

The Wheeler Word

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Term 4 Week 11

16 December 2015

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*Thank you to the entire Wheeler Heights Public School community for a very successful and enjoyable year.
Best wishes for a very safe, happy and restful Christmas period with your family and friends.*

Farewell to Year 6

Congratulations to Year 6 who had their Farewell dinner on Monday evening and the Graduation ceremony yesterday afternoon. Both events were superbly organised and a huge thank you to the parents who made Monday evening such a memorable evening. Special thanks also to Sahara Gaw who spoke beautifully as the guest speaker at the graduation. Sahara, Year 6 at Wheeler Heights in 2009, has just completed her HSC at Freshwater Senior Campus.

Tuesday culminated in the traditional clap out where the entire school formed a guard of honour for the Year 6 students to walk through. Always a very emotional send off.

Class Picnics

Today all classes are having their annual class picnics and excursions. Year 6 are walking across the Harbour Bridge and visiting Barangaroo, Year 5 are off to the movies at Warringah Mall (for obvious reasons kayaking sadly had to be cancelled!), Year 3 and 4 are off to the movies at Collaroy and Years K-2 have a disco and performance at school.

Special thanks to Barry from Northern Beaches Buses for being so helpful and flexible with bus arrangements due to the inclement weather this morning. He added to the excitement of the day, providing disco lights and music for the Year 5's trip to the movies.

Presentation Days and awards

It was lovely to see so many parents and friends at last week's Presentation Days. Congratulations to all award winners and all students from K-6 for supporting their classmates.

Stationery and Book Lists for 2016

As we have done for the past few years, we will post the stationery lists for each year on the school website. Parents can then begin to organise materials for next year. The required text books for each year will once again be ordered by the school and parents will be invoiced next year with school program fees. Lists are available on the home page under 'Latest News'.

Special Breakfast

This morning I was lucky enough to have a special breakfast with Charlie W, Maya L and Erica S at Scotty's Bakery. The Woods family had kindly purchased the breakfast with the principal at the recent Trivia Auction. Special thanks to Scotty and his team at the bakery for the complimentary breakfast!

Scripture 2016

After discussion and consultation the school has decided to alter the Special Religious Education (Scripture) time period for 2016. From next year SRE will run from 2-3pm on Wednesday afternoons, with Years 3-6 from 2-2.30pm and Years K-2 from 2.30-3pm. This change has been brought about by our desire to utilise the most effective key learning time of the day, which is during the morning. This is the period where we often have literacy or numeracy groups and also employ teacher aides and often have parent volunteers. This change was discussed at the last P&C meeting.

You will see advertisements later in the newsletter asking for volunteers who may be able to assist with the SRE program at this new time.

Raffle Tickets

If you haven't yet sold your Love for Lachie raffle tickets please be sure to keep them safe and return them to school next year. So far over \$4 400 has already been receipted – a tremendous effort from our community!

School Holiday Period

Please be advised that for safety and supervision reasons, students should not be in the school grounds during the holiday period. OOSH Care will be here for most of the holidays and some drainage and tree felling will be taking place. If you do happen to see suspicious people on the school grounds please phone the Department Security team on 1300 880 021.

David Scotter
Principal



COMING EVENTS

Wed 16 Dec Picnic Day

Final day of term & year!

2016 Dates

Sat 16 Jan 9-11 am
Uniform shop open

Wed 27 Jan Staff return

Thurs 28 Jan Years 1-6
return to school & Kindy
Best Start assessments

Tues 2 Feb Kindergarten
commence school!

Mon 8 Feb-Please
note date**
Years 3-6 Swimming
Carnival @ Manly Pool



The Wheeler Way

From The Deputy

Kindy 2016 – Best Start Interview Booking

Please be aware and spread the word to neighbours and friends who may be interested to know that online bookings will open on Monday 4th December at 9:30am at www.schoolinterviews.com.au using the code ZXA6X. All 2016 kindy families should receive a letter advising them of these details and the class group to book with in the mail shortly. Please email me on john.h.williams@det.nsw.edu.au if this letter does not arrive before the end of the year.

