



FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT BULLETIN

Term 4 Week 6 14th November 2014

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School Events

| Week 6 (B) | Beginning Monday 10 th November |
|------------|---|
| 14.11.14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year 7 Scripture: 7M, 7T and 7B - Year 11 Reports Issued and Merit Assembly - SRC Speeches for Year 7, 8 and 9 - Yr 11 Extension English Excursion - Year 12 Formal – Novotel Northbeach Wollongong |
| Week 7(A) | Beginning Monday 17 th November |
| 17.11.14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aboriginal Education Achievement Awards in Batemans Bay - RAW Program – Day 1 |
| 18.11.14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Links to Learning Program (Yr 9) - Victor Chang Awards Ceremony in Auditorium - Year 9 French Excursion - RAW Program – Day 2 - Assessment tasks: Yr 11 Geography, Yr 11 Entertainment |
| 19.11.14 | - Yr 11 EEC – Figtree Primary for Kindy Play |
| 20.11.14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yr 9 Health Canteen Initiative Students to UOW - Vocational Education Community Partnerships Launch in Auditorium - Assessment task: Yr 11 Textiles |
| 21.11.14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young Leaders Excursion to Homebush - Year 7 Scripture: 7O, 7N and 7E - Year 7 2015 Autism Class Orientation - Assessment task: Yr 11 Advanced English |
| Week 8 (B) | Beginning Monday 24 th November |
| 24.11.14 | - Assessment tasks: Yr 11 Biology, Yr 11 Info Processes and Technology |
| 25.11.14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Links to Learning Program (Yr 9) - Assessment tasks: Yr 11 Business Studies, Yr 11 Drama |
| 26.11.14 | - Assessment tasks: Yr 11 Biology |
| 27.11.14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment tasks: Yr 11 Mathematics General - Yr 11 Society and Culture Excursion to UOW |
| 28.11.14 | - Year 7 Scripture: 7M, 7T and 7B |
| 29.11.14 | - Year 11 fundraising Hike Excursion |

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Our Year 12 students finally reached the end of their Higher School Certificate examinations last week. Our Presiding Officer has commented on a number of occasions about how impressive the behaviour and attitude of our students has been during their examinations. Year 12 completed their clearance procedures on 12th November and we look forward to celebrating the end of secondary schooling with our Year 12 students at the Formal Function on Friday 14th November at the Novotel Northbeach. I would like to thank **Mr Ben Denner**, the Year 12 Year Advisor, for the time, energy and effort that he has given to support our Year 12 students in reaching this major milestone.

Earlier this term, our school nominated a number of Aboriginal people for the regional Inspire, Succeed Excel Aboriginal Education Excellence Awards. The award nomination were assessed by a regional based panel and

last week we were notified that five of our students had been successful in achieving awards. We congratulate **Amy Livermore** (Yr 12), **Kertina Puckeridge** (Yr 12), **Brittney Angus** (Yr 9), **Korey Ison** (Yr 8) and **Patrick Denham** (Yr 7) for their achievements this year and we are very proud that they will be acknowledged by the wider community for their achievement. The awards presentation will be held on Monday 17th November at Batemans Bay.

Our Year 12 2014 HSC students have had some fantastic news: **Sharnie Loija's** major work for Visual Arts has been preselected for Art Express 2015. **William Searle's** major project for Industrial technology Timber has been preselected for InTech 2015. We congratulate Sharnie and William, along with their teachers **Mrs Johanna Clifford** and **Mr Jared Poppett**, on this wonderful achievement and we wish them every success for their work to make the final selection.

Our current school captain, **Jelena Zaric** (Yr 11) took part in the NSW Schools Constitutional Convention in Sydney on 10th November and she was selected to represent NSW and Figtree High School at the 2015 National Schools Constitutional Convention in Canberra. Congratulations Jelena !

On our assembly this week, Mr Chris Stylys from Ray White Figtree/Wollongong attended the school to present the 2014 Ray White Scholarships to **Teghan Barklay** (Yr 10) and **Jarrold Twigg** (Yr 9). Both students will be representing Figtree High School at the School Sport Australia Athletics Championships later this term and they were presented with \$500 each to support them to attend this week long event in Adelaide.

