



FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT BULLETIN

Term 1 Week 10 2nd April, 2014

2 Gibsons Road, Figtree NSW 2525 Ph: 4271 2787 Fax: 4271 6626
Email: figtree-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

School Events

Week 10 (B)	Beginning Monday 31 st March
31.3.14	- Year 7 Camp – Day 1 - Year 12 Half Yearly Exams commence: 2 weeks - Premiers Sporting Challenge Day with Primary School students
1.4.14	- Year 7 Camp – Day 2 - Year 10 Commerce Excursion - U14yrs Girls and Boys FUTSAL Championships
2.4.14	- Year 7 Camp – Day 3 - Open and U16yrs Girls FUTSAL Championships
3.4.14	- U16yrs Boys FUTSAL Championships
4.4.14	- Open Boys FUTSAL Championships - Year 7 Scripture: 7N, 7O and 7T - Peer Support for Year 11 Leaders and Year 7
Week 11 (A)	Beginning Monday 7 th April
7.4.14	- Year 11 Legal Studies Excursion
8.4.14	- Peer Support for Year 11 Leaders and Year 7 - BBQ for students in the RED house at Lunch 1 - Grade Sport Trials during Sport for Years 7-11 - P and C Meeting – Library at 7:30pm
9.4.14	- Open Girls Soccer knockout game
10.4.14	- SRC Mufti-Day for the World's Greatest Shave - Year 7 Scripture: 7E, 7B and 7M - Year 9 Visual Design Incursion - Defence Force Presentation in Library - Year 8 Scripture seminar – Lunch 2 and Period 6
11.4.14	- Year 7 Scripture: 7E, 7B and 7M - Merit Excursion: Easter Show - Year 12 Half Yearly Exams – Final Day.
Week 1 (B)	Beginning Monday 28 st April
28.4.14	- Staff Development Day - Year 12 RSA/RCG Day 1
29.4.14	- Year 9 Links to Learning - Year 12 RSA/RCG Day 2
30.4.14	- Year 12 Hamlet Workshop at Seymour Centre
2.5.14	- Open Girls Soccer

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Congratulations and thank you to our Junior Choir vocalists who represent the school on assembly singing the National Anthem; Kayla Shea, Jessica Rothschild, Anna Schelks, Ashley Kendon, Darcy Griffiths, Ryan Sheridan, Daniel Jaques and Jordan Pearce.

We have just ordered 7 Interactive data projectors for the school. We are working towards providing

an interactive data projector or interactive whiteboard in every classroom. Payment of voluntary fees has enabled the purchasing of this equipment. I would encourage parents to continue support the school through the payment of the school voluntary fee so that we can better support your children with 21st Century resources.

I am the Secondary Principal Council representative on Support Unit/Classes Placement Panel for the Wollongong North network. The placement panel meets twice per term to discuss Student Access Requests for placement into support units or classes. The classes can be; IM (Intellectual Moderate), Physical Disabilities, Autism, Emotional Disabilities(ED) or Behaviour Disorders (BD). Figtree High School's Flametree Annex, that is located off site in North Wollongong, is a support unit of 3 ED and 1 BD classes. The Figtree High School Flametree Annex: Attendance Policy and Procedures has been recently revised and has been submitted to the placement panel on 26 March.

In 2014, I was fortunate to be nominated to be the principal representative on the Workplace Learning Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Tablelands Board. At their Annual General Meeting I accepted the position of Deputy Chair of Board. The objective of Workplace Learning Illawarra is to create opportunity for young people through programs such as: Work Placement Service Provision, Independent Employment Adviser Services, Jobs Education and Training (JET) Program and Australian Apprenticeships Mentoring Program. In 2014 the Workplace Learning Illawarra have the responsibility for the coordination of the Careers Expo and the Schools Excellence in Vocational Education and Training Awards. The students at Figtree High School are supported by these programs, services

and events.

An initial meeting of Jobs Education and Training (JET) program occurred on Wednesday 26 March. Mr Adam Sargent-Wilson organised this opportunity for 23 of our students to learn about and consider joining this very worthwhile program. The JET program is funded through the Figtree High School Resource Allocation Model – Equity funds.

