DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 4 – 2014

Week 3
Oct 20 Year 2 Intensive swimming continues
Oct 22 – 24 Support Unit camp at Happy Hallidays (IO & MC classes)

Week 4
Oct 30 Year 6 Transition visit to GLC Forster campus Yr 6 Aboriginal students

Week 5
Nov 8 Market Day/Car Boot sale (Saturday)

Week 6
Nov 12 – 14 Support Unit camp at Happy Hallidays (IM class)

Week 7
Nov 20 Year 7 Orientation Day GLC Forster and Tuncurry campuses

Week 8
Nov 24 Year 3 Intensive swimming commences
Nov 27 Year 6 performance "Peter Pan"

Week 9
Dec 1 Year 3 Intensive swimming continues
Dec 3 Stage 3 Super Sleuth
Dec 5 Medallion Assembly

Week 10
Dec 9 Presentation Assembly
Dec 9 Year 6 farewell
Dec 11 Semester Two reports home
Dec 12 K - 2 concert

Week 11
Dec 16 Stage 2 Christmas carols performance
Dec 17 Year 6 farewell arch
Dec 17 Last day for students
Dec 18 & 19 SDDs

Principal’s Report

Term 4
Term 4 is always a very busy term at Forster PS. It is a term when we enjoy celebrating the achievements of our students in 2014 and showcasing their talents through various performances. The calendar at the start of this newsletter has many key dates for your diary.

Staff Leave
Mr Steve Pulley, Deputy Principal has extended his leave to the end of the year. As a result Mr David Graham will continue to relieve as Deputy Principal, Mrs Penny Holm will remain as relieving Assistant Principal for Early Stage 1 and Ms Sam Andrews will continue as class teacher on K23.

Mrs Anne Evans is currently on long service leave. Ms Riannon Symons is teaching 4/15 and Mrs Tianne Buderus is relieving as Assistant Principal for Stage 2. Mrs Evans will return in Week 5.

Ms Fran Dupen is also on long service leave. Mrs Kellie Connolly is teaching 6/3 and Mrs Paula Drew is relieving as Assistant Principal for Stage 3. Ms Dupen will also return in Week 5.

Aboriginal Education Officer
Jye Simon, our Aboriginal education officer has been successful in gaining a secondment to the position of Aboriginal School Liaison Officer (ASLO). We are currently running an expression of interest to fill the Aboriginal education officer position at the school for the remainder of this term and first term 2015. Copies of the expression of interest are available from Mrs Narelle Kessey Deputy Principal. Applications are to be received by 3:30pm Wednesday 29 October.

Students not returning in 2015
Our staffing allocation is based on our enrolment, it is extremely important that you let the school know, in writing before Friday 21 November 2014, if your child will not be continuing their education at Forster Public School in 2015 (2014 Year 6
excluded). Please disregard this notice if you have already made contact with the school. If you are taking an extended vacation please inform the school in writing of the date your children will be returning to school.

**Survey Results**

Last term we attached a survey to our newsletter asking for your feedback about things we do well at the school. Thank you to all who returned the survey. The information provided in the surveys has been considered in the situational analysis in preparation of the new 2015 - 2017 school plan. Some of the things you feel the school does well included:

- Integration of all students
- Range of organised activities
- Kitchen / garden program
- Technology
- Excellent, dedicated teachers & school counsellor support
- Terrific extra curricula activities - sport, band, performing arts
- Safe environment

In coming newsletters we will continue to share some of the data gathered for the situational analysis. Later in the term we will hold an information session where the draft 2015 - 2017 school plan will be shared with the broader school community. More information regarding this information will be provided at a later date.

**Communicating and Engaging with Our Community**

We are always looking to improve communication with our parents and the community as a whole. As part of our school plan for 2015 - 17 we will be creating a *Communicating and Engaging with our Community* action plan. Part of this action plan will include exploring the use of social media such as Facebook or smartphone apps to enhance our communication. We are currently researching the best options for Forster PS.

**Sporting Success**

Last week has been a fabulous week of sporting success for Forster PS. On Monday our girls' PSSA soccer team played in the State finals. After winning 4 - 1 in the semi-final the girls then played Artarmon PS in the final. The girls played well, but unfortunately went down 4 - 0. We are extremely proud of the girls and runners up in a competition of 372 schools is a wonderful result! Congratulations girls!

