



FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT BULLETIN

Term 1 Week 10, 31 March 2017

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T1 Week 11	Week Starting 3 April
Monday 3/4/17	Year 12 - Mid-course examination Year 12 - Group photos, SRC, Sports Captains Year 11 - Peer Support Year 11 - Fittings for senior jersey Year 10 - Science SRP Year 10 - Food Tech. Sydney Tower Dining Year 10 - Peer Support Year 8 - French Task Year 8 - History Task Year 7 - Peer Support CHS Swimming Premiers Sporting Challenge Excursion Excursion - Open Boys Cricket
Tuesday 4/4/17	Year 12 - Mid-course examination Year 11 - PDHPE Task Year 11 - Chemistry Year 10 - Maths Assessment (10M3/10M4) Year 8 - French Task Year 8 - Brainstorm Production CHS Swimming White Card Training Day Excursion - Open Boys Cricket
Wednesday 5/4/17	Year 12 - Mid-course examination Year 9 - Links 2 Learning Year 8 - French Task Excursion - Open Boys Cricket
Thursday 6/4/17	Year 12 - Mid-course examination Year 8 - French Task School Cross Country
Friday 7/4/17	Year 12 - Mid-course examination Year 10 - Marine Studies Minnamurra River Year 9 - Marine Studies Unanderra Pool Year 8 - French Task Years 8-11 Royal Easter Show Merit Excursion
T2 Week 1	Week Starting 24 April
Monday 24/4/17	Year 12 - RSA/RCG Course Staff Development Day
Tuesday 25/4/17	ANZAC Day
Wednesday 26/4/17	Year 12 - RSA/RCG Course
Thursday 27/4/17	Australian Geography Competition
Friday 28/4/17	
T2 Week 2	Week Starting 1 May
Monday 1/5/17	Year 12 - Geography Excursion, Sydney Year 12 - SAC Task
Tuesday 2/5/17	Year 12 - SAC Task Year 11 - AFL Gala Day Excursion Year 9 - Links 2 Learning
Wednesday 3/5/17	Year 12 - SAC Task
Thursday 4/5/17	

Friday 5/5/17	Year 12 - AIME Excursion Year 11 - AIME Excursion Year 8 - TAS Excursion Powerhouse Museum
Year 12 Purple Year 11 Olive Year 10 Blue Year 9 Red Year 8 Green Year 7 Orange	



Thoughts from the Principal

Welcome to our final newsletter for Term 1 2017.

Our students have been focused on learning and also fitting in many other extra-curricular commitments over the past weeks in the sporting and cultural arenas. Some highlights include:

Our **Open Boys Cricket Team won the semi-final** of the Davidson Cricket Shield competition and are now in the State Final. They will travel to Bathurst next Tuesday to play Epping Boys High School and, if they win this match, they play the finalist of the Non-government schools section of the competition. This is a truly outstanding achievement for our school and we wish the boys and Mr Herbert all the best for the Grand Final.

We have also had a large contingent of students **selected to trial for CHS** (Combined High Schools) Teams in a range of sports. We are incredibly proud of these students taking this opportunity and balancing their school and sporting life well.

I would also like to acknowledge our **CAPA Committee** (CAPA Co) who are a large group of Arts students dedicated to raising the profile of Creative and Performing Arts at Figtree High School. I had the privilege of attending their weekly meeting on Tuesday and they outlined a number of events they would like to oversee this year to showcase our students' talents in Dance, Drama, Music, Photography and Visual Arts. We congratulate **Bailey Craft** who has been representing the Arts well in his selection into the Illawarra South East Performing Ensemble who have been travelling far

and wide to perform at Principals' Conferences and other key events.

For our parents and carers, we are facilitating information meetings throughout the year to assist you in understanding more about what we are doing in the school. We held a meeting around Social Media earlier in the term with positive feedback. Our next meeting is for parents of Year 9 students about the requirements of the **New HSC**, which commences when these students enter Year 11 in 2019. The information session is on **Wednesday 5 April 2017 at Figtree Public School Hall** (as ours is being used for Year 12 Mid-course Examinations).

Enjoy further reading about your children's involvement in our outstanding comprehensive high school and have a safe, happy holiday and Easter with your families.

Karen Burke
Principal

Deputy Principals' Reports

Attendance Matters – Right Place, Right Time

It is important that students arrive at school before 8:38am each morning. If they arrive after this time and do not have a letter of explanation, it will be recorded as an unexplained partial absence. This is then stated on the student's report. During roll call important school information is conveyed to students. If a student arrives at school after roll call when lessons have commenced, their learning is impacted. If a student needs to leave school early they need to bring a signed letter from their parents or carer and present the letter to the relevant Deputy before school. The letter should have a contact number on it as the Deputy usually makes a phone call to confirm the pass. The school encourages parents where possible to make appointments outside of school time so that the student's learning is maximised.

Year 7 Camp

Year 7 attended camp from Monday 20 March to Wednesday 22 March. Their behaviour was exemplary and participated in events such as the giant swing, abseiling, archery and swimming activities. They were

lucky and the weather was mostly good with only one activity being impacted by the rain. It was a pleasure to see the students assisting and encouraging each other. Congratulations to Year 7 students and a thank you to the staff who attended – Mrs Lawson, Mr Herbert, Ms Wunsh, Mrs Borst, Mrs Markham, Mr Solah, Mr Brooks and Mr Edwards.