The School Houses Captains and some Year 9-11 Indigenous students were trained by Mr Andrew Adams in the Indigenous Games Program. They plan to organise an Indigenous Games Olympics for Year 7 in Term 2.

On Friday 28 March, Figtree High School debated Woonona High School for the first and second rounds of the Premier's Debating Challenge.

Team A

- Cassandra Kelly
Henry Heritage
Jake Webster
Koe Bowmaker

Team B

- Jelena Zaric
Bradley Heino
Mitchell Ivaneza
Sam Condon

A full report will appear in the next newsletter.

The following SRC students were involved in a Youth Volunteering survey on Thursday 27 March.

- Year 7
 - Emerson Hutto , Taymin Pagett,
Payton Scanlen, Madison Grover
- Year 8
 - Payton Williams, Jemma Gourlay,
Jayden Brown & Rory Benuik
- Year 9
 - Heather Oakley, Taranom
Rahmani, Xoes Attipoe & Ebony
Tasker
- Year 10
 - Jessica Jauleska, Victoria Liddle,
Stephanie Black & Matthew
MacGregor

○ Year 11

- Ben Kuzman, Elsie Croker, Amy
Pryor, Jason Rees, Bainous
Dumbaya , Jelena Zaric, Daniel
Lucas, Karlee McNamara, Chloe
Jovanovska

Thank you.

Carol Marshman

Principal

2014 Youth Achievement Awards

On Friday 28th March, Mrs Marshman, Mr Deitz, Miss Clark, Mr Sargent-Wilson and I attended the 2014 Youth Achievement Awards dinner with 12 Figtree High School students and their families at the Wests Illawarra Leagues Club. It was fantastic to see so many of our students nominate for these awards and gain recognition for their outstanding achievements in 2013. Our award nominees and the categories were;



Year 8

Meghan Fox – Academic Excellence Award Junior

Payton Williams - Academic Excellence Award Junior
and Sports Achievement Award Junior

Jayden Smileski - Sports Achievement Award Junior

Jarrold Buick - Sports Achievement Award Junior

Year 9

Christopher Rutter – Achievement in the Arts and
Digital Media Award Junior

Jarrold Twigg - Sports Achievement Award Junior

Year 10

Rebekah Clark - Sports Achievement Award Senior

Joseph D'Souza-Bullman - Sports Achievement Award Junior

Year 11

Mercenzi Howard - Sports Achievement Award Senior

Year 12

Jelena Zaric - Academic Excellence Award Senior

Savannah Reali - Academic Excellence Award Senior

Year 12 2012

Shannon Fox – Citizenship Award

All nominees were recognised and received a certificate, movie voucher and gift card in recognition of their successful 2013. In each award category, there were two finalists, one of the finalists was the overall category winner and the other finalist was given an encouragement award.

There were an amazing number of young people who had nominated for the awards, and decisions about the finalists would have been very difficult for awards committee.

Figtree High School had three finalists;



Savannah Reali - Encouragement Award winner for Academic Excellence Award Senior

Mercenzi Howard – Encouragement Award winner for Sports Achievement Award Senior

Jarrold Twigg – Overall winner for the Sports Achievement Award Junior

Our finalists received a trophy, cash prize and another certificate, recognising their achievement.

Year 8 2013 ESSA Results are in!

In November 2013, our Year 8 students participated in the Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA). The test was completed online by students, with a selection of multiple choice, short answer and extended response style questions designed to measure students' levels of achievement of Stage 4 Science outcomes. This test was completed by over 53,000 Year 8 students last year.

On Thursday, Year 9 students who completed the assessment will be given their results envelope which is addressed to parents/carers. The report, which provides detailed information about your child's achievement, is presented in a format similar to the NAPLAN reports. The report describes a student's achievement across six achievement levels. Additional information is also provided about how students performed in the extended response task, short answer and multiple choice tasks.

We ask that parents take the time to read their child's ESSA report and discuss this with their child. If you require assistance in understanding your child's report, please contact your child's Science teacher, who will be happy to assist you.

