School Strategic Directions 2015
- Consistent, high quality student learning.
- Consistent, high quality teaching and leadership.
- Cultivate consistent, high quality collaborative processes within the Whitebridge Community of Schools to enhance the quality of teaching, learning & leadership.

What's Happening This Week
Week 3
Mon 4 May - Creative Arts Groups
- P & C Meeting 7pm
- John Costolo Long Service Leave
Tue 5 May - Staff Meeting
- Scripture & Ethics Classes
- Rosalie Returns From Leave
Wed 6 May - Executive Meeting
- Staff training
- Mother's Day Stall
- Terina Returns From Leave
- Combined Schools ANZAC Service
Thurs 7 May - Paul Kelly Cup
- Learning Support Team
Fri 8 May - Mother's Day Assembly
- Regional Cross Country
- Assembly Item 1H

P&C Meeting
Our P&C group will hold their next meeting tonight, Monday 4 May in the school Library commencing at 7.00pm. The agenda of this meeting will include:
- Finalising School Uniform
- School Service for Charlie
- Planning Towards Creative Arts Day
- Future Fundraising Events
- General Business
- School Plan 2015-2017
- Committee reports

Our P&C are very keen to gain the support and input of new parents as well as our continuing parents. Please come along and help support your children’s school through the fantastic efforts of our P & C.

Zone Cross Country Results
What an exceptional effort from our 32 strong team that took on the competitors from 23 other schools in the East Lake area at the Zone Carnival last Thursday. Our talented long distance runners performed strongly on the day, despite quite muddy conditions. A high percentage of our runners finished in the top 25%. Thank you to Kate Sullivan, Larissa Tweed and parents for supporting our team on the day.

Regional Cross Country Team
The following students were successful in selection for the East Lake Macquarie Zone Team to compete at the Hunter Championships which will be held this Friday at the Broadmeadow Race Track: Joseph Gillard who placed 1st, Emmy Ormandy 2nd, Matisse Murray 3rd, Leah O'Hagan 3rd, Ella Osborne 4th, Cian O'Hagan 4th, Jemma Pollard 5th and Brodie Wright 6th.

Staff Long Service Leave
Commencing today John Costolo will be on 4 weeks leave in America. Alicia Reed will replace him on 3/4CP class. Rosalie Clements returns from leave this Tuesday. Thank you to
Cheryl Morris & Heather Johnston for relieving in the office.
Terina Parmenter returns from leave this Wednesday. Thank you to Larissa Tweed who has replaced Terina on classes.

School ANZAC Service
Last Friday class 3/4M presented the school ANZAC Service in the Fairleigh Hall, led by Karen Murphy. They presented a very informative and symbolic service that certainly amazed the audience. The Catafalque Party of soldiers and Jock Hardman on bagpipes certainly grabbed attention. Congratulations to 3/4M and Karen Murphy for a fabulous presentation.

Mother’s Day Stall
Our Mother’s day stall will be held this Wednesday 6 May. Thank you very much to the families who have already sent in donations of gifts, they are much appreciated! However, to ensure that all children will get the opportunity to purchase a gift, we need more donations e.g., Chocolates, coffee mugs, plants etc. All donations can be left in the box in the school foyer by tomorrow to give the ladies time for wrapping and pricing. For our new parents, students bring some money to school (approx. $5.00) on the Wednesday and their class will have a chance to go shopping at the P&C stall to buy mum a present for Mother’s Day.

Mother’s Day Assembly
Our Mother’s day assembly will be held this Friday 8 May from 10.35am in the Fairleigh school hall. During the assembly 1H will perform and classes will read/show some of their Mother’s Day work. It will be a special assembly for our students who always enthusiastically show the special love they have for their mums. All parents are invited to join us for this assembly.

Combined Schools ANZAC Service
This Wednesday 6 May we will take our Year 6 students to the rescheduled Newcastle Combined Schools ANZAC Service. This will be held at the Civic Theatre, Newcastle with students departing by bus at 9.00am and returning around 12 noon. This special service is for students Year 5 - 9 and provides students with a greater understanding of the meaning of ANZAC Day. It is presented creatively by high school students and our senior students have valued the experience in past years. Bus costs will be subsidized by Dudley PS. We sent home a revised permission note last week to parents, and these need to be returned as soon as possible.

