Welcome Barbeque

Thank you to all who could attend our Welcome Barbeque and Meet the Teacher evening and thank you to the staff. It was a successful and informative event.
Achieving Success in a Caring Environment

Stage 1

Stage 2

Stage 3

School Plan Library
West Tigers Visit

On Tuesday 17th February, some West Tigers Rugby League players visited our school. The primary children were so excited to see who our visitors might be. We were lucky enough to have Brenden Santi, Joel Luani and Martin (Marty) Taupau and Sitaleki Akuola come to speak with us. The players spoke to the children about how important it is to live a healthy and happy life. They encouraged the children to get involved in sports and also promoted the importance of exercise and healthy eating. The children were also given the opportunity to question the players about their Rugby League careers. It was a great experience for all the children involved.
Swimming Success

We would like to congratulate all of our wonderful swimmers for their efforts at the carnival.

**Boys 50 Freestyle**

1st - Ethan, Devontay, Logan and Cameron
2nd - Blake, Sam, Tayvion and Benjamin
3rd - Brent, Zac and Ben.

**Girls 50 Freestyle**

1st - Victoria, Teesha, Agnes, Georgina, and Natalie
2nd - Carlee, Aliza, Lyric and Kaitlyn
3rd - Tori and Kiarna

**Boys 50 Breaststroke**

1st - Ethan, Devontay, Zac, and Cameron
2nd - Brent, Logan and Benjamin
3rd - Joseph, Tyrone and Charlie

**Girls 50 Breaststroke**

1st - Victoria, Emma, Agnes, Georgina and Natalie
2nd - Aliza, Lyric, Allira and Kaitlyn
3rd - Tori and Paige

**100 Freestyle Girls**

1st - Victoria, Emma, Kiarna, Allira and Natalie
2nd - Tori and Georgina
3rd - Jessica

**100 Freestyle Boys**

1st - Ethan and Cameron
2nd - Ben
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Girls 50 Backstroke
1st - Shianne, Teesha, Agnes, Georgina and Natalie
2nd - Victoria, Lara, Amelia, Allira and Kaitlyn
3rd - Emma, Paige and Charlotte

Boys 50 Backstroke
1st – Ethan, Devontay, Logan and Benjamin
2nd - Luke, Zac and Cameron
3rd - Quaiden and Lucas

Girls 50 Butterfly
1st - Victoria, Agnes, Allira and Kaitlyn
2nd - Lyric, Georgina and Natalie
3rd - Paige

Boys 50 Butterfly
1st – Ethan, Zac and Cameron
2nd - Logan and Benjamin

Congratulations to these children who will be representing the school in Zone on Tuesday 10th March.
Ethan Cairns, Agnes Ili, Teesha Kone, Aliza McKinnon, Devontay Zaglas, Logan Gibson, Cameron Nonenmacher, Blake Shaw, Georgina Thomas, Natalie Watts, Emma Thomas, Benjamin Walker, Lara Bryant and Tori Gordon.
We are invited to join in the fun at Bunning’s Campbelltown Free Family Fun Day. There will be a registration table on the day and the school that registers the most students and teachers attending will win $300 worth of Bunning’s Gift Cards for your school. Hope you can all join us in the fun!
Buddy Bench

As a school we are always trying to come up with new and innovative ideas that will benefit our students socially both in the classroom and the playground.

The idea behind our “Buddy Seats” is that one will be placed in our back oval playground area and one in our courtyard playground area. Students will be able to go to the buddy seats when they are feeling alone and have no one to play with. All students will be aware of the meaning behind the buddy seats and will be encouraged to attend to the children who are waiting at the buddy seats for a friend and invite them to play.

The rainbow colours fit in with our school behaviour matrix as the students move through a rainbow colour reward system for positive behaviour eventually reaching gold, which is every student’s goal. The bright and colourful seats make it a positive place for students to go to when feeling lonely. The “Buddy Seats” complement our many existing social skills programs but allow for some independence for the children and self-management.

Mrs Melrose, our School Learning Support Officer approached Bunnings for a donation. Bunnings donated 2 wooden bench seats as well as paint and brushes. I would like to thank Sheree from Bunnings for all her assistance; from organising the donation to her hands on support painting the buddy benches.

