Figtree High School
Weekly Bulletin
Term 1 Week 11 10th April 2013

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Principal's Report

Lights Camera Action!

Mike O’Grady Productions has filmed a short promotional video of Figtree High School. The video will be uploaded onto the Figtree High School website early in Term 2. This professional production will highlight the many successful programs that are occurring at Figtree High School. There will also be a DVD version that will be shown at special presentation events. This innovative initiative was sponsored by the Figtree High School Parents and Citizens Association. I look forward to launching the video.

The Greatest Discoveries of Science

Congratulations to Rhys Kilian who has been offered a place in the National Youth Science Foundation (NYSF) International Program. The program is highly competitive and to be chosen is a clear indication of Rhys' dedication to scientific knowledge and discovery. The NYSF International Program will take place in June-July 2013 in Pretoria, South Africa.

As long as we live, there is never enough singing. ~Martin Luther King

Each week these vocalists celebrate the joy of singing. Thank you to the vocalists who sing the National Anthem on assembly; Victoria Liddle, Kaella Pearson, Aimee Cunningham, Mikaela Frame, Jessica Trudgett, Erika Petersen, Hannah Bentley, Abbey Blackmore, Tilda Bennett, Tasmine Lown and Riley Byrne-Coad.

Building a tradition one stroke at a time

What a fantastic result for our students who participated in the State Combined High School Swimming Competition. Our Deputy Principal Mrs Ellie Donovan described the students determination and professional manner as a credit to Figtree High School.

Ask me to show you poetry in motion and I will show you a horse.

Riding a horse at competition level requires a lot of skill and technique. Good luck to Kelsey James, Year 9, (and her horse Kobi) who will be competing at PCA NSW State Sporting Championships in Gloucester April 13th-14th. This competition includes very fast paced races with various tasks and techniques performed against the clock. Kelsey is just one of 4 riders in her age group (13-u15yrs) from Zone 22 who made the State qualifying times.

This is Kelsey's second State Event. Last year Kelsey also qualified for and competed at The State Mounted Games Teams Championships at Bungendore 2012 and hopes to compete again in September 2013. She was part of one of the youngest teams that attended that year.

Home Away From Home

I had the pleasure of having an evening meal with the Year 7 Campers at Teen Ranch, Cobbitty. The students seemed to be very settled into their accommodation and said that they had an exciting day of activities. They were very well behaved at dinner and the evening hike and camp-fire or indoor activities were a hit. Thank you to all the dedicated staff who supervised the students. The venue and Teen Ranch staff were exceptionally good.

Regards
Carol Marshman

PBS - Expectation of the Week

SAFETY

When entering & leaving the school, move directly to your destination
News from Science

International Youth Science Forum

Congratulations to Rhys Killian who has been selected to attend the International Youth Science Forum in South Africa later this year. This is a prestigious selection from a large pool of Australian students and we are incredibly proud of Rhys.

Rhys attended the National Youth Science Forum in Canberra in January this year. He was selected from a number of local students by Rotary to attend this opportunity to experience study options in the diverse fields of science, engineering and technology along with 150 other students from South East Australia.

From this event, Rhys was selected to attend a further National Youth Science Forum in Melbourne and was from here selected for the International event.

Applications are now open for Year 11 students interested in attending the 2014 event. Please see the Science Faculty if interested.

NSW Mining Scholarship

Congratulations to Savannah Realli, who has gained a NSW Mining Scholarship.

The 2013 NSW Mining Scholarships are open for students who will be entering into Year 11 or 12 this year. The students must be currently studying minerals related subjects (maths, science etc) and considering entering a minerals related subject at university, this can include but is not limited to: Engineering, Geology and Environmental Science.

Savannah will receive a scholarship of $500 in Year 11, $1000 in Year 12 and $2000 when she completes her 1st year in a minerals related subject at university. Savannah will also be allocated a mentor from her sponsoring company.

Science Competition

The Big Science Competition will be held at school between the 22 and 29 May 2013.

This international competition tests critical thinking and problem-solving skills as well as science knowledge. All questions are aligned with the Australian Curriculum - Science.

The competition has 30 questions on contemporary issues (like car safety and dental health) and runs for 60 minutes.

The competition is open to students of all abilities, at three levels:

- Junior (Years 7-8)
- Intermediate (Years 9-10)
- Senior (Years 11-12)

Parents and teachers will receive reports on how students performed that will help identify areas of strength and where improvement can be made.

