DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 2 - 2014

Week 3
12 May Year 6 Camp – Gosford
12 May P&C Meeting – 7:00pm in Staffroom
13 May NAPLAN testing commences (Years 3 / 5)

Week 4
21 May Aboriginal Numeracy Competition Years 5-8
   Student Leadership Day (Year 6) in Newcastle
   Questacon Science Circus

Week 7
10 Jun Field Events Carnival
12 Jun Track Athletics Carnival
13 Jun Gold Medal Presentation Assembly
   Student reports home to parents / guardians

Week 8
16 Jun Commencement of parent / teacher interviews (2 week period)
17 Jun School visit to Tobwabba AMS
19 Jun Movie Night

Week 9
25 Jun NAIDOC School Celebration
27 Jun Last day of Term 2

Stop Press!
Congratulations to Charlie N for his outstanding efforts at the recent Hunter Cross-Country Championships. Charlie came fourth in his event and will now represent our school at the NSW Cross-Country Carnival. We are very proud of you Charlie.

Principal’s Report

Principal’s / Deputy Principals’ Report

New Bus for Forster Public School
One-off Special Fundraiser Event ‘WALKATHON’

Forster Public School is having a special fundraising event to assist in the purchase of a new school bus. We will host a Walkathon on Friday 27 June 2014.

Our current Sunshine Coach (15 seater, including driver) has been a valuable asset. It has been used to:

• enable students with disabilities to access the wider community and learn valuable life-long skills;
• enable choir, band and other interest groups to attend functions and perform for our community;
• enable sporting individuals and teams to competitively attend events and represent our school at regional, state and national level; and
• enable Aboriginal Education programs to take place in our local community and educate community about our Indigenous culture.

We now have 52 students with disabilities enrolled in support classes alone and numerous students in regular classes with specific learning needs. We have outgrown our little bus! Our aim, with the assistance of Variety - the Children’s Charity, is to purchase a 25 seater diesel bus. This will enable

Student Invoices
Student invoices have been sent home this week. It is still quite concerning that a large number of families have not paid accounts particularly Kitchen / Garden contributions. Your support through prompt payment of outstanding invoices would be greatly appreciated.
greater access to community events and support all students in our school with interests and talents. Please support our Walkathon event by sponsoring a student. All funds raised will assist us in reaching our target and will aid current students and students for some 20 years to come!

Further information about this event will be sent home over the next couple of weeks. This event has the support of staff and the P&C.

The support of families, relatives and community is greatly appreciated.

**Students are not permitted to door knock or approach strangers for sponsors.**

**Unique Sponsorship Opportunity**

We are also seeking local major sponsors who would benefit from advertising on our bus, not only within our local community but also extending regions in NSW. It is anticipated this bus will service our school for the next 20-25 years. What a wonderful advertising opportunity for local business owners. Please contact Rick Clissold (Principal) for further information.

**GARDEN SPECIALIST WANTED**

Growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing

Forster Public School requires a passionate and avid gardener to deliver the innovative Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program within our school. Candidates must have proven ability to relate to children, initiative and excellent planning skills. The program will be delivered over two days for a total of 8 hours per week. This is a casual employment opportunity, SASS pay rates apply.

If you have the attributes to open our students’ eyes to the possibilities of fresh produce or home-grown food, please contact Rick Clissold (Principal) of Forster Public School on (02) 6555 6766 for an application package.

Applications close on Wednesday 28 May 2014 at 3pm.

Further details on the program available from: www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au

**NAPLAN Testing**

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy testing took place this week. Every Year 3 and Year 5 student was assessed using national tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The results help determine if students are reaching key educational milestones. More information at: www.nap.edu.au

Results will be made available to parents / guardians later in the year.

**Change to Student Reports**

There is a change we have been compelled to make to the English learning area on this first semester report. English has been changed because of the current review of the English K-10 NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum.

Instead of listing: Reading, Writing and Talking and Listening as the main strands of English these have been removed from the semester one report. In their place will be and overall level of achievement for the entire English area and an effort ranking. The teacher comments section allows for a detailed explanation of students’ attainments and may describe future directions to extend or consolidate English achievements.

At this stage we have not made changes to the Semester One Kindergarten Report or the Support Unit Reports. Changes may occur to these reports in the future but they remain unchanged at this stage.

Implementation of the New Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum will of course require ongoing changes as each new syllabus is implemented. We will continue to keep you informed as these changes unfold and we will be required to adjust our reports accordingly.

**Welcome new staff member - Mr Simon Maher**

Mr Maher working with 2/16 stdents
We would like to extend a huge welcome to our newly appointed teacher on Year 2, Mr Simon Maher. He comes to us after working for four years at the Sir Henry Parkes School in Tenterfield. The children will benefit significantly from all that he has to offer and I know that he is already enjoying teaching 2/16 and getting to know the children's unique and fabulous personalities.