This week we welcomed our newly appointed permanent teacher Librarian, **Mrs Natalie Crouch**, who has replaced Mrs Margaret McEwan. Next week we welcome **Ms Patricia Morgan** to the permanent position of Deputy Principal, she will be replacing Mr David Deitz who left the school at the end of Term 2. I'd like to thank Mrs Allison Booth (Librarian) and Mr Stephen Smart (Deputy Principal) who have been in long term relieving positions this semester.

Ellie Donovan

Relieving Principal

Figtree High School Core Values

Learning

The 2015 HSC Courses – assessment is underway

This term our Year 11 students commenced their HSC courses. Over the coming weeks, most HSC courses will have their first assessment task. Assessment periods can result in young people feeling anxious, so helping them plan a weekly schedule that includes enough study, activity, social activities and sleep will help them learning to manage their time and study effectively. Seeing it all planned out, and sticking to the schedule can really help calm anxious students or motivate students who need it.

Encouraging your child to print out our monthly [homework calendar](#), writing in all exams and assignment dates and posting it on the fridge as a reminder is a great way to reduce household stress. Good nutrition is particularly important for your child right now, this includes eating breakfast, reducing refined sugar intake and energy drinks.

We encourage our parents to stay in contact with the school, especially if there are concerns about your child. The Year Adviser, Mrs Jan Goodall, Deputy Principal, Ms Ellie Donovan and Careers Advisor, Mr Adam Sargent-Wilson, are also available at the school if you are concerned about your child's emotional wellbeing or how they're handling their HSC studies.

Attendance

We sometimes begin to see a decline in student attendance rates in the second half of Term 4 as the summer holiday period is approaching. We remind parents that students are legally required to attend school, every day that the school is open. Parents can request leave for their child if they are sick or injured. Absences from school result in gaps in learning and can make it particularly difficult for students to understand the content and develop the skills in each of their courses. Absences affect student achievement, in assessment tasks and in their classwork. Encouraging your child to attend school every day that they are healthy and well provides the best opportunity for them to achieve to their potential at school and it also builds their employability skills and a positive work ethic.

Students will be engaged in normal teaching and learning activities right up until the last day of the school year. While students may have finished completing major assessment tasks in the coming weeks, classroom based learning experiences consolidate the knowledge and skills developed during the year and also prepare students for the year ahead.

So far this term, we have a number of students who have maintained 100% attendance, our Year 8 students are leading the way with 35 students currently on 100% attendance. Year 7 and 10 are close behind with 32 students in each year group with 100% attendance, followed by Year 9 with 23 students and Year 11 with 15 students with 100% attendance. Students who maintain 100% attendance are presented with merit certificates at the semester 2 year assembly later this term.

Holiday planning for 2015 ?

The following dates for the 2015 school year are available on the BOSTES website
http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/key_dates/vacations.html

Term 1: Tuesday, 27 January to Thursday, 02 April

Term 2: Monday, 20 April to Friday, 26 June

Term 3: Monday, 13 July to Friday, 18 September

Term 4: Tuesday, 06 October to Friday, 18 December

Ellie Donovan
Deputy Principal

NAIDOC Public Speaking and Debating Challenge

On Sunday 2nd November four students, **Krystal Cattell** Year 7, **Taymin Pagett** Year 7, **Jasmine Lee** Year 9 and **Taranom Rahmani** Year 9 travelled to Sydney to compete in the State NAIDOC Debating Challenge. The group participated in traditional Indigenous games, cultural workshops, met students from all over the State and had dinner in the Botanical Gardens. The next day the group travelled to State Parliament House. They watched rap performances from Aboriginal artist Brother Black and observed a number of primary schools engaging in public speaking. After the coin toss, the Figtree High team were given the affirmative and argued that 'the Australian Government has properly recognised the contribution of Aboriginal service men and women, during and after wartime.' Figtree High won their debate and were placed 3rd overall in the State. I would like to congratulate the team on their outstanding performance.

Jessica Williams
English Faculty



PBS VALUES

Week 7: SAFETY

Play approved games only in the playground

Week 8: LEARNING

Move quickly back to the classroom at the end of the break

Adidas School Fun Run

Well done to our inaugural Adidas School Fun Run winners. We had 14 students raise \$616 for the school through the Fun Run. Congratulations to all our fundraisers, **Hayden Da Silva, Jarrod Buick, Ashleigh Yeaman, Joshua Yeaman, Korey Ison, Ashley Hanson, Jeremy Jones, Ashley Kendon, Rachel Shipp, Sidney Schweigler, Jasmine Lee, Mikayla Markham, Andrew McLean** and **Jackson Bell**.

