Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

This week has been a very busy one in our school with lots of action, particularly in Stage 3 where all students had the opportunity to attend the annual camps.

I was lucky enough to visit both Year 5 at Cataract Scout Camp and Year 6 at The Sydney Sport Academy at Narrabeen, and can report that not only was everyone having a great time, but that the staff at both camps were glowing in their praise of our students’ behaviour. Families of students who attended will no doubt get vivid descriptions of the activities undertaken, but I can share with you that I was able to see students engaged in rock climbing, the caves course and the quite daunting obstacles in Challenge Valley at Cataract, while at Narrabeen I saw some kayaking and a variety of problem solving courses involving ropes and team work.

Pictured are two of the Challenge Valley obstacles.

We will of course welcome them all home this afternoon.

I’d like to express my thanks to all students and families involved in our class restructure, which was undertaken with a minimum of fuss. It was something that we didn’t undertake lightly, and we appreciate your support.

There has been quite a lot of publicity in the media about the changes to leave provisions for students having extended periods away from school during term time, particularly those taking family holidays. Simply put, absences such as these which are undertaken for a family holiday will be recorded as leave (as they currently are), but the absence will be added to the number of days recorded on students’ school reports.
As many parents will be aware, the Council Rangers have been very active around our school in the past week or so, and indications are that they will be making regular visits in an effort to curb the unsafe practices that we have seen outside our school. Please obey the road rules around the school so that we can make the pick-up / drop-off as safe and seamless as possible.

Thanks to those students who participated in the Fun Run at Bulli last Sunday. Half a dozen keen young runners joined Miss Campbell and me at the event and had a great run and earned a few dollars for our school. Well done team!

Next week we have our P&C AGM and regular meeting on Monday at 7 pm in the library for parents, while for students we are having our annual school picnic at Cataract Dam on Tuesday. I am really looking forward to this day as it means that I have the opportunity to have a great day of fun activities with all our students and teachers and support staff. Please make sure that your child comes along for this important school event.

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards,

Harold Cosier

PRINCIPAL

CALENDAR

Term 1, Week 6

| Monday, Mar 2\textsuperscript{nd} |   |
| Tuesday, Mar 3\textsuperscript{rd} | CANTEEN CLOSED |
| Wednesday, Mar 4\textsuperscript{th} | Stage 3 Camp |
| Thursday, Mar 5\textsuperscript{th} | Stage 3 Camp CANTEEN CLOSED |
| Friday, Mar 6\textsuperscript{th} | Stage 3 Camp Last day to return payment and permission note to Cataract Dam excursion |

Term 1, Week 7

| Monday, Mar 9\textsuperscript{th} |   |
| Tuesday, Mar 10\textsuperscript{th} | Whole school excursion to Cataract Dam CANTEEN CLOSED |
| Wednesday, Mar 11\textsuperscript{th} |   |
| Thursday, Mar 12\textsuperscript{th} | CANTEEN CLOSED |
| Friday, Mar 13\textsuperscript{th} |   |

Term 1, Week 8

| Monday, Mar 16\textsuperscript{th} |   |
| Tuesday, Mar 17\textsuperscript{th} | School Cross Country CANTEEN CLOSED |
| Wednesday, Mar 18\textsuperscript{th} |   |
| Thursday, Mar 19\textsuperscript{th} | Harmony Day CANTEEN CLOSED |
| Friday, Mar 20\textsuperscript{th} | GALA Day |

Term 1, Week 9

| Monday, Mar 23\textsuperscript{rd} |   |
| Tuesday, Mar 24\textsuperscript{th} | CANTEEN CLOSED |
| Wednesday, Mar 25\textsuperscript{th} | Kindergarten Steps Screening School Photo Day Last day for payment of ICAS Tests |
| Thursday, Mar 26\textsuperscript{th} | CANTEEN CLOSED |
| Friday, Mar 27\textsuperscript{th} |   |
School Photo Day - Wednesday 25th March
Have your child’s school memories captured forever.

Please take time to read the relevant information on the MSP Photography payment envelopes and remember these helpful points.

- Parents can pay for all of their children’s orders in one envelope. However each child requires their own envelope on photo day to ensure their order is placed and processed (even if the payment is in a sibling’s envelope).
- Payments can be made by cash, cheque, or money orders only. The correct amount needs to be put into the envelope, as the photographers do not carry change.
- Spare order envelopes can be picked up from the school office.
- Family photo envelopes are available at the school office. These photographs are for school aged students attending Wollongong Public School only (ie no babies or parents can be accommodated in these photographs).

