



FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT BULLETIN

Term 2 Week 2 6th May, 2016

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Week 2	Week starting 2 nd May 2016
6.05.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yr 7 SRE: 7M, 7T, 7I - AIME Senior Aboriginal Students to UOW excursion - Yr 11 & 12 Hospitality Excursion - Floris Conway Tennis Competition excursion - Greater Southern Rugby league trials - South Coast Touch Football - Yr 7, 8 & 9 Science Assessment tasks - Yr 7 and 8 Languages Assessment tasks - Yr 10 Geography and PDHPE Assessment tasks - Yr 11 Ancient History Assessment task - Yr 12 Society and Culture Assessment task
Week 3	Week starting 9 th May 2016
9.05.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zone Cross Country Carnival – Woonona - Yr 7 Languages Assessment task - Yr 8 and 9 Science Assessment tasks - Yr 11 Mathematics and Mathematics General Assessment tasks
10.05.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NAPLAN for Years 7 and 9 - Yr 9 & 10 Links to Learning Program - Yr 11 Visual Arts Excursion - Yr 7 Languages Assessment task - Yr 8 and 9 Science Assessment tasks - Yr 10 Geography and Graphics Assessment tasks
11.05.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NAPLAN for Years 7 and 9 - Years 10 and 12 Careers Expo Excursion - Yr 7 Languages Assessment task - Yr 8 and 9 Science Assessment tasks
12.05.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NAPLAN for Years 7 and 9 - Parent Reading Program – period 3 - Yr 10 Geography Field Study Excursion - Yr 7 Languages Assessment task - Yr 8 and 9 Science Assessment tasks - Yr 10 IST Assessment task
13.05.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NAPLAN catchup day for Years 7 and 9 - Yr 7 SRE: 7E, 7R, 7Y, 7B - AIME Senior Aboriginal Students to UOW excursion - Yr 11 & 12 Standard English Incursion - Yr 7 Languages Assessment task - Yr 8 and 9 Science Assessment tasks - Yr 9 History Assessment task - Yr 10 English Assessment task
Week 4	Week starting 16 th May 2016
16.05.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yr 7 Languages and Science Assessment tasks
17.05.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yr 9 & 10 Links to Learning Program - Yr 7 Science Taronga Zoo Excursion - Yr 9&10 PASS and Yr 11 SLR Excursion - Yr 7 Languages Assessment tasks - Yr 11 Economics Assessment task
18.05.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yr 5 Academic Enrichment Class Parent Information Evening at 5:00pm - Yr 7 Languages and Science Assessment tasks - Yr 10 Food Technology Assessment task - Yr 11 Extension English Assessment task - Yr 11 Extension Mathematics Assessment task - Yr 12 Biology Assessment task
19.05.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parent Reading Program – period 3 - Yr 8 Cyberia Brainstorm Productions incursion - Yr 10 GenZ2Work Student interviews - Yr 7 Languages and Science Assessment tasks - Yr 10 Food Technology Assessment task
20.05.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yr 7 SRE: 7M, 7T, 7I - Yr 12 Biology and Senior Science Excursion to UNSW

Principal's Report

Welcome back to term two. Our students and staff have hit the ground running as we focus on learning for another term.

A few staffing changes to update you on for term two include: Mrs Nicole Young, a long-standing temporary teacher in our English Faculty has been successful in gaining the permanent position as English Teacher. Mrs Young is a dynamic teacher who enjoys working in her faculty and across the school with our students. Ms Natalie Green, another passionate temporary teacher in our Visual Arts faculty was successful at the end of last term in gaining a permanent position at Kanahooka High school commencing Week 4 this term. I would like to congratulate both of these teachers and thank Ms Green for her commitment to the students of Figtree High School. Her beautiful student constructed mural outside the TAS/CAPA block will remain her legacy to our school. We wish her all the best as she begins her next chapter of teaching.

Following the addition of a Deputy Principal position, the roles and responsibilities have been re-aligned. Ms Ellie Donovan will be looking after Strategic Direction 1: Teaching and Learning and supporting students in Years 7 and 11, Ms Trish Morgan will be overseeing Strategic Direction 3: Community Partnerships and supporting students in Years 8 and 12 and Ms Johanna Clifford will be managing Strategic Direction 2: Wellbeing of Students and Staff and supporting students in Years 9 and 10.

Staff stepping into new roles is a strong indication of the leadership density of our school and I look forward to sharing future changes with you assuring you that, at all times, we are first and foremost caring for the wellbeing and learning needs of your children.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Year 11 in this bulletin. Their contributions last week at the RSL Schools ANZAC Ceremony, our School ANZAC Commemorative Assembly and also the Year 11 Camp this week have showcased the maturity and commitment to learning this year group has. I have been most impressed and look forward to watching their achievements as they move towards their HSC.

