



FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT BULLETIN

Term 4 Week 4 31st October 2014

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School Events

Week 4 (B)	Beginning Monday 27 th October
30.10.14	- HSC Examinations : Earth and Environment Science; Electrotechnology; English Extension 1; - U15 Boys Hassett Cup Cricket Match Stage 4 Writing Workshop excursion
31.10.14	- HSC Examination: Business Services; Physics; Automotive; Society and Culture - Year 7 Scripture: 7M, 7T, 7B - Five Islands Secondary College eLearning Centre Opening
Week 5(A)	Beginning Monday 3 rd November
3.11.14	- HSC Examinations : Visual Arts; Food Technology - NAIDOC Debating Team to Parliament House
4.11.14	- HSC Examinations : Geography - Links to Learning Program - Year 11 Engineering Studies Excursion to UOW
5.11.14	- HSC Examinations: Retail Services - VET; Entertainment Industry - VET; Information and Digital Technology – VET - Year 11 EEC to Figtree Public School for Kindy Play Excursion
6.11.14	- Year 11 History Extension Excursion to State Library
7.11.14	- Year 7 Scripture: 7O, 7E and 7M - Year 8 AZTEC Excursion - Year 11 Society and Culture Incursion - Premiers Sporting Challenge at Kanahooka High School
Week 6 (B)	Beginning Monday 10 th November
10.11.14	- Year 10 RYDA Excursion - Year 8 ESSA test – headphones required
11.11.14	- Links to Learning (Yr9) - South Coast Girls Water Polo
12.11.14	- 2015 Autism Class Student Orientation - Year 12 Clearance in the Auditorium Period 1-3 - Year 7 2015 Orientation for invited Students
13.11.14	- StartSmart Workshop for Year 10 and 11
14.11.14	- Year 7 Scripture: 7M, 7T and 7B - Year 11 Reports Issued and Merit Assembly - SRC Speeches for Year 7, 8 and 9 - Year 12 Formal – Novotel Northbeach Wollongong

PBS VALUES

Week 5: RESPECT

Walk quietly in the corridors so that others can continue learning

Week 6: LEARNING

Be on time for your next class

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Figtree Community of Schools

On Monday 27 October there was a Figtree Community of Schools (CoS) Curriculum Planning Day held at Figtree High School during the morning and Figtree Public School during the afternoon. Our CoS consists of; Unanderra PS, Lindsay Park PS, Mount St Thomas PS, Mount Kembla PS, Mount Keira PS, Figtree PS, Figtree Heights PS, Nareena Hills PS and Figtree HS.

The objective of the day was to develop the 2015-2017 CoS curriculum plan in English, Mathematics, Science and History. It was a very productive day that began with a two hour information session on the elements of the Department of Education and Communities new school planning format. The teachers were able to discuss the outcomes of past CoS plans and formulate the strategic direction for the 2015-2017 CoS Plan.





The curriculum committees worked in the four subject areas to discuss the purpose, processes, people, product and practices that would be needed to ensure that improved student learning outcomes would be achieved. Each subject committee produced a draft plan by the end of the day and will meet several times after school hours during this school term to complete the 2015-2017 CoS Plan.

Thank you to all the CoS teachers and principals for their dedication to our students.

Thank you.

Carol Marshman
Principal

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.



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 from:**

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 with this matter.

STUDENT CAR PARKING

A number of senior students drive their own vehicle to school and we are fortunate that Figtree Anglican Church generously provides car parking spaces for student use. Unfortunately, in this past week we have had feedback from the Church, Figtree High School staff and students that this privilege is not being used responsibly.

We would like this privilege to continue. If your child drives to school, could you please check that they understand the following parking expectations.

- Students are to park within the lines designated for each parking bay and to ensure a safe space between vehicles so doors can be opened easily.
- Students must not park in front of the Church waste bins.
- When entering the car park, students must use the most northerly space available beginning with the spaces adjacent to the school fence first. Once these are filled they should park immediately opposite to the west park in the most northerly space available.
- No student has a designated space and spaces will be filled according to order of arrival.
- Where possible, to avoid theft and damage, P plates should be stored inside the vehicle during the day.
- When leaving the car park students should leave quietly and responsibly so that activities at the church and school are not disrupted.
- Students are not permitted to return to their vehicles during the school day. If items are inadvertently left in vehicles students must sign out and back in through the front office. Failing to do so will be viewed as leaving school without permission.

