COMING EVENTS

29.5.13 – Parents and Citizens Meeting – 7:30pm in the School Library
29.5.13 – Year 5 COS Enrichment Class commences each Wednesday for 15 weeks
29.5.13 – Open Girls Soccer – Round 2
29.5.13 – Year 11 and 12 HSC Music Workshops
30.5.13 – Year 12 Modern History and Year 12 Economics Excursions
31.5.13 – South Coast Regional Cross Country
5.6.13 – ICAS Science Test
6.6.13 – Year 11 Construction Course – White Card
6.6.13 – Years 8, 11 and 12 Parent Teacher Night
7.6.13 – School Athletics Carnival
7.6.13 – Year 12 Society and Culture HSC Study Day excursion
14.6.13 – Figtree High Trivia Night – Fundraising Event for Rhys Kilian
27.6.13 – Years 7, 9 and 10 Parent Teacher Night

Principal’s Report

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.

A successful professional learning course was presented by the iPie (Illawarra Partners In Education) for Aspiring Leaders Professional Learning on Wednesday 22 May. The participants attended from; Figtree HS, Lake Illawarra HS, Kanahooka HS, Warrawong HS and Illawarra Sports HS.

The Wollongong Quota Club held their secondary schools public speaking competition in the Figtree HS Auditorium on Wednesday evening 22 May. Congratulations to our 4 students who participated; Jelena Zaric, Bradley Heino, Mitchell Ivaneza and Haydn Hunt.

Congratulations to our Deputy Principal, Ellie Donovan who was a NSW representative for the AITSL (Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership) Focus Group. This was held in Melbourne on 21-22 May.

I would like to remind parents and carers to contact the school administration office to pay any outstanding school fees or to make enquiries regarding fees and voluntary contributions. The voluntary contributions assist in the purchasing of resources, such as, textbooks and science consumables. Your assistance in paying this contribution is appreciated.

Over the coming weeks, work will commence to repair the school roofs. There has been an ongoing issue with the box gutters overflowing into the buildings when there is heavy rain.

Thank you to the Parents and Citizens for funding the production of a promotional video that will highlight the teaching and learning that occurs at Figtree High School.

Regards

Carol Marshman
Principal

PBS - Expectation of the Week

RESPECT
Walk quietly in the corridors so that others can continue learning
Figtree High School Core Values:
Learning

In all settings at school, we have the following behaviour expectations for students;

* Be on time
* Do your best
* Stay on task
* Be prepared

The school day commences at 8:38am with a warning bell to indicate that roll call is about to start. Students need to be at roll call by 8:40am to ensure that their learning time for the day is maximised. Students who are on time get every opportunity to ‘do their best’ and ‘stay on task’. Students who are late to school are losing learning time. If a student is late to school, they must report to the Deputy Principal, then report to the Office, to be signed into school. This can result in students missing the lesson introduction, teacher demonstrations and instructions for learning activities.

We seek the support of parents or carers to ensure that students are prepared and arrive at school on time every day.

This term has been busy with formal assessment tasks for students in most of their subjects. This can increase stress levels for both students and their parents/carers. Assisting students to organise their time and workload to manage assessment periods can help reduce tension at home and help students to achieve their best results. If you would like a homework/study planner for use with your child, they can be accessed from the following link.


The Department of Education and Communities website ‘schoolatoz’ has a range of information to assist parents with tips and tools for supporting students with homework and home study. The following excerpt has been taken from the Homework and Study link. The direct link for this site, which also contains other helpful information for parents/carers, can be found below.

Good study approaches for your child to use

1. Make a summary of the main ideas.
2. Use organisers such as columns, lists or tables and colour-coded folders for different areas of the subject.
3. Draw a diagram, or mind map, to show main ideas and links between them.
4. Reorganise the information and label the points.
5. Write key words in the margin.
6. Use headings, subheadings, underlining or bold-face when making notes.
7. Create a list of key terms.
8. Paraphrase a difficult passage using simpler words.
9. Try memory testing by saying aloud what has been learnt.
10. Cover a paragraph, diagram or page and say aloud what it was about or write some brief notes.


Ellie Donovan
Deputy Principal

Parent Teacher Interviews -
Students in Years 8, 11 and 12

6th June 2:30pm-7:30pm in the Auditorium

This year the school is using an online scheduling system for Parent/Teacher interviews.

