



FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT BULLETIN

Term 4 Week 11 16th December 2014

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School Events

Week 11(A)	Beginning Monday 15 th December 2014
15.12.14	- Years 7-10 Semester 2 Reports issued
16.12.14	- Merit Excursion to Jamberoo Action Park
17.12.14	- Last day for Years 7-11 students
18.12.14	- Staff Development Day 1
19.12.14	- Staff Development Day 2
Week 1 (A)	Beginning Monday 26 th January 2015
27.1.15	- Staff Development Day
28.1.15	- Years 7, 11 and 12 Students return to school - Year 7 students meet in the Auditorium - Year 11 and 12 students assemble in the Quad for Year Meetings and distribution of timetables - Sport will be held at school for Year 11
29.1.15	- Years 8, 9 and 10 students return to school - 8:40am: Whole School Assembly for all students - Year Assemblies for Years 8, 9 and 10 to distribute timetables
Week 2 (B)	Beginning Monday 2 nd February 2015
3.2.15	- Year 12 Visual Arts Process Diary Due
4.2.15	- Year 7 Swim Test at Unanderra Pool during Sport
6.2.14	- Year 12 Textiles and Design Assessment Task due - Year 12 IPT Major Project Task Due - Year 12 UOW Discovery Day Excursion

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Thank you

It has been a very successful year for the staff and students at Figtree High School. I would like to thank you for your continued support. The following principal's report is based upon the welcome that I extended to guests, staff and students at the presentation ceremony.

It was wonderful to see so many members of our community at the presentation evening to celebrate and recognise the achievements of our most talented students. The Presentation Ceremony is the recognition of excellence. It is a celebration of the work achieved throughout the year both at the individual and whole school level. I would like thank our official guests, the Figtree High School staff and support staff, parents, community friends and students for attending.

It is most important to pay tribute to and give due recognition to the incredibly dedicated school community who genuinely offer every available resource to enable all students at Figtree High School to have an equal opportunity to participate fully in their education.

The School Captains, Student Representative Council and Sport House Captains at Figtree High School are growing in confidence and have a strong leadership team ethic with an increasingly effective student voice. We commend the students, staff, parents and community members who dedicate their time and effort to ensure that the student leadership and participation programs remain strong and sustainable.

The Teacher Professional Learning in 2014 has concentrated on the development of the 2015-2017 School Plan and the continued implementation of the Australian Curriculum and ALARM (A learning and responding matrix). These professional learning areas equip teachers with effective strategies to teach students how to learn and how to use that learning to respond effectively. We firmly believe that consistent development in this area will continue to positively impact upon our student's educational outcomes.

As we approach 2015, our school is engaging with students, parents, teachers and members of the wider school community to implement three strategic directions; teaching and learning, staff and student wellbeing and community partnerships.

In 2014, we have continued to develop a strong working relationship with our Community of Schools (CoS) which include; Figtree PS, Figtree Heights PS, Lindsay Park PS, Mt Kembla PS, Mt Keira PS, Mt St Thomas PS, Nareena Hills PS and Unanderra PS. The CoS has concentrated on a combined approach to the Australian Curriculum in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science and History. The CoS will continue to offer the popular and innovative programs, such as the Premier's Sporting Challenge and Yr 5 Enrichment Class.

In 2012, the Figtree High School Year 7 Scholarship was introduced. One worthy recipient is chosen from each primary school. This generous scholarship has been sponsored by the Figtree High School Parents and Citizens Association. I wish to thank the P & C for their generous ongoing support for our school community and the continuation of this award in 2015.

I would like to thank all who have contributed to this process and encourage all members of the school community to continue their participation and input to ensure our school meets the needs of our students who are its most valuable asset.

It is a privilege and joy to be the Principal of Figtree High School. I would like to sincerely thank the school community and the extended community for their support of my leadership.

On behalf of Figtree High School, I wish you a safe and prosperous 2015.

Carol Marshman
Principal

Year 11 – One Girl Foundation – DO IT IN A DRESS HIKE

On Saturday 29th November, 17 Year 11 students undertook a walk to raise money for the One Girl Foundation – 'Do It in a Dress'. They walked 16km from Gerringong to Kiama wearing dresses. Money raised by the students exceeded **\$1200** and will be given by the foundation to female students in Sierra Leone for educational sponsorship. This was a massive effort on the part of the Year 11 students and they are to be congratulated for their achievement. Thanks also to the FHS staff who also walked in dresses on the day – Mr Joseph, Mr Hardy, Ms Bennett. We would also like to thank Mr Borst who walked with us and took the great photos.

