Dear Parents

Student Leaders’ Induction

Next Tuesday 5 March at 11.30 am, we will be holding our student leaders’ induction ceremony. During the ceremony the leaders will receive their personal badges of office and make solemn promises about their leadership. Last week our leaders composed the pledge of office that they will be reading to the school and signing during their induction ceremony. The ceremony will be led by Year 6 announcers and flash mob dancers will perform. After the ceremony there will be a morning tea for our leaders, their parents and special guests.

Whole School Production

In Term 3 of this year we are staging our whole school musical, “Kids at Sea”. This week and last week we have been auditioning during lunch time for speaking parts. Our production is full of colourful characters including; a gypsy, nonviolent pirates, a gloomy old dad and his positive son, a con man, a sultan who fancies himself as an Elvis impersonator, a group of sultanas with attitude, sea monsters, King Neptune who doubles as a game show host, mer people (mermaids and mermen) and some very silly sailors.

As well as the principal characters, specialist singers and dancers, every student will have the opportunity to be part of the production in a series of chorus roles.

**THIS THURSDAY 28 FEBRUARY AT 3.15 pm in the library** we are holding a production meeting for people who would like to help.

GUITAR GROUPS 3-6 – extra curricula

I will be commencing two guitar groups next Thursday 7 March. I have received a number of expressions of interest so we should be able to field 2 groups.

- at lunchtime at 1.15-1.45 pm
- afterschool at 3.15 pm

Both are in the multipurpose room.

Students will need to bring

- their own guitar and a display folder for their work.
- nylon string guitars are best for tender fingers.
- little round coloured stickers as they help with finding the chords.

Anaphylaxis

We have some students who are at risk of anaphylaxis (they suffer from a severe allergic reaction).

All our children are special and have particular needs. These students’ needs are potentially life threatening. **We ask your help to keep them safe by not sending nut-based products to school with your child’s lunch or recess.** These products include peanut butter, loose nuts and muesli, nut or chocolate bars that contain nuts. Products labelled ‘may contain traces of nuts’ generally do not present a threat.

Regards

Maria Williams
**YEAR 6 PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL**

I was fortunate enough to take the Year 6 children up to the connected classroom last Thursday for a conference call with Waratah High School. This gave our children an opportunity to ask questions of current Year 7 students and hear first hand about what to expect as they prepare for their secondary schooling life. The children reported that the experience was extremely worthwhile and definitely helped eliminate some early butterflies.

On Monday 25 of February 2 teachers from the Waratah Technology High School came to our school to deliver taster lessons to our Year 6 students. We started with a science lesson, the children were engaged throughout the experience as they watched various objects dissolve, light up and explode. We then moved outside for a sports lesson. The children worked through a cross fit circuit and found it rather challenging but fun as they did crunches, burpies, squats and sit ups.

Overall, the taster lessons provided the Year 6 students with high school lessons in a familiar environment – the children should be proud of the way they held themselves throughout both experiences. They are a credit to our school.

Miss Palmer

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**Congratulations**

Waratah Public school would like to congratulate Riley 5/6P who was chosen in the 2013 Newcastle Zone PSSA basketball team. Well done Riley.

Miss Palmer

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**Office Receipting**

Due to finance requirements **EFTPOS** payments will only be accepted between 8.30 am—10.30 am and 2.00 pm—3.00 pm. Cash payments are accepted at any time. Correct money can be left in the office mail box in envelopes available at the office.

Thank you for your cooperation

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**All about apostrophes**

Not knowing where to place apostrophes can haunt people for their entire lives. Here’s an easy guide to help your child understand what they mean, how to use them and get them right, now. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z/-/english_glossary/8Qum/551/apostrophe+denoting+ownership](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z/-/english_glossary/8Qum/551/apostrophe+denoting+ownership)

**When older kids struggle with reading**

Should you let your reluctant teen reader
choose magazines over books? If your child is still struggling to read and write, and they’re heading into high school, there are ways to get them on the right page. Find out more:  

**Multiplication times tables**

Does your child need encouragement? Explain to them that learning times tables = instant, painless recall in exams. Here’s School A to Z’s help sheet:


**Sorting fact from fiction**

Help your child develop their “dodgy website” antennae when doing homework. Here are ways your child can tell a good website – or any document – from a bad one. Find out more:


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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

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<th>Day</th>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>28 February</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>1 March</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>A Vega, M Sneddon, S Corrigan</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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**P&C News**

**P&C Supper Meeting- Monday 4 March 6.00 pm**

We are inviting everyone for supper next Monday night 4 March at 6.00 pm in the library. Please come and enjoy a chat and a cuppa. There will a short meeting to follow. If you have anything that you would like to add to the meeting’s agenda please email Anne at a.tempio@bigpond.com or leave a note in the P&C box in the office. The P&C meetings are a great way to have your say on topics related to the P&C and to put forth your ideas.

Everyone is welcome.

**BBQ**

The Woolworths BBQ on the weekend was unfortunately cancelled due to the bad weather. I would like to thank all of the people who volunteered for this event. We will be holding another on 27 July.