Paul Kelly Cup
Our Stage 3 has two 12 a-side teams competing in the Paul Kelly Cup AFL competition this Thursday 7 May. They will travel by parent cars to Tulkaba Oval, Teralba departing school at 9.00am and compete in a round robin format using smaller fields and will play a minimum of 3 games at the carnival. Our teams will be coached and supported by Jason Horadam.

What’s Happening Next Week
Week 4
Mon 11 May - Kinder Readiness Night
- Star Struck Rehearsal
- Creative Arts Groups
Tue 12 May - NAPLAN Testing
- Staff Meeting
- Scripture & Ethics Groups
Wed 13 May - NAPLAN Testing
- Learning Support Team
- Asthma Student Training
Thurs 14 May - NAPLAN Testing
- Executive Meeting
Fri 15 May - Assembly Item 1/2S
- Principal’s Training Day
- Star Struck Rehearsal
Sat 16 May - Healing Haven Markets

School Readiness Night Invitation
Come and meet with other parents, pre-school staff and public school staff and have your questions answered...legal requirements, age,
milestones in development, social skills, speech and language!

Guest speakers
Dorte Bladt—Chiropractor
Michelle Batey—Speech Therapist
Rachel Elliott—Occupational Therapist

WHEN: MONDAY 11 MAY 2015
TIME: 7.00PM TO 8.45PM
PLACE: CHARLESTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL
RSVP: YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL OR PRE-SCHOOL BY THURSDAY 7 MAY

Refreshments will be provided. We hope to see you there!

NAPLAN Tests
This week all Year 3 & 5 students throughout Australia in public and private schools will complete the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing. The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standards.

On Tuesday students in Years 3 & 5 will complete Language Conventions and a Writing test, each 40 minutes in length. Wednesday they will complete the Reading test of 45 or 50 minutes and Thursday will include a Numeracy test of 45 or 50 minutes. We will use Friday as a “catch-up” day for students who may have been away for a test.

Asthma Training
We have quite a large number of students at Dudley PS who suffer from asthma whom we support with this condition at school. This year we have requested all parents complete the new Asthma Action Plan and send back to our school office. We keep these plans together asthma puffers for our students who may require these, in our sick bay.

This Wednesday we have organized a student asthma session for all classes. This will be run by Asthma Foundation NSW and will be run in stages for 30 - 60 minutes. These sessions are designed to teach primary students about asthma is; what it looks like and feels like to suffer from an attack; who gets asthma and what to do if you or another student has an asthma attack.

3/4M with the Catafalque Party after the School ANZAC service.

Star Struck Rehearsals
Our senior dance group will perform in the Star Struck production again this year. They are being led by Sonja Wild and will complete two full day rehearsals next week on Monday 11 May at the Forum, Newcastle University and next Friday 15 May at the Newcastle Basketball Stadium.


Creative Arts Day Preparations
At the end of last term a note was sent home to those parents who are volunteering in the classrooms for the fast approaching Creative Arts Day to be held on Tuesday 26 May. This note explained what will happen on the day and also requested information from these volunteers. I fully appreciate that the return to school this term has not been easy, however, I need these notes returned as soon as possible to assist me in the planning for the very busy day that Creative Arts Day is. If you no longer have the note, please contact the school office and they can give you another copy.

Thank you, Maureen Piper

Dudley After School Care
Our Dudley After School is now operating every afternoon in our old school hall. This is being run by the community arm of the C3 Church Victory. If you require any additional information please contact the school office or
the organisers at the church on 4922 6800 or mobile 0400 722 582.

**Healing Havens Markets**
Every third Saturday the healing Haven markets are held in the grounds of our school. This market promotes health, harmony, wellbeing, spirituality and holistic health. The markets operate from 9am to 2pm and our P&C would to operate a BBQ as a P&C fundraiser at these markets, perhaps twice a term. If you can assist in any way, please contact:
Kathy Sloss on 0433 516 777.

**P&C Funding**
Our P&C group continue to strongly support our school, and assist financially with much needed resources and programs to assist all our students.
During the 2014—2015 period they have provided the following assistance:
- Reading Eggs 2014 Online Program - $1,500
- Student Accident Insurance - $1,190
- Presentation Day Book Prizes - $1,000
- Sporting Trophies - $300
- Wireless Upgrade to school - $5,000
- Purchase of ipads - $5,000
- Book Week Library Vouchers - $330
- New Water Bubblers for the school - $3,950
- Reading Eggs 2015 Online Program - $1,500
- Mathematics Resources - $1,390
This is grand total of over $21,000, towards these vital resources for our school and students and we would like to thank them for this outstanding support.