Each student who takes part will receive a certificate as well as detailed feedback on their performance in the competition. They also go into a draw to win hundreds of iTunes and movie vouchers.

Certificates are awarded as follows:

- High Distinction (top 5%)
- Distinction (top 15%)
- Credit (top 50%)
- Participation to all other participating students.

Cost of entry is $7.00 and must be paid to the front office before the end of this term. Only schools can register students.

The Big Science Competition is organised by Australian Science Innovations, a not-for-profit organisation committed to providing high quality science extension programs that inspire, challenge and raise the aspirations of students in science. Australian Science Innovations also runs the Australian Science Olympiad Competition.

For more information please visit www.asi.edu.au

Medical information for students

We are currently updating the medical records of all students. If your child has an allergy or medical condition that we are not aware of, and you have not been recently contacted, could you please contact the school office on 4271 2787 and we will send you a form for you to fill in.

If you have recently received a Health Care and Contact Update form and have not returned it to the Office yet, could you please do so as soon as possible. It is important that we have these details up to date at all times.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.
2013 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

This year Figtree High School students participated in several events to celebrate International Women’s Day:

Zonta Club International – Young Women in Public Affairs Award (YWPA) – Saturday 9th March

Giverny Witheridge, Ivana Zaric & Jodie Feld - Finalists

As part of International Women’s Day, three students from Figtree High School were nominated this year for the prestigious Zonta Club - Young Woman in Public Affairs Award in the Illawarra, held at Centro Restaurant in Wollongong.

The students nominated were Giverny Witheridge, Ivana Zaric and Jodie Feld. Attending the event to support the students were parents, the Principal, Mrs Marshman and Supervisor of Girls, Mrs Borst. The nominees chosen all displayed a high standard of excellence academically as well as an involvement in community service and an awareness of the status of women on a national and international level. Nominations were of a very high standard throughout the Illawarra.

Giverny and Jodie were both chosen as finalists for this year’s event, with Ivana gaining a Highly Commended on the day. This is an impressive achievement as the standard of finalists was exceptional with entrants from St. Mary’s Star of the Sea College, The Illawarra Grammar School, Smiths Hill High and Cedars Christian College. Congratulations Giverny, Ivana and Jodie on advancing the status of women through their participation and commitment to leadership both at school and in the wider community.

K.Borst.

Merit Award System

Congratulations to the following students who have reached Silver or Bronze level in the school’s merit system during Term 1.

**Silver:** Emma Pinfold (Year 10), Giuliana Bertolla, Taylah Jensen, Kirra Somerville, Rhianna Williams (Year 9), Ben Hubert, Mikayla Markham, Rhys Nelson (Year 8)

**Bronze:** Reece Kellner (Year 10), Rachel Branch, Nathan Vaughan (Year 9), Rachel Burrows, Chantelle Leatigaga, Ashleigh Matthews, Samara Miotto, Alysha Nunevski, Lauren Pinfold, Luke Vanderburg (Year 8) and Meghan Fox (Year 7). Meghan is the first student in Year 7 to qualify for Bronze!

To be considered eligible for Bronze, Silver or Gold level on the school’s merit system a student must be able to present the required number of merits (Bronze 15), (Silver 45), (Gold 150). Students must also meet the criteria of being cooperative and courteous and being prepared to work to the best of their ability at all times.

These students can now participate in merit reward excursions or special merit prize draws which are held throughout the year.

Easter Show Excursion

On Thursday 28th March approximately 100 Figtree High students went to the Easter Show. The excursion was offered to students who had attained their Bronze or Silver Merit Certificates in the school’s merit system. Although the weather was very hot, the day was a great success with everyone enjoying themselves. Special thanks to the Mrs Goodall, Ms Harris, Mr Liddle and Mrs Quinn for their assistance on the day.

We look forward to the next Merit Reward Day to either Luna Park or Jamberoo Action Park.

