**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

The 2013 Illawarra Schools ‘Excellence in Vocational Education and Training Awards’ was held this week and several students from Figtree High School were recognised for their outstanding achievements. Following a nomination and interview process, Ebony Ireland (Hairdressing), Haylee Newman (Hospitality), Jamie-Lee Athanassopoulos (Hospitality) and Kalani Barnes (Entertainment) all received Certificates of Merit. From the students awarded with Certificates of Merit, a ‘Student of the Year’ for each category was awarded and Kalani Barnes was named Student of the Year – Entertainment. This is a wonderful achievement for Kalani who has also been nominated for ‘Encore’, a showcase of the very best performances from across NSW in the 2013 HSC Music practical examinations. The late Penny Costello was also acknowledged for her contributions over many years to the development and delivery of the VET Entertainment course both at the school level at Figtree High School and across our region. With proud parents, a cast of dignitaries, including Carol Marshman, the evening was a huge success for Figtree High School. Thanks to Cathy Smith, Margaret Parr and Mick Malouf who assisted in the nomination process and preparing their students for the interviews.

Over the next 4 weeks, Figtree High School will be trialling the use of an electronic messaging sign. The installation of permanent electronic signage is quite expensive and we will be seeking feedback from all members of our school community in regards to the effectiveness of the electronic messaging display. Hire and Traffic Solutions (HATS) at Unanderra have supplied the sign at a substantially discounted rate to allow this exercise to occur.

As we draw nearer to the end of the 2013 school year, Figtree High School will also be consulting with students, teachers, parents and members of the wider school community in regard to the targets outlined in our school plan and the development of our future strategic directions. Consultation will be conducted in the forms of interviews, the formation of focus groups, analysis of data and electronic surveys. Further detail regarding how people can be involved will be contained in our next school bulletin.

David C Deitz
Relieving Principal

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**PBS VALUES**

**Week 6:** **LEARNING**

Be on time for your next class

**Week 7:** **SAFETY**

Play approved games only in the playground

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**Coming Events**

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<tr>
<th>Week 6 (B)</th>
<th>Beginning Monday 11t November</th>
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<td>11.11.13</td>
<td>Yr 8 ESSA Tests</td>
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<td>14.11.13</td>
<td>RED Mufti Day for Bush Fire Relief</td>
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<td>15.11.13</td>
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<td>Yr 10 RYDA Excursion</td>
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<th>Week 8 (B)</th>
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<td>Yrs 9,10 &amp; 11 Tennis Tournament</td>
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<td>29.11.13</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 11 (A)</th>
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<tr>
<td>18.12.13</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 4 for students</td>
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<td>19 - 20.12.13</td>
<td>Staff Development Days</td>
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<tr>
<th>2014</th>
<th>TERM 1 WEEK 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>28.1.14</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>29.1.14</td>
<td>Yrs 7, 11 &amp; 12 Commence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.1.14</td>
<td>Yrs 8, 9 &amp; 10 Commence</td>
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</tbody>
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ENGLISH REPORT

This term has been very productive for the English Faculty. We have been working on our National Curriculum for Stages 4 and 5, which will commence for years 7 and 9 in 2014. This is an exciting time for English since we have embraced this opportunity in designing an effective Scope and Sequence for these years. We have focused on the purchasing of some of our new texts on the key areas of Sustainability, Asian and Aboriginal perspectives.

Year 11 have started their HSC year with commendable enthusiasm and commitment. We have recently introduced the ALARM MATRIX with this group, focusing on their extended response writing skills. This system is designed to get students to critically deconstruct their writing. In the coming week Year 11 Advanced English will be attending the “Big day out for English”, this is a worthwhile day for our students; gathering information and listening to a number of academics on the modules being studied in their HSC.

Year 10 have been recently undertaking their yearly examinations for English. Students will be assessed using the ROSA guidelines. We wish Year 10 all the best for their results in 2013.

Year 7 are taking part in the Creative Writing competition. This competition will give these students the opportunity to improve their writing skills and is an important element of the short story unit. The competition is open to all year 7 students and prizes will be awarded during assembly. I would like to congratulate Mrs Bartlett for initiating this project.

We wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and an exciting New Year.

English Faculty
Ms A. Mintzas
(Acting Head Teacher)

TERM 4 MERIT REWARD DAY

A special reward day excursion has been organised to Jamberoo Action Park. All students who have reached Silver level as well as those who have a current Bronze certificate are eligible to attend. Numbers will be limited so there will be a first in first pay basis.

Date: Tuesday 17th December (Week 11)
Transport: By coach.
Cost: $36. This covers the cost of the coach and entry with unlimited rides.
Times: Students need to attend roll call and then go to the front of the school where they will board the bus. The bus will leave at 8.45am. The bus will return to school by 3.30pm.

Gear: Students must wear a top which identifies them as being a student of Figtree High (either their Figtree High shirt with Figtree High badge or their PE t-shirt.) Otherwise they may wear comfortable, appropriate casual gear with suitable footwear for walking.

As there are several water activities available in the park students should also bring their swimming costume and towel. A shelter area specifically allocated to Figtree High will be available on the day and at least one teacher will be there throughout the day. Students can leave their bags in this area where they will be secure. As the weather is likely to be hot, students are reminded to wear a hat and have adequate sunscreen with them.

Permission notes for this excursion will be handed on Thursday 14th November (Week 6) after assembly.

Please contact Ms Dive in the Languages staffroom if you have any questions.

RSL PRIZE DRAW

Congratulations to Rebecca Neal (Year 12), Sarah Belcic, Gaby Ravnjak, Katelyn Teuma, Belinda Veljanoska, Mikayla Whatman (Year 9), Rebecca Gristwood, Courtney Job (Year 8), Callum Dods, Madison Gruewska, Megg Tomczynski and Erin Stafford (Year 7), who each won either an 8 gigabyte thumb drive (very useful for assignments etc!), an iTunes voucher or a $5 canteen voucher because they had their RSL tickets 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. These tickets are also tallied for each student and count towards earning merits for Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards.
NEXT P&C MEETING – ALL WELCOME!

Why not come and join us at our next meeting? They are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month in the school library at 7:30pm. The next one is on 27th November. The meetings are low-key and usually finished by 9pm. Attendance at meetings is great way to find out information about what is happening at your child’s school.

Regards,
Sharyn Low
Figtree High School
P&C President

A WORKSHOP WITH NATALIE GRAY

At Fusion Speech Therapy Natalie Gray provides assessment and therapy for children 0-18 years for: articulation, dental dyspraxia, expressive and receptive language, stuttering, voice, paediatric feeding and literacy.

WHEN: 27th November 2013
TIME: 7.00PM – 9.00PM
WHERE: Citylife Church
2/129 Jardine Street Fairy Meadow
INFO: 4284 4414 Office
0413 048 453 Jill
0401 246 765 Joanne

OUTREACH – TAFE

The Outreach unit at TAFE NSW Wollongong Campus will be conducting courses for people who want to develop skills for employment or further study.

Courses include those specifically for women and cover vocational skills in:

1. Certificate II Skills for Work and Training (Computer Skills)
2. Certificate I in Access to Work and Training Introduction to Café and Hospitality

These courses have no TAFE administration Fee. Courses commence in February 2014.

Please contact Jennie on 4229 0149 for further information before 13th December, 2013.

ADHD SUPPORT GROUP

Coffee and Drop in Morning
WHEN: 29th November 2013
WHERE: Citylife Church
2/129 Jardine Street Fairy Meadow
INFO: 4284 4414 or 0434 783 710
Gold coin donations appreciated.
Korean Homestay Program - February 2014
Expression of Interest

Dear Parents and Students

As this year is drawing to a close, it is time to plan for the arrival of our Korean Homestay visitors in February 2014. 13 students (aged between 13-15 years) from Je Ju National University Middle School will arrive on Monday, 10 February 2014 at 3.00pm and depart on Thursday, 20 February 2014 at 9.30 am. We have just returned from a highly successful visit in September holidays and look forward to meeting these students again in 2014.