PBS VALUES

Week 10: RESPECT

Put rubbish in the bins

Week 11: SAFETY

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

Term 2 Week 1: SAFETY

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

Figtree High School's Core Values

Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations

Year 12 students commenced their Half Yearly Examinations for their HSC courses this week. The examinations will continue until the end of the term. Students do not have normal timetabled lessons during the examination period, and they only attend school for their scheduled examinations. These examinations are HSC assessment tasks in the majority of courses, so it is essential that students follow the necessary procedures if they are sick or there is a misadventure on the day of an examination. Information about these procedures is available in the HSC Assessment Booklet that students received in Term 4 2013. These examinations will provide both students and their teachers with feedback on how they are progressing with their knowledge and understanding of the HSC course content.

Students in Years 11 and 12 recently participated in a Study Skills seminar at the school. The examinations often provide a timely reminder that 'study' needs to occur on a regular basis, not just the night before an examination. The upcoming 2 week school holiday period will provide students in Years 11 and 12 the opportunity to spend some time organising their classwork and preparing some summary/study notes for each of the topics taught during Term 1. Practising the techniques that were discussed at the study skills session, will assist students to develop sound study habits and skills, to set themselves up for success in examination periods.

Regional Special Olympics Swimming Carnival

On Saturday 22nd March, Callum Kirby-Hayes from Year 7, represented Special Olympics NSW – Illawarra branch at the Regional Special Olympics Swimming Carnival that was held at Kiama Leisure Centre. Callum had fantastic swims in his four events;

- 50m freestyle, in a 1.3 sec personal best time and placing 2nd
- 50m breaststroke, in a 7sec personal best time and placing 2nd
- 50m Backstroke, in a 7sec personal best time and placing 2nd
- 25m freestyle, just outside his personal best and placing 4th

We congratulate Callum on his fantastic improvements in his swimming and we look forward to seeing him continue to improve throughout the year.

Two of our Year 8 students, **Kaitlin Hearne** and **Meghan Fox** were able to watch Callum competing in his races as the girls were volunteering their time working as timekeepers throughout the carnival.



Kaitlin, Callum and Meghan

Parking around Figtree High School

We have recently had some phone calls of concern from members of our community with regards to an increasing number of parents using the parking areas at local businesses to drop off and pick up their children for school. This is making it challenging for local businesses to operate, particularly Figtree Tyres, Figtree Smash Repairs and Figtree Auto Electrics, where there is ongoing movement of vehicles and a need for both employees and customers to be able to move vehicles and park them safely.

We are seeking the support of our parents to ensure that they use either Gibsons Road or O'Briens Road as drop off and pick up areas for their children, and refrain from parking at local businesses. While Gibson's Road can become very heavy with traffic at 8:30am and 3:00pm, O'Briens Road has unrestricted parking areas, making this an ideal drop off and pick up zone for parents who are transporting their child/children to and from school.

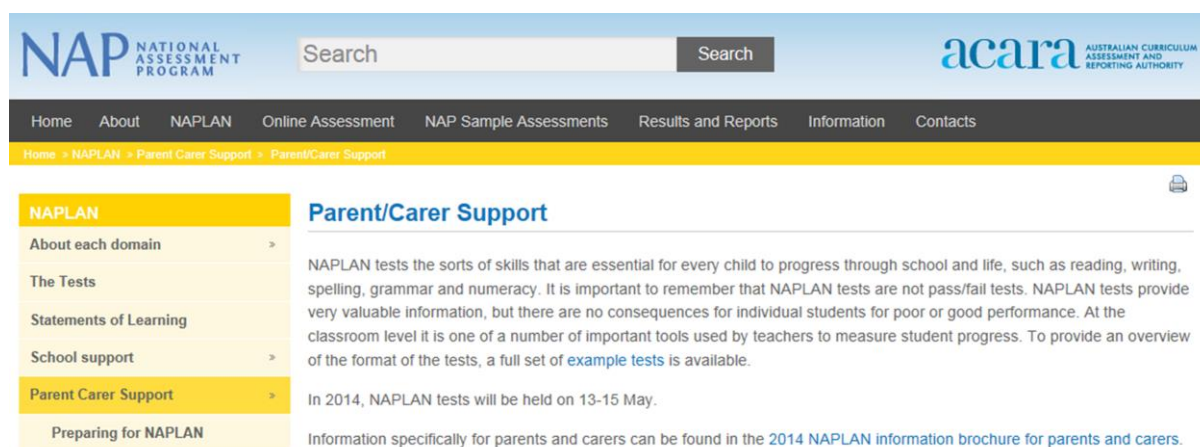
Ellie Donovan
Deputy Principal

NAPLAN is just around the Corner!