Mr Maher has a great deal of passion and enthusiasm and this is already rubbing off on children. He has expertise in public speaking and debating and sport. We know he is going to be a wonderful asset to our Forster Public School family.

I would also like to thank Miss Kelsey Nixon for the work she did with the children during Term 1. I know that the children became very fond of her and she provided them with a very happy beginning to their Year 2 school year.

I would also like to welcome Mr Maher's children, Kye, Indiana and Layla to our school. We are pleased they have settled into their new school environment and established friendships quickly.

ANZAC Day
Our school ANZAC service was held on Friday 11th April. All students, K-6 attended this service and demonstrated enormous respect for the significance of the occasion. Padre Moran, Mr Hall, Mr Kinnear and Mr and Mrs Russell participated in our service enhancing the children's learning about the ANZAC spirit. We are very grateful to them for their involvement in our service.

On ANZAC Day a small number of students and staff braved the terrible weather conditions for the annual ANZAC Day Service. While the march was cancelled due to the weather a large contingent of community members attended the service at Club Forster. This was a tremendous display of community spirit and we would like to thank the students and parents for their involvement.

Grandparents Day
Grandparents of children attending Forster Public School, Senior Community Members and Parents are cordially invited to attend our Grandparents Day celebrations. The following events are planned for Friday 23rd May:

8:30am-1:30pm Visit the Book Fair in the library. Lots of books to choose from and the purchases assist the school to buy more books for our students.

10:55am-11:20am Have a beautiful morning tea in the foyer of the MPC (Children are not to attend) supplied free of charge by our P&C.

11:30am-12:15pm Stay on and enjoy a concert in the MPC for all our visiting grandparents.

12:15pm-1:00pm After the concert you might like to visit your grandchild's classroom. I'm sure they'd love to see you and to show you some of their work.

1:00pm-1:50pm Bring a rug and join your grandchild for a picnic lunch. Orders can be placed at the canteen (See attached order form).

Update of Student Medical Information
During 2014 we will be updating our medical records systems to ensure we have the most up-to-date information on your child's health.

ALL parents will receive a copy of the new forms and will need to fill them out and return them to us as soon as you can. We are carrying out this process one stage at a time. At this stage forms have been sent home to Year 5 and Year 6. Forms will be sent home to Year 3 and 4 this week.

The new forms will help us collect your child’s important medical information and the introduction of new systems will mean we’ll be able to better manage the daily and emergency health needs of your child. You need to return the form even if...
your child does not have a medical condition. We are still waiting on many forms to be returned from Years 5 and 6 and would appreciate outstanding forms being returned as soon as possible. If you require a new form please ask for one at the front office.

Rick Clissold  Principal
Narelle Kessey  Deputy Principal
David Graham  Deputy Principal (relieving)

Support Unit
NAPLAN has just been completed by Year 3 and 5 students in the IM and MC classes. The teachers are very proud of the effort each student displayed whilst completing the tests.

Support Unit Swimming While the weather remains warm, we will continue with our weekly swimming program, however, if there is a sudden cold change will will finish up for the year and your class teachers will let you know.

Timbertown Excursion Year 3 and 4 students are reminded to get their notes signed and returned so they can participate in this excursion. Numbers are limited so the save disappointment make sure you return notes quickly.

Year 6 Overnight Camp

The "Giant Drop", a favourite activity for many of our brave students

Our Year 6 students have just returned from a wonderful time at the Aussie Bush Camp. Students and staff were very impressed with the wonderful facilities and activities provided at the Mangrove Mountain and Morisset sites. Included are photos of our students enjoying camp activities.

Karen Austin
Assistant Principal Support

Early Stage 1 & Stage 1
Welcome back to another busy but productive term. We hope you all had a lovely holiday with your children and a special celebration for all the mums on Mothers’ Day.

Kinder Colour Party
Students in Kindergarten recently enjoyed a special day of celebrating around the theme of colours. We played games in the outdoor learning area which included parachute activities, an egg and spoon race, we ran with rainbow racing ribbons, threw and caught colourful bouncing balls and flung a rainbow of frisbees. Finally we enjoyed a rainbow paddle pop back at school.

Westpac Rescue Helicopter
K-2 have started a series of lessons about the Westpac Rescue Helicopter service. We have already watched a DVD about the crew of the Newcastle- based service. More lessons to follow as well as wrist bands and certificates. What an essential service for rural and remote Australians!

Responsible Pet Ownership
On June 4th students in K-2 will be participating in a Premiere’s Program for Responsible Pet Ownership. The speaker will bring specially trained pets along
to school to demonstrate safe behaviour around and to familiarise young children with dogs.