**Trivia Night - 6 April**

New Lambton Community Centre. Trivia Night is coming! Start getting your tables of 10 organised. If you don’t have 10 people or need help or information, put a note in the P&C Box and Angela or Annie will be very happy to help. Bring your nibbles and drinks. Trivia Night is the most fun night of the year and there are many great prizes to be won.

Cheers Annie

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PROUD SUPPORTERS OF WARATAH PUBLIC SCHOOL
**EASTER LUNCH TUESDAY 26 MARCH**

A special Easter Day lunch will be held on Tuesday 26 March. If you would like to order please fill in the form and send back no later than Friday 22 March.

**COST** $6.00

Lunch will consist of

- Cocktail fish □
- Salad tub (carrot sticks, cherry tomatoes, celery sticks, orange wedge) □
- Potato nuggets □
- Easter eggs □
- Tartare sauce □
- or tomato sauce □
- Apple juice □
- Orange juice □
- Water □

Name:______________________________
Name:______________________________
Name:______________________________
Name:______________________________

**EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM**

Student Name: _________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________

Mum: H: _____________________ Mob: _______________________ Wk: _______________

Dad: H: _____________________ Mob: ________________________ Wk: _______________

Emergency contact: _____________________________________________________________
(Name and phone)

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Waratah Public School
Recognising and fostering positive student achievement

As was promised last week below is a detailed explanation of our school award system.

**Merit awards.** These certificates are awarded to students by their class teacher at weekly assemblies. They are awarded to students who demonstrate respect, responsibility and strive to do their best.

**Waratah 2RL Awards**
These are formal cumulative awards that are structured by the classroom teacher but dependent on the student demonstrating **respect, responsibility** and commitment to **learning** during the week in every class situation and in the playground.

No student who breaches the code with any staff member, visitor or other student will receive their mini Waratah that week. The student will receive their weekly: tick, star or mini Waratah for demonstrating both positive work habits and attitude during that week.

Considerations include but are not limited to items such as:
- Wearing uniform including wide brimmed hat
- Being respectful to all staff, students and visitors
- Attending lessons punctually
- Doing homework
- Completing all set work to the best of the student’s ability
- Being cooperative
- Playing safely
- Moving sensibly between rooms
- Being responsible for self, belongings and school property
- Sitting quietly in lines.

A student must earn their award for 6 weeks before each certificate is awarded.

Each class will organise a structure to encourage quality work, behaviour and performance. This includes:
1. Compiling classroom rules consequences and rewards,
2. Education of school playground safety rules and ‘Code of Conduct’ and
3. Monitoring and maintaining the structure.

Following six successful weekly reviews a student is awarded a Waratah certificate. When a student has qualified for a sixth Waratah certificate, a gold award is achieved.

The student will wear the gold award badge and be presented with a certificate. A Gold award will also entitle students to
- One free disco admittance,
- An end of year reward such as pizza party, movie, games afternoon (as organised by stage coordinator),
- Commendation in the school newsletter, and
- Commendation in the student’s report

A minimum of 4 Waratah certificates in the current year will be necessary to qualify a student to be nominated as a student leader.

**Organisation**
Each classroom teacher will record and monitor this process.

Each Wednesday teachers will send to the office a class list of students and which award they are achieving i.e., 1st Waratah/2RL, 2nd Waratah. Teachers will need to keep a record of the process.

1st-5th Waratahs will be awarded at weekly assemblies. Recipients will be acknowledged at the whole school assemblies. Gold awards will be awarded at whole school assembly.

**Gotcha Awards**
These awards are to be given liberally

Each student will be issued with a chart on which to glue 10 Gotchas.

After 10 Gotchas are glued on their mat, the student hands these to Miss Palmer (who is relieving as Assistant Principal on Fridays).

The ten Gotchas are replaced by a GOTCHA certificate which has the student’s name and is dated and signed by the AP.

These GOTCHA certificates are awarded at K-2 or 3-6 assemblies.

When 10 of the GOTCHA certificates are awarded the student hands these to Miss Palmer in order to receive a Large GOTCHA certificate and a $2 gift voucher to spend at the canteen. These are awarded at the weekly assemblies.

There is no limit to the number of ‘Gotchas’ a student may receive.

**Citizens of the week**
This is a prestigious award to recognise students who demonstrate exemplary citizenship, upholding the values of Waratah PS all the time. The teacher writes a case for nominating that student and up to one student per stage is chosen per week in Preschool, K, 1-2 and 3-4, 5-6.

Successful students are chosen by the stage coordinator. Teachers are able to re nominate a student who has not received an award.

The award consists of a certificate with the student’s photo. This is awarded at the whole school assembly. A letter of commendation is sent home to the student’s family (with material from the nomination) and a photo of the student is displayed in the foyer.

The students are invited to morning tea with the principal on the Monday following the whole school assembly.
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<td>Zone swimming carnival - Lambton Pool</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>Captains and Prefects</td>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>Guitar groups 1.15—1.45 pm 3.15 pm Multipurpose Room</td>
<td>11.20 School Cross country K-2 Assembly 9.10 am</td>
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<td>Scripture service in the hall</td>
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<td>State swimming carnival</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Annual General Meeting</td>
<td>Zone Cross country</td>
<td>12.20pm-1pm ANZAC Service</td>
<td>Last Day Term 1</td>
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