Ms Dive

PBS prize draw

Congratulations to Alex Petrolo (Year 12), Brandon Pallas, Paige Thompson (Year 11), Madison Grujevski, Lachlan Barker and Brittany Galea (Year 8) who each received either a $5 canteen voucher or an iTunes voucher because they had their RSL ticket drawn out on assembly. RSL tickets are given to students who are seen to be practising the school’s values of Respect, Safety and Learning. Students are encouraged to drop their RSL tickets into the box in the administration block so that they can be included in the weekly prize draw. RSL tickets are also tallied for each student and can be used towards earning merits for Bronze and Silver certificates.
Girls South Coast Football

This year we have had a number of our students make South Coast sides in their sporting endeavours and Football has been no exception. A big congratulations to the following students who have made the South Coast Football team who will play in Albury from the 7-9th May.

Kristina Janeska (YR 12)
Courtney Belsito (YR 12)
Lucy Nolan (YR 10)

Boys South Coast Hockey

We have a number of talented hockey players at Figtree HS and we have had 2 of them selected in the South Coast Hockey team. A big congratulations to Daniel Jolliffe (Yr 10) and Peter Cowan (Yr 11) who will play in Narellan from the 28th 30th May.

Sport Term 2 and 3 at Figtree HS

On Wednesday the 10th April all students at Figtree HS will participate in trialling for a competition sport team. Being part of a competition team enables students to build on co-operation, make new friends, have the responsibility of not letting team mates down as well as developing their skill level.

Each week if students have been selected in a competition team they will play other schools in our Zone. The schools that we play are Bulli, Woonona, Corrimal and Keira. Games will be played at home as well as travelling to other venues. When students travel they will need $5.00 to cover the transport of the bus.

I know students from Figtree HS will represent our school with pride and will show sportsmanship at every opportunity. I wish all teams the best of luck in Terms 2 and 3.

If students do not make a competition side, then on Thursday the 11th April students will pick a recreation sport. There are a number of sports to choose from. Some of these sports require money and are also held off site. Students will be given a note which will contain all the information about the selected sport.

It is important that students pick wisely as they will do the same sport for Terms 2 and 3. There will be NO changing sport after Week 3, Term 2.

State Swimming

A big congratulations to all our swimmers who represented Figtree HS at State swimming on the 4th, 5th and 6th April. We had three relay teams participating on the Friday. The 17+ years boys which comprised of Jarrod Creswick, Scott Mills, Michael Trajevski and Drew McMullen, swam a fantastic race. The picture below is of the 17+ boys team.

The 16 years boys team which comprised of Mitchell Acev, Josh Burley, Ryan King and Wes Roberts finished an impressive 4th in their heat and were placed 12th overall. A great effort by these boys.

The 12 years girls relay team had an extremely impressive meet. They finished 6th overall in the State which is a HUGE effort. The girls team consisted of, Tilda Bennet, Molly McNair, Elle-May Wilson and Kaitlin Hearne. Congratulations girls and to the rest of the swimming team.
Our individual swimmers for the meet also had a successful time. Below are a list of their achievements.

**Individual Competitors**

**Jarrod Creswick – 17 years**
100 Backstroke – 17th
4 x 50m Freestyle relay – 19th

**Michael Trajcevski – 17 years**
200m Individual Medley – 10th - **Finalist**
4 x 50m Freestyle relay – 19th

**Wes Roberts – 16 years**
200 Freestyle – 8th - **Finalist**
100 Freestyle – 7th - **Finalist**
100 Breaststroke – 20th
100 Butterfly – 10th - **Finalist**
4 x 50m Freestyle relay – 12th

**Meghan Fox – 13 years**
100m Butterfly – 27th

**Caitlin Smith – 15 years**
800 Freestyle – 9th - **Finalist**
100 Backstroke – 14th
50 Freestyle – 10th - **Finalist**
400 Freestyle – 7th - **Finalist**

**Well done Figtree High School**

**Year 7 Camp**

Last week 135 Year 7 students and 7 brave staff attended camp at Teen Ranch at Cobbitty, which is in south west Sydney, about 20 minutes from Campbelltown. This is a new camp venue for Figtree High and we were very well looked after by the staff there. Most people thought the food was pretty good and there was lots of it, so combined with the provisions that many of us took along, no one went hungry. For 3 fun packed days and nights we all had a great time getting to know each other and doing things we wouldn’t normally do. The team spirit at camp was amazing and together many of us conquered our fear of heights on the Giant Swing and Abseiling Tower, learned how to canoe and toasted Marshmallows on our night time hikes. As Year 7 Adviser, I was very proud of the way students behaved and the way they encouraged one another in the activities. As a group, Year 7 have made a great start to high school and camp provided a valuable opportunity to consolidate new friendships, have fun and relax after a big term.
“When I went to the Year 7 Camp it was really fun. I got to go in the cabin with my friends and got to go on lots of activities. The food was yum. The thing I most liked out of the activities was the big swing and the pool in spare time.”