Students in Years 8, 11 and 12 will receive an individual note with details about the website where bookings need to be made and your child’s unique booking code. We ask that parents read the instructions on the sheet carefully, and log into the site to request their parent teacher interviews by the specified date. Parents can request bookings with specific teachers and the online scheduling system will allocate parent’s interview times with teachers. This online system also enables teachers to specifically request an interview with a parent, and parents can see this request when they log into the website.

If parents do not have access to the internet to request interviews, the hard copy request form can be returned to the relevant Deputy Principal. If parents have difficulty in accessing the online booking system, please contact the school for assistance.

Ellie Donovan
Deputy Principal

HSIE News

It’s a very busy time of the year for teachers and students of HSIE subjects. We have a number of staff attending training courses in preparation for the new curriculum starting for History in 2014 as well as attending Curriculum committee meetings for updates to the senior Society and Culture course. We have a number of excursions also running over the next few weeks: a Trotsky seminar for Modern History students and university lecture days for students of Economics and Business Studies. We also have an excursion for all Year 7 Students to the Sydney Aquarium which is run for the purpose of enhancing the learning of the Geography topic: Coral Reefs. Of course, it is also approaching the time for final assessments for Year 9 and 10 students who will swap between History and Geography next semester.

A reminder for parents of Year 10 students: The Year 10 excursion which provides an opportunity to complete the compulsory fieldwork components in History and Geography will run again on Tuesday 3rd September. The Geography excursion visits various locations in the Illawarra with the purpose of exploring the various urban processes which students must cover in the Year 10 course. The History excursion brings in various providers who use visual displays and performance art to provide students with a unique insight into the realities of war. Both of the excursions cost $15 and will need to be paid by Tuesday August 20th.

Mr R Joseph
Relieving H/T
Sentral SMS and Email Notifications

Figtree High School is in the process of implementing SMS/Email notifications for student absences and other important school activities. This process will enable us to notify parents and carers on the day their child is absent from school. We are requesting that you respond as soon as possible to our message using SMS, email or telephone. For parents without a mobile or email access we will continue to send absentee notification letters home in the mail. Please contact the front office if we don’t have your current mobile phone number and/or email address. We welcome any feedback or suggestions regarding the effectiveness of this new process.

Johanna Clifford
HT Administration

***NEW DATE FOR ATHLETICS CARNIVAL****

FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
This is a normal school day and attendance is compulsory for all students.

WHEN: Friday 7th June, 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 2.45pm. (Roll Call will then take place in the quad)
  Students will be dismissed from school at 2.58pm.
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.

Korean Visit 2013

The return visit for our Korean Cultural Exchange is now September 23 to October 2, 2013, after delaying from the April break. Those students who were involved in the Homestay program are invited to join our travel party and will need to collect documentation to complete this week to finalise our application. This is a great opportunity to homestay with some of the families who joined us in February. Please contact me either at school or via email for further information. Mrs Smith, Homestay Coordinator, HT TAS. (42712787 or catherine.j.smith@det.nsw.edu.au)

Trivia Night 14 June

There will be a Trivia Night in the Figtree High School Auditorium 14 June to support our school captain, Rhys Kilian. Rhys has been selected to attend the International Youth Science Week in Pretoria, South Africa.

In January, Rhys was chosen by Rotary as one of 432 students from around Australia to attend the National Youth Science Forum. From here he has been selected to represent Australia in South Africa. We believe Rhys will make an excellent ambassador for Australia at this prestigious event.

Of course, the experience comes at a cost and Rhys needs some financial assistance. While Rotary have provided some support, Rhys still needs at least another $8000 to enable him to attend the International Youth Science Week.

Any parent that can provide sponsorship or prizes for the trivia night, please contact Jenny English at school on 4271 2787. Any sponsorship will be acknowledged on the night.

We are wanting our parent community to support this event and put a team together to enjoy a fun night out and assist Rhys in the process. Tickets are $10 and there will be tables of 8 to 10. Smaller groups can be accommodated. Tickets go on sale at the office, this Friday, 31 May.

