I’m going to spend a little time in my message today to discuss children, their access to and use of social media. The emergence of social media has brought many benefits including the enjoyment of being so closely connected to others but it is a double edged sword. Unfortunately there are also the very real risks of not knowing who your children are communicating with and whether your children are acting in a socially responsible way in their interactions with each other.

The cyber world is enticing. Young people have always wanted to escape from their parents’ world. In the past they hung out with their friends in the shopping mall etc. but the online world is now the shopping mall of the 21st century. Parents have the same responsibility to help kids stay safe in the online world as they do in the real world. ‘Stranger danger’ and accompanying safe behaviours are just as relevant in the online world as they are in the real world.

Parents should use the same offline preventative strategies to maximise their children's online safety as they have always used. These strategies include: teaching children about the right way to behave online; don’t let them spend all night in the cyber world; and ask questions about what they are doing and where they go when they’re online. Please remind kids that things in the online world can spin out of control very quickly. A written message or a photograph can be circulated so rapidly that the scope and scale of cyber bullying can be greater than any other form of bullying.

I’m going to put forward to you seven key messages that can form the basis of an online safety strategy for kids.

1. **Respect others.** Make kids aware that what they send can offend. Discuss the types of messages that can cause harm to others when sent.

2. **Think before you send.** Remind kids that cyberspace is a very public and permanent forum. Once messages or images are sent they’re almost impossible to erase or take back.

3. **Treat online passwords like your house key.** Teach kids to keep passwords guarded at all times. Young people can be incredibly trusting of each other, which is to be encouraged. However there are some things such as online passwords that they don’t share, not even with best friends.

4. **Block bullies.** Teach kids to block bullying messages. They can filter out messages online and block text messages from bullies as well.

5. **Don't reply to harassment.** Bullies can retain proof of your response, which can further be spread around. Besides, responding to bullying behaviour often simply encourages the bully to continue.
6. **Save the evidence.** If kids are bullied they should keep the pictures and offending messages. These can be used as evidence if the bullies are brought to justice.

7. **Tell someone.** The insidious part of bullying is that kids on the receiving end often don’t seek help, as they think there’s something wrong with them. Talk to your children about going to a trusted adult when they feel their rights or safety have been violated.

You can’t afford to ignore your child’s use of communication’s technology. As parents we all need to learn as much as we can about our children’s online lives so we can respond quickly and appropriately.

Congratulations to all our Regional Athletics competitors. We had some outstanding results and well done, Anna who is off to the State carnival soon for the 800m and Jye for the 100m and Long Jump. Thank you to the parents who travelled down to Canberra and helped out with transport for others.

Our senior debaters progressed to the Regional finals at debating Camp in Batemans Bay last week. They won their final convincingly and are now off to the state finals. What an amazing effort from four very talented students. Mrs Wearing commented on the outstanding behaviour and commitment of these students at the debating camp. She received many complements from other teachers and schools about our students.

Wollongong Public School’s “A” chess team has progressed to the Regional Finals after convincingly defeating Illaroo Rd Public School on Thursday. Well done Ajay, Vincent, Ben and Sidney. Good luck boys for the next stage of the competition. Thank you to Ajay’s mum for transporting our team to their competition.

Southern Stars has been in full swing this week with two full days of rehearsals and then four official performances on Friday and Saturday. A big thank you to Mrs Nelson for her dedication and all the hard work that she has put into the choreography, costumes and management of our talented dancers. Another huge thank you also goes out to Mrs Clapham and Mrs Gore for their hard work and management of the southern stars choir group from our school. I can't wait to see our students shine on Friday night at the first official public performance.

Please keep in mind that our second school concert for the year will be held on the last Wednesday evening of the term. Seating is always in high demand so please get in early when this becomes available. This concert is really going to be an exceptional event – I’ve had a few sneak previews and I can assure you this will be one of our premier events of the year.

Best Wishes,

Graham Butt

**Graham Butt**

**RELIEVING PRINCIPAL**

**CALENDAR**

**Term 3, Week 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, Aug 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Interrelate Stage 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Aug 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Aug 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Southern Stars rehearsal @ WEC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Aug 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Southern Stars dress rehearsal @ WEC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Aug 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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**Term 3, Week 8**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, Sept 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Kindy 2015 – Play Sessions Interrelate Stage 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Sept 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Sept 10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>TIGS Chess Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Sept 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Sept 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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**Term 3, Week 9**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, Sept 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Interrelate Stage 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Sept 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Sept 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Sept 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Sept 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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**STEWART HOUSE CLOTHING APPEAL 2014**