Students in Years 7 and 9 will participate in NAPLAN in Week 3 next Term, 13th -15th May. The testing will assess student's performance in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy. These tests provide a "snapshot" in time, and enable students, parents and teachers to identify how students have improved since the previous testing period and identify any areas for further development.

Student attendance for NAPLAN is essential, and we seek parents support in ensuring their child attends school each day during this week. Teachers in all subjects use learning activities designed to improve student's literacy and numeracy skills. In 2014, as in previous years, the Writing task will be a single common task for all students. The 2014 Writing test will require students to respond to either a persuasive or narrative Writing prompt. However, the genre of the prompt will not be disclosed prior to the test period.

Students may also want to do some additional preparation for the NAPLAN tests, by practicing their skills in each of the testing areas. Information for parents/carers about NAPLAN and sample assessments can be accessed from <http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support/parent-carer-support.html> . A screen-shot from this site can be seen below.



NAPLAN	
About each domain	>
The Tests	
Statements of Learning	
School support	>
Parent Carer Support	>
Preparing for NAPLAN	

Parent/Carer Support

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN tests are not pass/fail tests. NAPLAN tests provide very valuable information, but there are no consequences for individual students for poor or good performance. At the classroom level it is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress. To provide an overview of the format of the tests, a full set of [example tests](#) is available.

In 2014, NAPLAN tests will be held on 13-15 May.

Information specifically for parents and carers can be found in the [2014 NAPLAN information brochure for parents and carers](#).

If you have any questions regarding NAPLAN or your child's participation, please contact Mrs Vanessa Glasgow, Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, at the school.

Ellie Donovan
Deputy Principal

No Gap: No Excuse

On Thursday 27th of March staff at Figtree High School participated in the two hour professional development course, No Gap: No Excuse 'Our Kids, Our Classroom, Our community.' This is one of five modules that all staff in the Illawarra South East Region are required to complete. The course is designed to ensure that Aboriginal students are engaged through culturally responsive teaching and learning practices. On Thursday staff discussed issues such as the expectations they have of students, the importance of knowing your pupils, and forming meaningful relationships with students and community. This is a significant step the Public Education System has taken, to work toward closing the gap *that exists between Indigenous and non-indigenous Australians, particularly in relation to educational outcomes*. I would like to pay a special thanks to Eric Pagett, local Aboriginal community representative, for providing a Welcome to Country and sharing his knowledge and experience with the staff at Figtree High School. I would also like to recognise the involvement of Nicole Kokalevski and Julie Liddle who assisted in facilitating the course.

Mrs Jessica Williams
English Teacher

Naidoc Poster Competition

Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond

On Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th of March, our Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander students were given the opportunity to participate in creating a poster for Naidoc Week. The theme this year is "Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond". Students were given a brief understanding of the participation of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islanders during the past 100 years and then completed a poster that reflected their understanding. All students deserve congratulations on their commitment to the task and the outstanding behaviour that they showed over the two days.

Also thank you to the Visual Art teachers Ms Buxton and Ms Green for the use of their art rooms for the two days.

Mrs Liddle and Mrs McCurry

House Captain Planning Day

On the 18th March the House Captains had a very successful planning day. The first part of the day saw the students be mentored by Andrew Adams. Andrew is the Aboriginal Officer with the Department of Sport and Recreation. He taught a variety of indigenous games to our students. This was an invaluable session as not only did he teach them the skills of the game but he also explained why the games were played and in what part of Australia they were played in. The students will now be able to pass this knowledge on to other students in the school.

The second half of the day saw the House Captains plan for future events. In Term 3 on July the 24th the House Captains will organise a gala day for Year 7 where the students will be taught the indigenous games. This will be a fun event and we will also have prizes for the winning Year 7 House. Stay tuned for further information.

