Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 4 at Waratah Public School. Mrs Williams is unwell and has extended her leave indefinitely. I will be relieving for Mrs Williams and I will keep you updated with any information we receive. She has requested privacy in this difficult time so please be understanding when discussing her circumstances with others. We wish her well and a speedy recovery as we send our thoughts and best wishes to her and her family. Mr Forbes will continue working on 3/4B. Please feel free to contact me or Mr Forbes to make an appointment if you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss.

We have many exciting educational events this term. They include, Kindergarten orientation, swimming school, assessing and reporting, evaluation of programs, and delivery of reports, our pre-school concerts, Year 6—7 transition, and presentation ceremonies. We will also be holding elections for school leaders, a thank you afternoon tea, the Year 6 Farewell and class party days. For a quick perusal, please see our calendar.

**Kindergarten Orientation**
As a part of our Kindergarten orientation our Year 5 students are participating in a Kindergarten buddy preparation program. The students are learning important leadership skills to equip them in being helpful, sensible and supportive buddies for the Kindergarten of 2014.

**K-6 Special Assembly**
This Friday 11 October we will be holding a special K-6 assembly at 11.30 am. Stage 3 students have something special for us. The usual K-2 assembly time of 9.10 am will be the following week. You make us proud when you represent our school.

**CEP Aboriginal Recognition Ceremony**
We congratulate the Stage 3 students recommended for an award at this ceremony on Thursday 10 October. We also have some of our students performing in the dance on the day. Good luck and have fun everyone. We will post some photos on the school website when Mr Lynch returns from his leave.

**Concert Photos and DVD**
Please remember we have copies of photos ($1 each) on display on the staffroom window from the Kids At Sea concert. There is also a copy of the concert available on DVD for $10. If you wish to order some the forms are available to complete and send to the office with the correct

**Importance maintaining commitment and focus**
Term 4 requires optimum focus from all our students in both their work and their behaviour. Important assessments and awards are being organised. Students will need to stay committed to being on their best behaviour, completing class work, homework and participating in home reading. They will need to give their assessment tasks their best effort and they will need to attend school on every school day that they are well.

### Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 11 October</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly 11.30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15 October</td>
<td>2014 Kindergarten Orientation 9.30 -10.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18 October</td>
<td>Due- orders for video and photos from Kids At Sea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 25 October</td>
<td>Book Club due</td>
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money. Orders will be filled after Friday 18 October. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

**NAPLAN 2013—Year 3 and Year 5.**
Envelopes with these years results for NAPLAN will be delivered soon and we will get them out to parents as soon as possible. Please feel free to make an appointment to talk with your child’s classroom teacher to discuss the contents.

**Peer Support**
Each Wednesday at 2.00 pm all students will participate in Peer Support activities led by our Year 6 students. These will be interesting and engaging and run for 30 minutes with a reflection and feedback session at the end. They will continue the lessons for 5 weeks. Good luck Year 6 and I hope everyone else enjoys the activities. Don’t forget to thank your leaders for working so hard.

Regards

Leoni Butler

**P&C News**
The next meeting will be on Monday 4 November in the Library at 6.00 pm. Thank you for your support during the year. On behalf of the P&C I would like to thank the parents who donated gifts and all the parent volunteers for their help this year at our fundraising events:

- Trivia night
- Mother’s day stall
- Father’s day stall
- Woolworths BBQ
- Election day BBQ and cake stall

Without your support these events would not happen. A special thank you to Mr & Mrs Rufo, Mr Mathieson, Miss Palmer, Miss Dodds and Mr Swain. It is lovely to have support from staff. Also thank you to Officeworks and Bunnings Kotara for donating tables to the P&C.

Anne Campbell

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**Shopping Bus Trip**
26 October 2013
Start gathering your friends together for the shopping trip of a life time. Have fun, win prizes and grab some great bargains. Only $55 a seat incl. lunch and morning tea. Don’t miss out on this exciting day!

Please see flyer sent home

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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>19 September</td>
<td>J Sparks, R Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>20 September</td>
<td>D Williams, R Embleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7 October</td>
<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8 October</td>
<td>K Baldwin, K Ellis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>9 October</td>
<td>K Mavridis, J Gee</td>
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KINDERGARTEN AND PRESCHOOL
ENROLMENTS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN FOR 2014
Please contact the school office for an application form

Children must turn 5 before 31 July the year they are attending
Kindergarten
Children must turn 4 before 31 July the year they are attending
Preschool