A special congratulations to Jarrod Buick who was our highest fundraiser raising \$135!



Sun Protection for Spring and Summer

Our school canteen is selling the school caps for a price of \$12. This was a Figtree HS Parents and Citizen's Association initiative. The plain navy caps are embroidered with the school logo. As the warmer weather approaches, we encourage your child to wear our school cap during lunch breaks and especially on their PE/Sport days.



'The Sky's the Limit' Mini Olympics

On Thursday 23rd October, 20 Year 9 PASS students attended 'The Sky's the Limit' Mini Olympics at Beaton Park Athletics Track. Each student was assigned an athlete with a disability to assist during the day. They had many duties including: Ensuring that their athlete made it to their events on time, providing motivation and support during the athlete's event and also to provide a positive and enjoyable day for everyone involved.

All students conducted themselves in a mature and responsible manner. They handled their roles fantastically. Everyone was very supportive towards their athletes and I was particularly impressed with all the students' enthusiasm throughout the day. A great day was had by all. Thanks again to the 20 Year 9 PASS students who devoted their time to this fantastic event.



PARENT/STUDENT PHONE CALLS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

We ask all parents to be aware that students are required to turn off their phones and put them in their bags during lessons. To ensure students comply with this rule, we request that urgent phone messages to students during lesson times are directed through the front office of the school. We are able to convey messages to students very quickly and to support them if need be should urgent action need to be taken. This allows us to ensure that both the individual student and the other students in the class can return to their learning very quickly. Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated.

RECEIPTING OF MONIES AT THE FRONT OFFICE AND ONLINE.

Due to our yearly financial rollover in the administration office, we will **be unable to accept any payments on:**

Thursday 27th November, 2014

Friday 28th November, 2014

Monday 1st December, 2014.

We apologise for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience in this matter.

Payments will be accepted as of Tuesday 2nd December.

STAFF CAR PARK

Due to WH&S regulations at Figtree High School could we ask that parents please not park in the staff car park from 8.00am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday. The car park is for **staff and deliveries only** and is not to be used as a drop off area especially in the wet weather.

We appreciate your co-operation will this matter.

U15s Girls Basketball Team

Mr Vatovec

Throughout this semester, *Figtree High School* has fielded an Under 15s Girls Basketball team as part of local and state competition. Our team, comprising, **Holly McDonald, Meghan Fox, Takirah Coulson, Maddison Delaney, Tazmin Fulcher, Zoe Williams, Krystal Solevska** and **Sara Clark** represented our school at both a very high level and standard, becoming Zone champions and eventually reaching the final 20 in NSW.



The girls gave up several of their lunch breaks and were totally committed to their training. Their hard work was on display across a range of games in which the girls demonstrated their grit and determination, taking on far larger opponents, many of whom currently represent state level teams. Our final game was a perfect snapshot of the girl's campaign, which truly captured their capacity to rebound and fight back against even the most daunting of circumstances.

Unfortunately the girls were down by 20+ points against a very strong Western Sydney team, in *Mackellar High*, in the first quarter. Outstanding help defence, team play and quick adjustments saw the girls cut the deficit to only two points in the final quarter. Unfortunately the girls were unable to complete their rally, and fell to *Mackellar Girls High* by seven points at the final buzzer.

While the girls played a complete team basketball game, special mention must go to Maddison Delaney who displayed dead-eye shooting and point guard skills throughout the competition, Tazmin Fulcher who was a menace on both sides of the ball and Takirah Coulson and Meghan Fox who continue to develop into a fine basketball players.

I would like to congratulate and thank my team for their hard work, skill and manner in which they conducted themselves, and look forward to next year and the challenges which come our way. Well done Figtree Fighters!



Childrens Olympic Games

Nicola Douet was chosen to represent the Girls Australian team of 10 at the Children's Olympic Games to be held on the 6th to 11th December 2014 at Lake Macquarie, New South Wales. Nicola ranked 6th in the 13 year old girls BMX in NSW. The team consist of 3 girls 7 boys. Nicola trains from South Lake Albion Park. Congratulations Nicola!



Ray White Wollongong/Figtree

69 Kembla Street, Wollongong 2500

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are the proud sponsors of the

Ray White Wollongong/Figtree
Student Scholarships 2014 – 2018

SMS Messages to Parents

If you receive an SMS from Figtree High School informing you that your child has been marked absent on that day and you are replying back by SMS, could you please state your child's full name and the year they are in as it makes it difficult for us to identify the child with just a Christian name.