Summer Reading

The long Summer break is a great time to enjoy a good book for parents and children – it is also important to encourage our kids to read to prevent students from 'slipping backwards' in literacy which can occur if they don't practice their skills over the long summer break. In order to encourage reading over the break, Scholastic (Book Club) have organised a fun Summer Reading Challenge – 'Book Beast Reading Feast' where students log reading minutes online adding their total in a competition between Australia and New Zealand. See the flyer later in the newsletter.

I wish all of our Wonderful Wheeler Community a safe, happy and fun-filled Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all again for another productive and joyous year in 2016!



From the Office

Lost Property - House keys found... please see the school office.



CHANGE TO SCHOOL BUS NUMBERS

From the start of 2016 most school special bus services will be renumbered. This may include bus numbers 737, 746 and 782. Please see details later in the newsletter for more information.

Jodie Sly
School Administration Manager

FROM THE CANTEEN

CANTEEN **will** REOPEN on FEBRUARY 1ST

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE AND SEE YOU IN 2016

Zoe and Tracey

The roster will come out next year, if you wish to volunteer please email
whpscanteen@gmail.com



SCRIPTURE NEWS

SRE TEACHERS NEEDED FOR 2016

From 2016, SRE (Scripture) classes will be moving to Wednesday afternoons:

2 – 2.30pm Years 3 - 6

2.30 – 3pm Years K - 2

Volunteer teachers and classroom assistants are needed across most classes. This may suit parents and grandparents who come to pick up their children in the afternoon. All materials and lesson programs supplied.

If you are interested to find out more please contact:

Catholic - Lakes Parish Office on 9982 1058.

Protestant - Jo Harpur on 9982 7344.

Other SRE – The school office



Wheeler Heights Christmas Concert 2015

Last Wednesday evening the oval was filled with students, parents, teachers, Rudolph and Santa as we enjoyed our first christmas carol night.

The wonderful band led by Mr MacDermott got the music started and the feet tapping. Each grade sang a christmas song and there was even a crowd participation sing-a-long led by our outstanding MC Miss McCombie.

Well done to the fantastic P & C for their exceptional effort cooking over 800 sausages.

Thank you to all students and parents for supporting the night and making it a tremendous success.



School bus number changes



From the start of the school year 2016

Most School Special bus services will be renumbered to eliminate duplication of route numbers.

Please note these changes do not impact the level of service provided to your school or the route taken by these services. The only change is to the three-digit route number of these services.

Detailed information regarding these changes is available on the Sydney Buses website
sydneybuses.info



SCHOLASTIC
SUMMER
READING
CHALLENGE

BOOK BEAST READING FEAST!



NEW ZEALAND'S
TANIWHA



AUSTRALIA'S
BUNYIP



TANIWHA

ORIGIN: New Zealand
CULTURE: Māori
CLASS: Reptilia
READS: Ferociously!



HISTORY: The Taniwha (*tanifa*) are creatures from Māori mythology that live in deep pools in rivers, dark caves, or in the sea. They may be considered highly respected Kaitiaki (protective guardians) of people and places, or in some traditions as dangerous, predatory beings. Able to grow to epic proportions, the mighty Taniwha like to supplement their enormous diet with an equal measure of reading material. In fact, it's not uncommon to find massive stockpiles of books in dark sea caves, waiting to be consumed with gusto by these ferocious readers!



BUNYIP

ORIGIN: Australia
CULTURE: Aboriginal
CLASS: Mammalia (Aquatic)
READS: Ravenously!



HISTORY: The Bunyip (*buhn-yip*) is a large mythical creature from Australian Aboriginal mythology, said to lurk in swamps, billabongs and waterholes. The origin of the word bunyip has been traced to the Wemba-Wemba or Wergaia language of Aboriginal people of South-Eastern Australia. In recent years they've been known to terrorise public libraries in their efforts to devour as many books as possible. Known for their voracious reading appetites, Bunyips prefer devouring native books, but don't limit themselves too much when it comes to feeding!

LAST YEAR WE SMASHED THE READING MINUTES RECORD!

SUMMER 2014-15
COMBINED TOTAL MINUTES

003,400,000

Let's set a new record this summer and beat New Zealand!

FEED YOUR INNER BOOK BEAST READ TO WIN!

Register for the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge now!

visit: scholastic.com.au/summer

STACKS
OF GREAT
PRIZES TO
BE WON!