Much more to read in this issue. Happy reading.

Karen Burke
Principal

Deputy Principal Reports

Administration Office

The refurbishment of the Figtree High School Administration Office and front entrance of the school will begin this term. This will occur as part of the Secondary Schools Renewal Program. As a result of the construction work that will be taking place, our Administration Office, including Student Reception, has been moved temporarily to the Western end of the School Library. The signage around the school has been relocated to direct parents, community members and other visitors to this new location. The Administration Office is best accessed through the main front gates of the school. The school gates that are located closest to the traffic lights are closed and locked. This is to prepare our students, parents and community members for the upcoming construction work, where this access to the front of the school will no longer be available. We will continue to work with our students to ensure that they are using the traffic lights to safely cross Gibsons road and we ask our parents to remind their children about using this safer crossing when dropping off or collecting students from the front of the school. There are no changes to the access to the school from O'Briens road and we encourage parents to use this access to avoid the significant traffic congestion that occurs on Gibsons road during peak times.

Year 11 Assessment

This second term is very busy for Year 11. Students need to ensure that they are completing assessment tasks by the due date. All Year 11 students were issued with an assessment booklet which has information about what students need to do if they are going to be absent for an assessment task, and they know about this absence in advance, or if students are sick on the day an assessment task is due. It is important that students read and understand these requirements, so that they are not placing their assessment results and overall grades at risk.

A small number of Year 11 students have received an N Warning letter for a Preliminary course. It is most important that students are attending school regularly, completing all course work and assessment tasks, so that they can achieve a Preliminary ROSA grade which reflects their ability. If an N Warning letter is issued, students should attend to this as a matter of urgency, complete the outstanding work and submit it to their teachers by the date specified. If a parent/carer is concerned about their child's performance in a course, they should contact the class teacher.

The Year 11 Interim reports were issued to students late in Term 1. These reports provided general information about student's commitment to learning in their Preliminary courses. The Semester 1 reports which will be issued later this term will provide more specific information related to the level of achievement of course outcomes, based on assessment information. A formal parent teacher night will also occur this term where you can discuss your child's progress and performance with their class teacher.

Ms Ellie Donovan – Deputy Principal

Year 12 and the HSC Examinations

Year 12 students returned this term after completing their mid-course examinations in the last two weeks of term one. They are now receiving feedback on their performance, which will assist them to identify areas of strength as well as how to further improve. Attendance is vital in the next 20 weeks of school as this will help to achieve their potential in the HSC examinations.

Year 12 students and parents can now download a copy of the 2016 HSC examination timetable. The timetable can be accessed by Year 12 students via BOSTES Students Online. It is also available through the BOSTES website, http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/key_dates/pdf_doc/hsc_timetable_2016_web.pdf

Careers Expo

Years 10 and 12 will be attending the Illawarra Careers Expo at Unanderra on Wednesday 11th May 2016. It is expected that all students will attend as the event will assist students in planning for the future by outlining options for post-secondary schooling. Students have been issued with permission notes and the cost for this excursion is \$5.00. There will be a range of educational providers, businesses and organisations that will be present to provide information about those options.

Ms Trish Morgan - Deputy Principal

It is a privilege to be able to introduce myself as the new Deputy Principal for the remainder of 2016. My substantive position at Figtree High School is Head Teacher of Administration and I have been working as a Visual Arts teacher in the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty. It is with great pleasure that I accepted the role of Deputy Principal, which was offered to me through an expression of interest process. My role will involve leading the 2nd strategic direction of our school plan which is student and staff wellbeing. I am very keen to enhance the existing relationships I have with students, staff and the community, in particular the students and parents who belong to the year groups of Years 9 and 10, whom I have accepted responsibility. I am looking forward to the challenges ahead and supporting all students to achieve their personal best.

Ms Johanna Clifford –Deputy Principal

PBL Core Values

Week 3: Learning

Stay on task and do your best

Week 4: Respect

When entering and leaving school grounds, obey community rules and laws

Year 7 and 9 NAPLAN

Year 7 and 9 will be participating in NAPLAN testing next week, starting on Tuesday 10th May with the Language Conventions and Writing assessment, Wednesday 11th May is when the Reading assessment will take place and the final day of assessment is on Thursday 12th May where students will complete the Numeracy calculator and non-calculator tests. It is most important that students bring their own black pen, HB pencil, sharpener, eraser and a calculator for this assessment.