Ms K. Borst



An Overview of the Day by Kiara Bourne:

On Saturday the 29th of November, 17 students and 4 teachers took part in a hike from Gerringong to Kiama in order to raise money for the One Girl Foundation's initiative, "Do It In A Dress". This foundation allows young girls in Sierra Leone to gain a schooling scholarship worth \$300!

Students and teachers met at Wollongong train station all attired in dresses (even the boys!), ready for the long walk ahead. Our day started out by catching a train from Wollongong station to Kiama, and then another from Kiama to Gerringong, and we began our walk from there. Little did we know just how long our walk was going to be!

After being given strange looks from the people in the town, we took on giant hills, long, rocky roads, and around creeks and cliffs, stopping for a quick break every so often. Despite the difficult conditions of steep hills and uneven surfaces, it was well worth the amazing view of the magnificent coastline from the top!

17km later, we were back at Kiama station, exhausted and proud of our achievement.

In the end, the satisfaction of knowing we will be sending 4 young girls to school from the money we have raised, makes the walk well worth the effort that we put in.

On behalf of all the students who took part in "Do It In A Dress", I'd like to thank Ms Borst and all the other supervising teachers for all of their efforts. We couldn't have done it without your support, motivation, and Mr Hardy's wig.

Kiara Bourne

PBS VALUES

Week 11: SAFETY

When entering & leaving the school, move directly to your destination

Term 1, 2015

Week 1: SAFETY

Walk sensibly in the corridors and the stairwells and keep to the left

UOW STEM Industrial Technology Awards



Congratulations to Year 9 and 10 Industrial Technology-Timber students for their award winning projects and folios.

Mathew MacGregor and **Reid Spencer** won the Year 10 Timber Focus Area -Portfolio and Products awards. **Keiran Brodnik** and **Andrew Watson** won the Yr 9 Timber Focus area awards. **Alexandra Nelson** (Year 10) won the Women in Industrial Technology award. **Addison Gillespie** (Year 10) was awarded the runner-up in the Indigenous Student category. Figtree High School won the Indigenous/Rural School Award.

Congratulations to **Mr Jared Poppett** and his students on this outstanding achievement.

Thank you to the parents who attended the awards presentation to celebrate our students' success.

Mrs Smith
Head Teacher TAS

Back to School Supplies for 2015

As a basic set of school supplies, every year at school students will need;

- Student diary
- Black, blue and red pens, lead pencils
- Ruler, eraser, sharpener
- Coloured pencils, textas, highlighters
- Exercise books – for example: A4 196 page, A4 128 page, A4 96page
- Mathematics Grid exercise book
- Mathematics set – compass, protractor, set square
- Calculator
- A4 Display books – for assignment work
- 4G or 8G USB drive
- Electronic device that meets our BYOD specifications

Term 4 Merit Report

The school's merit system continues to be enthusiastically embraced by students. During 2014 3 students were awarded Gold Medallions, 8 students were awarded Gold Certificates, 51 attained their Silver Certificate and 105 students received their Bronze Certificate.

There are 95 students participating in the Term 4 merit excursion to Jamberoo on Tuesday 16th December. Parents are reminded that students will return to school by 3.30pm. Students have been encouraged to wear a hat and protect themselves against sunburn by wearing appropriate clothing and sunscreen.

Congratulations to the following students who have reached Silver or Bronze level in the school's merit system during Term 4. They were presented with their certificates at the end of term merit assemblies.

Silver

Bainous Dumbuya, Kieran Osborne (Year 11), Elena Kuminga (Year 10), Hugh Brophay, Hayley Brown, Jayden Brown, Sara Clark, Megan Collet, Campbell Fulcher, Jade Gray, Krystal Grogan, Kaitlin Hearne, Jamie Kuzman, Cameron Lodge, Daniel Maris, Kayla Marras, Emily McKinnon, Andrew McLean, Connor McMullen, Rebecca Prstec, Jayden Smileski, Kiara Teuma, Megg Tomczynski, Aimee Trowbridge, Georgia Wilson (Year 8), Tazmin Fulcher, Georgia Sturman, Zoe Williams (Year 7).

