loved ones in these areas. To all our families who have friends and loved ones in these areas, we hope that all are safe and well.

Our thoughts also go with Greg Faulkner and his family. Greg flew out last week with The NSW Fire and Rescue Crew Team to Japan. Greg will be there for ten days doing some very difficult work in very harsh conditions left after the massive earthquake and tsunami hit last week. On behalf of the school and all of his friends we would like to wish him well and a safe return later this week.

OUR P&C

Our school has always had a tremendous group of parents involved in the school through our P&C. Unfortunately, primarily due to time and family demands, our P&C is in an awkward situation with the majority of its executive positions for 2011 not being able to be filled at the moment.

The running of a P&C is primarily up to the parents of the school – what it does, when it does it etc is decided by the parents who make up the P&C (within the guidelines of the P&C Federation and the Dept of Education). If you may be able to give some time to our P&C, or have some ideas about the future of our P&C, please come to our next meeting (Wednesday 6th April).

WORKING BEE

My thanks to the 5 parents who turned up yesterday for our working bee. Unfortunately the weather meant that the day had to be postponed (although we really needed the rain on our playing fields). Mr Jenkins and Mr Cherubini will work out another time and let everyone know.
GOOD LUCK
All the best to our AFL teams for Thursday as they compete in the regional Paul Kelly Cup at Thomas Dalton Park. I’m hoping that the weather clears enough to allow the day to go ahead. Should anything change we will notify the children concerned.

CROSSING JACARANDA AVENUE
Every year my staff spend a good deal of time ensuring that our students are aware of the dangers in crossing busy roads or roads where drivers have difficulty in seeing pedestrians. We impress on our students the need to use signed crossing areas and check that drivers stop before starting to cross the road.

It seems, however, we may be placing some children at risk by also encouraging students to cross a road with their parents. Since the beginning of the school year I have witnessed a number of parents (adults who should know better) simply taking their child from the front of the school and then cross Jacaranda Avenue just below the crest of the hill. Not only does this cause conflict with what we are teaching but is also extremely dangerous in ‘teaching’ children a very poor road safety strategy. Only last week one of our parents had a shock to find another parent taking her children across Jacaranda Ave just passed the crest (a blind spot for drivers). The driver had to brake to avoid hitting one of the children. All this for the sake of the minute or so of extra time it takes to use the marked crossing (which is located, according to the RTA, in the safest part of Jacaranda Ave in relation to the school).

Perhaps my anger over this is aimed at parents who do not read this newsletter and so my note is going to the wrong people. If this is so then my apologies to the many parents who ‘do the right thing’.

We really all must do our part in making sure our children are not being placed in dangerous situations. Having been on staff at a local school when one of our students was fatally struck by a driver while crossing a very busy road, I do not want that trauma to be experienced by anyone at Nareena Hills.

FIGTREE COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS – ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT CLASS 2011
The Figtree Community of schools is again running the Academic Enrichment Class for selected Yr 5 students this year. If you are interested in your child (must be in Yr 5 2011) being considered for this class, please contact the school and we’ll send you an ‘Expression of interest’ note. Please note that applications for this class end on 5th April.

GREEN ENVELOPES
With money being required for a variety of activities, the issue of money envelopes needs again to be raised.

We have and supply at no cost ‘green’ envelopes (envelopes with green text) for this purpose. On these envelopes are sections for all the required details relating to an activity. By using these green envelopes (correctly filled out) you are assuring that the money handed in can be accurately processed. Unfortunately we are still getting money being placed in standard envelopes with very little detail – which makes it extremely difficult for my administration staff to accurately allocate the funds.

These green money envelopes can be picked up any day from the office – so please use them. If you run out, just come and pick up some more.

Bob Long
Principal

What Notes Went Home Last Week (14 March – 18 March)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Note topic</th>
<th>Who got it?</th>
<th>When was it sent?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stewart House Envelopes</td>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>Wednesday 16 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auntie &amp; Uncle's Colouring In Compet.</td>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>Thurs/Fri 17 &amp; 18 March</td>
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EASTER EGG MUFTI DAY
Please note the change of date for our Easter mufti day. It is now on in Week 10 on Thursday 31 March. This means you can come dressed in your favourite casual clothes and sensible shoes (no singlets please). In return, the Year 6 children ask you to bring in an Easter egg donation for their fundraising activity. Eggs will be collected from your classroom in the morning by our Year 6 parent helpers. We look forward to your support of this activity.
EASTER RAFFLE
Please help Year 6 raise money for a great gift at the end of the year by selling a book of raffle tickets. We will have heaps of great Easter Baskets to win. Please return your sold tickets to the office by Tuesday 5 April. The raffle will be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade on Wednesday 6 April. Raffle tickets went home last Thursday.

CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL
The School Cross Country Carnival will be held on Friday 8 April at Stuart Park in Wollongong. Pop this date into your diary. Please return your Cross Country note and money to school by 31 March.

FOCUS GROUP
Nareena Hills Public School takes pride in their student’s achievements. These achievements are across a broad spectrum of areas such as sport, community spirit, personal values and most importantly their academic ability. Parents and teachers take pride in all students’ achievements. Austinmer & Nareena Hills Public schools are proactive and we both have formed Focus Groups.

The Focus Group in our school aims to monitor and evaluate our NAPLAN results to find our successes and to celebrate those while tweaking areas of improvement. This year we have identified Writing as an area which can be improved. The NAPLAN results show that our students are writing simple to at best compound sentences. One of our aims is to focus on promoting complex sentence structures. The added benefits are enhancing grammatical knowledge while reinforcing punctuation, spelling and editing skills.