**Australian Early Development Census**
During May, our school will be taking part in the Australian Early Development Census. This is a nationwide census which focuses on early childhood development and will assist our school and community in understanding how children develop before they start school. It is hoped that it will highlight what is being done well and what can be improved upon.
This Friday our Kindergarten teachers will complete the online census on our Kinder students, recording information based on their knowledge and observations of each child in their class. I have arranged release for these teachers to enable them to complete this important survey. Today I will send home to our Kindergarten parents further information regarding this survey.

Congratulations to these students who will now compete at the Regional Cross Country.

**State Tennis Representative**
Tristan Clinton-Muehr was selected in the Regional Tennis Team to compete at the State Tennis titles last week. This is a remarkable achievement, and follows in the footsteps of the only other student at Dudley, Katie Fing, to compete at this level. Tristan competed very well and the team placed in the top ten. Well done!

**Special Group Photos**
We are just waiting for the final group photos to come through, then they will be displayed in the school foyer. Should you wish to purchase any of these photos you will need to order them as follows:
- go to www.newcastleschoolportraits.com
- then go to past shoots
- the school purchase code is 58089AZ
  (it may ask you to enter this twice)
Cost of the photos is $13.00 each.

**Chess Competition**
Last Friday students from our school competed in the Interschool Chess Competition held at the Hunter School of Performing Arts.
Our students performed exceptionally well and placed fourth overall, with Leah O’Hagan receiving an individual medal for her well earned equal 5th place.

Pictured above Cooper Hunt and Oscar McGill competing in the Chess tournament last Friday.

Leah O’Hagan proudly wearing her medal

Congratulations to these students who will now compete at the Regional Cross Country.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE
As an ex-house dad, I take my hat off to mothers.

When I was busy at work I would often think about what my wife must be doing. I used to conjure up an image of her playing happily with my three-year-old son in the sandpit at the local playgroup while the other two children slept peacefully nearby. With these images at the front of my mind I thought motherhood sure beat working for a living.

Many years ago I discovered how far from the truth my notion of motherhood really was when my wife and I swapped roles. I must confess that two of the children were at school so I had it easier than my partner but it was as close as I could get.

The first thing I learned was that while I may be the primary carer I could never be a substitute mother to my children. Take sickness or illness for example. When one of the kids was off-colour, had a cut or bruise or just needed some tender loving care they headed straight for their mother. Dad may do in the meantime, but I was a pale imitation of the real thing, their mum, when it comes to dispensing comfort. I could give them just as good a hug as any female. It is just that their mum was well ... their mum. It is as simple as that.

I also learned there are some things that fathers can't do as well as mothers. In my case it was fixing my daughters' hair. The first time I put my youngest daughter's hair in a plait she cried. Not from pain, just the embarrassment of being seen in public with a hair-do that looked like a piece of knotty, old rope. It became accepted in my house that 'dads don't do hair'.

I soon appreciated the unique skills that mothers develop if they are to survive the rigours of parenting on a daily basis. In particular, mothers seem to have the uncanny knack of doing three jobs at once while dealing with noisy or whingeing children.

**Multi-task masters**

Anyone who can cut a round of sandwiches, prepare breakfast for a family, find a missing pair of socks for tiny feet while making sure everyone is on track, has my vote. I have trouble getting myself dressed in the morning, let alone worrying about anyone else.

There is no place in a mother's repertoire for tunnel-vision or focusing on one task at a time. These are luxuries reserved for the workplace, not the family home. The fact that kids are noisy, demanding and often unpredictable means anyone who spends a fair time in their vicinity must be flexible, patient and able to keep cool under extraordinary pressure. Qualities I still don't possess.

Take cooking for example. The job of preparing a decent meal wasn't too hard. I could – and still can – usually produce something quite edible with a minimum of fuss. However, rarely did I have the chance to cook in isolation. There was always a child interrupting, asking for help or just wanting to chat. Not to mention fitting cooking around bathing, hearing kids read or picking them up from sports practice.

An increasing number of mothers do full-time paid work then come home for their second shift of parenting. Any mention to these mothers of my trials with the juggling act, simply evokes a shoulder shrug and a 'welcome to the real world' look.

If anyone says that motherhood is not like real work, send them my way. After many years of being the primary parent to my children – usually the preserve of women – I can really set them straight. It's hard yakka that largely goes unrewarded. Happy Mother's Day!