**Figtree High School**

**Weekly Bulletin**

**Term 2 Week 3 15th May 2013**

**COMING EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.5.13 - 16.5.13</td>
<td>Years 7 and 9 NAPLAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.5.13</td>
<td>Careers Expo Excursion Years 10 and 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.5.13</td>
<td>Zone Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.5.13 - 21.5.13</td>
<td>Vaccinations –All Year 7 and Year 9 Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.5.13</td>
<td>ICAS Computer Skills Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.5.13</td>
<td>CAPA ‘War Horse’ Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.5.13</td>
<td>School Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.6.13</td>
<td>Years 8,11 and 12 Parent Teacher Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.6.13</td>
<td>Years 7, 9 and 10 Parent Teacher Night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Principal’s Report**

The imminent implementation of the Australian Curriculum was the focus of our recent Term 2 Staff Development Day activities. Two days were set aside for staff to become familiar with the changes that will be implemented from 2014. The Australian Curriculum in the key learning areas of English, History, Mathematics and Science will be delivered to all students in Years 7 and 9 from next year with full implementation across Years 7 to 10 in 2015. In addition, as this new curriculum is Kindergarten to Year 10, Figtree High School is working with our partner Primary Schools to ensure the effective implementation of the curriculum continuum.

Figtree High School participated in ANZAC Day commemorations here at the school in addition to our participation at the School’s ANZAC service held in Wollongong. Our students reflected upon the ultimate sacrifice that so many men and women have given in service to our country. At the service held in Wollongong, students from Figtree High School were part of the official proceedings with our choir leading the singing.

One of our year 11 students, Savannah Reali was recently awarded a NSW Mining Scholarship and received $500 and will be eligible for further financial support if she pursues tertiary study in the mining field. Two year 10 students recently attended the Wests Illawarra and Wave FM 2013 Youth Achievement Awards. Rachel Watson and Amy Pryor (Year 10) were nominated for the award categories “Achievement in the Arts & Digital Media” and “Citizenship” respectively. Rachel, as runner up in her award category, and was awarded the encouragement award.

Congratulations to both Rachel and Amy for their involvement in this program that showcased and recognised outstanding students from across our region.

Rachel Watson and Amy Pryor after receiving their awards at the 14th Annual Youth Achievement Awards dinner on 3rd May 2013.

Regards

David Deitz
Relieving Principal

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**PBS - Expectation of the Week**

**RESPECT**

When entering & leaving the school, obey community rules and laws.
Figtree High School Core Values: Respect

At Figtree High School, we have clear expectations about student’s behaviour and explicitly teach and model behaviours that reinforce our core value of Respect. In all settings in our school environment, respect looks like;

- Being tolerant of others
- Accepting individual differences
- Caring for self, others and the environment
- Using appropriate language

When students leave school at the end of the day, we continue to expect that students will make decisions and behave in a way that is respectful. The online environment and social media provide challenges for young people. There are a range of social media applications (eg. Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram) where students can upload content, comment on other people’s posts, share content, connect with people that they don’t personally know and save content that other people post.

These applications can provide a far more challenging environment because the usual non-verbal cues are not available and the impact of a comment or post on a ‘friend’ is not visible, like it would be in a personal interaction.

Speaking and acting with respect can get lost in this environment, exposing young people to cyberbullying, either as the victim or the bully. Young people can be particularly vulnerable if they are using applications with limited privacy settings, so that anyone can make comments about them. The impact of cyberbullying will often make its way to school, impacting on a student’s learning and their feelings of being safe at school.

Parents have an essential role to play!

One of the world’s leading experts on cyberbullying, Professor Donna Cross, says the most important thing parents can do is be involved and familiar with our kids’ online lives.

"Because most cyberbullying happens in the home, parents need to be aware of the technology that young people are using, so that they can be in that space with them and look at the ways in which they are engaging with their friends," Donna says.

"It’s easy for parents to see friendships developing when they’re face-to-face, but parents don’t understand how those friendships develop online, so parents need to be talking to their children from a very young age about where they’re going and what they’re doing online — and go and have a practise there themselves.”

Teaching young people how to respond to cyberbullying is essential. At school, we provide students with the following advice;

* If they get a message or email that’s threatening or rude, they should ‘STOP, BLOCK, REPORT’. First step is to stop responding to the abuse and then block those people sending threatening or rude messages if they continue. If they are being bullied, or know someone else who is, they should report this to a trusted adult.