Thank you for co-operation
Administration Office



SPECIAL PROMOTION FOR

FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL

SPECIAL SALES

DAYS X 3

AT LOWES STORE - FIGTREE

**Wednesday 3RD – Thursday 4TH – Friday 5th December
2014**

RECEIVE 15% DISCOUNT

Off the regular price on all uniform items for
Figtree High School

PLUS

BONUS EZY-WAY 5% DISCOUNT

additional for Lowes Ezy-Way customers

OR 5% REWARDS

Lowes Rewards Card holders receive in-store Gift Vouchers
to the value of 5% of their purchase

PLUS

Lowes will pay your school annual **5% rebate** on every
uniform purchased in-store.

WOLLONGONG TERM 4 2014

LIFT

A group for men and women who may be feeling or experiencing high levels of stress and anxiety. Participants are able to explore feelings in a safe and friendly environment, challenging negative thinking patterns and discover how to build and improve relationships.

5 Monday afternoons 4pm-6.30pm
3, 10, 17, 24 November & 1 December
CatholicCare, 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong

Workshop Fee: \$20 per session

KEEPING KIDS IN MIND

A post-separation parenting workshop. Learn how to deal more effectively with the emotional and practical issues of parenting after separation. Explores loss and grief in parents and children, communication with your ex-partner, anger, assertiveness, power grabs & impact on children.

5 Tuesday Afternoons 12noon-2.30pm
21, 28 October, 4, 11 & 18 November
or
5 Thursday Evenings 6.30pm –9pm
23, 30 October, 6, 13 & 20 November
CatholicCare, 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong

Workshop Fee: \$20 per session

KIDS & BULLYING - ACROSS THE SPECTRUM

This workshop helps parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) better understand the challenges faced by their children when dealing with bullying and cyberbullying. It explores: definitions of bullying, characteristics of an ASD child which may make them more vulnerable to bullying. Warning signs that your child may be being bullied, prevention strategies, resilience, strategies and involving the school.

2 Tuesday Mornings 10am –12.30pm
7 & 14 October
CatholicCare, 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong

Workshop Fee: \$15 per session

MY KIDS AND ME

A workshop for parents who have had children removed from their care. Assists participants to identify parenting skills, strengths and resources and to develop relationships with their children.

7 Friday Mornings 10am -12:30pm
24, 31 October, 7, 14, 21, 28 November & 5 December
CatholicCare, 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong

Workshop Fee: \$15 per session

ROLLERCOASTERS 8-12 years

An 8 week program developed to assist children who are experiencing parental separation, divorce or parents who have re-partnered. Rollercoaster helps children to understand change and loss; develop strategies for anger management and problem solving; and understand a whole range of feelings and emotions.

8 Tuesday Afternoons 4pm -5pm
14, 21, 28, October, 4, 11, 18, 25 November & 2 Dec
CatholicCare, 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong

Workshop Fee: \$15 per session/family

123 MAGIC & EMOTION COACHING

This time tested workshop provides easy to follow steps for disciplining children aged 2-12 years without yelling, arguing or hitting.

3 Monday Evenings 6.30pm –9pm
13, 20 & 27 October
or
3 Wednesday Mornings
29 October, 5 & 12 November
CatholicCare, 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong

Workshop Fee: \$15 per session

SEASONS FOR GROWTH (Adults program)

This program provides the opportunity for participants to understand and cope with grief and loss and changes that occur throughout life. It educates people about the grief process and assists them to develop skills for coping, problem solving and decision making. The program also builds a peer support network and helps restore self confidence.

4 Monday Afternoons 12noon-2.30pm
20, 27 October, 3 & 10 November
CatholicCare, 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong

Workshop Fee: \$15 per session

BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

Parents will learn "mindfulness" techniques to increase awareness of their thoughts & feelings. Parents will learn to be more aware of their children's needs & how to better respond to their child's behaviour to improve children's self identity, Decrease parental stress & enhance the parent / child relationship.

6 Thursdays
12noon-2.30pm 9, 16, 23, 30 October & 20 Nov
10am-12.30pm on 6 November
CatholicCare, 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong

Workshop Fee: \$15 per session

WORKSHOP BOOKINGS

Campbelltown 4628 0044
Wollongong 4227 1122
Nowra 4421 8248



hope begins with us

Concessions may apply dependent on financial circumstances