The State Athletics carnival was held in Sydney last week. Students from the Support Unit competed in the Athletes with Disabilities on Wednesday and Thursday. Congratulations to Bailey, Tyson and Allira who all qualified for the National Athletics Carnival in Tasmania in November.

**Mathematics Champion**

Congratulations to Charlie Naylor on winning first place in the Year 5 division of the Northern Region Newcastle Permanent Primary Mathematics Competition. This is a wonderful achievement and we are extremely proud of Charlie. Charlie will be presented with his award at a function in Coffs Harbour next month.

**Resilience**

This is the third instalment of the information we've been presenting around building resilience. Resilient individuals are better able to bounce back after setbacks and we adults all have a role in helping young people build this important characteristic.

**Parenting tip #3: Accept your children for who they are**

Your child is likely to be resilient if she feels accepted for who she is. To really accept our children for who they are we must resist the temptation to judge and criticise. Continual fault-finding is a sure-fire way to create questions about self-worth in children. Additionally, children who are consistently criticised will start to wonder about their relevance.
In contrast, children whose parents affirm their children's efforts feel useful. When children are validated they feel worthy and acceptable as people. And they are also likely to work hard to maintain those positive feelings, which means when they encounter setbacks they will have the confidence to try again.

Letting children know specifically what you love about them or why you are proud of them can bolster resilience.

"I am so proud to be your mum. The way you treated the children outside the school this afternoon made me feel like the luckiest mum in the world!"

"You worked so hard at that activity today. I know you didn't come first, but all that matters is that you tried hard - and it looked to me like you gave it everything you had!"

Remember, be specific. And avoid general praise such as “You're such a good boy.” This is meaningless and can be taken back at any time. But when we let our children know we accept and love them, and offer them specifics, they feel like they can conquer anything!

Our children don't need to 'fixed' as much as they need to be loved.

Parenting tip #4: Develop strengths

One of the best things for promoting resilience is a belief that we are competent and able to complete difficult challenges. Parents who identify their children’s strengths and help them develop those strengths will see their children become increasingly competent. Their children will experience success. They will be inspired and confident. They will gain a sense that they have something to offer the world.

Maddie, a seven year-old, had trouble with reading and writing. But her parents and teachers noticed her love for drawing. They encouraged Maddie to draw by displaying her art in the classroom and at home. Maddie's strengths ensured she was not defined by her weaknesses in reading.

Your child may possess strengths in relationships, academics, music, sport, creativity, curiosity, or any number of other areas. By developing those strengths, inspiration, competence, and confidence will build resilience in your child.

These resilience tips will be continued and conclude in our next newsletter.

Principal's / Deputy Principals’ Report
Rick Clissold Principal
Narelle Kessey Deputy Principal
David Graham Deputy Principal (relieving)

Creativity by the Sea - Art Show
The art show has been and gone for another two years. If you missed it.....you really missed a good night! The display of the children's work was spectacular. Lots of art walked out the door at bargain basement prices.

Some of the spectacular student art work.

The winner on the night would have to have been the children. Their artwork was varied and handcrafted with love and attention. Please remember to send in your Art Show contribution of $5 per child or $10 per family. For those of you that came along on the night of the auction I extended my thanks. Your support of our school is valued. Thank you.
Paula Drew  
CAPA Co-ordinator  
WRITERS CORNER

"I am a writer - this means I live in a crazy fantasy world with unrealistic expectations"

The Amazon Jungle  
Written by Jake Barker Year 2/31

Once upon a time there was a tropical rainforest and in their lived a beautiful bird called Benny, an elephant named Elle and two other friends named Mini Monkey and Henna the Hippo. A tiger came out of the bush and growled and growled and chased everyone except Elle the Elephant. The Tiger almost bit Henna the Hippo but she ran as fast as she could and got away. Elle the Elephant charged at the tiger. The tiger ran for its life and never was to be seen again. Everyone came out of the bush’s and cheered for Elle the Elephant. Soon after that morning, they all had a big party. They invited all the jungle animals to the party. There were balloons and cake and also lots of party games. They had lots and lots of fun dancing to the music. They all lived happily ever after.
The End!

Support Unit  
AWD Carnivals at Woodberry and Homebush

The Athletes with Disabilities Athletics carnivals at Woodbury (Regional) and then at Homebush Stadium (State) were great days of fun and competition. Nine of our students who attended the carnival at Woodbury competed in the State Carnival at Homebush. They were Allira, Bailey, Clair, Shalee, Tyson, Charlie, Paul, Wiley and Izac. Below are some photos from the day at Woodbury.