Jenny English
Head Teacher Science

Links to Learning—Language Other Than English

Some of our Year 9 students with a cultural background other than English are participating in the Multicultural Links to Learning program funded by the Minister for Education and Training and administered by the Department of Education and Communities in conjunction with the Illawarra Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra. The program started in term 1 and will continue every Tuesday through to the end of the year. The students are given opportunities and support to remain and excel in education and training and overcome any barriers they may face. They develop communication skills, positive self-esteem and learn about career and educational pathways. Many of them are also involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award through this program.

We have had some very positive feedback from the organisers of the Links to Learning Program. Our students are keen and very well behaved and are willing to engage in any opportunities offered to them to further their skills. Their enthusiasm has led a number of our students to become involved in volunteer work during the school holidays and some of them completing their St John’s First Aid Certificate.

On the day they spent at the Novotel Hotel for their Hospitality Industry Training, Michael Marino, Links to Learning coordinator, commented: “The group was absolutely brilliant; each and every one of them was outstanding, they were well presented and conducted themselves in an impressive manner”.

We commend these students again on their perseverance and great attitude towards the program.

Evia Kyriacou
Illawarra South east Region SRC CAMP

From the 7th to the 10th of April, we attended a regional SRC camp, where representatives from all over our area met to discuss issues, meet new people and develop our leadership skills. The camp was held near Bateman’s Bay and was prominently run by Year 11 student representatives. At the camp we did team and leadership skill building games as well as informative workshops that taught us lifelong skills and dealt with hard hitting issues, such as homophobia and mental health.

The people we met there were like-minded, intellectual and caring people, all of which we got along with and have formed strong friendships. It was great to be in a place where you were surrounded by passionate and intelligent young people.

On the 3rd and 4th day of the camp, the participants broke into groups according to their districts (Wollongong, North Wollongong, etc.). In these groups we discussed what programs, initiatives and events we could put into action throughout our district and region to improve our schools and community. The ideas we thought of were then presented to the entire camp congregation and will be put forward to State SRC and will hopefully be implemented in schools throughout the region. This process was a great opportunity to hear about the problems and issues that our local schools have and, more importantly, gave young, bright kids the opportunity to voice their opinion and make a difference. Overall the camp was an amazing experience that we could not recommend more highly. We came away with broader minds and big ideas and had plenty of laughs and lots of fun along the way. The camp has a great and welcoming atmosphere and we urge younger SRC representatives to volunteer to take part in this great program next year.

Megan Low and Jelena Zaric, Year 10

School Academic Challenge and Excellence (ACE) Program 2013

In Term 3 Figtree High will be offering a unique opportunity for academically capable students to join the Academic Challenge and Excellence (ACE) Program. This opportunity is available to students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. This program allows students to develop and refine their problem solving and research skills.

Students participating in the program will complete a Problem Solving Project (PSP) in which they will be asked to identify a key problem within a topic area and follow a process to create a solution to the problem. Students will be able to choose their own topic, so they will be able to pursue their personal passions and interests while learning valuable research, decision making, literacy and communication skills.

Students, parents and staff are being invited to nominate individuals for the program. All nominated students will then sit for the AGAT (Academic General Ability Test) at a cost of $5. Numbers of places in this program are limited and students will be chosen on the basis of their results in the AGAT. For more information on this test go to [http://www.acer.edu.au/tests/agat](http://www.acer.edu.au/tests/agat).

Nominations should be made to Ms Wood by Friday 31/5/13. Please feel free to call me at the school on 42712787 if you would like to find out more information.

Regards,

Lynn Wood
Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning.

MADDY BROOKSWINS iPAD

The Illawarra Careers Expo was held at the Unanderra Hockey stadium last Tuesday and Wednesday and gave local students throughout the region the opportunity to learn about a variety of careers as well as investigate different study options post school whether it be University, Tafe or private colleges. Thousands of students visited the expo over the two days and all the students that attended were encouraged to complete a survey about the Expo to be in the running to win an iPad. Maddy Brooks from Year 12 was lucky enough to have her name drawn from the many students and was presented with the iPad at a recent year assembly. Congratulations to Maddy, I hope you get lots of value from your new iPad.

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](http://www.figtree-h.schools.nsw.edu.au) located in the ‘Newsletters’ section, under the 2013 link.