Figtree High School
Parent Bulletin
Term 2 Week 9 26th June 2013

COMING EVENTS

26.6.13 P & C Meeting in the Library - 7:30pm
27.6.13 Years 7, 9 and 10 Parent Teacher night
27/28.6.13 Years 11/12: RSA and RSG Courses
28.6.13 Last Day of Term 2
16.7.13 First Day of Term 3
16.7.13 Year 12 HSC Trial Exams Commence
18.7.13 Premier’s Sporting Challenge with CoS Schools
18.7.13 Academic Challenge & Excellence - Workshop 1
22.7.13 Year 11 Earth and Environmental Science Excursion
23.7.13 South Coast Mountain Bike Championships
26.7.13 Academic Challenge & Excellence - Workshop 2
31.7.13 P & C Meeting in the Library - 7.30pm

Principal’s Report

Throughout Term 2, students at Figtree High School have consistently demonstrated our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Safety; both the school setting and through representative activities. We are very proud of the achievements and successes that our students experience through the broad range of curriculum and extracurricular offerings at the school. I would like to congratulate our students on their outstanding efforts and thank the teachers and support staff of the school for facilitating the programs through which our students build confidence, develop skills and experience success. In particular, I would like to mention the Duke of Edinburgh program through which one of our Year 12 students from 2012 was awarded their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. This prestigious award was presented to Janai Velez by the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO. I would like to thank Mrs Kirsten Borst and her ongoing efforts to facilitate student achievement in this internationally recognised program.

The Pierre de Coubertin Award recognises students who demonstrate academic excellence and sporting prowess whilst exemplifying the Olympic values. Kelly Chan (Year 12) was successfully nominated by the school and was presented with her award at the Pierre de Coubertin Awards Ceremony and Olympic Academy at Homebush last Friday.

To support Rhys Kilian’s participation in the National Youth Science Week (NYSW), Pretoria (South Africa), a fundraising trivia night was recently held at the school. The NYSW attracts the best senior science students from all over southern Africa plus six Australians by special invitation. The program showcases top science and engineering career paths ranging from nuclear physics to aeronautical and automotive engineering. From the trivia night, over $3,000 was raised to assist Rhys represent Australia at the NYSA. On behalf of Rhys, I would like to thank Mrs Jenifer English for her organisation and the wider school community for their support of the trivia night.

Student reports for all Year groups have now been issued. The second of our Parent – Teacher evenings will be held on Thursday 27 June in the school auditorium between 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Every student has been issued with a unique login code to request teacher interviews. Interview requests and confirmations can be viewed at http://www.edval.com.au/book

Term 3 will commence on Tuesday 16 July for all students. Teaching staff will be involved in professional development activities on Monday 15 July with a particular focus on the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in 2014. On behalf of Mrs Carol Marshman our Principal, I would like to wish students, staff and their families a safe mid-semester break and look forward to celebrating the ongoing achievements of our students and staff throughout the remaining half of the year.

Mr David C Deitz
Relieving Principal
Figtree High School's Core Values

Focusing on Learning

As this first semester comes to an end, it is an important time for students to reflect on their learning achievements in each of their subjects and take on board the feedback that has been provided by teachers in the half yearly report and through Parent Teacher meetings. We encourage students to set themselves some specific goals to strive for in the second semester.

The Year Assemblies that have been coordinated by the Year Advisers and Student Representative Council members have provide the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of students. Principals Commendations and Year Adviser Awards, as well as subject specific merit certificates were presented to a significant number of students. Students are encouraged to keep these certificates in a safe place so that they can be used to support students in applying for their Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards.

Next term, Year 12 students will be embarking on the final school term of their secondary education. They will begin the term with their Trial HSC Examinations. Students need to ensure they are spending adequate time preparing for these examinations. The NSW Board of Studies website can be used as a study resource: http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au where students can access past HSC examination papers, marking guidelines, online multiple choice questions and notes from the marking centre.

Year 11 Students will be engaged in the final term of their Preliminary courses next term and it is important that students are investing the time, energy and effort into producing their best quality work for assessment tasks. Year 11 students will be receiving a grade for their Preliminary courses at the end of the year and this grade will appear on their ROSA at the completion of their schooling.

Year 8 and 10 students will have some important decisions to make next semester. Year 10 students and their parents will be attending an information session about the Higher School Certificate and curriculum choices and patterns of study in the senior years of school. Year 8 Students and their parents will attend a similar information evening, focused on elective choices for their Year 9 and 10 curriculum pattern of study. When parents and students are making decisions about subjects, it is essential that students consider their strengths, interests and career aspiration. We will provide further information to students and parents about these information evenings as the date approaches.

Ellie Donovan
Deputy Principal

News from PD/H/PE

It has been a very busy and rewarding semester at Figtree High School with sport. We have had numerous teams and individuals perform to a high standard and at all times they have represented our school with pride. We must congratulate all those who have competed in any sporting event and also thank the wonderful teaching staff who accompany these teams.

Pierre de Coubertin Award

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that KELLY CHAN of Yr 12 has been awarded the prestigious Pierre de Coubertin Award. This award is presented on behalf of the Australian Olympic Committee. The award celebrates the Olympic spirit and the ideals of sport and sportsmanship.