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact us

- e: illawaarna@msp.com.au
- p: 4261 3009
- f: 4261 3008

Interschool Chess Challenge 2015
(endorsed by the NSW Junior Chess League)
Your school is invited to compete in the Local Heat at Edmund Rice College
Divisions: Primary and Secondary Schools
Date: Thursday 26th March
Venue: Edmund Rice College, 112 Mount Keira Rd, West Wollongong
Cost: $11 per child.

Time: Registration is from 8:30am on the day of the tournament.
Round 1 begins at 9:30am.

Prize giving will commence at approximately 2:00pm.
There will be a lunch break, as well as short breaks in between the rounds.

Format: This tournament is run as an individual event, with the winning school determined by adding the 4 highest scorers from each school. This means that your school can enter any number of players, and there is no need to rank them into teams.

This tournament is a 7-round Swiss competition. This means that all players play 7 games and no-one is knocked out of the tournament.

Time Limit: Chess clocks will be used in this event. There will be a short demonstration on the use of chess clocks before the start of the tournament.

The time limit is 15 minutes per player per game.

Prizes: Trophies will be awarded for the top scoring players:
1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, 4th Place and 5th Place.
Trophies will also be given out to the top 3 placed schools in each heat.

All participants in the tournament will receive a certificate of participation.
The top 3 schools from each heat will qualify for the Regional Semi-Finals, held in Term 3.

Please see Mrs Elphick for more information

LIBRARY BAGS
The school has Library bags for sale to the students at a cost of $3.30 each. The bags are made of calico with the name of our school printed on the front and are available to purchase from the school office.
School Attendance
Parents/Caregivers are reminded that children must attend school on every school day unless they have a reasonable excuse for being away, such as illness. Visiting family, being tired, and staying home on birthdays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school.

Canteen News
Just a few notes and reminders this week.

First, we want to remind everyone that if you are ordering Recess for yourself or your child, the word ‘Recess’ needs to be written on the bag, so we can prepare the food in time. Sadly, we are not mind readers. If Recess is not written your/your child's bag, when all the paper bags get sorted and counted (and there are often over one hundred bags to sort through) it will be placed with the pile of Lunch orders which are not cooked until after Recess.

Second, Harmony Day (International Lunch) Pre-Order Forms have been sent home this week - it might be the orange paper note crumpled at the bottom of your/your child's bag. This is our first Special Canteen Day for the year and it is an optional part of the Harmony Day celebration on Thursday 19th March. So that we can buy enough ingredients and prepare enough meals for Harmony Day, please cut off the order form and stick it onto a bag and return it with the money to the Canteen by next Wednesday 11th March. Late orders cannot be catered for.

Third, thank you to all those that have returned New Volunteer forms. We were amazed by the response. If you volunteered and have not heard from one of us yet, you will be contacted shortly when a Term 2 roster is formed.

Thanks,
Canteen Volunteers

EFTPOS Terminal
The school DOES NOT have an EFTPOS terminal in the front office anymore. Parents wishing to pay by credit card / debit card will have to do so online through our school website. It is costly having both the EFTPOS terminal and online payment fees to pay and we have a majority of parents paying online.

Please remember all payments for school excursions etc (not P&C activities or uniforms) can be paid online through the schools website www.wollongong-p.schools.nsw.edu.au and “make a payment” tab on the toolbar. You must send the permission note into the front office with the receipt number on it.

FROM THE OFFICE
All payment envelopes are to be posted in the letter box slot (placed on the front counter) in the front office.

NOT TO BE TAKEN TO CLASS TEACHER

PLEASE NOTE NO CHANGE WILL BE GIVEN, PLEASE HAVE THE CORRECT MONEY!

All permission notes must be accompanied with payment and included in envelopes (which need to be sealed, so no coins can fall out). If paying for multiple children and/or multiple activities, they can be placed in the one envelope clearly marked with all names of children & permission notes inside. To make it easier for parents who wish to pay by cheque (made out to Wollongong Public School) – all activities and children can be paid for on the one cheque.

Please note that P & C / Canteen activities still need to be placed in separate envelopes and cheques made out to P & C for fundraising activities etc