Month of August, 2014

Mon 25 Merrylands/Parramatta Zone PSSA Track Events plus discus - Sydney Intern Athletics Centre
Tue 26 Maths Paper Chain challenge - note has been sent home
Wed 27 Merrylands/Parramatta Zone PSSA Field Events - Barton Park, North Parramatta
       Our Spectacular Choir to rehearsal at Granville South High School
Thu 28 P & C Fundraiser - Crust for a Cause Pizza

Month of September, 2014

Tue 2 Our Spectacular Choir and Dance performance at the Opera House
Wed 3 Whole School Assembly - Class 1B - please note change of date
Thu 4 Fathers Day stall
Fri 5 Fathers Day Breakfast - all dads, granddads, male carers invited - see note going home
Mon 8 First day of a ten day program for Special Swimming lessons
Tue 9 P & C Association meeting 7.00 pm
Wed 10 Whole School Assembly - Class KL
Thu 18 RSCPA session for Kinder to Year 2 students - note to follow
Fri 19 Last day of Term 3, 2014

Information correct at time of printing, 22 August, 2014

Excursion notes sent home

Dance Fever Gym  $20 per student  Last day for payment 28 August
Year Six T Shirts  $40 per T shirt  Last day for payment 4 Sept
Maths Paper Chain Fundraiser  $various  Last day for payment 11 Sept

From the Principal’s Desk

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Widemere Public School has been very busy (as usual) over the past few weeks. There have been many great things happening at our school.

Book Week

Our **Book Week** celebrations were a great success. Parents, teachers and carers purchased over $2020 worth of books at our **Book Fair** of which the school received $408 commission for our library funds. This community effort is a wonderful annual event and shows that parents at our school are well aware of the value of reading every night to their children.
Our **Book Parade** was a great success as well with most students and teachers coming to school dressed as a book character. Students, parents and teachers really enjoyed the morning. I would like to thank **Mrs Regan** for her hard work in organising a great book parade and book fair enabling students and parents to buy books in the mornings before school.

**Science Expo**

I would also like to thank **Mrs Jelic** for her organisation of the Science Expo. Parents and grandparents were amazed at the Science exhibits!

**Debating Win**

Widemere Public School Debaters had another great win this week against Blaxcell Street Public School. The debate topic was **Every primary school student should have an IPad at school**. This was quite a timely topic for our school and our debaters made a great case for technology in schools. Blaxcell Street Public School was a worthy opponent arguing that this technology was too expensive for schools. A great debate! Mrs Jelic and I are extremely proud of our debaters.

**Wi-Fi and Ipads**

As you know we are all about continual improvement at our school. We have used technology money to update our technology cabling and to purchase and install of Wi-Fi cross the school. We now have Wi-fi capability in all classrooms, the staffroom and administration block. We have also purchased an IPad charger and sync, Apple Air computer and 15 IPads to be used across the school for ‘Mastermind Hour’. This will be a time where students can work on a project that has been negotiated with the teacher. For example: moviemaking, presentations, creative pursuits etc relating to what students have been learning in the classroom or a special interest. We are still purchasing Apps and other software for use with this capability. We are also working with other schools in a community partnership to help our students become successful 21st Century learners.
Great Funding News

We have recently been notified that we have again been successful in obtaining extra funding for our next year’s ‘Head Start’ Kindergarten program. This is a wonderful benefit for our school. As you know we do not qualify for extra funding due to the size and make up of our school and we have to work very creatively and source community and government funding to achieve extra needed funding for needed projects at our school.

This is very good news for our finances. We have been fortunate to receive a club grant of $8214 from the generous Club Merrylands Bowling. This is the third time we have received a funding grant from this wonderful local club. Last year, we received $5,500, as well as free use of the Oxford Room, a great venue, for our Year 6 Farewell celebrations.

This year we again applied through a lengthy submission to help fund our Head Start program, a Kindergarten program that will help with the successful transition of new Kindy students to our school. This funding will enable us to provide extra School Learning Support Officers’ (SLSOs) time for the first couple of weeks to help support our new enrolments. This program will benefit all students in Kindergarten and will enable parents to feel less anxious in those first few weeks of their child’s journey into schooling.

We thank Club Merrylands Bowling, Oxford St Merrylands for their wonderful contribution to our school and encourage parents to support the club by using their wonderful facilities.