Year 9 Update

Year 9 students are enjoying their first term of Stage 5 Electives. All students were able to choose their subjects last year after an information evening. Figtree High School offers electives from Drama, German, French, Timber, Marine Studies to Visual Arts and Photography.

A number of students have also paid a deposit for the ski trip later in Term 3. There is a reserve list as well. A student being able to attend is reliant on their application to learning and focus on our three core values of Respect, Safety and Learning. If the school is not satisfied that a student has that application and focus they might not be allowed to attend the trip.

Year 9 and 7 students are preparing for NAPLAN which will be conducted from Tuesday 9 May to through to Thursday 11 May. Attendance is very important on these days. We invite you to attend an information session on **Wednesday 5 April 2017 at Figtree Public School Hall** (not Figtree High School) starting at **6.00pm** to gain a better understanding of the New South Wales Government reform on Stronger HSC Standards. This session will provide you with key information around this reform and how to best support your child as they progress in their education from Year 9 to Year 12.

Year 11 Update

Year 11 students have been on a learning curve with completion of their first assessment tasks in each of their subjects. The feedback that is being given to students after these tasks is vital. Feedback leads to further improvements in their learning and subsequent tasks. The preliminary course is important as one of the stepping stones into a success HSC year. If students are experiencing difficulties please encourage them to seek assistance from their classroom teachers, Year Advisers (Mrs Dive and Mr Simmonds), Head Teacher Wellbeing (Mrs Lawson and Ms Murphy) or Head Teacher Teaching and Learning (Mrs Glasgow).

Trish Morgan

Year 12 Update

Year 12 Exams commenced this week and are completed at the end of this term. Students have been issued with their timetables and have had access to their teacher to assist in the development of home study and revision programs. Study programs and how to develop suitable study timetables are very important to assist students to achieve their best. It is extremely important that students prioritise their goals now, particularly if they are juggling school, work, sporting or other commitments.

School Uniform

It is very pleasing to see such a high standard of uniform thus far. It is important to remember as we head into the cooler months, that students ensure all parts of their uniform are correct, particularly jackets/jumpers, footwear and pants. Year 12 students are required to wear full school uniform during their current examinations.

A full list of our uniform requirements is available on the school website, reminders are also posted on our Facebook page. Once again we remind you that we are a workplace and therefore are governed by OH&S guidelines, therefore adequate protective footwear is required even if you are not actually in those specific areas of most risk. School shoes must be black leather, fully enclosed. White stripe, ticks or patterns are not permitted, shoes must be all black.

Staff Carpark

The Figtree High School staff carpark provides parking for staff and workplace deliveries. We do not have the space available for parents to park in our carpark. Disabled parking spaces are the exception and can be used if they are available and require permits are on display. Thank you for working with Figtree High School to make every morning drop off and afternoon collection safe and stress-free for everyone.

It is pleasing to see such a great start to the school year for the Figtree High School Community. We look forward to great year of learning.

Jo Clifford

HSIE FACULTY REPORT

Year 10 Commerce Excursion

On March 9, Year 10 Commerce went on an excursion to visit the Downing St Centre in Sydney. The purpose of the excursion was to provide experiences and observations to reinforce the learning of the core topic: Law and Society. 45 students met with their teachers at Unanderra railway station at 8.15 and caught the train to Museum in the city. We then walked to the Downing Street centre which is housed in the building that was originally Mark Foys shopping emporium. We were met by the sheriff who spoke to the students about the rules and protocols surrounding court room observations. From there, students were encouraged to visit at least two court proceedings: one local court observation on the fourth and fifth floors, and one district court observation, located on the ground and lower ground floors. A question sheet highlighting relevant points of learning was distributed, and was submitted at the end of the day.

For most students, this was their first time in a court room. Many emerged excited by the authenticity of the experience, noting the sanctity of proceedings and the recognition of individuals playing out their roles as judge, magistrate, prosecutor and defence council. When the courts started to adjourn for lunch at about midday, all students were asking if they would be able to continue their observations in the afternoon. Alas, we had to board the 1.20 train for the return journey to

Unanderra. However, subsequent to the excursion, both Mr. Herbert and Mr Joseph have fielded questions and listened to student reflections of the day. As teachers, we were pleased that our students were so enthusiastic and keen for more.

Overall, it was a great day out with some wonderful Year 10 students. We were very proud of the behaviour and respect on display, and remain convinced that this excursion provides a valuable insight into one of the institutional pillars of our society

News from Creative and Performing Arts

ARTEXPRESS 2017

On Tuesday 7 March, selected Year 10, Year 11 and 12 Visual Arts students attended Artexpress at the Art Gallery of New South Wales and Hazulhurst in Gympie. ArtExpress is an annual exhibition featuring a selection of outstanding student artworks developed for the artmaking component of the HSC examination in Visual Arts in NSW. It includes a broad range of approaches and expressive forms, including ceramics, collection of works,



documented forms, drawing, graphic design, painting, photomedia, printmaking, sculpture, textiles and fibre, and time-based forms. Students could view the best HSC art works from across the state and were inspired view such a large array of work.