I would like to congratulate the House Captains who have been enthusiastic and keen to reinvigorate the House system.

Tanya Markham

PE Faculty

Match Report. Open Boys Cricket. 20th March 2014.

Second Round 40 over match played at Thirroul between Figtree HS and Bulli HS.

Figtree lost the toss and our boys found themselves fielding on a damp outfield. Things started well for Figgy with some tight bowling from **Will Nimetti** and **Todd Rigby**. Rigby was successful early with 2 wickets and Bulli looked as though they were going to offer a small total. With the pressure on the batters, Figtree were able to force a run out and restrict Bulli to 4 for 59 after 20 overs. Tight bowling from **Llatse**, **Burley** and **Armstrong** was a feature of the first session.

Things changed after the drinks break however and Bulli, mainly due to some powerful hitting from **K Flynn-Duncan** (126) and a drier outfield, accelerated their score rapidly. Despite Bulli dominating the second session, **Jye Phillips'** spin bowling (4 for 35 off 8 overs) kept Figgy in the match. **Josh Yeaman** also chipped in with 2 late wickets to dismiss Bulli for 196.

The Bulli total was impressive but our batters felt confident in chasing it and, despite losing the early wicket of **Nick Armstrong**, our boys moved steadily to 3 for 101 after 20. Skipper **Aaron Llatse** (76) batted impressively and seemed to have the match under control. With support from **Brandon Redman**, **Luke Galea** and **Jye Phillips**, Figtree were moving towards victory.

Disaster struck in the 27th over with the loss of 3 quick wickets and we crashed to 7 for 140. Our tail only managed a further 27 runs despite some determined batting from **Paul Roberts** and **Josh Yeaman**.

Match Summary:

Result: Bulli HS all out 196 from 40 overs

(Flynn-Duncan 126, Forrest 18, J Phillips 4/35, T Rigby 2/26,

J Yeaman 2/2)

defeated

Figtree HS all out 167 from 36 overs

(A Llatse 76, J Phillips 17, B Redman 14, Wyett 2/28, Yates 4/4)

This was a good effort from Figtree who were beaten by a team who were able to produce a couple of outstanding individual performances.

Once again our lads impressed with excellent behaviour and played the match in good spirit.

Mr Michael Malouf



Good sportsmanship was a feature of the day.



Aaron Llatse takes guard.



Ryan King's innings was short and sweet.



Paul Roberts tried hard with the bat



Luke Galea found a helmet that fits!



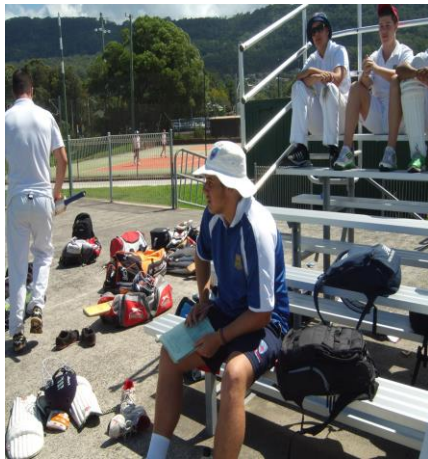
Figtree was well captained by Aaron Llatse who also top scored with 76



Will Nimetti gives an ironic salute after scoring just 1 run.



Todd Rigby trudges off having scored a golden duck.



Luke Galea takes his turn as scorer.



Waiting to bat.

SMS and Email Absence Notifications

Over the past week, we have been sending SMS and email messages to a parent/carer of every student who has a full day absence, as recorded during morning roll call.

If you receive one of these messages, please respond by either ringing our school mobile on 0418486866 or by replying via email. Please clearly state your child's full name, roll call class and reason for the absence.

Please note that if your child is late to school, they **MUST** see a Deputy Principal and be signed in at the Office. Students should not go straight to class. Teachers are marking their class rolls electronically every period in the school day, so if you believe an error has been made with your child's attendance record, please contact the school so that this can be investigated.

If you have changed your mobile number or email address please contact us so we can update our records.

