School Priority Areas 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 5, Term 3
Mon 10 Aug - Stage 3 Zone Public Speaking
- Kinder Parent Interviews
- Creative Arts Groups
- Ukulele Group Performance
Tues 11 Aug - Scripture & Ethics Classes
- Stage 2 Zone Public Speaking
- Maths Competition
- Yr 5 Robotics WHS
Wed 12 Aug - Zone Athletics Carnival Day 1
- WCoS AP Meeting
Thurs 13 Aug - Kinder Zone Public Speaking
- Zone Athletics Day 2
- Executive Meeting
Fri 14 Aug - Assembly Item - Stage 1 Choir
- Stage 1 Zone Public Speaking

Uniform Changes
The school community was surveyed on some aspects of our current school uniform earlier in the year. Based on the feedback from that survey, girls will wear white socks and boys will wear black socks. Also, the girl’s checked shorts will be phased out and replaced by black skorts. All other uniform items remain the same. As with any uniform change, there will be a two year phasing out period.
An updated school uniform list will be sent to families shortly.

Woolworths Earn and Learn
Dudley PS is currently participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school – and all we need you to do is collect stickers when you shop for your groceries at Woolworths.

Congratulations to Ava Doyle who received her Principal’s Award for effort with class and outstanding getting along skills.

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, you will be able to collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. You will get one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards). Place the Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet and when it’s completed it can be dropped into the Collection Box in the school foyer. If needed blank Sticker Sheets can be found next to our Collection Box in the school foyer.

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students – including resources for Maths, English, Science as well as some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library. If you’d like to know more visit woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn.

Dudley Senior Ukulele Group will be performing at Nara Thai Restaurant, Charlestown tonight at 6.30pm. All welcome.
Zone Public Speaking
This week our very talented public speakers will present their speeches at the Zone Public Speaking. These students have worked very hard practicing their speeches and have presented their speeches in front of the whole school in preparation for this event. We wish the following students all the best when presenting their speeches:
Early Stage 1: Lilly Spruce & Lachlan Gonzalez
Stage 1: Annika Ash & Gabby Reid
Stage 2: Matisse Murray & Jacob Gonzalez
Stage 3: Elvie Tattersall & Monet Murray

Zone Athletics Carnival
This week our team of 37 students will compete at the East Lakes Zone Athletics Carnival at Baxter Field, Marks Point on Wednesday and Thursday. They will be supported by Kate Sullivan, Jackie Winter and Samantha Johnson (Intern Teacher 3/4CP).
Kate Sullivan will be running this zone carnival for the 29 schools and I thank her for this enormous effort. Our P & C is running the canteen on both days, also a huge job and thank you to our parent helpers.
Students are travelling by parent cars on both days and we wish them the very best.


Spelling Bee Champs
Congratulations to the winners of our school Spelling Bee competition. Stage 2 - Mia Chisholm & Liam Lieschke and Stage 3 - Monet Murray & Olivia Sdao. They will represent our school at the regional final on Tuesday 8 September at Hamilton PS.

Principal’s Award – Week 4
Congratulations to Xanthe Calov who received her Principal’s Award for her diligent efforts with all classwork and being an excellent role model.

Maths Competition
We have 29 students in Years 3 - 6 who will complete the Mathematics competition this Tuesday 11 August. This is a 45 - 60 minute test of multiple choice questions which will be completed in our school library. Good luck to the following students: Maeve Baker, Elsie Croal, Kienna Clegg, Oliver Gillard, Riley Osborne, Kaman Pappas, Brodie Wright, Sam Bloomfield, Eloise Flynn, Oscar McGill, Ruby Buckeridge, Ava Campbell, Milani Clegg, Maggie Croal, Joseph Gillard, Skye Lyddiard, Cian O’Hagan, Ella Osborne, Bailee Pappas, Georgia Chenhall, Tristan Clinton-Muehr, Annie Croal, Oscar Deamer, Isabella Milajew, Monet Murray, Holly Ormandy, Leah O’Hagan and Jayden Wright.