Helpful tips:
• Please label your child’s items so if they are lost we can return it to them as soon as possible.
• Please remember to give your child’s teacher an absent note if they are away.
• Thank you to the families who supplied tissues throughout this cold and flu season. It would be greatly appreciated if you could ensure that your child has tissues for classroom use.

Premier Reading challenge
Students in K-2 are all enjoying stories from the list of Premier Reading Challenge books. The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

EASTER HAT PARADE
Last term was our Easter Hat Parade and there were many beautiful hats on display. Thank you to everyone for supporting this event. The students had a fantastic time parading their master piece and they enjoyed sharing stories about making their hats.

Helping children to cope with fears
Children need adult support in order to learn to cope with fears. They need reassurance to reduce their anxious feelings, and skills for coping so that they can gradually learn to manage fears themselves.
How parents and carers can help

- Acknowledge how your child is feeling. Naming it, (e.g._‘feeling scared’), helps the child begin to see fear as a normal emotion that can be overcome.
- Stay cool yourself so you can model positive coping.
- Tell them how you learned to get over fears when you were their age.
- Positive self-talk can help children put fears into perspective.
- Asking what a favourite hero might do in this situation can sometimes be helpful for encouraging children to be brave.
- Learning relaxation skills is often very helpful for dealing with fears.
- Help the child put realistic limits around the scary situation.
- Since television is a frequent trigger for children's fears it is important to monitor television viewing to minimise exposure to things that may be frightening.

More information can be found at: www.kidsmatter.edu.au/resources/information-resources

Friendly reminder to ‘KISS & GO’!

Penny Holm (rel) / Katrina Pettet
Assistant Principals

Stage 2
On Wednesday, 28th May 2014, Stage 2 classes will be travelling to Timbertown Heritage Theme Park at Wauchope. The sights and sounds of our fascinating past are re-created in a living, working saw millers’ village set in an 1880-1910 timewarp.

This excursion is planned to complement class work this year in our HSIE unit on Australia. Cost for the excursion: $30 which includes bus fare, entry to Timbertown attractions, damper on our arrival, bullock demonstration, gold panning, a wagon ride and a ride on the Heritage Steam train.

Requirements for students are:

- full school uniform, including a school hat
- picnic recess food and picnic lunch with drinks
- money if wishing to purchase souvenirs from Wallace’s Store or lollies from the Chocolate Factory (there is NO need for extra money as these shops will be visited but students do NOT need to make purchases)

Program for the day (28th May, 2014) is as follows:

- 7.30 depart Forster Public School for Timbertown
- 9.30 arrive at Timbertown for Morning Tea. Free damper will be available.
- 10.30 - 2.45 classes will be allocated a group and a timetable for the day and experience a range of activities including:-
  - Bullock demonstration, kitchen and farmyard, old school, old sawmill, lake view, heritage steam train, chocolate factory, woodturning, blacksmith Wallace’s store, horse drawn wagon ride, bush walking and gold panning.
  - 3.00 depart Timbertown
  - 4.30 return to Forster Public School

(an update on our arrival can be obtained by ringing the school on 65556766, after 3pm.)

Please return your permission note promptly with the $30 if you wish your child to participate in this excursion. There are 205 students in Stage 2 but only 183 coach seats available for students on this excursion. If necessary, we will take our own Sunshine Minicoach and the students who are the last to return their paper work will be allocated seats on that vehicle.

Stage 2 enjoying their time in the garden
Stage 2 students need to pay $40 per year to cover the cost of the kitchen and garden program. This means it is $10 per Term and it can be paid in instalments. This will ensure that we are able to continue to offer this worthwhile program. Next Semester Stage 2 will be visiting the Kitchen.

Levi, Josh, Bethany and Harry enjoying pruning in the garden
NAPLAN testing
Well done to all students undertaking the NAPLAN testing throughout the week. All students gave their best effort and behaved appropriately throughout the testing period. Best of luck to all the students!

Year 5 2015 Opportunity Class
Opportunity classes are one strategy used by the Department of Education and Communities to cater for the learning needs of gifted and talented students in Years 5 and 6.

This year, all applications should be made online through an internet connection. A limited number of application packages will be provided through the school for those parents who do not have internet access.

The website where you find all the necessary information, including the list of schools with opportunity classes and the application form is: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/locplacement. Paper applications need to be returned to the High Performing Students Unit.

All students applying for Year 5 opportunity class entry will be required to take the opportunity class placement test. The test will be held in a test centre to be advised individually to all applicants by 23 July 2014. Parent enquiries should be directed to the High Performing Students Unit on 1300 880 367.