Bronze

Bainous Dumuya (Year 11), Courtney Job (Year 9), Camelia Ali, Rory Beniuk, Stephanie Bruckner, Caitlin Deverell, Kieran Garland, Madeleine Guillaume, Korey Ison, Ashleigh Jones, Chris Kiotis, Blake Mackay, Ethan McAnally, Andrew McLean, Lachlan Milne, Aaron Nicholls, Lillian Parsons, Scotty u Poon, Blayne Radford, Erin Stafford, Taylor-Jade Theobold, Dylan Ward (Year 8). Ulrich Aiono, Jakiah Bailey, Justin Bogdanoski, Khyl Bonham-Phair, Angus Brooks, Riley Brown, Hannah Bryant, Takirah Coulson, Emily Cox, Jordan de Nobrega, Caitlin Edwards, Harry Faulks, Jayden Frame, Isabella Glinski, Daniel Gray, Tim Hansen, Will Hansen, Natasha Hynoski, Daniel Jaques, Trent Jenkins, Barnabas Johnson, Jeremy Jones, Josip Juric, Ashley Kendon, Callum Kirby-Hays, William Leach, Sara Ljuboja, Holly McDonald, Dylan Mesiti, Joonyoung Moon, Jessica Nagy, Alyssa Neden, Aurelia Noronha, Jessica Rothschild, Anna Schelks, Sidney Schweigler, Zachary Seymour, Ryan Sheridan, Reydan Sinbandhit, Krissie Skarvelis, Leah Smith, Krystal Solevska, Georgia Vanden Brink, Cristina Velez, Georgia Verastegui, Rory Whinn (Year 7).

Ms Dive.

Gold Awards

Congratulations to **Jelena Zaric** in Year 11 and **Meghan Fox** in Year 8, who reached Gold level in the school's merit system during the second semester. To qualify for Gold a student must be able to show that he/she has received 150 merits for a variety of reasons, e.g., academic achievement, participation in sporting and extra-curricular activities and volunteering. Both students very ably fulfilled this requirement.

Jelena has been awarded Principal's Outstanding Achievement Awards for almost every reporting period since attending Figtree High, showing that she is a student who is willing to work to the best of her ability at all times. **Jelena** received many merits for being prepared to help at school and being involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Meghan is an outstanding achiever in many areas, having also received Principal's and Year Advisor's Awards. **Meghan** is a talented sportsperson and has reached State level in swimming and zone level for cross-country for the past two years. She has also represented the school in many other sports.

Both **Jelena** and **Meghan** were able to present merits from every faculty area and many of them were for commitment and excellence. They have demonstrated that they have good leadership skills and the respect of their fellow students. **Jelena** is a school captain and **Meghan** has been elected to be a member of next year's Student Representative Council.

It is worth noting that very few students have ever managed to attain Gold level in Year 8. Usually it takes a little longer to accumulate enough merits to qualify for this prestigious award. **Meghan** is to be congratulated on being the first student in her cohort to be awarded Gold.

Both students clearly demonstrate a commitment to following the school values of Respect, Safety and Learning through earning PBS merits, 100% attendance merits and offering their services to the school. Last week they were presented with their certificates at a whole school assembly.

Congratulations **Jelena** and **Meghan**!

Figtree High School – Core Values: Respect, Safety and Learning

Respect

This year has provided students with lots of opportunities to develop and practice respectful behaviour in our school environment and our community.

One of the aspects of Figtree High School that sets our students apart from others is the manner in which our students speak and interact with their teachers and their peers. I frequently hear the words “Excuse me”, “Please”, “Thanks”, “Good morning”, as I speak with students, walk through the playground, or enter classrooms or corridors of our school. We have had a number of phone calls and conversations with members of our community throughout this year, who have been equally impressed with how respectfully our students present themselves.

I have also seen our students demonstrate respect through their behaviours; using the garbage bins in the school, keeping our school graffiti free, supporting peers who may be in need, being proactive if they see a problem and reporting it and also through the care I see our students provide for their primary school aged siblings before and after school.

We value respect because it is essential for harmonious and successful relationships in all facets of life; school, home; friendships and work. We trust that your children will continue to demonstrate the value of respect with you over the holiday period.

Safety

We want our students to be safe both while they are at school and when they are in our community. With the school holiday period approaching, it is timely to reinforce some key messages about safety in our local community. Students are strongly encouraged to make the following choices as appropriate during their holiday period;

Water environments

- swim/surf with friends or family members
- swim/surf at patrolled beaches
- swim between the red and yellow flags
- check any danger or hazard signs at the beach and obey them
- follow the guidelines for protecting your skin: wear a hat, apply and reapply sunscreen, wear sunglasses, slip on a shirt and seek shade.