We will be monitoring student compliance with these rules throughout the next school week (Week 5, Term 4). If students fail to comply with the parking rules, the car park may be closed during Week 6. We ask for your cooperation and support in discussing these expectations with your child.

Figtree High School Core Values

Respect

This week our Year 8 students participated in a pilot Education Program delivered by NSW Police which focused on cyberbullying, sexting and the law. We were very excited to be one of the Illawarra schools in this program. This program offers important information due to the growing influence of social media in young people's lives and the impact that sexting and cyberbullying can have on a young person's mental health and wellbeing.

When I talk with students who are having problems with social media, I remind them that they need to 'think before you click'. While young people want to share their life and events through social media, they often forget that posts and comments on photos or posts can be hurtful to others, can be misinterpreted by others and can encourage other people to make hurtful comments. Young people often forget that photos are no longer private if they have been posted in a public space and photos can then be very quickly shared with people who they don't even know.

It is really important that parents and carers are monitoring young people's engagement with social media and talking with them about what is appropriate and what is not. Reminding young people to 'think before you click' in the same way that we encourage children and young people to think before they speak, is a really important tool to ensure young people are respectful to themselves, their friends and for people in their wider social network.

Young people can sometimes struggle to ask for help when they need it, especially if it is related to bullying or issues with social media. Last week I spoke with students on assembly about "Help Seeking" behaviours. I reminded our

or upset at school, they need to seek help from an adult at school.

There are a variety of adults at school that students can seek help from, they include:

- Teachers on playground duty (we wear fluoro vests to make us easy to find in the playground during lunch breaks)
- Year Advisors: Mr Smith, Mr Simmonds/Mrs Dive, Mr Liddle, Mrs Harris, Mrs Goodall
- Learning and Support Teachers and Support Officers
- Supervisor of Girls: Mrs Borst
- Supervisor of Boys: Mr Sargent-Wilson
- Head Teachers
- School Counsellors: Mrs Idziak and Mr Wilson
- Deputy Principals: Mrs Christofides (currently relieving for Ms Donovan) and Mr Smart
- Principal: Mrs Marshman

If your child indicates to you that there is a problem or concern that the school needs to provide assistance or support with, please contact the relevant member of staff so that we can assist you and support your child to resolve the issue.

Ellie Donovan

Deputy Principal

Success on the Race Track

Congratulations to Cody Gillis from Year 9 for his success on the Go Kart Circuit this year. He has achieved outstanding results including:

- 2nd at the Victorian State Titles
- 2nd at the Pro Tour in Dubbo
- 3rd at the Nationals in Newcastle

During the year, Cody was offered the opportunity to drive with a privately-owned race team based in QLD and he had more fantastic results:

- 1st at the Queensland State Titles
- 3rd at the South Australian State Titles
- 1st at the NSW State Titles

To finish of this amazing year on the track, Cody has been offered a trip to Las Vegas and Spain from 14th November - 3rd December. Cody will take on the roles of mechanic and pit crew member for the senior members of his race team. Well Done Cody !!



WELFARE NEWS for TERM 4

Term 4 Merit Reward Day

A special reward day excursion has been organised to Jamberoo Action Park. All students who have reached **Silver** level as well as those who have a current **Bronze** certificate are eligible to attend. Numbers will be limited so there will be a “first in first” pay basis.

NB. As this excursion involves unstructured water activities parents/carers must provide specific consent for their child to participate in the aquatic activities. Students who are nominated by their parents/carers as swimmers must have completed the Water Survival Challenge involving entering the water unassisted, swimming continuously for 25 metres, floating for one minute and exiting the water unassisted. Students will do the swim test when they arrive with qualified instructors.

Date: Tuesday 16th December (Week 11)

Transport: By coach.

Cost: \$ 36. This covers the cost of the coach and entry with unlimited rides.

Times:

The bus will leave at **8.45am**.

The bus will return to school **by 3.30pm**.

Gear: Students must wear a top which identifies them as being a student of Figtree High (either their Figtree High shirt with Figtree High badge or their PE t-shirt.) Otherwise they may wear comfortable, appropriate casual gear with suitable footwear for walking.

As there are several water activities available in the park students should also bring their swimming costume and towel. A shelter area specifically allocated to Figtree High will be available on the day and at least one teacher will be there throughout the day. Students can leave their bags in this area where they will be secure. As the weather is likely to be hot, students are reminded to wear a hat and have adequate sunscreen with them.

Permission notes for this excursion will be handed out on Thursday 13th November (Week 6) after assembly.

Please contact Ms Dive in the Languages staffroom if you have any questions.