This week a Stewart House Clothing Appeal bag have been sent home with all students. Please make time to clean out all those unwanted clothes, fill the Stewart House bag and **return it to school by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014.**

**No late bags will be accepted.**
Merit Awards - Term 3, Week 6

Certificate of Merit
KA Kyra
KC Rynaz
KN Tiyana
1J Tasnuva
1-2G Abdullah
1-2P Jack
1-2W Riley
2B Ivan
3-4D Kie
3-4M Jacob
3-4Y Lana
4-5M Caitlin
5-6B Jayden
5-6H Jaime
5-6P Chloe
5C Thomas
6M Tala

Student of the Week
KA Om
KC Alexander
KN Lachlan
1J Cong
1-2G Sebastian
1-2P Christian
1-2W Jack
2B Kale
3-4D Tina
3-4M Lana
3-4Y Laith
5-6B Aysha
5-6H Mary
5-6P Noah
5C James
6M Gabe

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS – 2015
Applications for enrolment are now being taken for children to start Kindergarten in 2015.

LOCAL and NON-LOCAL applications are welcome.

The closing date for all applications is Friday 5th September, 2014.

If you know of anyone who is intending to apply to our school in 2015 please ask them to come to the school and pick up an enrolment pack as soon as possible.

Please get enrolment packs back to the school office ASAP as information regarding play sessions and orientation days will be sent out very soon. Without all your information we cannot keep you informed.

Parent online payments
What a great response to the online payments, the feedback from parents has been great, lots of parents love the fact that they can pay for all their child’s activities from home. Please keep in mind that we can’t accept any activity for the P & C (Uniforms, Lunch Orders, Special Food Days etc), the P&C has a separate account to the school. You must also remember to fill out and sign the permission slip then write the receipt number on it and return it to the school office.

Miss Wilson
**Illawarra District Primary Schools One Day Chess Teams Tournament**

**When:** Wednesday 10 September 2014 from 9.10 until 2.30pm  
**Where:** The Illawarra Grammar School (TIGS) (Rees Hall, Junior School) Geards Place, Wollongong  
**Teams:** Three players per team  
**Cost:** Free

Players are to be transported by parents by 9am and picked up before 2.30pm. They need to bring their recess and lunch. Students are to wear full school uniform. Players may want to bring a book or a handball to pass the time between games.

Notes are due Friday 5th September to be handed in at the Office.

Mrs Elphick

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**Ilawarra District Primary Schools One Day Chess Teams Tournament**

I give permission for my child ..........................................................class..................................to attend the One Day Chess Day at TIGS on 10/9/2014. I understand that I have to pick up and drop off my child to the venue. I will write a note if I make any other arrangements.

Parent name..........................................................Parent Signature..........................................................

Parent contact number ..........................................................

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**FREE Holiday Camp**  
**September School Holidays**

All Junior Soccer players throughout the Illawarra are invited to attend this 3 day camp which will be conducted on Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th of September from 9.30 am to 12.00 pm each day at Guest Park Fairy Meadow for junior players aged 7-13.  
Get the kids outdoors this summer and come along to this free community program!

Can Somebody Help Out With This Special Robotics Challenge?  
(No experience required)

“World Class”, the new season of the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) opens tomorrow. The Wollongong PS Robo Club will be starting work on the challenge from Wednesday’s class.

We still need one or more coaches for the team! Coaches do NOT need any technical skill, just some spare time, an ability to work with children, and a sense of humour 😊. Project Bucephalus will cover much of the workload at the Robo Club meetings, and can help as much (or as little) as the coach requires. Grandparents, Aunts/Uncles, Cousins, and Parents are all valid candidates!

The duties of the coach are as follows:

- Receive approval from WPS – usually after meeting with the Principal.
- Attend the Robo Club on a Wednesday for as long as possible – even if only for the last 30 min. Alternatively, you could join the class yourself!
- Arrange a 2-hour team meeting once a week (place and time up to the team) to develop Research Project and Teamwork skills.
- Manage team members and allocation of responsibility.
- Organise distribution of “homework” (if needed) and make sure team members complete the work.
- Organise 1-2 team meetings during the holidays.
- Attend the tournament on the 29th November. This will be held at Cedars Christian College in Unanderra.

The season will run from the 27th August to the 29th November. If the team does well, they will be invited to compete at the National tournament (6th December) in Sydney.

The children have been talking about splitting in to two teams, so two coaches may be needed! Please let us know if you are interested – we’re happy to provide training and support as needed. The job can be shared between several adults.

Regards,

Andrew Clark
“Project Bucephalus” Coach
www.projectb.net.au
0403 390 547