Zone Carnival

Congratulations to our sport talented students who will be attending the Zone Field and Track Carnival over the next week or so (weather permitting). As mentioned many times before we have a wide range of talented students in our school and we definitely punch above our weight for a school of our size.


Our Spectacular Opera House Performance

It is lovely to have so many great things to write about our wonderful school and talented students and teachers. On Tuesday 2nd September students in the Choir and Dance group will be performing at Our Spectacular at the Opera House.

Under the guidance of talented Miss Sajnovic and Miss Georgardis these students have worked extremely hard. Miss Sajnovic and Miss Georgardis are very creative teachers who have spent a lot of time and energy choreographing and practising the inspiring dance to the song ‘Treaty’ by Yothu Yindi. It is a stirring item which will make the Widemere community very proud.

Our choir students are also a very talented group under the wonderful tutelage of Mrs Jelic. They sound so wonderful and I know they will make us very proud on the evening.

Our Talented Songbirds are:

Paige Attard, Mya Bailey, Madison Balagtas, Georgia Barnes, Johanna Blinco, Ruken Gurbuz, Brooke Haining, Hanna Jeffree, Shirona Khaire, Tamara Lang, Stephanie Lang, Rebecca Taylor, Phoebe Wilson, Hayley Wright.
Our Talented Dancers are:


Regional Spelling Bee

Four gifted spellers from Widemere will participate in the regional Spelling Bee on Friday 12th September. These students have been selected through a round robin type competition as the finest spellers in Stage 2 and Stage 3. Congratulations to Geoffrey Taylor, Sol Zamora, Shirona Khaire, Luke Graham. We wish these students the best of luck in this competition.

Gymnastics Term 4

We are now collecting money for our Gymnastics session in Term 4. Parents paid $20 in Term 1 for our dance sessions and now we are collecting $20 for the gymnastic sessions. Some parents are under the misapprehension that they have already paid for gymnastics. This is not correct. We only collected money for Dance sessions in Term 1 (even though we told you of our great deal we were able to get for both Dance and Gymnastics through Dance Fever). Last day for payment of Gymnastics money is Thursday 28 August, 2014.

PBL: Positive Behaviour for Learning

We are safe, respectful learners!

- We are safe when we walk to lines and when we are in the right spot at the right time doing the right thing
- We are respectful when we are in full school uniform
- We are learners when we are fully prepared every day for school

Dad’s Breakfast - Friday 5 September 2014

On Friday 5 September dads and male carers will be provided with a free breakfast at school subsidised by our very generous P & C Association. Breakfast will be served from 8.30 am to 9.10 am and it will comprise of a sausage sandwich and orange juice for adults and child/ren.

Last year we had a great attendance to our Father’s Day Breakfast and students really enjoyed having their dads visit the school. Invitations have again been sent home to dads/male family carers to come and celebrate Father’s Day with their child at school.

Please be aware that the breakfast is available for dads or male carers and their school child/ren only. Please return your slip as soon as possible. For organisation and catering purposes the last day for ordering will be Tuesday 2 September. Unfortunately due to catering no orders will be taken after this date. We would love to see you there!

Please support the P&C’s Fathers’ Day raffle. Tickets are $1 each. Prizes include a mini-iPad and various other great prizes.

Road Safety

We had a visit from a road safety officer who supplied us with more signage to help parents understand the importance of safety in parking and driving around our school. These new signs will be up on fences soon. Please read them to ensure the safety of our precious students.
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. If you know of friends or neighbours who have school aged children please let them know.

You will need to provide the following forms: Proof of student’s residential address, copy of birth certificate and immunisation history statement.

If you feel your child may be too young please watch the Kindergarten video link below. We are happy to enrol your child then assess whether they are ready for big school during our orientation sessions.

When to start school

Starting school is a big step. How do you know if your child is ready? This video Kindergarten features teachers discussing this sometimes tricky issue.


From the Library

Book Week “CONNECT TO READING”

What a fantastic time we all had at the Book Character Parade. The sun was shining and it was great to see all the students (and teachers) joining the fun. I really appreciate the effort everyone went to and we had a very colourful parade.

The Book Fair was a great success too. We received a commission of $408 from the sale of books and I will be purchasing some great new titles for our library.