Year 7 Term 4 2014 Report



Joonyoung Moon has been leading the charge academically for Year 7 entering the Mathematics competition, Maths challenge and Maths enrichment stages. His dedication to his studies is excellent, and has been rewarded, with Joonyoung receiving a Principal's Award at the end of Semester One.



Zoe Williams has achieved the level of a Silver Merit Award for her holistic approach to school life. An excellent and keen student, Zoe is a member of the SRC, has represented the school in athletic carnivals and participated at the Southern Stars Performing Arts spectacular.



For the Adidas School Fun Run Krystal Solevska was the star of Year 7. Instead of running her 50 m on her feet, Krystal threw herself backwards and completed an amazing amount of hand sprints flips to the excitement of all her friends.

The rest of Year 7 could only follow, and managed to drag Mr Smith through for some exercise as well.



Gary Smith
Year 7 Year Adviser

Year 8 Pilot Program – NSW Police

Our school has taken part in an education initiative delivered by NSW Police, targeted to our Year 8 students. This program explored issues relating to cybersafety and sexting. Students completed a questionnaire and participated in an education workshop. This will be followed by a post-program survey in early December. We thank the parents of our Year 8 students for their support.

Electives

Many Year 8 students have been asking about their elective choices for next year. These are dependent on 2015 staffing numbers which are currently being finalised. Students will be informed of their electives before the end of the term.

P. Simmonds

P.Dive

Year 8 Year Advisors

Year 9

Year 9, 2014 has been a busy year for most of us. We have been settling in well to Stage 5 studies with the addition of the three new electives.

Early in the year the merit students enjoyed excellent weather for a great day at the Easter Show. I look forward to taking more of you along to the next merit excursion at the end of this term. Count your merits and come to see me for your form.

The 'Ski Trip' was an exciting three days in the snow. Many of the Year 9 students showed lots of talent and skill on the snowboard and skis. There are a few stories we all can tell of the spectacular crashes and embarrassing falls. Overall, we had excellent weather, great snow, good coaches, fun, friendly company and many memories to share in the future.

Fast approaching is our end of year exams and due dates for major assignments, so keep focussed and do your best. Come to see me if you have any problems.

Mr Liddle

Year Advisor, 2014 Year 9.

Year 10

A group of Year 10 boys were involved in the Dragon's 'Dream, Believe, Achieve' program in August. As a result of their involvement, they were asked to assist the Dragons in their Dragon Tag program, which provides an opportunity for local primary school students to gain and develop skills in the sport. The boys have provided an invaluable service to the program and their local community, by performing refereeing and time-keeping duties. Their contribution is most appreciated by the Dragons.

The boys involved are:

Jarrold Beckford

Jacob reed

Blake Taylor

Peter Faulks

Tyson Rosser

Mitchell Parkinson

Mitchell Mesiti

Nicholas McMahon

Casey graham

Christian Neal



RYDA Safety

Ryda Safety is on Monday 10th November for ALL of Year 10. Please return notes to Ms Harris by Monday 3rd November and \$15 payment by Friday 7th November to the front office.

Kerrie Harris
Year 10 Advisor

CANTEEN NEWS

WANT TO BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

We are still needing more parent volunteers to help out at our wonderful canteen. As this is the main fundraiser for Figtree High School, we are now having to pay staff to replace volunteers. This is impacting greatly on the money we can make for the school. The money the canteen raises goes towards purchases of resources that your child/children use everyday, such as interactive whiteboards.

If you could spare just a minimum of 1 hour (11.15am to 12.15pm) to help serve and to restock supplies, that will go such a long way to solving this ongoing issue.

Some of our students are not getting served until the end of their lunch breaks which leaves them little time to eat before returning to class.

If you could help us in solving this, please call the canteen on 4271 2787 ASAP and speak with Narelle.

P&C NEWS

Just a friendly reminder that our next P&C meeting (and last for 2014!) will be held at 7.30pm Wednesday 26th November, 2014 in the Library. All welcome.

If you cannot make it to the meeting and you have a topic you would like discussed on your behalf, please email Sharyn Low P&C President C/-

figtree-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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



Figtree High School

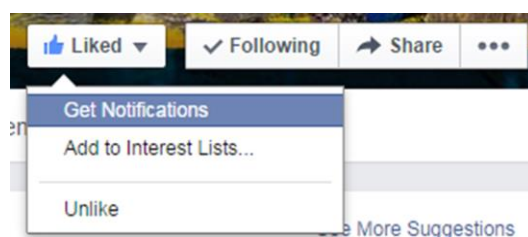
is on Facebook  Like

Show your support and keep up to date with our latest news posts by clicking 'Like' on our page.