Students enjoyed the critical discussion with their teachers and lunch in the beautiful surroundings of the Domain parklands before heading back Hazulhurst. Our

students were extremely well behaved and the Visual Arts faculty thank them for being excellent ambassadors for Figtree High School.

Encore Excursion 2017.

On Monday 20th March, Miss Murphy and Mr Malouf accompanied 38 eager Music students (from years 8 to 12) to the Sydney Opera House to view the annual Encore Concert.

Encore is a program of outstanding performances and compositions by students from the HSC Music examinations and an opportunity to be entertained and inspired by the high-achieving Music 1 and Music 2 students from high schools around the state.

We arrived to discover that we had been allocated front row seats, so our students had a “microscopic” view of the performers in action. Brilliant works ranging from jazz ensembles, choral compositions, soloists on flute, cello and strings were highlights as was a unique and spectacular performance from a guzheng, which is a traditional Chinese instrument.

Students spoke excitedly after the concert about the physical connection between the student performers and their instruments to produce high-level and passionate displays of music. Some of the students, especially those in the elective stream (Stage 5) were reflective about the possibilities of shaping their own performances to fit into a program of such excellence. HSC and Preliminary students were left with clear models of excellence to aspire to. Our students proudly demonstrated a respectful enthusiasm for the performances and, of course, exemplary behaviour at all times. The Encore excursion was a fantastic experience and an event which CAPA faculty will endeavour to include in its annual calendar.



Figtree HS Music Students gather on the Opera House Forecourt following the 2017 Encore Concert.

Wellbeing Report

The Wellbeing Team

This team is in place to ensure that school is a supportive environment for all students. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's Year Advisor or Mrs Lawson (Head Teacher Wellbeing) should you think there is extra information we should know about your child to help support them at school. If your child has a medical condition that the school is not aware of, please as a matter of urgency, let us know.

Head Teacher Wellbeing - Mrs Lawson (Mon-Thurs) and Mrs Murphy (Fri)

Year 7 Advisers – Mr Herbert and Mrs Young (Ms Wunsch from Term 2 whilst Mrs Young is on maternity leave)

Year 8 Advisers – Mrs Wale and Ms Cook

Year 9 Advisers – Ms Parr and Ms Kyriacou

Year 10 Advisers – Mrs Munro and Mr Smith

Year 11 Advisers – Mrs Dive and Mr Simmonds

Year 12 Advisers – Mr Kellaway and Mrs Hunt/Ms Harlor

Supervisor of Girls – Mrs Borst

Supervisor of Boys – Mr Sargent-Wilson

Counsellors – Mr Rosser and Mrs Idziak

National Day of Action against bullying and Violence

On Friday 17 March, The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence was held. The National Day is an annual event for Australian schools where school communities across the nation stand as one against bullying and violence.

Figtree High School is dedicated to creating a safe and supportive school environment, free from bullying, harassment and violence.

Together, we can send clear messages to young people that bullying and violence, in or outside the classroom, is not okay at any time. At Figtree High School we have a number of programs in place that counter bullying and focus on respectful relationships. These include:

- Year 7 Peer Support program
- Expect Respect program
- Brainstorm productions for Year 7 and 8 focusing on sending an anti-bullying message

Leading up to the day, students were involved in activities to celebrate the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence were held. They included: watching clips on being a positive bystander and what bullying is; Peer Support leaders running a session from Bullying No Way; participating in activities within PDHPE lessons focusing on positive online behaviours. Students across the school then wrote on slips of paper their motto in relation to what they can do when they are facing a situation in which someone is being bullied. Some examples included: Think before you click; be respectful;

These slips of paper were linked together to form a paper chain showing students that if everyone does something small that together we can stand up against bullying and harassment. Unfortunately, the day of action was marred by bad weather and our assembly was cancelled. However, these paper chains can be found in classroom across the school.

Year 7 Camp

On Monday 20 March to Wednesday 22 March, 144 Year 7 students attended Teen Ranch Cobbitty. The rain continued to pour in the lead up to the start of camp, however, Monday the showers ceased. On the 2 coaches and a mini bus, the students were very excited. Once unpacked and lunch eaten the students embarked on their first activity. There were 6 activities and the groups rotated through the activities over the 3 days. They included giant swing, rock climbing/abseiling, pool activities, bush skills, archery and challenge course. After a dinner of fish and chips, students played a night time of activity of pizza trays and then went back to their cabins. Each cabin consisted of 12 students. There were a number of students who enjoyed the sleepover experience – some a little too much, and 5.30am was a common waking time. However, they did follow instructions to remain in their cabins till 7am (to the teachers' relief!!)

On Tuesday it was planned that each group would be involved in 3 activities. With the weather being very kind to us up to this point, a thunderstorm occurred at the start of the 3rd activity. The students were all brought into the rec hall and dining room and were involved in some initiative games. The rain stopped just in time for dinner and then we went on a night hike. For majority of students, this was a highlight. Irrespective of the mud

puddles, bull ants, horse poo or walking for over an hour, the students had a great time. The walk finished on top of a hill where a fire was lit. A few camp songs were sung and then we walked back to camp. By the end nobody cared how wet their feet were or how much mud was on their clothing (I am sure their parents did though). The smiles on their faces said it all.