Thank you and don’t forget to “CONNECT TO READING”

Fresh For Kids: Crunch and Sip

Widemere Public School and Fresh for Kids is running a fruit and vegetable campaign, starting this week, 20 August. It is a perfect way to encourage your children to continue to eat fresh fruit and vegetables during the cooler months.

Students are rewarded with a sticker/stamp or tick for bringing fresh fruit and/or vegetables to be eaten during their classroom crunch and sip time. Students will receive a sticker for every piece of fruit or vegetable eaten during crunch and sip time. Once students have collected 2 stickers they can hand their completed entry form to their teacher and they will be in the running for some fantastic prizes, as shown below. After receiving 10 stickers, students will instantly receive a Fresh for Kids ring.

Once the campaign has concluded, all completed entry forms will go in a draw to win some fantastic major prizes. Prizes this year include:

First Prize Home Entertainment pack including a 32” LED LCD TV and a 3D Blu-ray Player
Second Prize 1 of 3 iPad mini 16GB
Third Prize 1 of 10 Fresh for Kids gift pack including a backpack, lunch box cooler and drink bottle
Fourth Prize 1 or 20 Event Cinemas gift card

The campaign to encourage children to eat fresh fruit and/or vegetables commences on Wednesday 20th August and will run for two weeks concluding on Wednesday 3rd September 2014.
Foot and Mouth disease

Hand, foot and mouth disease is a very common viral disease of childhood which is easily passed from person to person. It usually causes a mild illness. Children with hand, foot and mouth disease should stay home from school or childcare facilities until their blisters have dried. To help prevent spread, parents should report the illness to the director of the childcare centre or school principal.

For further information please call your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 or visit the New South Wales Health website www.health.nsw.gov.au

For more information visit www.rms.nsw.gov.au
Or Contact Holroyd City Council's Road Safety Officer on 9840 9880

✓ Drive SAFE ✓ Ride SAFE ✓ Walk SAFE
A Road Safety Initiative of Holroyd City Council Road Safety Program

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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
P & C News

P & C - Uniform Shop Hours - Opening hours - 8:45 am to 9:15 am - First Wednesday of the month
3 September 8 October  Please note change of day and date - Thursday 6 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.

Fundraising Committee

Over the past couple of weeks the P&C team have been very busy raising funds for our COLA.

We have raised a huge amount of money recently at the Art Auction Morning Tea and the Athletics Carnival. The total amount raised was $1707.00 profit.

Our volunteers are greatly appreciated and send a huge big "Thank you" for all of their help.

No matter what you did it was greatly appreciated. Whether it was packing/unpacking cars, baking cakes, selling raffle tickets, serving in the canteen, cooking the BBQ, packing lunch orders, transporting equipment to/from school or helping set up and clean up it all helped go a long way.

The P&C could not make events like this a success without your help.

We have some sheets stuck up outside the canteen with dates for future help. Please feel free to take a look and see if there is any dates you are able to lend a hand.

We are currently sourcing donation items and vouchers for our Fathers Day Raffle and Christmas Raffle. If you know of a business that is in position to make a donation please contact Skye Jones directly on mike_skye@hotmail.com. We have had some amazing vouchers donated already. Thank you.

Skye Jones and Rachel Teelin, P&C Fundraising committee.
Community Notices

Learning Difficulties Parent Helpline - 9806 9960 open school days between 9am and 3pm
Helpline provides support and advocacy to parents whose children have learning difficulties and information to teachers, other professionals and members of the community interested in the field of learning difficulties.
For future information visit their website at www.ldc.org.au or their email address is info@ldc.org.au

If you are thinking of having
a new kitchen installed contact
Sam at 0415 595 432 for a quote
or visit him at 10/165 Waldron Road,
Chester Hill
email info@sydneykitchens.com.au
www.sydneycitykitchens.com.au or ring 9644 3933

2014-2015 Season
Season starting date 6 September 2014
Time: 8.30 am sharp each Saturday
Location: Gipps Road Sporting Complex
Ages: 3 - 17 years

Registration Dates 24/8/2014 and
31/8/2014 (Sundays)
between 12 pm and 3 pm at Gipps Road
Sporting Complex.

Register online from August 1st and before midnight September 1st and receive
an early bird fee saving of $10 per child. Birth certificate is required for new
members.
For further information please contact Darren Hudson on 0419 996 518
or Sharon Blinco on 0438 920 749.

Website is www.greystaneslac.com.au or email greystaneslac@gmail.com