PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

When you consider your child and their education, what are the most important elements and is Figtree High School delivering them successfully? As we approach the end of the school year and begin to plan for 2014, Figtree High School is consulting with students, parents and teachers to develop the strategic directions that will drive and guide our school.

During this consultation process, there will be a number of strategies employed to ensure we include the entire school community; phone calls to parents, student focus groups, teacher interviews and online surveys. We will also be analysing data (HSC, NAPLAN, attendance, behaviour) to identify both strengths and weaknesses. At our most recent P&C meeting, we discussed the preliminary results of parent surveys and this information will be used to further refine our evaluation process.

At Figtree High School, we value student learning. We strive to meet the needs of every student to ensure they are engaged and motivated to succeed in their educational studies and future career paths. It is for this reason we encourage our parent body to provide their feedback to the school so that we can refine and deliver on our core business.

The following link is for our parent survey. The survey is anonymous and takes about 5 minutes.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/parent_survey_fhs_2_013

I would like to thank Mrs Margaret McEwan for her work and coordination surrounding the evaluation process and look forward to reporting on our findings at the commencement of 2014.

David Deitz
Relieving Principal
School Uniform Requirements

Sports Uniform

The Figtree High School sports uniform is pictured. There have been a growing number of students wearing a variety of styles of navy shorts, some with sports brand logos, and some that do not meet minimum length requirements. The school sports shorts are knee length and are made from a light weight fabric, suitable for active sports participation. We seek our parents support in ensuring that their child wears the Figtree High School sports shorts on Wednesdays for sport.

Footwear

School shoes need to be ALL black and fully enclosed. The upper needs to be made from leather, leatherette or suede fabric. This is to ensure student safety and that our school environment meets the work health and safety requirements when working in practical areas such as science laboratories, visual arts rooms and technology mandatory rooms e.g. kitchens, woodwork and metalwork rooms.

On Wednesdays, when students wear their sports uniform to school, students can wear sports shoes to school. If students have subjects where they work in practical rooms, students need to wear shoes with an upper made from leather, leatherette or suede fabric.

Figtree High School Core Values – Learning

Year 7-10 students have been busy over the past month completing assessment tasks to finalise their achievement of course outcomes for Semester 2. Many students in Year 11, who commenced their HSC courses at the start of this term, are completing their first assessment tasks for their HSC Courses. It is important that Year 11 students are planning and organising their school, part time work, home and sport commitments to maximise the time and effort that is given to their HSC assessment tasks.

The Semester 2 reports, which will be distributed to students on Monday 16th December, will provide parents/carers with information about their child’s academic performance and commitment to learning. It is important that students also take the time to reflect on their achievement in each course and each teacher’s comments about how they can further improve their learning and achievement in 2014.

While the formal assessment period has concluded for Years 7-10, normal lessons will continue for all students in Years 7-11, up to an including the last day of the school year for students which is Wednesday 18th December. It is very important that student’s maintain their high level of attendance as the end of the year approaches. Teachers will be continuing to provide students with a range of learning experiences that focus on consolidating student’s knowledge and understanding of the course content as well as preparing them for the continuation of their study in 2014.

Year 7 2014 Parent Information Evening

The Parent Information Evening for our Year 7 2014 students will be held next Monday 2nd December, commencing at 6:00pm. Information will be provided about the Orientation Day on 4th December, Day 1 2014 and strategies to prepare your child for high school. At this evening, parents will be able to collect and pay for their pre-ordered book packs, collect their pre-purchased Sports Uniforms, collect or submit bus pass application forms. The front office will also be available if parents wish to make payments for sports uniforms, school fees and/or the Year 7 Camp in 2014. A range of staff from the school will also be available to discuss any questions that you may have about our school or your child’s needs.
WEAR RED FOR RELIEF FUNDRAISER

In the event of the disastrous bushfires in NSW in early November, a group of Year 9 Geography students decided to hold a fundraiser to raise funds for Bushfire relief. The girls, Taylah McNamara, Victoria Liddle, Taryn Brunskill, Olivia Harris, Hannah Whitmore, Rhiannon Brown, Melissa Wilson and Kaella Pearson worked extremely well together over a week to promote the event by creating posters (Thanks Taryn!), speaking on assembly (Well done to Olivia and our model Victoria) and putting posters around the school. We then packaged over 300 bags of redskins/red lollies to sell in the Quad on Thursday 14th November to assist our fundraising efforts. During a very hot lunch time the students decorated the stall and then ensured every last bag of lollies was sold. The lolly sale, combined with donations during roll call raised $1111.15 to be jointly donated to the NSW RFS (Rural Fire Service) and Salvation Army Bushfire Appeal. At all times I was extremely impressed with the dedication and maturity of the girls (especially during the packaging of lolly bags which was very, very tempting!)

Special mention must go to Year 10 who collected money prior to the Thursday in order to contribute as many were absent on the day, Ashleigh Jones for her amazing one-sie and the staff (SASS and Teaching) who certainly got into the spirit of wearing red on the day! Louise Dark
RSL Prize Draw

Congratulations to Marco Lunic, Regina Wreh, (Year 10), Mathew Macgregor, Tijana D jotunovic, Taylah Jensen (Year 9), Kimia Rahmannia, Caroline Dyball (Year 8), David Watson, Lance Tarrant and Jordan Matthews (Year 7), who each won either an iTunes voucher, a $5 canteen voucher or an 8 gigabyte thumb drive 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.

Boys and Girls Cricket

Congratulations to Toby Dodds one of our Yr 10 students. Toby is a talented cricketer who has been selected in a South Coast team to play in a Tri Nations Series. He will play against the West Indies and Sri Lanka on Wednesday the 20th November. We wish Toby and his team all the best.

Toby will then play on Friday the 22nd November in Cricket Illawarra’s under 16’s side. He will play an Australian team. This is great experience and will only help to develop his cricketing skills.

We also wish Toby all the best for the up coming cricket trials. These trials are for talented cricketers to make the South Coast team.

We would also like to congratulate Brooke Redman of Year 11. Brooke has been selected in the Girls South Coast Cricket team. This team will play in a tournament early in 2014. We wish her all the best at this event.

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-.school@det.nsw.edu.au
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
Homestay Co-ordinator
HT TAS

42712787

David Deitz
Rel. Principal

0403596333
catherine.j.smith@det.nsw.edu.au
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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