Upcoming Events

**Term 4 Week 5**

- Year 5 School Service Program commences
- Dance to be Fit
- Primary Assembly 2pm

**Term 4 Week 6**

- Year 5 School Service Program continues
- Dance to be Fit
- Stage 2 Orienteering excursion
- Kinder Orientation
- Jump Rope for Heart Day
- Infants Assembly 2pm – KB

**Term 4 Week 7**

- Year 5 School Service Program continues
- Out of Uniform Day for Music Week
- Dance to be Fit
- Milkshake Day
- Primary Assembly 2pm

Willai Creek Naming Day

The Willai Creek Naming Day was such a huge success. The scope of community involvement in the day left us feeling very humbled. Kate Wilson, a local artist came to work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) students to create a possum sculpture; this was due to the fact that ‘Willai’ means possum in Awabakal language. The ATSI students worked with Nadine and Alex to put together a dance and cultural music performance. We were also very fortunate to have the Plattsburg Public School dancers and a student from Callaghan College share their skills and knowledge with our school community.

The day started with a quick change of plans as the weather didn’t quite have in store for us the beautiful, sunny day that we had hoped for! All students in years 3-6 gathered under the COLA to be welcomed and to witness Alex carry out a smoking ceremony to bless our cultural poles. The ceremony was then held in the hall.

It wasn’t until we arrived in the hall that it became so obvious how many community members had come along to celebrate the day. It was very humbling to look around and see the support from parents, carers, community members and students. The ceremony consisted of guest speakers, including councillor Declan Clausen and Angus Weingott who is an Environmental Education Officer from the Newcastle City Council. We also witnessed a didgeridoo and clapstick performance, our school’s ATSI performers and a magical dance routine from Platssburg Public School.

The students and community members then headed off to the creek, following a smoking ceremony where our two school captains Tiana and Ethan cut the ribbons with Councillor Declan Clauson. The students were further engaged in hands on learning activities provided by the local council and Landcare that had a common theme of looking after our environment.

The students in years 3-6 thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony, visit to the creek, smoking ceremony and activities provided by Landcare and the council. Without so many participants from the community the day would not have been possible. It was such a wonderful day, building community partnerships and educating the children of our future.

Kate Sciacca
Coordinator
Whooping cough information for schools

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children.

Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.

If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.

Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.

A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for information for childcare and schools about whooping cough.

Earn and Learn

Our “Earn and Lean” points have been finalised and our community collected 27,660 points. A range of product including construction toys have been purchased and will be delivered in 2016.

Year 7 Selective High School Placement - 2017

The Year 7 2017 Selective High School placement process has started. If you are interested in your child being considered please be aware that:

- Parents must apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement
- Applications for entry in 2017 can be made online between 13 October 2015 and 16 November 2015. Applications will not be accepted after 16 November 2015.
- All applicants are required to sit the Selective High School Placement test which is to be held on Thursday 10 March 2016.

1P Jump Rope for Heart Skipping Skills

1P have been learning lots of skipping skills during our class PE lessons. We have been learning the different skips so we are ready for the Jump Rope for Heart Jump Off day which is on Friday 13th of November. Skipping is a tricky skill to learn; we are practising lots to get the different skips right!

Look at us go!

If you're interested in learning to skip, come and see Miss Pawl during break times.

1P are so clever, they would also love to teach other children in the school.

Don’t forget to keep raising money for the Heart Foundation. We will find out our school’s total on the Jump Off Day and hopefully we will have raised enough money to go towards possible air conditioning for the hall!

Happy skipping ☺️
Canteen Roster

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<td>Feenan</td>
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<td>Facey 11-2</td>
<td>Bailey-Brown</td>
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Uniform Shop Roster

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Canteen News

**Save the Date**

Thursday 19th November – Milkshake Day

Sushi Day on Wednesday 15th November has been cancelled as we will have students out of the school on the Matilda excursion. We will not be rescheduling a Sushi Day, however, Sushi will be available on Blue & Gold day and Carols night.

**Gonski Week**

This week is National Gonski Week. Gonski funding was first provided in 2014 by the Federal Government. The purpose of the funding is to ensure that every child, regardless of their background has access to a quality education.

With the support of the NSW government, schools were allocated additional funding based on the individual needs of their students. Schools have been able to make decisions locally about how best to use the funding. Last week at the Principals’ State Conference in Sydney, the Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli announced on behalf of the NSW government that an additional $113 million will be allocated to NSW schools in 2016, which is great news. Although, this additional money is making a huge difference, the Federal Government has not yet given a firm commitment to continue the funding beyond 2017.

We need the Federal Government to know how important this funding is to our families and our school. We need them to know that this funding is making a difference for our children. You can do this in a number of ways but the simplest is to register your support on the