Getting on track In time

Waratah Public School has another opportunity to participate in the early intervention program Got It! for children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 in 2014. Got It! - Getting On Track In Time is run by local health professionals from the Local Health District in collaboration with the Department of Education and Communities. Got It! aims to teach children emotional resilience and further the development of their social skills to help them better manage their behaviours at school and at home, assisting them to:
- further enrich their family relationships and their opportunities for positive social interactions with peers and friends
- be more available to learning and
- build their potential for maximising life opportunities now and in the future.
The program will be fun and supportive for students and will also offer practical help for parents/carers and teachers.
The Got It! Team will begin working with the school in Term 4 this year to set-up the program for its implementation in Term 1 next year. Parents will be invited to meet the team early next term. As part of the initial set-up phase Parents will be asked to complete a questionnaire to help the team identify which aspect of the program will best benefit their child. The program consists of a classroom component and a separate small group component, which will be delivered in the school in Term 1 2014.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>W 1</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>14 October</td>
<td>7 October Public Holiday</td>
<td>8 October <strong>School Resumes</strong></td>
<td>9 October <strong>Aboriginal Dance Workshop</strong></td>
<td>10 October Aboriginal Recognition ceremony</td>
<td>11 October K-6 Assembly 11.30 am</td>
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**T4 Calendar 2013**


| 4 | 28 October 2014 **Kinder Orientation 9.30 - 10.30** | 29 October 2014 **Kinder Orientation 9.30 - 10.30** | 30 October | 31 October Belinda Muriel author talk 9-10 K-6 classes | 1 November Pre-school Orientation morning 10.00—11.00 |

| 5 | 4 November **Preschool Vision Screening** 6.00 pm Library | 5 November **Preschool Vision Screening** 2014 **Kinder Orientation 9.30 - 10.30 Parents – school counsellor** | 6 November | 7 November **Preschool Vision Screening** | 8 November **Preschool Vision Screening** |

| 6 | 11 November Prospective leaders Speeches **Intensive Swimming** | 12 November **Intensive Swimming** | 13 November **Intensive Swimming** | 14 November **Intensive Swimming** | 15 November **Intensive Swimming** |

| 7 | 18 November Jerral Puppets Preschool All Library Books due **Intensive Swimming** | 19 November **Intensive Swimming** | 20 November **Intensive Swimming** | 21 November Jerral Puppets Preschool **Intensive Swimming** | 22 November **Intensive Swimming** |

| 8 | 25 November | 26 November | 27 November | 28 November | 29 November Thank you afternoon tea 2.00—3.00 |

| 9 | 2 December **P&C Dinner** | 3 December **Canteen student Christmas dinner** Preschool Christmas Concert | 4 December **Scripture service In the hall 9.15 Orientation Day at WTH for Year 6** | 5 December Pre-school Christmas Concert | 6 December |

| 10 | 9 December | 10 December Rehearsals for presentation Day | 11 December **Presentation Day Reports Go Home! Year 6 farewell** | 12 December | 13 December **Last Canteen Day St 2 Party Day** |

| 11 | 16 December K-2 Party day | 17 December St 3 Party Day | 18 December **Students Last Day** 2.30 Year 6 clap out | 19 December SDD | 20 December SDD |
How to talk more with your kids

The links between school achievement and parents’ ability and propensity to talk with kids from a young age is indisputable

If you were to focus on one thing to give your child an advantage then do what should come naturally talk with them.

The links between school achievement and parents’ ability and propensity to engage in conversation with kids from a young age is indisputable.

The language stimulation they receive when they talk with parents is one factor. The language of first borns is generally more extensive and richer than their siblings who spend less time in one-on-one situations with a parent.

But engagement in conversation with parents benefits kids in a far broader sense. It is trite to say that kids learn a great deal from their parents but, in fact they do when we talk with them.

In many ways it is through conversations that kids get a real sense of us and who we are. It is by talking with kids that we impart some of our knowledge, ideas, wisdom and thoughts as well as how we get a window into their worlds and how they think.

Getting conversations going with kids can be a massive challenge. Busy schedules, homes designed for individual enjoyment rather than group living, and kids that clam up are some of the blockers to conversation that parents meet. So you may need to be a little cunning, a little proactive and a little inventive to get some chat going at home.

Here are five ideas to help you get more conversations going in your family:

1. Turn off the TV (and other screens). Most homes have a range of electronic screens that you compete with to get their attention. Don’t be afraid to take control of those screens and create a little conversational space. Start with a screen-free day each week or screen-free hour each day if you are a home full of screen junkies.

2. Turn on the TV (and other screens). If you can’t beat them, join them. Some television programs provide great conversational fodder particularly for older children and teens. This can range from “who’s going to win Australian Idol?”, “what happens to the winners of Australian Idol?” to “what is the point of Australian Idol?”

3. Have more mealtimes (with the TV off). The family that eats together talks together…or they should. I have a theory that families with a strong food culture (i.e. they love food and value the whole eating experience) have strong bonds. So make mealtimes special and insist that kids sit until everyone finishes rather than they eat all their peas. Avoid turning mealtimes into food fights that you can’t win.

4. Move more. If sitting and chatting is not your child’s thing then try getting them up and moving. Boys will often talk when they walk or play so consider getting some action happening. When their hands are busy the tongues will often loosen up.

5. Try shoulder-to-shoulder parenting. Sitting together in a car, washing dishes and playing a game can provide opportunities for talk. Take the eye contact out of the equation and you may find the talk just flows with some kids.

Every family has their own way of getting the talk happening. Figure out what works for you and make sure it happens. It seems to me that the best communication in families happens when no one is working at it BUT in busy modern families you do need to work at communication. That is the way of it. You have to work hard at family.