Kinder Parent Interviews
Today, Monday we held the first of two days of interviews with the 2016 Kinder parents. Sonja Wild and I are meeting with all our new kinders and their parents to gain an information snapshot of these new students. We have 41 students presently listed to meet with over these two days.
Debating
Our Year 6 Premier’s debating team amazed the school last week with their 4th win in our group of schools. They went up against Jewells PS who had also achieved 3 wins and debated strongly to win a very close battle.

They now proceed to the Regional Knock-out round against Gosford PS which will be held in the Fairleigh Hall Friday 14 August.

Congratulations to Leah O’Hagan, Monet Murray, Annie Croal & Isabella Milajew.

Both our Year 5 Train-on Debating teams also completed debates last week against Kahibah and the Junction. Their skills & confidence continue to grow and they are debating strongly. Special thanks to Felicity Bloomfield for coaching our teams and Jason Horadam for organizing debates.

Our amazing Premier’s Debating team.

School Disco
Our Term 3 Disco will be held next Wednesday 19 August in the Fairleigh school hall. We have the international presenter “DJ Algorithm” who will run the disco. He was a great sensation in 2014!

Our SRC group have decided that the theme for this disco will be dress in a favourite sports team or just dress casually.

The sessions are as follows:
5.00 - 6.30pm K - 2 students cost $5.00
6.45 - 8.30pm Yr 3 - 6 students cost $5.00

The cost will include a drink and a packet of chips, therefore children won’t require other money on the night. Class teachers will supervise each session and we look forward to another fun evening. Parents are asked to collect their children from under the Fairleigh Hall COLA and sign them-out on the list.

From the Library…
Book Week Celebrations
What a great day, enjoyed by many. Thankyou to our whole school community for their continued effort and support in making this such a wonderful experience for everyone involved. It really is inspiring to be part of this fabulous school.

The PRC finishes next Thursday 20th August for all students. We began 2015 with over 200 students registered. At the moment we have 130 finished their reading – that leaves at least 70 to finish – and 10 days to do it! Can we do it – of course we can! Any problems, don’t hesitate to see Mrs Warren.

Author and Illustrator Visit
On Thursday 20th August our students are in for a very special treat. Jess Black, a local children’s author, and Liz Anelli, an illustrator now based in Newcastle are both visiting our school and holding workshops for all our classes. The P & C is generously supporting this day to help with the costs, which means each child can attend both workshops for the low cost of $3, which is certainly great value. The $3 will be collected by class teachers, and we are hoping it can be paid by Thursday 13th August.

Links to both ladies’ websites are: www.jessblack.com.au, and lizanelli-illustration.com.
If anyone is interested, Jess Black will have some books available for purchase on the day or by order at $15 each.
Premier’s Spelling Bee
Last week we held a school spelling bee for stage 2 and 3 students to select our school representatives for the Premier’s Spelling Bee.
This was interestingly on the same day that the spelling bee program commenced on television.

Congratulations to the winners of our school Spelling Bee competition. Stage 2 - Mia Chisholm and Liam Lieschke and Stage 3 - Monet Murray and Olivia Sdao. They will represent our school at the regional final on Tuesday 8 September at Hamilton PS.

Camp Reminders
Our year 5/6 Canberra/Snow Excursion is fast approaching with students departing on Tuesday 25th August. The next instalment of $110 is due on 7th August. This is also the date by which payments should be finalised. Please call the office ASAP if there are any issues finalising by this date.

- Year 3 Camp to Toukley—Instalment No. 2 of $40.00 was due on Friday 7th August.
- Year 4 Camp to Sydney—Instalment No. 3 of $70.00 is due on Friday, 21 August.

ALL MEDICAL NOTES FOR THESE CAMPS SHOULD BE RETURNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Cricket Registrations
Cricket registrations will be held from 11 August to 20 August 2015 at Kahibah Oval.

