Month of May, 2014

Tue 13  NAPLAN Assessment - Years 3 and 5 - Language and Writing  
P & C Association meeting - 7.00 pm in the staffroom
Wed 14  NAPLAN Assessment - Years 3 and 5 - Reading  
Thu 15  NAPLAN Assessment - Years 3 and 5 - Numeracy  
Mon 19  School photographs to be taken - Envelopes were sent home last week. Students in sport teams are to bring their sports uniform with them so that they can be photographed with their Sport Team.

Tue 20  Zone Cross Country at Parramatta Park  
Wed 21  Recorder Group Rehearsal  
Wed 21  Whole School Assembly - Class 2/3C - 2.35 pm - Please note change of class  
Thu 22  Last day for payment for students to attend Camp Berry  
Fri 23  Walk Safely to School Day.
Wed 28  Class 5F and Class 6F to Camp Berry until Friday 30 May 2014  
Thu 29  P & C Pizza Fundraiser

Month of June, 2014

Wed 4  Whole School Assembly - Class 3/4J- 2.35 pm  
Mon 9  Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday  
Wed 11  2014 Sydney West Cross Country Carnival  
Wed 18  Citizenship/Principal Award assembly - 2.35pm  
Tue 24  Parent/Teacher interviews - note to follow  
Wed 25  Festival of Instrumental Music - Recorder Group Concert 7.30 pm

Information correct at time of printing, 14 May, 2014

From the Principal’s Desk

Welcome back to the new term. I hope you had a relaxing break. We have had a very busy few weeks back at school. We have had Mothers’ Day stall where all students across the school had the opportunity to purchase a wonderful gift for their terrific mums. This stall was organised by our great P&C Fundraising Committee and was staffed by our generous parent helpers.
We also held the Cross Country Carnival in which all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 ran hard and fast around our school grounds and enjoyed the sunshine with a picnic lunch with their peers and parents. We again thank our P&C for their great work in providing a sausage sizzle lunch. For more information on the Cross Country please read 3/4J’s recount of the Widemere Cross Country Races.

NAPLAN Testing

This week our talented Years 3 and 5 students sat the NAPLAN tests and made us proud of their responsible effort in dealing with 3 days of testing of Language Conventions; Writing; Reading and Numeracy. The data we receive from this testing allows us to identify and focus on areas of need for all students and devise effective professional learning and teaching programs.

Widemere - a Proud Public School

Widemere Public school is a wonderful example of the value of public education. We feel we offer a great service to our community and are constantly striving to improve our student’s educational experiences. As a proud public school we do not feel we should be seen as a deficit model with outdated resources, buildings and services. So it is important that we maintain and improve our school and resources so our students have a first class education.

At the moment our school is fundraising for a covered outdoor learning area (COLA), (approximately $60,000) to protect our students from the sun, air-conditioning for our classrooms ($35,000) and soft-fall grass ($28,000) for our equipment area, which is looking a little worse for wear. We would also like to improve our technology resources ($8,000 for Ipads).

We thank parents who have paid their voluntary contributions this term as this goes some way to helping our school to improve resources and purchase some technology, books and educational equipment. We also thank our generous parents and friends who offer a wide variety of services and resources to our school.

We work hard to access extra funds for our school from organisations such as Clubs NSW, Community Building Partnerships and the Federal Government. However we need more funds so it is important to have lots of fundraising opportunities to assist our school meet our student’s needs. So please support our small school in our fundraising efforts.

Some parents have broached the idea of making a donation to our school to enable us to reach our targets (COLA, air conditioning etc) a little quicker. We welcome any support or donation you would be kind enough to offer. If you wish and are able to afford to make a donation to our school please send the donation in an envelope to our school office with ‘school donation’ written on the front.

Crust Pizza for a Cause – Thursday 29 May

This term the P&C are having a Crust for a Cause fundraiser. Crust Pizza supports our school by donating $5 of every $10 pizza to our Parents & Citizens Association. Pizzas are $10 and our school gets $5 of that $10. So please support our school by purchasing a pizza for your child/ren on Thursday 29 May. Siblings can share pizzas on the day if you wish. Get your order in quick as it is first come first served basis as Crust can only make 120 pizzas at a time. Of course students at Camp Berry will not be able to purchase Crust Pizza this time but if successful we might continue this practice once a term.
At Widemere Public School we are safe, respectful learners!

We are safe when we walk on the asphalt and concrete areas.
We are respectful when we use calm voices to speak.
We are learners when we listen well and follow instructions.

Dance Fever

We have had a great start to our ‘Dance Fever’ sessions. Students are really enjoying the experience and the ‘Dance Fever’ instructors absolutely love our school and our students’ behaviour. Apparently all the trainers wish to work at Widemere because of our well-mannered, talented students! Our students will be learning a variety of dance styles and Dance Fever is organising a free lunchtime disco on the last week of term. More information soon.