There is a range of information on the internet to provide both young people and their parents with tips for living in social media rich world. The following excerpt was taken from the Cyber Smart website;

Know the Basics of safe social networking

* Limit your friend list – don’t friend random people
* Protect your privacy – don’t share your password and set your profile to private
* Personal details are valuable – don’t share them
* Protect your reputation – keep it clean and ask yourself: would you want others to see what you upload?
* Be careful who you trust – a person can pretend to be someone they are not
* Don’t use a webcam with people you do not know
* Think before you post, chat, upload or download

This is a fantastic site for both parents and young people can be found at http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/

Ellie Donovan
Deputy Principal
Attendance at School

This year the school has introduced a new online roll marking system for morning roll call and for roll marking in each period of the day. This new system was trialled throughout Term 1 and has been fully implemented across the school since the beginning of Term 2. Letters regarding absences in Term 1 were sent home at the end of last term. Letters regarding whole day and partial day student absences will be sent home on a weekly basis this term. We would like to remind parents to provide a note of explanation for all absences, including if a student arrives to school late. Booklets for this purpose were distributed to all students at the start of the year. Additional booklets can be collected from the office. Students MUST sign in at the office if they arrive after morning roll call. If you believe that there is a discrepancy with information about your child’s attendance, please contact the office.

Ellie Donovan
Deputy Principal

From the Mathematics Department

At the end of last term Year 12 completed their half yearly exams and I would like to congratulate Jessica Oates, Matt de Jongh, Peter Walker, Kelly Chan, Giverny Witheridge, Brendan Woods, Aaron Cunningham, and Rhys Kilian who did particularly well in their Maths and I.P.T computing courses.

Also Year 10 are about to do their half yearly Maths exams which takes place in week 4 of this term. It is important that they prepare well and thoroughly, cover all the content that they are going to be examined on and I wish them well both with their study and their performance in their exam.

Parent teacher nights are shortly upon us and I would like to encourage all parents/carers to attend these very important evenings as the feedback that is obtained will only help to improve your child’s educational outcomes.

All the best
Mr A Linnenlucke
Head Teacher Mathematics

Bill Turner Cup Soccer

The Figtree Under 15 Boys made a successful start to their Bill Turner Cup campaign with a stirring 14 nil victory over Woonona High School. A dynamic whole team effort saw goals flow freely from the start of the match. All players contributed, with Ethan Kambisios leading the scoring, collecting a big five goals, speedy Emmanuel Kumara and Evan Balatsos both bagging hat tricks, James Solevski grabbing two from defence, and Justin Jauleski rounding it all off. While the scorers did the job, all players set a great standard, with thanks going to Nathan Vaughan for jumping in to the keeper’s job at short notice. Next up we expect a tougher challenge in Edmund Rice College – but we’ll be ready for them!

C. McGavock
Coach

Cross Country Age Champions

We held our cross Country day last term and it was a very successful day. We had a high level of student participation which was great to see. The zone carnival will be held on Friday 17th May at Nicholson Park and we wish all our students the best of luck.

Girls Age Champions
12 years- Piper McHenry
13 years – Jade Gray
14 years – Teghan Barklay
15 years – Mikaela Frame
16 years – Taylah Dewhurst
17 + years- Taylor Mormile

Boys Age Champion
12 years - Jayden Smileski
13 years – Matthew Hobbs
14 years – Joshua Head
15 years – Adam Bassuni
16 and 17+ will be decided at the zone carnival.
**CHS Soccer Championships**

Congratulations to Courtney Belsito (Year 12) who represented the South Coast Region at the recent CHS Girls Football Championships. Courtney’s fantastic performance saw her gain selection into the CHS 1 team to compete at the All Schools Championships.

Courtney Belsito is a Year 12 student who travelled to Albury last term in the South Coast team. Two other students Kristina Janeska and Lucy Nolan were also in this team. Courtney was selected into the CHS Open Girls Soccer which will play in Sydney in June. Courtney was also named Most Valuable Player in the South Coast team which is an amazing effort and shows the effort and skill she played with. Well done Courtney and Good Luck at making the All Schools Team in June.

**Sporting News**

We have had some great sporting achievements this term at Figtree HS.

**Brad Simon** is a student in Year 11 who has been selected in the NSW CHS Baseball team. He has been selected as the pitcher which is a fantastic achievement. He will travel to Geelong from the 13\textsuperscript{th} May until 17\textsuperscript{th} May. Brad has also made the Academy of Baseball where he will attend a 2 week training program. This is a great way for him to show people here and overseas how talented he is. We wish him all the best at these trials.