Attendance at school for these assessments is important. There will be an opportunity on Friday 13th May for any students who have missed a NAPLAN test during the week to complete this test.

Parent information letters for NAPLAN have been sent home with students. If you would like more information about NAPLAN, you can access the following link

<http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/naplan.html> or you can contact either Mrs Vanessa Glasgow or Mr Peter Simmonds at the school.

Faculty Report: LANGUAGES

Language students have been working conscientiously and enthusiastically in their study of either German or French. All Year 7 classes are learning German for the first two terms, enjoying the popular course book *Feuerwerk*. Their half-yearly report will be based on a speaking task and a listening task which Year 7 students are required to do over the coming weeks. In terms 3 and 4 French is the language taught.

Year 8 students are progressing well in their 100 hours language course. Many students are acquiring impressive skills as demonstrated by the excellent results that were achieved in the recent assessment tasks in the German classes. Students of French are currently completing their tasks.

Students who are working particularly well in Year 8 German are:

8M - Alexander Taseski, Abbie Coulson, Blake Thompson

8N - Shaghayegh Akbari Iveli, Alyssa Parks, Talysha Thickett

8T - Maria Ljuboja, Jorja Roser, Aislin McGregor, Abby Murada

Students in the German and French elective classes are working well with all benefiting from the technology available to help reinforce language learning.

Students who are achieving well are:

Year 9 German - Grace Taylor, Taylor O'Connor, Aurelia Noronha

Year 10 German - Rebecca Prstec, Hayley Maynard-Khourey, Dylan Ward, Caitlin Deverill

Year 12 French - Victoria Pipino, Kiah McOmish, Kaella Pearson

Parents and Carers often ask what, and how much homework their child should be doing. We expect students to revise and practise words and structures that have been drilled and used in the classroom. This active revision should be of 15-20 minutes duration 3-5 times per week. In the senior years this would increase considerably. The school's Moodle site (with links to other language learning sites) and Language Perfect are excellent resources which allow students to practise vocabulary through quizzes. Students are encouraged to utilise these sites to reinforce work covered in class.

Between 16th and 26th May, our school will be competing in an international languages competition, the Language Perfect World Championships. Students compete for their class, school and country against other students from around the world, by earning points in a range of foreign languages on Language Perfect. Points count towards earning certificates, entry into prize draws and winning the competition. The goal is to motivate students to get excited about languages, learning and having fun at the same time. We wish students the best of luck.

Mr P. Simmonds / Mrs P. Dive – Languages Teachers

FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL Homework Centre

A reminder to parents and students that our Homework Centre is open every Monday from 3.00pm-4.00pm in the School Library. All students are welcome to attend and a teacher will be present to supervise and assist students with homework tasks, revision and assessment tasks. Light refreshments are also provided.

We encourage students to take advantage of this great opportunity to access resources, computers and the internet in a quiet environment, while having a teacher available to provide you with assistance if you need.

Figtree High School Sport News

Cross Country Carnival

Figtree High School's Cross Country was on Thursday 7th April 2016. The cool conditions were tailor-made for some of the outstanding results that were achieved. Congratulations to all the students who participated on the day. Whether you ran, jogged or walked around the course, it was great to see so much enthusiasm. A special thank you to all staff members who ensured the event was a success.

Our participation winners who received a \$5.00 canteen voucher for the day were:

Mike Graovac, Rayanne Sultan, Alexia Zouroudis, Grace Creed, Zac Seymour, Jeremy Jones, Zeikel Romualdo, Kade Hutchings, Taylor O'Connor, Jordan De-Nobrega, Callum Kirby-Hayes, Bodhi Tansey, Ebony Freitas, Shae Marum, Lachlan Wilkinson, and Bianca Bourne.

Cross Country Age Champions 2016

12 Years: Hannah Sheridan and Thomas Bevan

13 Years: Jessica Buffett and Ned Glasgow

14 Years: Keely Rauscher and Benjamin Plumb

15 Years: Georgia Sturman and Cameron Lodge

16 Years: Meghan Fox and Tyson Arnold

17/18 Years: Caitlin Smith and Kayden Hill

Our Zone Cross Country carnival will be on the 9th May at Nicholson Park, Woonona. All students must return their permission notes to the PE staffroom. We wish all our students participating the best of luck.



Combined High Schools (CHS) Swimming Championships

On the 3rd, 4th and 5th of April a number of Figtree High School Students competed at the CHS Swimming Championships which were held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.