Reforms to P&C Federation

The NSW Parliament has introduced legislation to reform the NSW Federation of Parent and Citizens Associations, which has suspended operation pending Supreme Court action. While these reforms will not affect the day-to-day operation of individual school P&Cs, they will introduce a new executive structure which will ensure the Federation operates as a modern and representative body on behalf of school P&C Associations.

Each school’s P&C Association will be asked to vote for councillors and delegates who will represent their electorate at the Federation’s Annual General Meeting and councillors who will serve on the Federation’s Board of Management. More information will be available on the Department’s website at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/involvement.php

What is Minilit?

Parents may have heard that their child is part of the Mini lit program that targets selected Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) students to work in a small group with Mrs Terry on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings for approximately 1 hour.

The ultimate goal of MiniLit is to ensure that students read accurately and fluently so they have the best chance of reading for understanding and meaning. This program incorporates the key elements phonemic awareness (the understanding that words are made up of sounds and the ability to manipulate them), phonics, fluency, vocabulary development and text comprehension.

The Minilit approach is to evaluate student knowledge and skills and teach required skills with direct, systematic and intensive teaching.

This is seen as a booster program to help students with gaps in their learning. For more information please contact Mrs Terry or Mrs Saunders. Parents can help students to become fluent readers by continuing to read to or listen to their son/daughter read every night as part of their homework.

The Cactus Club

The Cactus Club is a community group who have been meeting one Saturday a month at our school for the past 30 years. This group came together to share a love of cactus plants. This group has now disbanded and will no longer be meeting at our school and have donated the remainder of their bank balance ($2500) to our very grateful school. This will go a long way to help our small school reach our targets quickly. We thank the Cactus Club members for their contribution to our school and wish them well in the future.
PSSA Sport

Winter PSSA Sport for Widemere starts this Friday the 16th May. Participating students need to have returned their permission note and code of conduct to their coach. Good luck to all our teams.

Camp Berry

Stage 3 will be going to Camp Berry on Wednesday the 28 May, 2014. Students will need to be at school by 7.00 am and should return on the Friday by 3:30. Please make sure students are at school on time with the correct clothing and equipment. Students will be travelling to Camp Berry with Mrs Fausset, Ms Fauvette and Mr Perz. We know Years 5 & 6 will have a wonderful time. Please check the school facebook page for snippets of their trip.

School photographs

School photographs will be taken next Monday 19 May, 2014. Envelopes were sent home last week. If you wish to have a family photograph of your children taken please obtain a special envelope from the office. Students in Summer or Winter PSSA sporting teams will have the opportunity to have their photos taken as a team. Please ensure they bring their sport uniform to school in their bag on the day. These envelopes and payment are to be given to your child on the day of the photos which will be Monday 19 May, 2014.

Duty of Care

It is the responsibility of the teaching staff to care for students who are injured in the playground. Parents/carers who notice an injured child are asked to take the child to the nearest teacher or to the school office. Please do not contact (ring) the parent/carer concerned as there are strict protocols that the school staff need to follow. Your help in this matter would be appreciated.

Voluntary Contributions and Classroom resources and Work Book/s

Widemere Public School makes every effort to keep education affordable but we do need assistance from parents/carers to provide resources for students. Our priorities for spending this year include: Literacy, Numeracy and Technology.

To avoid confusion an invoice for the full amount due this year for your family voluntary contributions, workbooks and classroom resources was sent home last term.

In Term Two we requested payment of Voluntary school contribution of $35 per student ($70 per family of three or more). This is due by the 29 May, 2014.

Unfortunately there are still families who have not paid for their child/ren’s workbooks and classroom resources which were due last term.

Holroyd Heritage Awards

Holroyd Council is encouraging our students to enter the “Keeper of the Stone” colouring-in competition, which is a category of the annual Holroyd Heritage Awards.

The aim of the competition is to educate and involve children in the Holroyd’s local history and heritage. This year the Keeper of the Stone activity involves colouring in a stencil of a scene that represents what the Great Western Highway would have looked like during the 1800s, including the present of milestones, some of which remain along the highway in Holroyd today.

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that the completed colouring-in poster be hand delivered to Holroyd Council at 16 Memorial Avenue, Merrylands or posted to council at P O Box 42, Merrylands West 2160 no later than Monday 26 May, 2014.
Walk to School

Friday 23 May is Walk to School Day. All primary school students are encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. If parents/carers normally drive their child/ren to school maybe you could park the a short distance from school and walk the rest of the way. From more information visit www.walk.com.au

Cross Country Recount by 3/4J

On Thursday 8 of May, Widemere Public School students participated in the school cross country carnival. Students ran fast, cheered loudly and had lots of fun! Boys and girls ran laps around the school. It was very tiring, but all had a great day.

The first four students of each age race were very excited to be chosen to run in the zone cross country. Congratulations to all those fast runners who have made it through. After the running, the students had a delicious sausage sizzle thanks to the lovely, helpful parents in the P & C and Mr Mason.

Well done ALL runners and thank you to all our hardworking teachers!