On Wednesday morning we were packed and out of our rooms before breakfast. Once our last activity was completed, we had lunch and farewelled Teen Ranch staff. The trip home was a lot quieter then on the way home.

The Year 7 students are to be commended on their exemplary behaviour while at Teen Ranch. A big thank you to Mr Herbert, Mr Edwards, Mr Brooks, Mr Solah, Mrs Borst, Mrs Markham, Ms Wunsch who attended camp. Their dedication and enthusiasm allowed Year 7 to enjoy this valuable experience.

Year 7 student reflections.....



'The cabins were small and had 6 bunk beds. Our first activity was pool games which we went in the pool and played games like netball and red rover cross over. The worst part was bedtime. The best part was the night hike' -

Aaron Rumery

'All the activities were fun because all the staff didn't make it boring. They were fun. It's also fun because you push yourself at some things. The things you push yourself on is the giant swing and abseiling because it is really high. The best part of the camp was the night activities, where we had to hike up a hill, a muddy hill. This was the best because no one could get up without slipping over, so everyone got muddy.' – *Rayner Wilson-Tyrrell*



'Breakfast on the first morning was scrambled eggs (classic or special) and hashbrowns. On the second morning we had bacon, eggs and toast, and that was delicious. The best part of the camp was the food. The worst part was the rain. I learnt that you can do anything if you put your mind to it. The trip back was boring but I had a good 10 minute sleep.' – *Hayden Veitch*



'The activities were fun. You should do all the activities. I got over my fears. The best part was climbing up the wood planks and abseiling down' – *Jake Morgan*

'The best part of the whole trip was the night hike. It had just thundered and poured down but we all wore raincoats and took our torches. There was a very steep hill full of mud and everyone kept sliding and slipping, which was hilarious for me. Worst part was our group didn't get to do the giant swing, which I was excited about. I learnt to work in a team in the challenge course.' – *Kelsey Ramstadius*



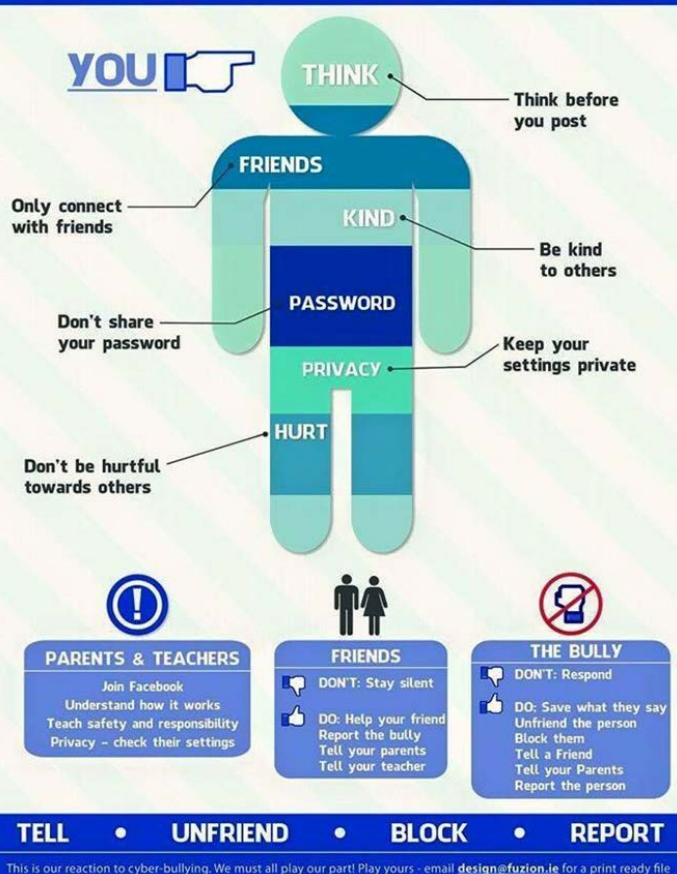
'My experiences at camp were mixed. I didn't like the trip up as Mr Herbert was playing Country and Western music. Apart from that it was OK. When we arrived at Teen Ranch they told us the rules and sent us to our cabins. The cabins were nice but cramped. Then it was activity time. Bush skills and abseiling were really fun. Cooking damper was so cool. The best part was night time and the worst part was going home. I learnt that teamwork was key. The trip home was fun' – *Mason Daley*



Safe4Kids

On Thursday February 24 February, Figtree High Schools Wellbeing Team and members from our Community of Schools attended a presentation from Holly-anne Martin which focused on Protective behaviours. A parent session was also conducted in the evening. The presentation was extremely informative and focused on preventative measures to combat child abuse by providing children with clear messages regarding inappropriate behaviour. This allows them to identify unsafe situations and seek help immediately - and to persist in seeking help until they feel safe again. This educational approach emphasises that should anyone suffer unwanted touching, it isn't the recipient's fault, and that they have every right to have this situation dealt with. One of the key points of the presentation was that Kids Helpline is a FREE 24 hours, 7 days a week service that students can use for any reason. Young people can call 1800 55 1800 or email or Web chat them. You can also talk to the same person each time.

safebook



Mrs Lawson Head Teacher

Wellbeing

Swimming Carnival Results

Our swimming carnival was held on the 10 February in extremely hot conditions. Students not only had the opportunity to compete in events but were given the chance to get wet and swim in a house relay. The winning house on the day was Buru - black house. We had some excellent results on the day. Meghan Fox and Jason Vugrek swam exceptionally well. Meghan broke the 50m breaststroke record and Jason broke the 50m and 100m freestyle record.