The following students had outstanding performances in individual events, with personal best times being swum across their events:

Caitlin Smith – 800m freestyle – 4th, 400m freestyle – 2nd, 200m freestyle – 1st, 100m freestyle – 9th, 100m butterfly – 2nd, 100m backstroke – 8th.

Jade Gray – 100m freestyle – 15th, 200m freestyle 7th, 400m freestyle – 11th, 100m backstroke – 15th

Meghan Fox – 100m butterfly – 15th, 100m breaststroke – 15th, 100m freestyle – 14th

Jason Vugrek – 50m freestyle – 14th, 100m freestyle – 14th, 200m freestyle – 12th

Figtree High School also had a number of relay teams who qualified to compete at this event. They swam with great team work skills with their changeovers, along with speed through the water. This led to the teams achieving fantastic results including:

Open Girls Medley Relay team: Meghan Fox, Caitlin Smith, Jade Gray and Molly McNair – 15th with a 2.60 personal best time.



15 years Boys 4 x 50 freestyle team: Hamish Weine, Jack Rudd, Jason Vugrek and Daniel Gray swam very well to be close to their best time and finished 18th.



17 years Girls 4 x 50 freestyle team: Meghan Fox, Caitlin Smith, Jade Gray and Emily McKinnon qualified for the final and finished 7th. They dropped an amazing 7 seconds in the heat swim and then shaved a little more time off in the final!



All Age Girls 6 x 50 Freestyle Relay team: Jessica Buffett, Meghan Fox, Zali Moore, Natasha Hynoski, Caitlin Smith, Molly McNair finished 13th with a huge 3 second personal best time.



Congratulations to all of our swimmers. A special mention to Caitlin Smith who has been selected to represent NSW CHS at the NSW All Schools Swimming Carnival on Friday 6th May. We wish her the best of luck in the 1500m freestyle, 400m freestyle, 200m freestyle and 100m butterfly.



ANZAC Day Combined Schools Ceremony

Last Wednesday on the 27th of April, the Year 11 Modern History class were privileged to attend the combined schools ANZAC ceremony at MacCabe Park, Wollongong. We were accompanied by our Principal Mrs Burke, and Teachers Mr Evans and Mr Vatovec, all of whom gathered to commemorate those who risked their lives for our freedom and wellbeing.

Jordon Smith from Year 8 was the Master of Ceremonies, a role in which he was both capable and well spoken. Also included in the ceremony were a range of excellent remembrance speeches delivered by students from local schools. The Edmund Rice College band provided the music and there was a wreath laying ceremony.

Jasmine Lee and Jaiden Miller from Year 11 laid a wreath from Figtree High during this component of the commemoration ceremony.

Thank you to all teachers and students for this wonderful opportunity to pay our respects, reflect and remember the sacrifices made for our freedom. It was both a valuable learning experience and a great chance to represent our school.

Cheri Osborne – Year 11 Student



Multicultural Links to Learning

Ten students from Years 9 and 10 have been selected and attend Links to Learning every Tuesday, along with students from five other local schools. In this program the students work towards completing a number of courses, including Retail, White Card, Senior First Aid, Volunteering and Community Service, the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The students accept and enjoy the challenges Links to Learning offers them.

During the school holidays, a number of students gave up their holiday time and participated in achieving their Senior First Aid Certificate with some students even completing their Aged Care Volunteer day. The feedback has been very positive both from the students and the Links to Learning staff. We congratulate our students on their dedication and enthusiasm.

Mrs Evia Kyriacou

EAL/D Teacher and inschool Program Coordinator

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* eligibility criteria apply

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?

The Family Energy Rebate helps NSW households with dependent children to cover the costs of their energy bills. In 2015-16 the rebate gives:

- up to \$150 credit on energy bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
- up to \$165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in an on-supplied residential community, retirement village or strata scheme and receive electricity from the on-supplied operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?

To be eligible you **MUST**:

- be a resident of New South Wales; and
- be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long term resident of an on-supplied residential community, or a resident of an on-supplied retirement village, or a resident of an on-supplied strata scheme; and whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence; and
- have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2014-15 financial year, and have received a payment in respect of that eligibility.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?

You'll need to have:

- lodged your tax return for 2014-15 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you're not required to lodge a tax return; and
- received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2014-15.

HOW TO APPLY

- **ONLINE** - it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- **PAPER** - download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the on-supplied residential community, retirement village or strata scheme where you live.

**APPLY
ONLINE
NOW!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88

EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au

WEB www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergyrebate

If you have a DHS Health Care Card, you may also be eligible for the Low Income Household Rebate.
Visit our website for more information.

Essential Employment and Training offer:

- Disability Employment Services (DES)
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