Happy Halliday’s Camp

Just a reminder to keep putting money aside to pay for our Year 3 to 6 Support Unit Camps that are taking place this term. 5-6/26 and K-6/6 are going in Week 3 and 3-6/5 are going in Week 6. As mentioned in the last newsletter, this is a good time to prepare your child for times when you or your child are away from each other or away from home.

Thanks to Koala T Care

We would like to say a big thank you to Koala T Care, who have kindly supplied us with equipment that will assist in development of independent living skills. Your support is much appreciated.

BIG Thanks!

A big thank you must go to Nathan Brown, who has tirelessly trained our Athletes in preparation for regional and State carnivals. Nathan has given up his time twice per week for the students training and significant improvements were made. We value all interest and support given to our students in the Support Unit.

Karen Austin
Assistant Principal Support

Early Stage 1 & Stage 1
Kindergarten Tennis Lessons
The students in Kindergarten are currently enjoying going to Forster Tennis Club and learning some tennis skills. It’s so much fun. Everyone in Kindergarten who attends receives a tennis racket from the club for their very own.

Excited Kindergarten students

Showing their skills on the court

K-2 Concert
The K-2 Concert will be held on Friday in Week 10 on December 12th. Over the next couple of weeks the classes will begin to prepare their item. If you are able to sew or are prepared to help in some other way with the preparation of costumes, please let your classroom teacher know. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Keira is having fun at swimming

Stevie & Marilou ready to race

Sports-a-thon
The weather was fantastic as the children from K-2 set out on a very big fundraising day. We walked and ran and climbed, jumped, hopped and skipped non-stop for most of the day and we enjoyed every minute of it! The children were beautifully behaved and the teachers were very proud of them. They did not complain about anything and they were great little ambassadors for our school.

Year 2 Swimming
The Year 2 children have been taking part in intensive swimming lessons at the Great Lakes Aquatic Centre for the last 2 weeks. They have made significant progress with their swimming knowledge and skills and the swimming coaches are very happy with the student's development. Well done to all the students!

Ants in the Sand
FACT: Why Should Kids Wear Hats?
With numerous research studies clearly linking childhood sun damage to the later development of skin cancer, a passive allowance of hats and long clothing is not sufficient. Schools are actively encouraging sun-safe behaviour so that fewer of today’s children will have to face the morbidity or mortality of melanoma as adults.

Penny Holm (Rel) / Katrina Pettet
Assistant Principals

Stage 2
Stage 2 iPads
Stage 2 are excited to report that we now have access to class sets of iPads. Already students are learning to use them to research information for report writing and experimenting with the many applications available. As our experience grows, so too, will our ability to further engage students in Teaching and Learning Programs using this resource.

Year 3 School Swimming Scheme
The School Swimming Scheme for all Year 3 students will be held this term at the Great Lakes Aquatic Centre.

The scheme will continue daily for two (2) weeks from Monday 24th November 2014 until Friday 5th December 2014.

Please note: Pool entry will cost $3.00 per day, unless your family is a Gold Card Member when costs will be NIL. Total cost for the 10 days will be $30.00. There is no cost for the lessons.

Permission notes will go out to Year 3 Students early next term. Please ensure your child avails themselves of this opportunity and takes advantage of these lessons to acquire this important life skill.

Anne Evans
Assistant Principal

Stage 3
Year 6 Cake Stall
Our Year 6 cake stall was a great success. Thank you so much to all our parents and carers that supported the cake stall with delicious cakes and sweets. The children raised approximately $480 for their Year 6 gift.

Karney, Ella, Annelise, Vanessa and Aalia selling cakes and sweets to our infants children

Jasmine and Allira working on the cake stall

Oh dear! Jack and Tom eating the profits

Sophia, Maddi, Sydney, Nettie and Skye working at the cake stall
The laptops have arrived! Stage 3 now have 30 laptops at their disposal. All our classes across Stage three will be accessing the laptops and they will be embedded into teaching and learning programs. We have only had them for a couple of weeks now and already they are in full usage. Classes across Grades 5 and 6 are using them for internet research, web-quests, publishing, cartoon creation, blogging and accessing a variety of visual and digital media. Already we can see increasing levels of student engagement and motivation that access to this technology is facilitating in our classrooms.

