Thank you

Thank you to all our wonderful staff, students and families for making Term 1 such a successful term. There has been lot’s happening both in and out of the classroom and our students would not have these opportunities without such a great school community. Thank you.

Good Luck

It is with a sad heart that our school says goodbye and good luck to two excellent teachers. Firstly our fantastic Mrs Butler will be moving to another school through promotion. She has been a part of this school for a very long time and has certainly made a very positive impact on the school community, especially the students. Her shoes will be difficult to fill. Secondly our wonderful Mrs Cake will be retiring at the end of this week. Mrs Cake’s expert knowledge, caring and kindness will definitely be missed and the difference she has made to learning for students. We wish both these special ladies all the best on their next journey.

Welcome

We would like to welcome Mrs Jacquie Watsford to the Waratah Public School staff team. Jacquie is replacing Suzie Ward in the Early Intervention classroom. Also for next term we welcome Mr Moore and Miss Kara Biritos onto 2C, replacing Ms Casey during Term 2.

Office News

Banking will close on Friday 11 April at 10.30 am. No money will be receipted after this time.

Thank you
CLIMATE CAM at the Wetlands. Abbie, Imogen, Chloe and Ashleigh represented our school at The Wetland Centre on Monday. They attended a Climate Cam conference with Mr Forbes. Thank you to Abbie’s grandma for driving all the children over there.

‘When the day came we were very excited. Abbie’s grandma took us over and when we got there we checked in and found Mr Forbes. We were allowed to look at all the displays with all the other children from other schools. We were introduced to our teacher for the day and they asked us to brainstorm some ways our school helps the environment. Abbie told them we have an Environment Club. We completed an audit and made our own one. After that we had recess and then we learnt about steam and solar panel energy. Then we got to try our solar powered car. Afterwards, we went back into the first room and learnt about types of power. At the end of the excursion we got to have a go at a bike powered light. After that, we went back to school in Mr Forbes’ car. He bought us an ice-cream.’

Application for opportunity class placement in Year 5 in 2015
Parents seeking opportunity class placement for Year 5 entry in 2015 are required to submit an application by 16 May 2014. Parents are strongly encouraged to give careful consideration to the time taken and modes of transport involved when choosing a school with an opportunity class.

Parents of students currently enrolled in a NSW public school with access to the internet, a printer and their own email address (not the student’s) should apply for opportunity class placement online by going to this internet website: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement. Online applications open on Monday 28 April 2014. All other applicants must complete an official printed application form. Late applications will not be accepted after the closing date of 16 May 2014 except in areas where there is a shortage of suitable candidates.

Application packages will be available in schools from 28 April 2014.

P&C AGM NEWS
Thank you to everyone who attended Monday night’s AGM. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the following people for taking on the 2014 P&C positions below:

Verity Currey – President, Fete Convenor
Richelle Ervine – Treasurer, Uniform Shop Manager
John Henry – Secretary
Susie Niblett – Assistant Treasurer
Kristy Ellis – Fundraising Co-ordinator

Happy Holidays to you all from the P&C.

Congratuations Lachlan!!!
Lachlan (5/6P) was chosen to represent the Hunter in PSSA hockey. He will be going to Canberra in June for competition games. Well done Lachlan, we are proud of you!

School Voluntary Contributions
Contributions have been set at $40 per family for the year. These contributions go towards helping with classroom resources. Payments can be made at the office. Thank you

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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</td>
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**Lunchtime Soccer**

Congratulations to all 12 teams that participated in the lunchtime soccer competition this term. It was great to see teams playing in the true spirit of Waratah Public School. We all had lots of fun and displayed great soccer skills, but most impressive was the sense of fair play that was displayed. Thank you to the teams that went easy on the teachers’ team. Well done to the Team Leaders for hanging in there in a tough job... Thank you to the umpires who turned up every day and especially to Bradley for trying to co-ordinate the draw and the leaders' board. It is a big job! Mrs Butler.

The following is some input from the teams.

**Black Storm** Our team has 8 people in it; Musa, Saint, Jack, Ayden, Zac, Alex, Edgar and me (Joel). We played well and we got good but not good enough to win. We had lots of fun and we had the best team leaders, Nick and Ryley.