The following students are through to Zone Cross Country for the age group, and a permission note has been handed out to students for collection this week.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOYS 8/9 Year Old</th>
<th>Girls 8/9 Year Old</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>House</td>
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<td>Issac Earl</td>
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<td>Sol Zamora</td>
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<td>Hayden Graham</td>
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<td>Ryan Falzon</td>
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<th>BOYS 10 Year Old</th>
<th>Girls 10 Year Old</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>House</td>
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<td>Adam Perry</td>
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<td>Domenic Azar</td>
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<td>Luke Beatie</td>
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<td>Taha Kafil-Hus</td>
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<tr>
<th>BOYS 11 Year Old</th>
<th>Girls 11 Year Old</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elliot Wilson</td>
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<td>Connor Ford</td>
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<td>Liam Ford</td>
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<td>Luke Burton</td>
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<th>BOYS 12/13 Year Old</th>
<th>Girls 12/13 Year Old</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua Beattie</td>
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<td>Ryan Sharpe</td>
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<td>Amir Ajaj</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean Fielding</td>
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No Parking in staff car park

Parents/carers/Woosh parents are reminded that parking in the school car park between the hours of 8.15 am and 4 pm is not permitted.

Remember No Hat No Play

If your child is not wearing a hat they must sit under the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) out of the sun. Check your child’s bag every morning - does your child have a hat?
Money Collection Days

Money collection days for all money collections (School, P & C, Book club etc) are only Wednesdays and Thursday only, please do not send money to school on other days.

All money should be sent to the class teacher of your youngest child so that she can mark your child’s name off on the family list.

If you are paying by cheque please do not pay for excursions, sport etc on the same cheque as you are using to pay for the Voluntary Contributions and Classroom resources and workbook invoice. Your support is appreciated.

Please do not include payments for school excursions etc with any money due to the P & C such as raffles etc as they are not dealt with by the school office staff but by volunteers of the P & C.

Grass at the front of the school - Reminder

It would be appreciated for the safety of the students that students and parents/carers do not walk or play on the grass at the front of the school but use the paths provided.

Kindergarten Enrolments for 2015

Kindergarten enrolments for 2015 are now being accepted. If you have a child born between 1 August 2009 and 31 July 2010 they are eligible to commence school next year. An application to enrol in a NSW Government school form can be obtained from the school office.

You will need to provide the following forms:

Proof of student’s residential address, copy of birth certificate and immunisation history statement.

P & C News

The P & C Association would like to thank all volunteers who helped with the Mothers’ Day stall and Sausage sizzle. A great fundraising effort.

P & C - Uniform Shop Hours - Opening hours - 8:45 am to 9:15 am - First Wednesday of the month

| 4 June  | 16 July | 6 August | 3 September | 8 October | 5 November | 3 December |

P & C Popcorn Thursdays

Popcorn will be sold from the old school canteen on Thursdays from 1.15 pm to 1.30 pm. The cost will be $1 a bag.

Widemere Out of School Hours Care (WOOSH)

Woosh is operating on the grounds of widemere public school from block f. The centre operates before school care from 6:30 am to 9:00 am, after school care from 2:30 pm to 6:00 pm and school holiday program daily from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Parents/carers can book their child in for casual care or have a regular booking. All OOSH educators are qualified and experienced with the OOSH sector. For further information please free to contact the centre director on 9757 1904 or by mobile on 0417 647 310 or alternatively you can email woosh@holroyd.nsw.gov.au
Support your Local Business

If you would be thinking of selling or wanting to buy a property please contact Francesca Luccitti on 9756 3040 or mobile 0430 393 396. Ray White Greystanes is located at 3/81 Hibiscus Street, Greystanes.

Ultimate Health

Ultimate Health Greystanes has a team of qualified therapists in the areas of Speech Pathology, Physiotherapy and Dietetics. We cater to clients of all ages who have a range of support needs. Our team of professionals will work together closely to ensure that your services are catered just for you.

We provide services at our clinic or can come to you (off site) when necessary, based on your needs.

Our therapists are all registered for Private Heath Fund rebates. We offer HICAPS so that claiming rebates from your health fund is done for you. We are also registered under medicare for the Enhanced Primary Care Plan initiative.

For further information please ring 9756 5633 or visit us at 30 Carnation Street, Greystanes 2145. Website www.ulthealth.com.au

Biki New Corner Store

Biki Corner Store is now open at the corner of Ettalong Road and Old Prospect Road, Greystanes. Not only does it cater for the run of the mill food items such as milk, bread, etc it also sells Maltese products such as Hot or frozen Pastizzi, galletti, other Maltese biscuits and soon will be a place to meet to have a cup of tea or coffee. Phone orders can be placed by ringing 9863 1164.

Bedwetting Information Evening for Parents

If you have a son or daughter aged 5 - 18 years with a bedwetting issue (nocturnal enuresis) there is a seminar planned by the Continence Foundation of Australia in NSW Inc at 7 pm on Tuesday 17 June, 2014 at Newington Shopping Centre. For further information phone 8741 5699 or email nswcfa@gmail.com

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