Thank you very much to all parents who have been using this system. Thank you for the positive feedback we have also received to date.

Mrs Johanna Clifford
Head Teacher Administration



FIGTREE HIGH CROSS COUNTRY

This is a normal school day and ALL students are to attend and participate.

WHEN: Thursday 10th April 2014

WHERE: School – races start on the Netball courts and finish on the bottom oval underneath the football posts, running through neighbouring paddocks and crossing the creek (approximately 3km).

TIMETABLE FOR THE DAY

Periods 1 – 3 normal lesson

Lunch 1 – 11.34am until 12.04pm

Assembly 12.04pm until approximately 12.15

RACE SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

- **Seniors & 16 years–** 12.30pm
- **12 & 13 Years –** 12.45pm
- **14 Years –** 1.00pm
- **15 Years –** 1.15pm

If time permits there will be assembly in the Quad at approx. 2.10pm where rolls will be marked and raffle tickets will also be drawn with prizes given.

INFORMATION

- School uniform **MUST** be worn for Periods 1 – 3 then students may change into old clothes to run in (they don't have to run in their PE shirt)
- The students **WILL** get their feet wet crossing the creek so it is advisable to wear old joggers and not expensive shoes.
- Seniors and 16 years should not eat a great deal at Lunch 1 but wait until after their race.
- 12, 13, 14 and 15 years should eat their lunch at Lunch 1 before their race.
- It is advisable to wear a hat and sunscreen for the race.
- Water will not be available on the course. If you think you will need it you will have to carry a water bottle with you.

TEACHER SUPERVISION

Teachers are stationed at regular intervals around the course (within site of each checkpoint) – each with a mobile phone and small first aid kit. A Risk Assessment has been completed for this event.

All students are encouraged to participate whether to qualify for the Zone Cross Country Championships or just to have fun. If your son/daughter has a medical condition that may prevent him/her from participating in this event, please supply a note on the day detailing the condition so an exemption may be arranged.

FUNDRAISING

On the afternoon of the Cross Country the SRC are running some stalls to raise money for the school (eg, sausage sizzle, cakes & drinks). We ask you to bring some money to support these ventures.

YEAR 9 SNOW TRIP

This is a reminder that you need to pay \$100 deposit before the end of this term to secure your place.

Places are filling quickly, so get your money in now to the frontoffice. Credit card payments will be accepted by phone.

Thank you

Mr Adam Sargent-Wilson

Music News

Attention Brass and Woodwind players

If you play a brass instrument (Trumpet, Trombone, Horn, French Horn) or a woodwind instrument such as (Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe, Bassoon) please come to CAPA staffroom and make yourself known or tell your Music teacher.

We are hoping to start an after school ensemble.

Thank you

Mr Malouf

PAYMENTS FROM STUDENTS AND PARENTS TO OFFICE

Just a friendly reminder that if you are paying for school fees, uniforms, calculators, excursions etc., payments can be made at the Front Office before school (8.00 - 8.38am) or at Lunch 1 and Lunch 2.

In Term 1 2014, Parents/Carers can pay at the front office until 2.00pm.

Payments can be made by Cash, Cheque (made out to Figtree High School) and EFTPOS. Credit Card payments may also be accepted by phone.

Any questions, please phone the friendly staff in the front office on 4271 2787.



National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2014

LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2014 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 13 - 15 May 2014.

TUESDAY 13 MAY	WEDNESDAY 14 MAY	THURSDAY 15 MAY
Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) Writing	Reading	Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and Space)

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 16 May – A 'catch-up' day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student's normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustment or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school Principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Please make an appointment with the Principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child's participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html.

Basketball Helpers

In week 9 the Girls State Cup Basketball was held in Berkeley. To assist the smooth running of this carnival a group of students helped Mark Hume the Regional Sports Convenor. Their job was to control the bench. This was a lot of responsibility however Mr Hume said the girls were fabulous. Congratulations to the following girls who were great ambassadors for the school.