To get more kids into cricket there are changes to the structure of junior cricket this year.

There will be the regular Saturday morning cricket for U11s to U16s.

Midweek there will be T20 blast for 8-12 year olds. Games last 90 minutes and all equipment is provided.
Looking for Fitness? Strength? Discipline? Self Defence?
Looking for Co-ordination? Self Control? Confidence?
Looking for Flexibility? Speed? Respect? FUN?

Then look no further…

SOUTHERN CROSS TAE KWON DO ACADEMY
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For Men Women & Children
(From 5 yrs+)

Classes at...

CARDIFF
John Young Community Hall
Thomas Street
Mon: 5.30 – 6.30pm

DUDLEY
Dudley Vintage Hall
96 Ocean Street
Tues: 5.30 – 6.30pm

THE JUNCTION
St Josephs School Hall
182 Union & Kenrick St
Tues: 5.45 – 6.45pm

HAMilton
Hamilton South Public School
Jenner Pde
Thurs: 5.45 – 6.45pm

WallSEND
Callaghan College
Cnr Minmi & Macquarie St
Mon: 5.30 – 6.30pm

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For Appointments Ph: 4971 6901
6 Mitti St Blacksmiths

Pamphlet containing Timetable and Workshops are available from School Office
Do you let your kids amaze you?

“I’m amazed at what children CAN do when given the opportunity and encouragement. I love the pride, confidence and sense of purpose/pleasure in contributing, each new skill achieved brings. The smiles are awesome too.”

A mother left this comment on our Facebook page recently in response to our post: “What would be the impact if you did less, not more for your children?”

Lovely answer!

It got me thinking that the joy that this mother took from watching her children develop independence was no accident. Her parenting style played a large role in her children’s independence. All power to her and her parenting style!

I’ve long believed that adults are the gatekeepers for children’s independence.

We open the gate to independence when we give children opportunities to develop self-help skills (carry their own schoolbags, get themselves up in the morning, tidy their own rooms); provide them with real responsibility (feeding pets, setting the meal table and preparing meals) and give them autonomy to make some of their own decisions (choosing clothes within limits, following own interests, making choices about pocket-money spending).

We close the independence gate when we do too much for children (tidy their toys away, pack their schoolbags, make simple snacks); rescue them from learning opportunities (take forgotten lunches to school, sort out their friendship problems, pay their library fines) and neglect to build scaffolds to independence (such as help them make their bed, walk half way to school, teach them to ride public transport).

It’s a quirk of parenting that many children think they are older than they are, and parents think their children are younger than they are. We underestimate children’s abilities to the detriment of their development.

Are you an opener or closer of the gate to children’s independence?

Think of independence as a continuum with opening the gate and closing the gate at either end. If your parenting is more at the closing end then look for ways to move down the continuum towards independence building. My advice is to make small adaptations to your parenting. For instance, start with a child making their own snacks before moving to helping you to prepare a meal. But first you need to develop a mindset for independence building. That means, be on the lookout for opportunities for children to do things for themselves.

As many readers will know I firmly believe that the job of parents is to make ourselves redundant from the earliest possible age of a child’s life. That means, that our interactions with kids have an endgame in mind – we want our kids to be able to stand on their own two feet physically (Don’t we get a kick out of them walking for the first time!), emotionally (with support, of course) and to navigate their world without being reliant on others.

There is no better feeling as a parent than watching your child beam with joy and pride when they’ve mastered a new skill, overcome a challenge or conquered a fear. It’s those times that make parenting so worthwhile. Those awesome smiles won’t happen by accident. They require a parenting style that gives kids a chance to be independent; that encourages them to be brave and offers them the safety net of emotional support when life throws them curve balls. Why not try it? Give your kids a chance to amaze you.

If the idea of promoting real independence in kids enthuses you then join me at Parentingideas Club where week in and week out I’ll show you how to raise kids that will amaze you. Find out more.