The age champions were:

12 years - Alice Coleman and Conor Kortikis

13 years - Dannika Creati and Regan Smith

14 years - Jessica Buffett and Brock Ninness

15 years - Abby Murada and Joshua McKinnon

16 years - Molly McNair and Jason Vugrek

17 years - Meghan Fox and Jayden Brown



Zone Swimming

On the 23 February we had a large group of students attend the Zone Swimming at Corrimal Pool. We had some excellent individual results and two of our students were named age champion. They were Jessica Buffett - 14 year girls and Jason Vugrek - 16 year boys. Our girls team came second and our boys team came forth. Which meant we came third overall which is an improvement on last year's result.



Regional Swimming

On Tuesday 7 March 2017, the Regional Swimming Carnival was held at Dapto Pool. We had 35 students participate on the day. We had some excellent individual and relay results. Congratulations to Jade Gray, Regan Smith, Jessica Buffett, Jason Vugrek, Meghan Fox, Molly McNair, Emily McKinnon, Tazmin Fulcher, Georgia Sturman, Zali Moore and Dannika Creati who are all off to the State Swimming at Homebush.



South Coast Tennis

Last week we had a large number of students attend the NSW CHS Tennis Championships in Parramatta. The weather played havoc with the tournament but all students showed commitment and enthusiasm. The players that attended were Payton Newman, Sara Ljuboja, Maria Ljuboja, Mikayla Markham, Reuben Livingstone, Thomas Brinton, Luke Miners, Finn Noonan and absent from photo Kirra Sproule

A huge congratulation to Luke Miners who won the NSW CHS Individual Junior Tennis Champion. He made it to the finals on Friday where he had to play six matches. He WON all six matches 6-0. A very impressive effort. He is now first reserve for the Pizzy Cup team. Well done Luke.



Open Girls Basketball

The Open Girls Basketball team played in the Northern Zone Knockout at The Snakepit on Monday 6 March 2017. After winning through to the Grand Final they defeated Wollongong High School 57-46. All girls played strong and the team has advanced through to the next round in Queanbeyan in 2 weeks. Congratulations girls.



South Coast Girls Softball

Well done to Tyrah Oliveria and Shae Marum, who played in the South Coast Softball team. Both girls had an enjoyable experience and showed excellent sportsmanship throughout the tournament.



Figtree High School Open Boys Football Team

Back Row: Julio Mushaba, James Gliguroski, Stefan Visnic, Matt Tschentscher, Tyren Maclou, Emmanuel Hondroudakis (C), Jordan Hondroudakis, Phillip Cancar, Corey Rower

Front Row: Jayden Smileski, Victor Hatzimanolis, Ben Lucas, Connor O'Neill, Travis Anderson, Lachlan Pattman



Round 1 versus Bulli High School

Figtree travelled to Bulli for this first round clash against traditional rivals Bulli. Matt Tschentscher scored a brilliant hat-trick in the first half to put us at ease and we cruised to a 5 – 2 victory with further goals from the Hondroudakis brothers, Emmanuel and Jordan.

There was a great team effort by all players led by Tyren Maclou and Phillip Cancar in defence and midfield.
Round 1 versus Bulli High School.

Mr Smith

South Coast Cricket

Three of our boys have recently competed in the NSW CHS Cricket Championships. Brandon Redman, Matthew Calder and Jye Phillips all played extremely well throughout the tournament. A huge congratulations to Matthew who was selected in the NSW Cricket team and was also selected to tour the UK in the middle of the year. A great achievement.





Figtree High School

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Respect, Safety, Learning

FIGTREE HIGH CROSS COUNTRY

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

WHEN: Thursday 6 April 2017.

WHERE: School – races start on the soccer oval 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 to 3 – Normal lessons

Lunch 1 – 11.34am – 12.04pm

Assembly – 12.04pm to approx 12.15pm

RACE SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

Seniors & 16 Years Race – 12.20pm

12 & 13 Years – 12.35pm

14 Years – 12.55pm

15 Years - 1.15pm

Clean-Up – 2.10pm

Assembly & Roll Call – 2.15pm

If time permits there will be assembly in the Quad at approx. 2.10pm where rolls will be marked and participation 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 sight 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.



Figtree High School

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Respect, Safety, Learning

27 February 2017

DISABILITY PROVISIONS FOR THE 2017 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Dear Parents, Carers and Year 11/12 Students

The Learning Support Faculty would like to take this opportunity to provide all parents/carers and Year 11 and Year 12 students who are undertaking the 2017 HSC with information on *Disability Provisions*. *Disability Provisions* can be provided to students who are eligible and are completing courses in the NSW Higher School Certificate and may apply to examinations and assessment tasks.

“Disability Provisions in the Higher School Certificate are practical arrangements designed to help students who couldn't otherwise make a fair attempt to show what they know in an examination room”.