Beatrice Roberts
Amy Soper
Ally Nelson
Myah Howard
Chloe Winch
Georgina Petrolo
Rhiannon Brown
Rachel Branch
Erika Peterson
Bridgett Hatton
Kiara Grover
Emily Imber
Belinda Veljanoska
Tayla Chambers

Red House Swimming Carnival Congratulations BBQ

At our recent swimming carnival Red House were the victorious team. To congratulate them all on their effort they were rewarded with a free BBQ. The house captains who initiated this reward organised and cooked for the students. This BBQ aims to build team spirit within the houses and we hope to continue this reward system throughout the year. Congratulations once again to Red House and let's see who can win at the next event which is our Cross Country carnival on the 10th April.



News from the Maths Faculty

It didn't take long for 2014 to get into full swing. In Mathematics will have implemented the national curriculum into our Year 7 and Year 9 programs and have also implemented a new New South Wales syllabus into Year 11 and Year 12 for General Mathematics. This year we will be developing a new Year 8 and Year 10 program for the implementation of the new national curriculum for those years.

On the assessment task side of things, all years have started their formal assessments and parents are welcome to discuss the progress of their child with their teachers. Year 12 are currently doing their half yearly exams and I wish them well in their performance.

In term 3, on the 7th August, the Australian Mathematics competition will be held and I would like to encourage as many students to enter it as possible. All students will receive a certificate and it looks great in a resume. The cost is \$6 to enter which needs to be paid by the end of this term.

With Easter approaching, I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday.

A.Linnenlucke

Head Teacher Mathematics

Winter School Uniform

As Term 2 approaches, we seek parents support to ensure that students have the necessary items of school uniform for the colder weather. Below are photos of our winter uniform items for both Junior and Senior students. Tailored navy pants, navy slacks or navy tracksuit pants can be worn by girls during the colder months. Girls may also choose to continue to wear their school skirt or approved school shorts, with plain tan/navy/black stockings in the colder months. We would like to remind girls and their parents that navy tights can only be worn to school if they are worn **under** a school skirt or shorts.



In particular, students and parents are reminded that school uniform items listed as NAVY – need to be **plain navy**, without brand logos, contrasting stripes or combinations of other colours. School uniform items that are plain navy include:

- Hooded zip jumpers for boys and girls
- Shorts and long pants for boys and girls
- Sports shorts
- Tracksuit pants for boys and girls
- Senior girls skirts
-

School uniform items are available from LOWES – Westfield Figtree and at Poppets Direct – located in Montague St, Fairy Meadow or Crystal Bears, located at Dapto Mall. Our uniform suppliers have ample stock for the colder months.

If a student is not able to wear the correct Figtree High School uniform, they should have a note of explanation from a parent/carer and give this to their roll call teacher. If you require financial assistance to support you in purchasing the correct uniform for your child, please contact Mrs Kirsten Borst at the school.

MERIT REWARD DAY: ROYAL EASTER SHOW

On the last day of Term 1 a special reward day excursion has been organised to the Royal Easter Show at the Sydney Showground – Homebush. All students who have reached Silver level in the school's merit system, as well as students who have been awarded Bronze in 2013 or 2014 are eligible to attend. Numbers will be limited so there will be a first in - first pay/permission note basis.

Date: Friday 11th April, 2014. (last day of Term 1)

Transport: by coach

Cost: \$35 – covers the cost of the bus and entry into the show.

Times: Students need to be at school **by 8.30am**. The bus will leave at **8.40am**. The bus will return to school by **5pm**.

Gear: Students must wear a Figtree High shirt or TShirt but may wear comfortable, appropriate casual gear with suitable footwear for walking. Students should also remember to wear a hat and use sunscreen. In case of rain the excursion will still go ahead and students should take protective rain gear.

Supervision: Students will be organised into groups beforehand. They may then venture freely at the show but must stay with their group at all times. Students will have at least one mobile phone per group and will be provided with a teachers mobile number for easy contact at any time.

Permission Note and Payment: The last day for notes and payment will be Friday 4th April. Tickets need to be ordered so final numbers are needed by this date. Payment must be made at the front office. Cheques are to be made payable to Figtree High School.

Permission notes are available from Year Advisors or Ms Dive in Languages staffroom.