Social media has changed the way people work, live and play. It's changed the way we connect with family and friends, with colleagues, with service providers, organisations and governments.

Figtree High School has recognised this fact and setup its own Facebook page to help parents, students and the wider community keep up to date with current news, student achievements and events at Figtree High School.

When you click 'Like' on our Facebook page, you will automatically get updates on your news feed from our page. As an added extra, if you would like to receive push notifications when we post to Facebook, first 'like' our page then an extra option should appear as shown below where you can elect to 'Get Notifications'.



Visit our Facebook page here [Figtree High School – Official](#)

Don't forget to visit or [official school website](#) for a more comprehensive guide to our school including news, events, policies and guidelines.



Ray White Wollongong/Figtree

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Student Scholarships 2014 - 2018

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Free Fact or Fiction Science Show at University of Wollongong

- Is it possible to fight the dark side with a light sabre?
- Could you make yourself disappear with an invisibility cloak?
- Can bacteria be teleported from one place to another?

Is there fact in your favourite science fiction film?

Fact or Fiction is a 90 minute show where the audience watch clips of classic sci-fi hits before individually voting, with hand held devices, on whether the technology featured is actual science fact or pure science fiction.

Once the audience voting has been locked in, either an ANSTO or an University scientist will critique the science featured in the film and provide the answer.

Fact or Fiction has been designed to be highly entertaining and educational and attract kids that aren't necessarily interested in science by providing them with a big dose of pop-culture. Science areas that are explored include Teleporting, Time Travel, Invisibility, Immortality, Light Sabres, Intelligent Metals, Terraforming Climates and Telekinesis. Age suitability is 8 years and above.

Fact or Fiction is a free event but bookings are essential and numbers are limited. Please email tours@ansto.gov.au or call (02) 9717 3090 to book your school mentioning your preferred session and number of students

Wollongong Event for General Public

Date: Thursday 6 November 2014
Time: 7:00 to 8:30pm
Venue: University Hall, Northfields Ave. University of Wollongong
Bookings: www.factorfictionwollongong.eventbrite.com.au
Enquires: 02 9717 3090 or email tours@ansto.gov.au



Ansto

**UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG**
AUSTRALIA



Present

FACT OR FICTION

*Is there fact in your favourite
science fiction film?*

*Is it possible to fight the dark side with a light sabre?
Could you make yourself disappear with an invisibility cloak?
Can bacteria be teleported from one place to another?*

**Thursday
6 Nov**

7.00pm

General Public

Show Duration
**90
mins**

*University Hall, Northfields Ave,
University of Wollongong, Wollongong NSW*

Free

Bookings : factorfictionwollongong.eventbrite.com.au

For more information : factorfiction@ansto.gov.au or 02 9717 3090

Cost - Free

Science Fact or Fiction is proudly presented by ANSTO. People aged fifteen and under must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.





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.

Inaugural Jayne Wilson Memorial Exhibition:

The First Floor Program invites your participation, as well as friends & family, in the Inaugural Jayne Wilson Memorial Exhibition, a celebration of creativity in honour of Jayne Wilson.

THEME:

The theme for the inaugural Jayne Wilson Memorial Exhibition will be "Sunflowers". Works must feature, include, reference or evoke Sunflowers to be eligible.

ARTISTIC MEDIUM:

All forms of creativity and artistic expression are welcomed however, as a criteria of entry, all submitted works must be capable of being displayed during the exhibition.

CATEGORIES:

Youth (under 18 years)

Open (18 years and over)

PRIZES:

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD:

The People's Choice Award will be decided by the artwork with the most community votes at the close of the exhibition

WILSON FAMILY'S CHOICE:

decided by members of Jayne's family, and presented at the official exhibition opening, this will be awarded to the entry which best represents Jayne - her personality, work and legacy.

Important Dates:

Artwork Submission: All entries must be received no later than 5pm on Friday 12th December 2014. Artworks must be delivered to:

The Salvation Army First Floor Program, level 3, 11-13 Burelli St, Wollongong.

Exhibition Opening: The Exhibition will be officially launched on Thursday evening, January 22 and open 10am-3pm daily until Sunday, February 1, 2015.

Full information, including Terms and Conditions: First Floor Program on (02) 42291079.

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/teen'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



Concessions may apply dependent on financial circumstances