What are Disability Provisions

Disability Provisions provide students who have special needs with practical support in the HSC course examinations and assessment tasks. Students provisions may include learning, medical, vision and hearing difficulties.

The definition of “disability” in the *Disability Provisions Act 1992* includes:

- Physical
- Intellectual
- Psychiatric
- Sensory
- Neurological
- Learning Disabilities
- Physical Impairment
- The presence in the body of a disease- causing organism

Disability Provision applications can be made by:

- The student
- The parent/carers and
- The teaching staff

In Year 11, schools are responsible for determining and approving *Disability Provisions* for all school based assessment tasks. NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) only determines *Disability Provisions* for Higher School Certificate examinations. Students and parents should be advised that there is no guarantee that NESA will grant the same provisions as those given by the school.

Schools Responsibilities under the Disabilities Discrimination Act.

All schools must be sure that the students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, are able to access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability. Schools should assess and accommodate the student's *Disability Provisions* needs and, when necessary, submit applications for the Higher School Certificate examinations on their behalf.

Providing Evidence to Support an Application

It is important that students, parent/carers and teachers understand that all Disability Applications require supporting evidence. Evidence may include medical reports, reading results, spelling results, writing samples and teacher comments. **All supporting evidence should be no older than Term 4 of the year prior to the Higher School Certificate.**

Should you have any questions about the *Disability Provisions* program, please contact Mrs Vanessa Glasgow, Head Teacher Teaching and Learning or Ms Judy Markham or Ms Sue Clifford, Learning and Support Teachers by telephone on 4271 2787.

Students, parent/carers are also invited to learn more about *Disability Provisions* by accessing the following website: <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/disability-provisions/guidance.html>

Yours Sincerely

Ms Vanessa Glasgow
Head Teacher Teaching and Learning

Mrs Karen Burke
Principal

Our Figtree High P&C are raising funds to upgrade the facilities at our school. Here's how you can help...

We are raising as much as we can to support our cause, and we need your help! Order your NEW 2017 | 2018 Entertainment Book or Entertainment Digital Membership now. You'll receive hundreds of valuable offers for everything you love to do, and help our fundraising at the same time!

NSW South Coast
Entertainment 2017 | 2018

SEE WHAT'S INSIDE



"The Entertainment Book is such a great way to try new restaurants. It's also a great opportunity to help community organisations. It's been a big year for Entertainment, with the Digital Memberships as well – just when I didn't think it could get any better!" – Ali M

PRE-ORDER NOW TO GET OVER \$175 OF EARLY BIRD OFFERS.

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Learn about the Entertainment
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WATCH VIDEO



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

What is NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?

NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be improved.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance.

What will be tested and how?

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. NAPLAN content is aligned with the Australian Curriculum. For more information on this, please see the NAP website:

www.nap.edu.au

Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website.

Who will run the tests?

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

Help your child prepare for NAPLAN by reassuring them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and reminding them on the day to simply try their best. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

If you have any questions about your child's preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?

All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

How is NAPLAN performance measured?

NAPLAN is not a pass-or-fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has 10 bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands represents the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?

Where possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 12 May 2017.

Will I receive a report on my child's performance?

A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

How are NAPLAN test results used?

- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website: www.myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- visit the NAP website www.nap.edu.au
- contact your child's school
- contact your state or territory's education authority (details available on the NAP website).

For ACARA's privacy policy, go to:

www.acara.edu.au/contact-us/privacy

NAPLAN 2017 tests timetable

	Tuesday 9 May	Wednesday 10 May	Thursday 11 May
Year 3	language conventions 40 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 45 minutes	numeracy 45 minutes
Year 5	language conventions 40 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 50 minutes	numeracy 50 minutes
Year 7	language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 65 minutes	numeracy 60 minutes
Year 9	language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes	reading 65 minutes	numeracy 60 minutes

- Language conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy test includes number and algebra; measurement and geometry; and statistics and probability.
- Calculators are **not** permitted in the numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, each student will sit one numeracy test. This test will have two parts: one where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.



WEP'S STUDENT
EXCHANGE

SCHOLARSHIPS

CLOSING SOON!

wep.org.au

1300 884 733 INFO@WEP.ORG.AU

Dreaming of seeing NYC, Paris or
Rome? Imagine spending
Thanksgiving in the USA or Christmas
in Sweden!

WEP is offering three \$2,000 student
exchange scholarships*!

Applications close March 27!

More info at wep.org.au

*Conditions apply





Linking with everyone

Linkers work with all people and communities, including people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and Aboriginal communities. Linkers will support you to be part of your local and extended community.

You can contact a Linker whenever you need to, and in a way that suits you.

The role of a Linker is to provide short-term support to achieve a particular outcome.

Linkers can be contacted again in the future if another goal is identified or further support or information is needed.



Contact your local Linker

There are a range of Ability Links NSW providers across the state.

To find out details of your local Ability Links NSW Linker, contact:

**UnitingCare Children,
Young People and Families**

T: (02) 8830 0768

E: abilitylinks@unitingcarenswwact.org.au

OR

Settlement Services International

T: (02) 8799 6700

E: abilitylinks@ssi.org.au
www.ssi.org.au

To communicate in another language, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service. For more information, visit: www.relayservice.gov.au

UnitingCare, in partnership with Settlement Services International (SSI), is funded by the NSW Government to deliver Ability Links NSW across a number of areas in NSW.