We are also able to access extra support via Carol Bridge who is our local consultant specialising in the English area. We have made the Focus Group a school priority and have allocated school funds as well as having received a Department of School Education Grant to support us. To help us promote writing, the Focus Group encourage parents to work in partnership with the teachers to include writing along with home reading as a priority at home.

Here are three examples.
A simple sentence has one independent clause and expresses one idea.
   e.g. Stage three will go on an excursion.

A compound sentence has two simple sentences joined together by a comma and a joining word (coordinating conjunction eg and, but, so, or, for...). We could also describe a compound sentence as two independent clauses joined by a conjunction.
   e.g. Stage three will go on an excursion and they will have fun.

A complex Sentence has clauses which are groups of words that form sentences. A clause must contain a subject and a verb.
There are two types of clauses:

- independent - expresses a complete idea, ie a sentence, and makes sense all by itself
- dependent - does not express a complete idea, it is a part sentence, and does not make sense by itself).

Dependent clauses begin with a subordinating conjunction, eg who, when, while, that, because, since, although.

   e.g. Stage Three will go on an excursion because it will enhance friendships they will learn new skills and have lots of fun.

Darren Cherubini
. EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Our Easter Assembly this year will be held on Wednesday 6 April. The parade will begin at 1.40pm and will take place in the hall. The Easter Raffle will be drawn during the parade. We wish everyone all the best.

All children can participate in the following categories:
a) The most colourful
b) The most creative
c) Hats with animals

Students can wear masks.
Decorated eggs and or Easter Craft created at home can be taken and displayed at the foyer at the front office prior the Easter Parade.

Basic procedure
1. Boil an egg or drain out the contents
2. Mount your egg onto a board so that you can walk around and display your egg.
3. Have your name and class on the egg.

Some egg decorating ideas are:

- Egg’n’Roll - Rock ‘n’ Roll characters
- Egg’Citing - Exciting Easter patterns
- Egg’spert - Expert characters
- Egg’cellent - General decorations

Remember you are limited only by your imagination!
Good luck and enjoy the day.
Mr Cherubini & Mrs Jordan & Mrs Parker

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE

The Premiers Reading Challenge site is now open for students to enter their reading records online. Go to Google and type in NSW Premiers Reading Challenge, Open the site and go to Logon on the side menu, Use the same Logon name and password as you use at school, Go to Student Reading Records on the side menu, Start typing the ID number if you know it, or the title, and titles can be seen in a drop down menu, Highlight and click to select, then click add.
If you have any problems with this see your class teacher.

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to Jonah, Jarrod and Will who tried out for the Regional South Coast AFL Team last week at Nowra. Congratulations to Jarrod for being selected in the team.

NOTICEBOARD ITEMS

The following community information is available on the School Noticeboard:
Write 4 Fun – Poetry, Short Story, Art Competitions – big money prizes!

P&C NEWS 21.3.11

Wednesday 23rd, Thursday 24th April
Canteen Roster
THUR 24-Mar. Vanessa, Terrina, Fiona, Jayne.
Wednesday 6th April 2.45 – 3.15 pm.
Uniform stall - outside the hall.

Important Canteen information.
Next term we hope to open an additional day. Volunteer forms were emailed last year and the day that appears to be the best choice is Friday. Thank you to all those people who have volunteered to keep our Canteen going. We only require a few more volunteers to open Friday. If you can help out on a Friday, please email: VanessaS@sturmans.com.au

School Song
A school song will be developed which considers school values and a sense of pride and belonging. We will utilise the skills of Gordon Dugan. Gordon is a musician, educator, composer and father at our school. Parents, staff and students are invited to pop their suggestions in the P&C box or email suggestions and lyrics to: nareenahillspandc@hotmail.com

Vacancies
Nareena P and C Association
Can you help?

During the past year, the P&C has worked cooperatively on various school matters. We have provided a healthy canteen, well stocked uniform shop and subsidized Sport /representatives. Both the Gala night and shopping trip were enjoyable and well supported by parents and citizens and the profits financed Interactive Whiteboards, books and more. P&C recently received a grant to purchase a mobile Interactive Whiteboard and we continue to lobby for Interactive Whiteboards to be supplied to the new classrooms. These activities were coordinated by an Executive Committee and Fundraising Coordinator with assistance from Canteen Sub-Committees, Uniform representatives, and general P&C members. Thank you to these people. The Executive Committee and associated sub-committees vacated their positions at the recent AGM in order for interested parents / citizens to join the committee in 2011. Kaylene Herald and Catherine Hanes have been endorsed as Uniform Shop representatives. Natalie Nicastri will be nominated for Treasurer and the Canteen Sub-committee will be endorsed at the next meeting. Thanks to these women.

Positions vacant are for President, Vice President (2), Secretary and Fundraising Coordinator. The P&C operates with an Executive so vacancies must be filled. It would be appreciated if you spread the word and consider joining the Committee. If you are willing to do any tasks outlined below, the job can be shared.

President
The President compiles the agenda, chairs monthly P&C meetings, shares information, writes in the newsletter and acts as spokesperson between parents and the Principal. Vice Presidents (2)
Vice Presidents support the President and the role is worked out between them. For the past 12 months, these people have chaired some meetings, written documents, scored a $5000 grant for an Interactive Whiteboard and initiated a Working Bee.

Secretary
This person delivers mail, assists with the Agenda, records and distributes the Minutes of Meetings, presents correspondence, writes letters and keeps good files.

Fundraising Coordinator
This person oversees and promotes fundraisers and gives a report at meetings.

Wednesday 6th April – 7 pm.
P&C meeting.
If you would like to be on the Committee or assist in any way, please come to the meeting to be nominated or make enquiries with anybody on P&C or by email: nareenahillspandc@hotmail.com

With thanks, P&C