Organising teacher: Ms Dive (Merit System Coordinator)

News from the Administration Office

Making payments online – Coming in Term 2!

It will be possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting \$ Make a payment

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is also a category called 'Other', this to cover items not covered in the previous headings. Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the \$ Make a payment you must enter:

- the students full name, class and reference number OR
- the students full name, and date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number if you are aware of them, these are optional fields.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child's account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office. We will notify you when this new payment system is up and running.

SAVE THE DATE

TAFE Illawarra Taste of TAFE

Taste of TAFE gives students
a hands on glimpse of what
TAFE Illawarra has to offer

Wednesday 6 August

Wollongong and
Shellharbour Campuses

More details to follow soon



TAFE!
ILLAWARRA
INSTITUTE

www.illawarra.tafensw.edu.au | 1300 766 123 | Follow TAFE Illawarra



Mathematics Competition

Date of competition: 7 August 2014

This competition is open to all
students in Years 7 to 12.

If your child would like to enter in
to this competition, it will cost \$6.
This entry fee needs to be paid to
their maths teacher no later than 2
May 2012. No late entries accepted.

ADD TO YOUR SUCCESS

See your Maths teacher to enter
Australian Mathematics Competition
sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank
Thursday 7 August 2014



Support that's there when you need it the most...

CatholicCare works alongside families to develop and sustain healthy, functioning relationships for all life stages.

Our affordable counselling services can help when you experience:

- grief and loss
- family and relationship difficulties
- stress, anxiety or depression
- changes in personal or family situations

We specialise in counselling for:

- Individuals
- Couples
- Families
- Carers

Our experienced Counsellors are located in:
Wollongong, Nowra and Campbelltown

NEW: CatholicCare Wollongong can now offer individual Thursday evening appointments from 5pm to full time workers or those with full time child care responsibilities.

Call **4227 1122** to find out more.
www.catholiccare.dow.org.au

"From the first time I made contact with CatholicCare, I began to feel I had hope". Sam



CatholicCARE

hope begins with us

WOLLONGONG TERM 2, 2014

LIFT

A group for men and women who may be feeling overwhelmed 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.

CatholicCare, 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong
5 Wednesday Evenings 6pm - 8:30pm
7, 14, 21, 28 May & 4 June 2014

Workshop Fee: \$20 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.

Bellambi Neighbourhood Centre
Cnr Rothery & Cawley Streets, **Bellambi**
7 Tuesday Mornings 10am - 12:30pm
6, 13, 20, 27 May, 3, 10 & 17 June 2014

Workshop Fee: \$10 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.

CatholicCare, 25-27 Auburn Street, Wollongong
8 Tuesday Afternoons 4pm - 5pm
6, 13, 20, 27 May, 3, 10, 17 & 24 June

Workshop Fee: \$10 per session/family

Concessions may apply dependent on financial circumstances

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.

CatholicCare, 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong
5 Tuesday Evenings 6:30pm - 9pm
20, 27 May, 3, 10 & 17 June 2014
or
Xavier Centre, 38 Harbour Street, Wollongong
5 Thursday Mornings 10am - 12:30pm
29 May, 5, 12, 19 & 26 June 2014

Workshop Fee: \$20 per session

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.

St Joseph's Primary School, 48 Park Road, Bulli
3 Thursday Mornings 9:30am - 12noon
8, 15 & 22 May 2014

Workshop Fee: \$10 per session



**FOSTER A
CHILD
TODAY**

**Call us on
4227 1122**

SEASONS FOR GROWTH (Adults)

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.

Community Room, Stockland Shopping Centre
Lake Entrance Road, **Shellharbour City**

2 Tuesdays 10am - 4pm
3 & 10 June 2014

Workshop Fee: \$20 per day *Light lunch provided

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Do you want to learn how to assist people, developing, or experiencing mental health problems or crises?

CatholicCare, 25-27 Auburn St, Wollongong
Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am - 4.30pm
11 & 12 June 2014

Workshop Fee: \$180

WORKSHOP BOOKINGS

Campbelltown 4628 0044
Wollongong 4227 1122
Nowra 4421 8248



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Other workshops may be available on request.
Limited childcare may be available for some workshops