ABILITY LINKS

NEW SOUTH WALES

Linking people to their local communities



Linkers can Assist you to

Look at ways you can participate in and be part of your community.

Develop your existing support networks and create new networks

Build your confidence to achieve your goals

Set goals and plan for your future

What is Ability Links NSW?

Ability Links NSW supports people with disability, their families and carers to live the life they want, as valued members of their community.

It does this through linking people to their community.

Through local Linkers, Ability Links NSW also supports communities to be inclusive.

Ability Links NSW is an initiative of the NSW Government's Department of Family and Community Services, Ageing, Disability and Home Care.

How does Ability Links NSW work?

Ability Links NSW Coordinators, known as Linkers, work closely with people with disability, their families and carers to support them to fulfil their goals, hopes and dreams.

Whether your goal is to participate in sport, education, volunteering, or other activities, you remain at the centre of decision making about how you want to lead your life.

Linkers have strong local knowledge and work alongside communities, supporting them to be welcoming and inclusive.



Who can access Ability Links NSW?

Ability Links NSW is for:

- people with disability aged 9 to 64 years
- carers and families of people with disability.

Individual, clubs, groups and businesses can also access Ability Links NSW for information and support on inclusion of people with disability.

There is no formal assessment process or referral that you need to meet in order to access Ability Links NSW.



AUTUMN KIDS' CAMPS BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

- ✓ New friendships
- ✓ Great value
- ✓ Fun
- ✓ Safe

Our Autumn Kids' Camps are now open for enrolments via our website. Here, you will find what's on offer for the autumn school holidays.

Led by qualified instructors, you can rest easy knowing your kids are in safe hands. Our Kids' Camps are suitable for children aged 7 to 16 years and range from 1 to 5 days.

Residential camps include:

- 24 hour supervision
- Activities
- Accommodation
- Meals
- Supervised transport



sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps | 13 13 02
[fb.com/nswsportandrecreation](https://www.facebook.com/nswsportandrecreation)



Office
of Sport
Sport & Recreation

**FRIDAY
31 MARCH**
6 - 9 PM



Take ^{THE} Stage

Showcasing local young talent

Celebrating all performance types. To enter contact Wollongong Youth Services

Location: Dapto Ribbonwood Centre



**SATURDAY
1 APRIL**
12 - 4 PM



Revive

Music festival supporting next-gen artists

Featuring *Roses in Hand*, *Mikal Tas*, *Alex Cordina*, *Ok Hotel*, *Finding Light* and more

Location: Crown St Mall Amphitheatre



**FRIDAY
7 APRIL**
3.30 - 6.30 PM



Endless Summer

A festival by the beach

Street skate course, colour run, beach volleyball, henna tattoos, live music, plus more.

Location: Thirroul Beach Surf Club Carpark



**SATURDAY
8 APRIL**
11 - 3 PM



REVOLUTION

Skate and Sports Spectacular

Skate comp, touch footy, basketball, chill out zone, music, workshops, food and more

Location: Holborn Park, Berkeley





Get the skills to ride anywhere!

Join a fun session to improve cycle skills, learn about bike safety & improve rider confidence.

19th April 2017

3.00 - 4.30pm Lang Park

(Family - Adults and Children)

What you need to know

- Participants must wear a correctly fitted helmet & be able to ride a bike without a training aid
- Participants can either bring their own bike (in good working order) or hire a bike
- Bookings are essential as places are limited

For bookings or more details contact
Wollongong City Council's Road Safety Officer
on 4227 7111 or rso@wollongong.nsw.gov.au or
visit www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety





My name is Sam.

Sam is 10 and needs an experienced carer to offer him a safe and happy home. Sam's carers need to be experienced in care and trauma. Sam's happy place is the ocean. He loves to body board and skate. Sam is an old soul who loves to play the piano and listen to old music. One of his favourite artists is Van Morrison.

Sam's situation is urgent. Can you be there for Sam?

Call us on 1300 130 585.



**WILLIAM CAMPBELL
FOUNDATION**

Giving children hope and a future

Free School Holiday Activities



SUNDAY 9 - TUESDAY 11 APRIL
THE EARLY START DISCOVERY SPACE
BRINGS 'RIG-A-MAJIG'

11am - 2pm Upper Crown Street Mall
 Recommended for children aged 3 - 13 years

LET YOUR BRAIN PLAY!
 Build a contraption, create something that can lift things, or perhaps design a structure taller than you. Playing with Rigamajig engages children and parents to think three dimensionally, create physically and work collaboratively.
www.wollongongcitycentre.com.au



WEDNESDAY 12 & THURSDAY 13 APRIL
WOLLONGONG'S SCIENCE CENTRE & PLANETARIUM BRINGS 'A TASTE OF SCIENCE'

11am - 2pm Upper Crown Street Mall
 Look for the shipping container Recommended for children aged 10 years and under

Learn something new over the school holidays with a selection of hands-on science experiments, demonstrations and activities. Ever wondered what happens to a marshmallow in space? This and many other questions will be answered!
www.wollongongcitycentre.com.au



MORE FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN
17 - 20 APRIL
PETTING ZOO PLUS CIRCUS WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS

11am - 2pm each day
Crown Street Mall Amphitheatre
 Children can enjoy free fun and learn some incredible tricks in the City with Circus workshops
 Bring your family to come and hold, pat and feed the animals at Crown Street Mall's petting zoo!