Road use

- wear a seat belt every time you are in the car
- use pedestrian crossings or traffic lights when available
- wear a helmet every time you ride your bike
- wear a helmet when using other wheeled devices: skateboards, scooters, rollerblades
- drive to the signed speed limit, without touching your mobile phone.

Online

- only use social networking sites/apps where you can control who you interact with, and who can interact with you
- communicate in the same manner as you would if you were face to face with the other person
- think before you click: remembering that after you send a picture or message, you lose control over what can happen to it on the web
- keep private information about yourself private (eg. address, phone number)
- check out <http://cybersmart.gov.au/> before you start using a new social networking site/app so that you are well informed about how to use the site safely, if at all.

Learning

Last Wednesday night we celebrated the outstanding academic and sporting success of a large number of students at our Annual Presentation Evening. We congratulate all students who were recognised at this event.

Yesterday, Monday 16th December, students in Years 7-10 were presented with their Semester 2 Reports. These reports were presented to students through their year assemblies, where a number of students were acknowledged with Principal's and Year Advisor Awards for the achievement, and commitment that they have shown in Semester 2. We encourage students to read these reports critically, with a focus on identifying their strengths and the areas to help them continue to improve their academic achievement in 2015.

A list of general school supplies has been included in this newsletter to assist students in returning to school with the resources for a successful 2015 year.

My best wishes to our students and their families for a fantastic festive season and a relaxing holiday period.

Ms Donovan
Deputy Principal

PREMIER BUSES – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Premier Illawarra would like to inform all parents and students that the 2015 school year will commence under our new contractual arrangements with Transport for NSW.

The most significant factor of the new contract is our obligation to maintain On Time Running (OTR) in accordance with our Key Performance Indicators (KPI).

As the OTR applies to all services, including school services, Premier Illawarra will be working closely with all schools to ensure that services are scheduled correctly and depart as per the schedule.

To avoid penalties and possible cancellation of contract our services will be departing schools at precisely the times agreed. If for some reason students are not loaded onto the buses by the designated time it will be required to depart without them.

Premier Illawarra has met with schools in the area and are working closely in relation to the following issues:-

- School departure times – to ensure that students are afforded sufficient time to relocate to the bus stop in the afternoon
- Sports specials (sport excursions) – to ensure that sports buses under our control arrive back at school prior to the designated departure of the schools services.

Premier Illawarra understand the unique issues involved with the transportation of school children and are working to ensure the specific problems relating to placing strict OTR regulations on school services do not result in inconvenience to both parents and students.

Regards,

Management
Premier Illawarra

CANTEEN NEWS

Due to the reduced number of volunteers to help at the canteen over the past 3 years, it was voted at the previous P&C meeting to increase prices for most of the items we sell at the canteen.

We have tried over past 3 years to keep prices affordable for students to purchase food and beverages, however, overall costs of running the canteen have increased significantly.

Thank you for your understanding

School Uniform - 2015

The school has two suppliers for our school uniform, Lowes at Westfield Figtree and Poppets Direct, who have a warehouse outlet in Montague Street, Fairy Meadow. Girls have the option to wear the school skirt or our approved school shorts during the summer months. The school uniform shorts for girls are mid-thigh length, plain navy, with no logos, pleats or cuffs. Our uniform suppliers have our girl's shorts in stock. We seek our parents support in ensuring that girls are wearing the approved school uniform shorts next year.

Junior Students Senior Students



Footwear

Our school uniform includes **ALL BLACK** fully enclosed **leather, leatherette or suede** shoes. This is to ensure that students meet the appropriate Work Health and Safety requirements while they are at school.

Our school canteen is selling the school caps for a price of \$12.

If you require assistance with uniforms, please contact Mrs Borst at the school.

Ray White®

Ray White Wollongong/Figtree

69 Kembla Street, Wollongong 2500

ph: 4229 8600 fax 4225 9359

are the proud sponsors of the

**Ray White Wollongong/Figtree
Student Scholarships 2014 – 2018**



Skoolbag



FOR



Smartphone school to parent communication

Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- > School, free push notification alerts
- > School events
- > School newsletters
- > School documents
- > School RSS feeds
- > School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parents and students



How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

iPhone & iPad Users

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



Android Users

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook! 

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parents and students



NOTIFICATIONS

Attention Parents !!

Looking for something *fun* to do with the kids in the school holidays?

“BUBBLE SOCCER”

The ‘NEW’ craze that’s sweeping the Illawarra and the World!

Right here on *your* doorstep at ‘eightfoxavenue’ INDOOR sports centre in Wollongong!