Erin Stafford

“When Year 7 got to camp everyone was excited.”

Sam Rada

“When I got home from camp, I needed a big sleep.”

Mrs McEwan, Mrs Borst, Ms Markham, Miss Quill, Mr Liddle, Mr Smith & Mr Vatovec

Figtree High School Core Values: Learning

NAPLAN is just around the Corner!

Students in Years 7 and 9 will participate in NAPLAN in Week 3 next Term, 14th-16th May. The testing will assess student’s performance in reading, writing (persuasive text), spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy. These tests provide a “snapshot” in time, and enable students, parents and teachers to identify how students have improved since the previous testing period and identify any areas for further development. Student attendance for NAPLAN is essential, and we seek parents support in ensuring their child attends school each day during this week.

Teachers in all subjects use learning activities designed to improve student’s literacy and numeracy skills. NAPLAN information for parents/carers can also be found on the NSW Department of Education and Communities website, and can be accessed in a variety of languages.


Students may also want to do some additional preparation for the NAPLAN tests, by practicing their skills in each of the testing areas. Information for parents/carers about NAPLAN and sample assessments can be accessed from http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support.html. A screenshot from this site can be seen below.

If you have any questions regarding NAPLAN or your child’s participation, please contact Lynn Wood, Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, at the school.

Ellie Donovan

Deputy Principal

Figtree High School Cross Country

On Tuesday the 9th April we held our cross country carnival at school. It was a very successful day and students’ behaviour was excellent. Students ran a course that took place inside and outside of the school. It involved running through paddocks, creeks, footpaths and ovals. The results of the carnival will be printed in the next newsletter.

At the end of the day students who participated in the carnival went in the draw to win a $20.00 rebel voucher. There were 10 vouchers which were donated by the P & C of Figtree High School. On behalf of the students I would like to THANK the P & C for their contribution to the day. These vouchers were for encouragement and recognising all students who participated. Below is a photo of the students that won vouchers.
NAPLAN TESTS

In Week 10 Term 1 all students in Year 7 and Year 9 were given a letter to parents/caregivers regarding the 2013 NAPLAN (National Numeracy and Literacy tests.) The tests will be conducted at school on the following dates:

Tuesday 14th May
Wednesday 15th May
Thursday 16th May

Friday 17th May will be a catch up day for any students who missed one or more of the tests.

It is expected that all students will participate in the tests. However, students may be withdrawn by their parent or carer. If you wish to withdraw your child please contact Ms. Wood at the school on 42712787.

If you would like further information about your child’s participation please contact the school.

Regards,

Lynn Wood
Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning.

School Uniform- Winter

As Term 2 approaches, we seek parents support to ensure that students have the necessary items of school uniform for the colder weather. In our last newsletter we published photos of our winter uniform items for both Junior and Senior students. Mrs Borst, the Supervisor of Girls, spoke with all girls after the assembly last Thursday to remind girls that navy tights can only be worn to school if they are worn under a school skirt or shorts. Tailored navy pants, navy slacks or navy tracksuit pants can be worn by girls during the colder months. Girls may also choose to continue to wear their school skirt or approved school shorts, with plain tan/navy/black stockings in the colder months.

In particular, students and parents are reminded that school uniform items listed as NAVY – need to be plain navy, without brand logos, contrasting stripes or combinations of other colours. School uniform items that are plain navy include:

- Hooded zip jumpers for boys and girls
- Shorts and long pants for boys and girls
- Sports shorts
- Tracksuit pants for boys and girls
- Senior girls skirts

School uniform items are available from LOWES – Westfield’s Figtree and at Poppets Direct – located in Montague St, Fairy Meadow. Both suppliers have ample stock for the colder months.

If a student is not able to wear the correct Figtree High School uniform, they should have a note of explanation from a parent/carer.

Students may be asked to change into school uniform items from the school’s uniform clothing pool if they are not wearing correct uniform. Student’s school uniform is monitored daily by the roll teacher and Head Teacher. If a student is not wearing correct uniform three times within a term, without a note of explanation from a parent/carer, students will be placed on an afterschool detention.