As you can see from the photos there is lots of work to be done and the paint will need time to take between coats. So, please be patient and we look forward to our buddy benches being completed.

We believe that this small, yet positive initiative will have an immediate impact on the students by helping them to recognise those in need of a friend or to recognise that they themselves could go to a place that would be safe in assisting them to find a friend in a less confronting way.
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:
- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:
- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone/Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team:

T. 131 536

Learning and Engagement
Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships
T 9244 5129
www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

Achieving Success in a Caring Environment
**P&C News**

**School Banking**

School banking is every Thursday morning. Please be aware banking times are **8.15am - 8.45am**. We have Year 6 students who are involved in this program and need to get back to class.

**Play to Learn Group**

This week the children have Mr McKenzie coming to visit. Come along and join us and don’t forget your piece of fruit.

**Mufti Day**

Friday will be mufti day. Children can come dressed in rainbow colours for a gold coin donation. Also at lunch time there will be cups of Fruit Salad on sale for $2.

Thank you for your continued support

Rebecca Gordon.

P&C President

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**Uniform News**

Fleecy track pants with 2 zip pockets have been ordered and should be available for sale before the cooler weather starts. Cost will be approximately $16 each.
Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome BBQ and Parent Information Session
It was wonderful to see so many supportive parents and families at our welcome back to school barbeque. Thank you to our support teachers who did a great job catering. The barbeque was a good opportunity to speak to parents in an informal setting and an opportune time to ask questions or generally catch up with teachers.
The parent information sessions were full and it was very pleasing to see the large number of parents involved in the night. A great beginning to what is going to be a great year! Thank you to all who participated; we hope the afternoon was both informative and enjoyable.

School Plan 2015-2017
For those of you who missed the session on our new School Plan for 2015-2017, I have included a brief description of three strategic directions and what we are aiming to achieve.

- **Differentiation and Targeted Support** - To design a learning provision which is personalised for each student in a way that is purposeful and engaging, as well as differentiated, to ensure it is directly related to each student’s stage of learning development. We are committed to the provision of high quality educational opportunities for each and every child.

- **Effective Self Motivated Learners** - To develop effective learners who are productive, innovative and ready for life’s challenges. To prepare our students for an unknown future it is important they are able to be critical thinkers, collaborate in a team, use technology for purposeful learning, be confident and be creative.

- **Informed and Engaged Parents** - To connect with our parent community and jointly develop high expectations and a shared sense of responsibility for student engagement, learning, development and success. We all want the best for your children and by sharing information and engaging actively in your child's education together, your child will experience success.

Speech Therapy program
As part of our plan to provide targeted support we have employed the Educational Speech Pathology and Therapy Services Company. On Wednesday every week we have a speech therapist called Leesa Green working with us. Leesa is working collaboratively with KS, KR and 1N in the morning session. Presently she is assessing students who have been identified as needing support with their speech. In consultation with the Learning Support Team students will either be given an individual or group support. Not all students assessed will begin their program this term. We will be contacting parents whose child will be involved with the program.

P&C Association
We had an excellent turn up to our first P&C Association meeting (see photo below). It was lovely to see so many new faces. The first fund raising event will be this Friday. It will be a Rainbow Mufti Day so students can wear any colours of the rainbow for a gold coin donation. As part of our Live Life Well program, fruit salad will be sold for $2 a cup.

Leadership Camp
Just a reminder that Leadership Camp is fast approaching and full payment is due. Year 6 students are due to depart school next Monday at 9am.

Funky Hair Day
Make sure you put Friday March 13 on your calendar. We are raising funds for the Leukaemia Foundation. We also have a brave mum who will be saving her hair as part of the World’s Greatest Shave.

Regards
Carol Gruden
Principal
Student Banking

Student banking is every Thursday morning at the P&C window from 8.15am to 8.45am.

We are trying to win a gazebo for our school, to do this we need to have the majority of our students banking.

SO …. every NEW banker will receive a gift with their very first deposit.

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Play to Learn Group

at Woodland Road Public School

Preschool Program for 0-5yrs

Beginning February 13

9am to 10.30 am

For further enquiries please contact
Rebecca Gordon (P&C President) or
Miss Slym (KS teacher)

or by leaving a message at the school office:
4626-2488

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