For 8-16 yr olds ONLY! (minimum 8 players)

Check out our pictures and video’s on our Facebook page at www.eightfoxavenue.com.au

*Call now, and mention your school for a 50% discount during the School holidays!

Bookings are essential, call Gary to book on 42288322.

Family Law Advice

A free legal service for women



Our solicitors provide legal advice and information about Family Law issues
This is a free service for women

When

Fortnightly on Thursday mornings between 10.00 and 12.00

Appointments
Are essential!

Location

WWIS - Wollongong Women's Centre
170 Corrimal Street
Wollongong
(opposite Wollongong Golf Club)

To make an appointment
Contact us on 4228 1499
or wwis@wwis.org.au

Welcome!

Women's *Crafty* Drop In Morning

If you would like to...

- ☺ do some art and craft activities
- ☺ have a chat over morning tea
- ☺ get to know some other women
- ☺ just relax and do your own thing

this could be the group for you!

**This is an informal, friendly and relaxed
time for women to drop in, do some
things that they enjoy, and have some
fun - together!**

*Limited child minding will be available -
bookings are essential!*

When

Term 1 2015

Thursday 5 February - Thursday 26 March
10.00 – 12.00

Where

Wollongong Women's Centre
170 Corrimal Street Wollongong
(opposite Wollongong Golf Club)



KinKou Yoga

E. kathy@kinkouyoga.com

T. 0403 315575

www.kinkouyoga.com

Yoga for Stress & Anxiety

Starting Sunday 1 February and then each Sunday for six weeks

Kids (ages 8-12) at 3:30pm

Teens (ages 13+) at 5pm

\$90 for six weeks

Bookings essential & for

full six weeks only

See website for details



e for animation HOLIDAY DRAWING CLASSES



Held at the creative warehouse
Anchors Aweigh Art Studio
138B Auburn St Wollongong.

Two **all ages**, classes in January.

Monday 12/01/2015
10am to 1pm
\$50

Monday 19/01/2015
10am to 1pm
\$50

Art equipment supplied. Bring your own lunch.
Bookings essential.

Regular drawing classes start on 03/02/2015.
4pm or 5pm class.

\$225 for the nine week term.
Ages **10yrs** and over. Bookings essential.

Contact **Evan Newby**
0410 510 213
enewby_au@yahoo.com



THE BEST HOLIDAYS HAPPEN AT CAMP

- ✓ Relaxing
- ✓ Great value
- ✓ Fun
- ✓ Safe

Tick every box this school holidays with a Sport and Recreation Camp. Our popular Kids' and Family Camps offer a range of exciting activities to keep even the biggest kid entertained. Try your hand at over 40 different activities, including fishing, mountain biking, surfing, abseiling, crafts, kayaking, cooking and more, and relax knowing you're in good hands. Kids' Day Camps start from \$47; Family Camp weekends start from \$168 for kids and \$238 for adults. Kids under five years attend free of charge. Cost includes accommodation, meals and activities.

Bonus! Residential Kids' Camps include supervised transport from:

- Central Station, Sydney
- Penrith
- Lithgow
- Bathurst
- Orange
- Wellington
- Brooklyn
- Mooney Mooney.



dsr.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps
dsr.nsw.gov.au/familycamps
13 13 02
facebook.com/nswsportandrecreation



Office
of Sport
Sport & Recreation

Black Dog Institute Program

REACH Wellbeing Group in your local area



What is REACH?

REACH is a 9 week psycho-educational wellbeing group (based on the principles of responsibility, education, acceptance, connection and hope) to help participants with depression or bipolar disorder manage their illness and stay well. Topics include fostering strengths, dealing with loss and grief, identifying early warning signs and triggers, wellbeing strategies, nurturing support networks and creating a unique Wellbeing Plan.

Eligibility criteria for participants:

- Over 18 years old
- Diagnosis of depression or bipolar disorder, for a minimum of one year
- Capacity to participate in a group setting
- Capacity to commit to attending the 9 weekly sessions
- Acceptance of illness
- Motivation to implement personal change strategies

Upcoming Group

When: Mondays from 2 February to 30 March 2015

Time: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Venue: Wollongong Women's Information Service, 170 Corrimal St, Wollongong

Facilitator: Nat from WWIS

To register interest: Call 02 4228 1499 or email nat@wwis.org.au

The Black Dog Institute is a world leader in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mood disorders such as depression and bipolar disorder. www.blackdoginstitute.org.au



BLACK DOG INSTITUTE