EASTER SATURDAY FUN FOR KIDS!

11am - 2pm
 Crown Street Mall Amphitheatre.
 Bring the family for a day of FUN!
 With a special guest appearance by the Easter Bunny, Arts & Craft, face painting and entertainment for the whole family.

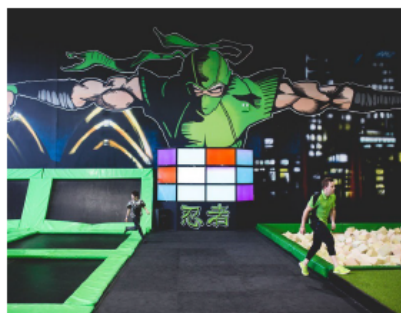
Apr 15



SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Hang Time

Wednesday 12th April
 11.00am to 1.00pm



Work Out & Swim

Wednesday 19th April
 11.00am to 1.00pm



FIND US ON FACEBOOK - 'LIKE'
 SOUTHERN YOUTH & FAMILY
 SERVICES TO KEEP UP TO DATE

Limited Spots!
 Available for 12 - 24yrs
 Transport and Snacks
 Provided

To secure your spot
 phone CHAIN on
 4226 5816



WOLLONGONG TERM 2, 2017

WORKSHOP BOOKINGS: 4227 1122

Workshops are at our Wollongong office 25-27 Auburn Street Wollongong unless otherwise stated.

<p>ROLLERCOASTER (8-12 years) Assisting children who are experiencing change & loss as a result of family separation. Helps children to understand & develop strategies for anger management and problem solving, and understand feelings & emotions.</p> <p>Tuesday afternoons: 4pm - 5pm May 9, 16, 23, 30 June 6, 13, 20 & 27</p> <p>Workshop Fee: \$15 per session</p>	<p>MY KIDS & ME A program for parents who have had their children removed from their care. It explores grief & loss & the impact on parents & children. Helps participants to develop strengths & build support networks.</p> <p>Thursday afternoons: 12 noon - 2:30pm May 18, 25 June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29</p> <p>Workshop Fee: \$15 per session</p>	<p>CIRCLE OF SECURITY © Parenting™ Helping parents understand their child's world by learning to read their emotional needs. Secure children have empathy, greater self esteem, better relationships and increased capacity to handle their emotions. This program is a must for all parents.</p> <p>Thursday evenings: 6pm - 8:30pm June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 OR Wednesday mornings: 10am - 12:30pm May 17, 24, 31 May and June 7, 14</p> <p>Workshop Fee: \$15 per session</p>
<p>123 MAGIC AND EMOTION COACHING Learn to be present and consistent as a parent. This time tested program provides parents with easy to use disciplining techniques for their children, without letting emotions get the better of them.</p> <p>Friday mornings: 10am - 12:30pm June 16, 23 & 30 OR Thursday evenings: 6pm - 8:30pm June 15, 22 & 29</p> <p>Workshop Fee: \$15 per session</p>	<p>GRASSROOTS PARENTING Toddlers 1 - 2 yrs - Friday morning, 2 June Child development, meeting toddlers needs, tantrums, safety and play Pre-Schoolers 3 - 5 years - Friday morning, 9 June Child development, behaviour and management of routine, rules and boundaries, safety and play 10am - 12:30pm Workshop Fee: \$15 per session</p>	<p>KEEPING KIDS IN MIND A post-separation parenting program which helps parents learn how to deal with the emotional & practical issues of parenting after separation. The program helps explore grief & loss & the impact separation has on parents & their children.</p> <p>Tuesday evenings: 6pm - 8:30pm May 9, 16, 23, 30 May & June 6 OR Friday mornings: 10am - 12:30pm April 28 & May 5, 12, 19, 26</p> <p>Workshop Fee: \$20 per session</p>
<p>SEEING RED Explores ways for parents to deal with feelings of anger within themselves and their children. Participants will learn to recognise their own feelings and needs and those of others, communicate and listen to these feelings and needs, be assertive & express anger in a more constructive way.</p> <p>Thursday mornings: 10am - 12:30pm April 27 April & May 4, 11</p> <p>Workshop Fee: \$15 per session</p>	<p>STANDARD MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID (2days) This course teaches adults how to provide initial support to adults who are developing a mental illness or experiencing a mental health crisis.</p> <p>Thursday 25th May and Thursday 1st June 9:30am - 4:30pm Workshop Fee: \$198 incl manual, lunch both days</p>	 <p>CatholicCARE <i>hope begins with us</i></p> <p><i>Concessions may apply dependent on financial circumstances</i></p>



ENROL NOW!

4283 9967



ART SPACE.

Creative arts studio for kids aged 5-18 years.

After school & school holiday programs.

bigfatmile.com.au/artspace
98 Railway Street, Corrimal