The award is named after Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the Modern Olympics, who believed international sports competitions between athletes from different countries would promote a more peaceful world. In addition, the Olympic ideals motivate and encourage all young people to strive for their personal best.

Kelly attended an Olympic Academy day on Friday the 21st June. The Olympic Academy day is an interactive learning experience about the global Olympic movement, its place in Australia, and the virtues of Olympism. Following the Academy she attended the NSW Awards Presentation. Figtree HS would like to Congratulate Kelly on this prestigious award.
More Bill Turner Cup Success!

Figtree’s Under 15 Boys Soccer team have continued on their journey in the 2013 Bill Turner Cup. Outstanding wins over Edmund Rice College and Dapto High School see us into the fourth round for the first time in many years. This year’s team is strong across the field, with quality players working together in great sporting spirit.

The match against Edmund Rice is always tough, and this was no exception with two closely matched teams playing excellent football throughout. While both teams had scoring chances, a clinical strike by Ethan Kambisios had Figtree up one nil at half time. The second half kick-off by Figtree was a planned move in which James Solevski unleashed a shot from inside his own half. The poor keeper had no hope as the ball dipped in under the bar and Figtree were up two-nil! Once the celebrations had settled Edmund Rice turned up their attack, launching repeated unsuccessful raids, but eventually scrambling a lucky goal. Figtree countered with a nice move up the right wing that ended with Emmanuel Kamara slotting Figtree’s third. The last quarter was hectic, with an ERC shot hitting the crossbar, upright, and then the ground just behind the line for their second goal. Increasingly desperate flurries of attack were repelled by the solid Figtree defence until the final whistle and a scoreline of 3-2 to Figtree.

Round three saw us travelling to Dapto, who had seen off some traditionally strong teams in the earlier rounds. A very different game ensued, with Figtree dominating across the field. One way traffic would be a reasonable description as the Figtree boys supplemented their good communication and field sense with subtle touches, long passes and solid challenges. Justin Jauleski opened the scoring, followed by a James Solevski header. Goals flowed freely, with super-sub Chris Popovski knocking his first in within seconds of coming on, and ending up with a hat trick! Evan Baltos scored two, and Emmanuel Kamara one. Final score 8-nil!

We are now into the final four teams in the South Coast Region, already a fantastic effort! Our next opponents are sure to be strong, but this team will be a challenge to all comers and are looking forward to the test.

Mr McGavock

Duke OF Edinburgh News-
Janai Velez - Gold Award!!

Congratulations to Janai Velez, an ex-student of Figtree High School who received her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award on Wednesday 12th June. The award was presented by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO. Marie Bashir spoke of the students receiving their Gold Award as ‘... future leaders of the country, who have shown resilience, self-discipline and perseverance.’

Janai Velez spoke of her experiences … ‘Six hikes and hundreds of hours spent doing community services, physical activities and practicing a skill was acknowledged today when I received my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Duke experience has been rewarding, hard work and a big adventure! More importantly it has pushed me outside my comfort zone to try new things, meet new people and achieve things I never thought possible.’

Other Duke News- Gold Participants

Fifteen Year 12 Gold Duke of Edinburgh students completed their final expedition during first term – a 4 day gruelling hike through the Snowy Mountain region. The group kept positive as the rain yet again made conditions and navigation difficult. Thanks to expert compass work and waterproof clothing (mostly), the group made the trek across rugged, trackless terrain over several days culminating at Mt. Kosciusko (in fog). The Gold students showed determination and great teamwork as well as endurance in what were at times difficult circumstances. The skills, friendships and leadership the students have gained throughout the Award are abilities that should help them in many future endeavours. All Gold students are encouraged to complete the other components of the Program to achieve the Gold Award in the future. I wish them all the best.

EMAILING OF SCHOOL BULLETIN

Due to a major malfunction of the Dept of Education’s email system last week, Figtree High School is no longer able to use the email distribution list for our school bulletin to parents. This week we will be using another database for this purpose. If you did not receive our Bulletin via email this week, could you please notify us on figtree-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au including your child’s name and year.

We apologise for any inconvenience.
Ainsley Hawes (current participant) shares her view of the Duke Program... ‘Throughout the whole experience of Duke of Ed I have gained lifelong skills. The experience was amazing and locations were both beautiful and unpredictable. My favourite place was Fraser Island, although the majority of our camping spots were occupied by dingoes! The whole trip was amazing and the trip to Dreamworld after topped it off. My next favourite destination was the Snowy Mountains. Even though it was very cold and wet, it was a great experience climbing to the top of the 3 highest peaks in Australia. All in all, the DOE is a truly worthwhile program and I would recommend it to anyone.’

**Bronze Duke News**

This year fifteen year 10 students recently completed two overnight expeditions around the Royal National Park. The students worked well as a team – with many aiding others who were injured along the way. The group shared some interesting moments using the essential compass to ‘bush bash’ up steep mountains to find a track as well as coming across a Fish and Chip shop at Waterfall, greatly increasing the shop’s profits for the day! Overall the students should be commended on their teamwork, problem solving skills and development of self-reliance and resilience. Students are encouraged to complete the other components of the Program to achieve the Bronze Award.