**The Beasts** My team has won all the games. On my team is; Ayden, Lara, Jakob, Ryan, Chloe, Isabella, Byron and me.

**The Goannas** In soccer, my team, The Goannas have played but not scored any goals. The players are; Tyrone, Alex, Harrison, Malachi, Koby, Joseph, Jacob, and Ryan. Our Team Leader is Nathan. The team have done well and Harrison is the best player.

**The Super Team** The Super Team players are; Milani, Amelia, Hannah, Janah, Bradey-Ann, Makeisha and Mr Forbes.

**Team Awesome** On our soccer team we have; Shaylee, Katelyn, Kulaia, Tara, Skyler, Helen and me. We played lost a game. We have been training with our Team Leader, Maddy. We have a lot of fun playing soccer and training with Maddy and Layla.

**The Golden Stars** We are the Golden Stars. We have 7 players on our team; Abigail, Faith, Ashleigh, Alyssa, Tayla, Brooke, Imogen and me. It was good playing games and we won 1 game and tied 1 game. Faith, Abigail and Brooke scored the goals. Our Team Leaders were Kane and Sophie.

**The Jaffas** They said we beat the teachers’ team and we didn’t even practise playing soccer. We are on top of the leader board. Thank you Joshua for being our Team Leader.

**The Newcastle Jets** We trained with our Team Leaders Dom, Bohdi and Cooper even though some people wouldn’t listen. Our team was; Amy, Malakai, Sophia, Deacon, Tristan, Hyunwoo and Brock.

**The Tigers** Our team had; Ethan, Will, Bryce, James, Hamish, Harrison, Kristian and Flynn. Our Team Leader was Lachlan.

**The Spikes** Our team had; Taj, Jack, Raymond, Jesse, Samuel, Cooper, Coady and Mr Hoadley. Our Team Leaders were Alex, Matias and Anand.

**The Dominators** Our team had; Travis, Laird, Ryan, Jae, Luke, Cameron and Brock. Our Team Leaders were Alex, Lachlan, Tiahna and Travis.

**The Teachers’** Our team had; Mr Hoadley, Miss Dodds, Mr Forbes, Miss Palmer, Mrs Batcheldor and Mrs Butler.
INSIGHTS by Michael Grose—Australia’s leading parenting educator

Making the most of these holidays

Often family differences are contained during the year but spill over when normal routines cease over the holiday period.

You don’t need an instruction manual to make the most of the school holidays. After all, holidays are about kicking your feet up, relaxing and getting away from the usual routines. Right? But the holiday season can be stressful for many. For parents the prospect of keeping children occupied can be daunting. Holidays can also be a difficult and lonely time for some. Sole parents and step-parents usually experience particular challenges at this time of the year as family catch-ups cause conflict, and disputes can arise over who children spend their time with.

Often family differences are contained during the year but spill over when normal routines cease over the holiday period. Here are some ways to help reduce tension and make the holiday season enjoyable and fruitful for all:

1. Be creative with how arrangements are organised.

If you are flexible with your arrangements as well as your thinking then the potentially tricky times will flow more easily.

2. Mix up the routines.

The best part about holidays is the change from the routines of school-life. Some kids feel comfortable with the routines of school-life and can feel a little lost until the new holiday routine kicks in. Be patient with these routine-junkies! Also make sure you begin adjusting the routine as returning to school comes closer so kids are prepared for going to bed and getting up at earlier times.

3. Mix ‘me’ time with ‘them’ time.

Plan a mixture of outdoor activities or trips with quiet at-home activities where you can relax and recharge your own batteries. The holidays give you a chance to spend time as a family but you also need to take some time for yourself each day. It helps to let your kids know that you are having some timeout too.

4. Resist being your child’s home entertainment machine.

Give children opportunities to keep themselves occupied or think of inexpensive, fun ways to keep themselves amused.

“I’m bored” is an invitation for kids to keep themselves occupied rather than for you to keep them amused.

5. Team up with other families.

Whether it is sharing celebrations with other families or just holidaying with friends, holidays offer the chance to broaden your child’s social circle.

Make sure you provide the three types of activities that children want with their parents—i.e. rituals and celebrations, including family mealtimes; one-on-one activities where you spend some time alone with each child; and unstructured, impromptu activities such as playing simple games, story-telling and walks around the neighbourhood. These are important relationship-building activities that bind families together and enable you to build up emotional collateral with kids as they move into adolescence.

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www.parentingideas.com.au