Anne Evans
Assistant Principal

Stage 3
We are off to a fantastic start to Term 2.

University of Canberra Australian Mathematics Trust Challenge
Four of our Grade 5 students took part in the Mathematics Challenge. They are a number of a group of targeted students that have been working with Mrs Drew on extending their higher order thinking around Mathematics and their mathematical problem solving skills. These students had to work on these extremely challenging problems over the course of three weeks. Lisa, Django, Rudy and Isla all completed the challenge and gained very good results. Well done children you are very clever mathematicians.

Science and Engineering Challenge
In the last week of last term Grade 6 attended the Science and Engineering Challenge in Taree. It is an annual event run by the Newcastle University. The children got to compete against children from other public and private schools from all across the district. This year Forster Public School WON the challenge. Our Year 6 students formed two teams and our two teams took out first and third place. Our second team was only narrowly pushed out of second place. The children worked brilliantly on the day, their team work, collaboration and cooperation was excellent and their behaviour was exemplary.

Rogan, Glen and Liam

Eden, Sydney and Chloe

Connor, Diesel and Jay
Bailey, Bronsun, Jack and Kane

Amber and Eva

Our winning team with Greater Taree City Councillor, David West.

Multicultural Public Speaking
All Grade 5 and 6 students have been presenting their speeches in class. The winning class representative will compete in our grade finals on Tuesday of Week 4 so we can determine our grade winners. These two students will be representing our school at the district finals. There have been some outstanding speeches and no doubt our two representatives will be excellent.

Year 6 Camp
By the time you receive the newsletter Year 6 will have been on Year 6 Camp. The children have been so excited. We all look forward to what will be a really great bonding time and an opportunity for children to take on some challenges and conquer some fears. There will be lots of wonderful stories to share.

Enjoy the next few weeks. Snuggle up by those heaters and fires and enjoy some hot chocolates with your gorgeous children.

Francoise Dupen
Assistant Principal

ABORIGINAL NUMERACY COMPETITION
On Wednesday, 21st May, Forster Public School will host the Aboriginal Numeracy Competition (ANC). The ANC is a numeracy based program which has been designed to bridge the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous students. This is achieved by running an interschool Mathematics competition where Aboriginal students from Years 5-8 can develop and display their mathematical skills. The activities are Deadly Data, Peg it, Mental Maths Relay & Jeopardy.

The winning school will be presented with a magnificent Didgeridoo donated by Tobwabba Art. There will also be encouragement awards & outstanding individual awards granted to students throughout the day.

Helpers & observers are welcome to come along and assist with an activity on the day. If your child is involved, please send the permission note and $3 to the front office.

Katrina Pettet
ANC Coordinator

Sport
Term 2 started with 32 of our children running in the Zone Cross Country carnival at Wingham. Every child competed to the best of their ability and represented Forster Public School with pride. Six runners ran in the top six of their events and went on to represent the Manning Region at the Hunter
Cross Country carnival in Newcastle on Friday. Congratulations to all involved and to our Hunter Representatives; Meg, Sophia, Lochlan, Angus, Charlie and Nicholas.

The Netball gala day was held on Thursday and the girls involved played some very competitive games. Well done girls on the sportsmanship that you displayed.

Keep the 10th of June free as we are holding an Athletics Field Event carnival. On this day the children will be running through several events including; long jump, high jump, shot put and ball games. You would be more than welcome to come along and support your children throughout the day.

Teams of boys and girls attended the Touch Trials in Taree on Thursday. The teams played well with the girl’s team finishing the day undefeated. The boy’s team played tough matches and competed well all day. Congratulations to Sam for being selected to play in the Hunter Touch team.

The Tennis team made the trek to Gloucester on Thursday with great success. Beau, Angus, Jade and Sophia were convincing winners against Barrington 48 games to 5.

PSSA League Success
Khan, Connor and Eli were successful at gaining selection to attend the Hunter Trials

Paula Drew - Sport Organiser

P&C News
A big Thank you to all the families who sold tickets in our Easter Raffle, we raised $4,500.00.

We must also thank the following local businesses who so generously donated prizes for the raffle:

- Big Buzz
- Great Lakes Cinema 3
- Forster Ten Pin Bowling
- Medco fuel
- Buko’s Bistro
- Sinners & Saints
- The Colonel’s Café
- Tuncurry fisherman’s Co-op
- Manning shoes

The Mother’s Day stall was a great success & we raised $1300.00.

Community News

Better Reading

do you know someone who has difficulty with reading?

would they like one-on-one support?

the library can help, and it is totally free and totally confidential.

call now 6591 7256

PSSA League Success
Khan, Connor and Eli were successful at gaining selection to attend the Hunter Trials