**K. Borst (coordinator)**

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**Merit Award System**

Congratulations to the following students who have reached Silver or Bronze level in the school’s merit system during Term 2.

**Silver:** Taran Brassington, Marlena Kuschert (Year 12)

**Bronze:** Seamus Kane (Year 12), Cheri Osborn (Year 8), Jayden Brown, Gabrielle Livingston, Madison Gruevska and Lachlan Milne (Year 7)

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. A merit certificate is also a valuable addition to a student’s resumé.

**Stan Jones and Floris Conway Tennis**

Congratulations to the boys Stan Jones Tennis team who are South Coast Champions after beating Mulwaree High School in the final in Bomaderry last week. The team consisted of Jason Bloomfield, Haydn Hunt, Jayden Smileski, Blayne Sawyer and Aaron Cunningham. It was a nail biter ending as both teams were even on sets at the end of the match and the boys went on to win the final by four games. The team will now travel to West Wyalong late next term to compete in the State Finals.

The girls Floris Conway team which consisted of Lauren Smileski, Ainsley Hawes, Mikayla Frame and Casey Mack, and they competed in the final four South Coast Championships but unfortunately went down to Ulladulla in the semi-final. The girls came third overall and should be proud of their achievement.

Miss N. Popovska
**Year 8 Girls Empowerment day at Nan Tien Temple**

On Tuesday 18th June, Year 8 girls attended an empowerment day at Nan Tien Temple. The guest speaker for the day was Danielle Miller. Danielle is a renowned educator and presenter and founder of Enlighten Education. Danielle’s engaging presentation and activities encouraged and educated the girls in areas such as personal safety, interpersonal skills and self-esteem. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and found it empowering.

‘I had a really fun day with Danni, she taught me that I can feel beautiful no matter what everyone else says.’ .. Ashlee Currinkx

‘I had a really great time because I learnt a lot about self-esteem, learning to get out of bad situations and thinking positive… It was fun too.’… Lauren Pinfold

‘I had a really great day and found it really worthwhile’ … Rachel Burrows

‘I really enjoyed this experience and learnt a lot. It was so inspirational.’ … Ebony Tasker

K.Borst

*PBS prize draw*

Congratulations to **Petar Bojkovic** (Year 12), **Corey Stanton**, **Bailey Blundell**, (Year 11) **Taryn Brunskill**, **Tahlia Popcevski**, **Chloe Winch** (Year 9), **Dayna Brunskill**, **Emily Murphy** (Year 8), **Connor Clarke** and **Jemma Gourlay** (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.

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**The Global Enterprise Challenge**

On June 15th, ten senior Figtree High students participated in the Global Enterprise Challenge. The team started to arrive at the school’s auditorium from 8.00 am on the cool Saturday morning, in readiness for the start of the challenge at 9.00am. The work space was established, computers and monitors set and food laid out in preparation for a busy day.

At the appointed time the challenge was broadcasted through the GEC website. The challenge was to:

‘Develop a business plan to support a local, regional or national tourist attraction, using science and technology to manage the environmental impacts.’

From then, until 9.00pm that evening, thousands of teams from around the world around started applying their skills to develop a business proposal to respond to the challenge. Our team was magnificently led by Year 12 students: Jodie Feld, Ivana Zaric, Rhys Kilian, Taylor Johnson, and Jason Huang, and very ably supported by Savannah Reali, Emilee Colbeck and Brad Heino from Year 11, and Amy Kilian and Jelena Zaric in Year 10. Together they developed a proposal for an adventure challenge attraction. The proposal comprised of a business plan, an eye catching logo, powerpoint presentation, and 3 minute promotional video. It included a range of technological applications to monitor and add to research on the local environment. And it was all submitted by 9.00pm (with 17 seconds to spare!)

This continues a fine tradition at Figtree High School. We have now competed in this challenge for the last 5 years. It is an extra-curricular activity that is highly regarded by both the business community and tertiary institutions. From the perspective of the teachers that acted as ‘guides on the side’ on the day: Mrs. Ramos, Mr. Vatovec and Mr. Joseph; this event was a wonderful team building exercise that bought out the best in a diverse group of students with a wide range of skills. Even though we were not the winners this year, I congratulate the team on developing an impressive proposal in a very limited period of time. We look forward to next years challenge.

The Schools P & C committee has very generously funded the entry to this event. Students and staff would like to thank the parent community for providing us with the chance to participate in this great activity.

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**CIRCUS MONOXIDE OPEN DAY—29TH JUNE 2013 10AM-12PM**

Free workshops and performances for everyone and a bunch of great prizes including a family ticket for a whale watching cruise from Sydney Adventure Cruises and vouchers from Skydive the Beach. Entry by gold coin donation. All bookings and details can be found at www.trybooking.com/52104

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**WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN PROMOTION**

The promotion has now finished so if you still have any stickers, could you please hand them in to the front office.

A big thank you to all the families that have already sent their stickers in the school.