**Daniella Milisic** a Year 10 student has been selected into the NSW CHS Open Girls Basketball team. She will travel with the team to Terrigal and play on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} of June. A BIG congratulations to Daniella and we wish her all the best for selection into the Australian Team.
Ryan King, a Year 10 student and Nathan Leatiga-ga, a Year 12 student have both been selected in the Southern Zone Rugby League team. Both boys will travel to Toronto from the 26th - 29th May to try and gain a selection into the NSW CHS side. We wish both boys all the best.

Thomas Miotto and Mitchell Galea, both boys in Year 10 have been selected into the Academy of Sport and Recreation Hockey Academy Program. While they are there they will also be trialling for selection in a state team. Congratulations to both boys.

**FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

This is a normal school day and attendance is compulsory for all students.

**WHEN:** Friday 24th May, 2013

**WHERE:** Figtree High School grounds

**TIME:** Roll Call - 8.40am (in usual Roll Call rooms)
Assembly – 8.45am
Carnival to begin at approximately 9am.
Carnival will finish at 2.58pm. (Roll Call will then take place in the quad at approx. 2.45pm)

**CANTEEN:** Will be available as normal.

**EVENTS:** All students are to enter and compete in at least 3 events.

*Students are to remain on the school grounds at all times. They will be allowed to wear sensible casual clothing but are advised to dress appropriately for the weather. NO midriff or singlet tops are allowed. Thongs are also not permitted.*

**Wests Illawarra & Wave FM**

**2013 Youth Achievement Awards**

On Friday night 3rd May, Mrs Jan Goodall and I had the pleasure of accompanying Rachel Watson, Amy Pryor and their families to the Wests Illawarra and Wave FM Youth Achievement Awards. During this evening we had the pleasure of listening to an inspirational young woman, Jessica Sparks, and her journey with Cystic Fibrosis. Jessica discussed the life saving and changing gift she received when she had a double lung transplant several years ago. She discussed the importance of organ donation and the low rate of organ donation in Australia in comparison to other similar countries in the world.

Another guest speaker during the evening was Matt Flinn, the current Wollongong Hawks Assistant Coach, who is also a former student of Figtree High School. Matt discussed the range of ‘set backs’ he had experienced throughout his career and the importance of resilience and goal setting to achieve in life.

Rachel Watson was nominated in the Junior age category for ‘Achievement in the Arts and Digital Media Award’ and won the Encouragement Award. Rachel performed in Figtree High School’s Grease production and has competed in numerous eisteddfods for singing. She sang in Miss Zoe’s Breast Cancer Talent Quest and entered a sculpture in the Miss Zoe Breast Cancer Art Show, scoring 8/10 in both of these events. Rachel regularly sings at St John’s Anglican Church and has performed songs at the Wisemans Park Christmas Carols. She choreographed a solo dance to perform for the Christmas carols at Braeside Close Retirement Village.

Amy Pryor was nominated in the Junior age group for the ‘Citizenship Award’ for her participation in various volunteer organisations. Amy has been a Girl Guide for 6 years and a member of the Scouts for 1 year. She has participated in the Salvation Army Red Shield appeal numerous times and collected non-perishable items for St Vincent’s De Paul. Amy has been a team captain for her Relay for Life Team for 3 years, each year raising over $100. She also volunteered at a Tri-a-the-loon and donated $50 to Palliative Care at Port Kembla Hospital and $220 to the cancer Council.

Ellie Donovan
Deputy Principal
PBS prize draw.

Congratulations to Margaret Aldridge (Year 11), Lachlan Green (Year 9), Tayah Davey (Year 8), Shaun Scerri and Lily Moriarty (Year 7) who each received either an iTunes voucher or a $5 canteen 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. These tickets are also tallied for each student and count towards earning merits for Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards.

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 that we sent you and have not returned it 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.

Are you receiving the School Bulletin via email?

This year, the School Bulletin is being 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.

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

School Uniform- Winter

In our newsletters at the end of last term, we published information about our winter uniform items for both Junior and Senior students. 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. Winter school uniform items that are plain navy include:

- School 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.

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.

Woolworth’s Earn & Learn Promotion

Figtree High School is participating in this promotion again this year. If you have difficulties getting the sticker sheets from Woolworths we are using last year’s sticker sheets. Just drop the stickers in here at the front office.

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 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