Casey, Jaime and Sheridan doing some research on Antarctica

Karney, Vanessa, Darcy, Jasmine and Cara doing some internet research

Rogan working on his ‘Bitstrip’ digital cartoon comic strip

Adam busy working on his digital cartoon comic strip

Rosie creating a comic strip to continue the story ‘The Coat’ by Julie Hunt as part of her Literacy.

She is using the internet site ‘Bitstrips For Schools’ to create her cartoon comic strip.

Penny, Rosie, Elizabeth, Annelise, Ella and Kate doing a web-quest on the purist mathematician Pythagoras and Pythagoras Theorum

Public Speaking
Congratulations to Charlie from 5/6 10 for being our Grade 5 public speaking winner. Ruby from 5/7 will be our reserve. Congratulations to Sheridan from 6/4 for being our Grade 6 public speaking winner and to Jay from 6/3 for being our reserve. Charlie and Sheridan will now represent us at the District Public Speaking Competition. We are very proud of them.

Year 5 Excursion to Adventureland
On Wednesday 8th October, all of year 5 including children from the Support Unit attended Adventureland at Failford. The students had a challenging and exciting day experiencing the flying fox, archery, giant swing and the challenge ropes. They were not put off by the wet conditions and were taken inside and treated with a country fair and warm sausage rolls to finish off an excellent day. The students responded well to the entertaining instructors and were highly praised for their efforts and behaviour by school staff and the staff of Adventureland. Congratulations to all students.

High School Orientation
Year 6 will be going to Forster Campus on Thursday 20th November. The children will be involved in sample lessons and touring the school to gain some familiarity. Notes will come home about this in the coming weeks.

Peter Pan
Save the Date! Thursday 27th November, 10am - 11:30am. Year 6 are currently rehearsing lines and dances for the end of year Performance. Not to be missed!

Paula Drew
Rel. Assistant Principal

Sport
Girls’ Soccer
These last few weeks have seen our successful girls’ soccer team travel to Newcastle to play in the Semi Finals of the NSW PSSA girls’ soccer competition. 372 teams from schools around NSW have entered into this competition and we went to Newcastle as a top 4 team, after beating Guyra 4-0. The girls continued on to be placed runner up to Avalon. That’s 2nd in the State! What an outstanding achievement! Congratulations to the girls and coach Simon Maidment.

Athletics
The State athletics carnival was held last week at Homebush Stadium and we had several children participating in this event. The senior girl’s relay ran 8th in their heat and Angus jumped into 9th place in 11 years Boys Long Jump. Congratulations on all your achievements.

Cricket
The much anticipated cricket game against Wingham has had 7 false starts, however if all goes well we will play on Tuesday 21st October at Lake Street Oval.

Sailing
A quiet achiever in year 5, Thomas has sailed into the State championships in the Catamaran Nacra 5.8 class. Thomas tells me he is skipper, his dad is the crew, and they sail a course 9 kilometres long navigating buoys as he goes. The field is 300 boats strong and Thomas manages to sail himself and his dad to victory. He will be travelling to Sydney for the State championships very soon. We wish him every success.

Paula Drew
Sport Organiser

Kitchen / Garden Program
The Kitchen Garden Program is humming along again for the last term of the year. The Stage 2 children are making lots of yummy dishes with the produce. Years 5 & 6 are busy growing in the garden as well as cooking up some goodies for our up and coming Market & Car Boot Day Sat 8 November. This is our yearly fundraiser to keep out wonderful Kitchen Garden Program running so come along and support us on this great day out. The children have been
planting and growing herb seedlings as well as making preserves and goods to sell. Come along and have breakfast cooked by the Kitchen Garden BBQ Stall and have a beautiful organic coffee, bag yourself a bargain from this massive car boot stalls and take home some home baked goods for afternoon tea or for dinner! OR you make yourself some much needed quick cash for Christmas by having your own stall. Book your own Car Boot Site or Market Site. Who needs the hassle of having your own garage sale with people knocking on your door at 6:30am?? Declutter that garage, spare bedroom or kids toy cupboard and we’ll do all the advertising, all you just need to book your site. Market Stall sites are also available for the entrepreneur to sell your wares. Car Boot sites are $25, Market Stall Sites are $35. For more information or to book a stall site please contact Trina on 0431420366 or book and pay for your car boot/ market stall in person through Forster Public School Office.