Are you moving house? Do you have a new phone number?

It is essential that the school has the current address and parent/carer contact numbers for all students. Please let the school know if the contact details for your child have changed. Change of details forms can be collected and returned to the front office. Alternatively, change of details information can be sent to the school’s email address figtree-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Are you receiving the School Bulletin via email?

This term, the School Bulletin was distributed electronically, via an email. If you are not receiving the newsletter via email, and would like to, please email figtree-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au and request to be added, so that you can receive the Bulletin in this way. The School Bulletin is also on our school website www.figtree-h.schools.nsw.edu.au located in the ‘Newsletters’ section, under the 2013 link.

Boys Basketball Knockout Team – Opens

On the Tuesday the 2/3/13, Figtree High school participated in the Illawarra Opens Zone knockout Basketball competition. The team, comprising of Brandon McBey and Adam Bassuni in year 10, Dylan Thorton, Wesley Roberts, Hayden Vos and Shaqeel Azar from year 11 and two year 12 students, Shane Potter and Matt Dejongh, put on a fantastic performance for the day.

In our opening matchup against Keira High, the boys took off to an early lead. Keira High struggled against the big line-up fielded by Figtree, led by the towering Matt Dejongh in the middle. Through strong rebounding, quick and accurate passing and quick ‘fast-breaks’ the boys were able to keep up a strong performance. During the second half however, Keira showed their character by changing up their game-plan and shooting from the perimeter. This strategy proved effective as they quickly closed the gap. Effective passing and exploitation of mistakes on defence led to a Keira High lead. At the final buzzer, the Figtree boys were downed by only 4 points but had an excellent showing in their first game together.
Our second matchup was against Smith Hill’s second team. Figtree once again opened in strong fashion, led by strong rebounding and a standout performance from Dylan Thornton. Dylan earned himself extended minutes and proved to be an unstoppable force, pulling in boards from all angles and quickly putting them away for easy points. This second game proved to be an easy victory for Figtree High who ended our day with a 1 – 1 record. Special mentions to Shane Potter for his resounding dunks, Brandon McBey for leading his team effectively and Hayden Vos for an excellent day out on the court in both games.

Well done Figtree boys basketball!

Mr Vatovec

Woolworth’s Earn & Learn Promotion

Figtree High School is participating again in this worthwhile promotion to earn much needed resources for our school. Last year we received art supplies such as paints, cardboard, scissors, glue sticks, pencils, and for our Library we received paperback novels, and stationary supplies. Our science faculty also received assorted goods such as Bunsen burners, test strips, rubber stoppers and glue sticks. These items were much needed to replenish our most used resources. A big thank you to all the staff and parents who generously donated their point sheets and the school would really appreciate your support again this year.

Information for this year’s promotion

It’s simple to participate: from Monday 8th April, when staff and parents shop at Woolworths they can collect points from the checkout operator and place them on point sheets. There’ll be one point for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco, and gift cards). Once completed, points sheets can be placed in the collection box, either at school or at our local Woolworths. We will have a collection bin set up at the front office for you or your child to drop off your completed point sheets.

Promotion ends Sunday 9th June, 2013. Once the promotion ends, you will have approximately 2 weeks to get your completed point sheets to the school.

P&C News

We had our AGM last Wednesday 27th March. We had a couple of new parents come along which was great to see. We are pleased to announce that we have formed a new committee for 2013. They are:

President: Sharyn Low
Secretary: Linda Costello
Treasurer: David Adamson

We welcome any new parents/community members who would like to attend any of our meetings to discuss many topics that will arise over this year. Our meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month (excluding holidays). Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 29th May, 2013. If you would like any items discussed at the meeting, you can email us on fhspandc@gmail.com. You can also fax us on the school fax number: 4271 6626.

We hope you can support this school by attending our P&C meetings.

Figtree High School P&C committee

Canteen News

The canteen is still short of volunteers to help out on various days. We would really appreciate any time that you can spare to help us with our food preparation and serving the students. Please give us a call here at the canteen to discuss what would be suitable for you.

Thank you for supporting the students of Figtree High School

Narelle Jacobsen and Sharon Stuart
Canteen Supervisors

We hope everyone enjoys the break and we look forward to seeing you all in Term 2 Commencing Wednesday, 1st May 2013