Parent Consent:

My family and I are interested in participating in the program. Please circle the relevant response.

- We would be able to accept one / two / three billets.
- It would be best if the billet(s) was a male / female / gender is not an issue.

Parent name/s: …………………………… Signature: ……………………………..

The following information will assist us with preparation of necessary documents to be passed onto the organisers of the visit for the Korean parents and students. Please complete and return to school via your student no later than Friday 6 December 2013.

Student Name ______________________________________________
Roll Call _____________      DOB _____________________
Parent name/s ______________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________
 ______________________________________________
Phone Number Home _________________________________________
Mobile _________________________________________
Email address ______________________________________________

Further information will be passed on to you as it becomes available. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need further information. Thank you for your participation and interest in this valuable experience.

Cathy Smith       David Deitz
Homestay Co-ordinator     Rel. Principal
HT TAS
42712787   0403596333   catherine.j.smith@det.nsw.edu.au
Have you Moved? Changed phone numbers or email address?

It is important that the school has the correct contact details for parents/carers of our students, this include Emergency Contacts. If you have changed your address, phone number or email address, or your Emergency Contacts details please let us know. You will find a “Change of Personal Details” form on the last page of this newsletter. Please complete this form if any of your details have changed, and either have your child return it to the office, or email this form to the school email address:

figtree-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Figtree High School
Gibsons Road, Figtree, 2525.
Phone 42712787  Fax 42716626

Change of:
ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBERS, MOBILE NUMBERS, EMERGENCY CONTACTS

If you have had a change to any of the above, would you please write your new details below.

Return to the office as soon as possible so our information is up-to-date.

Thank you

Student’s Name
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Parent/Carer Signature  __________________________________________
Surfs Up for Disabled Surfers

Saturday the 30th November will see the South Coast Branch of the Disabled Surfers Association running its 21st annual ‘Hands On Day’ at Thirroul Beach with everyone checking in between 9 - 9.30am at the tents set up at the southern end of the pool.

As you might know, the DSASC runs annual events at Thirroul and Gerroa with one additional annual event further down the coast (again at Mollymook this year Sat Nov 16). We are Australia’s only surfing charity.

Our disabled participants, no matter how great the challenge, get the chance to enjoy what the rest of us take for granted - the beach and its waves.

The day includes a fully supervised surf experience followed by a BBQ lunch and prizes for great deeds. The surfing takes place in only waist-depth water and only on broken waves, usually riding tandem with a helper on the back of the board.

Wetsuits, rashvests and flotation devices are provided on the day and everyone is assured of a great day.

Any student volunteer attending will have a great (and enlightening) day – certificates will be issued for their CVs (if they want them). In attendance will be a large group of experienced helpers that will be supplemented by ‘first timer’ volunteers such as local students. We break up everyone into teams of 10, with a mix of experienced and novices.

For some students a DSA event can act as a sort of epiphany in that, an appreciation of what others have to endure, suddenly sinks in. Another bonus is that over 20 ex students, who have helped at past DSA events, now have permanent positions in the care industry.

We recommend the target group of students would be yr10/yr11 and even mature yr9s are also welcome.

Thanks : for more information please contact secretary Ian Picton on 0421601222 or Sandra Gould on 0402806622 or check out the web on www.disabledsurfers.org
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SOLUTIONS

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* MINI EXCAVATORS * BOBCAT’S
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KANGA LOADERS - TRENCHERS - POST HOLE DIGGERS

BRICK ELEVATOR’S - ELECTRIC CONVEYOR’S
PLATE COMPACTORS - RAMMERS - ROLLERS
NAIL GUN’S - WATER PUMP’S - PRESSURE CLEANERS
LAWN MOWERS - WHIPPER SNIPPERS - BRUSH CUTTERS
LAWN AERATORS - STUMP GRINDERS - TURF CUTTERS
FLOOR SANDERS - VACCUM’S - JIG SAW’S - CIRC SAW’S - SABRE SAW’S
GENIE LIFTS - GENERATORS - ACROW PROPS - SCISSOR LIFT’S

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