School Strategic Directions 2016

- Consistent, high quality engaging learning to provide student success as learners and leaders.
- Consistent, high quality educational practices and student learning driven by assessment evidence in line with the Australian Curriculum
- Cultivate consistent, high quality collaborative processes within the Whitebridge Community of Schools to enhance the quality of teaching, learning and leadership.

What's Happening This Week

Week 5, Term 1

Mon 22 Feb - Zone Swimming
Tues 23 Feb - Learning Support Team
- Scripture and Ethics
Wed 24 Feb - Final Kinder Mid-Week Break
- Creative Arts Groups Begin
- Zone Swimming Day 2
Thurs 25 Feb - SRC Meeting
- Staff Training
Fri 26 Feb - Assembly Item 5-6S
- L3 Teacher Training
- Stage Sport

Zone Swimming

Today students who qualified for the Zone Swimming Carnival competed in heats of backstroke, butterfly, 100m and medley events from 11.30am - 3.00pm at the Swansea Swimming Pool. Kate Sullivan and Peter Adams attended to support students.

Day two of the carnival will be held on Wednesday 24 February. This involves the finals of the above strokes, freestyle races and relays, which will run from 9am - 3pm at the same venue, with John Costolo and Kate Sullivan supporting on the day.

Our team have been explained the ruling about false starts which result in disqualification at this zone carnival

We wish all our talented swimmers a great carnival and expect to hear that some personal best times are achieved.

Congratulations to Flynn Marks who received his Principal’s Award for excellent efforts with classwork and great getting along skills.

Congratulations to Hannah Snow who received her Principal’s Award for reliable, respectful, creative and diligent classwork.

Kinder Final Mid-Week Break

This Wednesday will be the final Kinder mid week break. Our Kinder teachers have been completing Best Start individual testing of each Kinder student in literacy and numeracy areas. We have been delighted with the excellent start all our kinders have made to their schooling experience.
Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all students in Years 3 - 6 for their excellent efforts at the swimming carnival. All students were actively involved in the carnival and we had good weather on the day. Special thanks to John Costolo and Kate Sullivan for their wonderful organisation at the carnival and to our group of hard working parents.

Following are the results:

1st place - Shortland, 2nd place - Curry
3rd place - Jeffries, 4th place - Macquarie

Junior Girls - 1st Lara Horvath, 2nd Isabelle Spruce, 3rd - Kienna Clegg
Junior Boys - 1st Brodie Wright, 2nd Kaman Pappas, 3rd Sam Evans

11 Years Girl - 1st Emmy Ormandy, 2nd Jordan Byrne 3rd Jemma Pollard.
11 Years Boy - 1st Sam Bloomfield, 2nd Liam Lieschke, 3rd Fintan Butterfield
Senior Boy - 1st Saij Carson, 2nd Max Kindleysides, 3rd Jonah Finlay and Tom Bailey

New Records

Brodie Wright - 10 Years freestyle, Junior breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly events.
Isabelle Spruce - 8yrs freestyle
Lara Horvath - 9 Years freestyle

Thank you to all staff for their wonderful efforts at the carnival and to the many parent and grandparent supporters on the day. Congratulations to the parent relay team for their great win.

The “Tell Them From Me” student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey for Years 5 and 6. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


Congratulations to the Swimming Age Champions pictured above.

Pedestrian Safety at Dudley PS

Our student’s safety arriving and departing school is being threatened by parent cars at the Boundary St pedestrian crossing with the following:

1. Parents dropping children off in the pedestrian crossing.
2. Parents doing U-turns in or beside the pedestrian crossing (please drive down the end of Boundary St to complete the U-turn safely).
3. Parking in the pedestrian crossing on both sides of the road (children crossing can not see around the car to cross safely).
4. Parents using the staff carpark entry to drive in and reverse out of to complete their turn, which is very dangerous to children walking past the entry.

Please stop these dangerous practices and help protect the safety of our students.

Congratulations to the winning house at this year's Swimming Carnival...... Shortland
What’s Happening Next Week

Week 6

Mon 29 Feb - CTC Program Day 2
Tue 1 Mar - Scripture and Ethics
- WCoS Staff Meeting
- Learning Support Team
- Basketball Clinic Day 2
Wed 2 Mar - Creative Arts Groups
- Yr 5 Chinese Lesson
- PRC Information Session
Thurs 3 Mar - Regional Swim Carnival
- Staff Training
Fri 4 Mar - Assembly Item 4-5B
- School Sport
- Ride To School Day

Communication Training in Classrooms (CTC)
CTC is a speech pathology program for staff development and student support. Bronwyn Fraser, a speech pathologist will complete 5 days (one per fortnight) this term. She will conduct screening assessments on identified students and train teachers in identifying and managing children with communication difficulties. Our school will commit $2300 of school funds to implement this important program. Monday 29th February will be the second day of this program.

Basketball Clinic
Our Year 3 - 6 classes will complete their second basketball clinic next Tuesday 1 March. These will be conducted by Sophie Kleeman and Christopher Harrold from the Newcastle Basketball Development Team. Each class will have an individual class workshop for 45 minutes on each day at a cost of $5.00 for both days. The emphasis will be to develop student fundamental skills in basketball. The first basketball clinic received great reviews from students and teachers.

Student Book Packs
We still have a number of outstanding payments for student book packs, which were purchased with school funds. These costs were outlined at the start of term and we need parents to complete payment by the end of Term 1. Please contact our school office if you have difficulty in making payment before the end of term.

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From the Library…..
Do we have the most amazing Kindergarten students on the planet? We certainly do! In just a couple of weeks they have settled extremely well into our library routine, always displaying beautiful manners and listening skills. They are a pleasure to teach!

A reminder that library bags are essential for K-2 students, and also important for 3-6 students.

Our Library Days are listed below:
Tuesday:  KJ, KS, 1-2S + 2B
Wednesday:  3-4M, 3-4CP + 5-6H
Thursday:  1H, 3-4R, 4-5B + 5-6S

The Premier’s Reading Challenge
I’ve have had lots of student enquiries about the Premiers Reading Challenge 2016, which officially begins in March.
The following excerpt is from the PRC Website:

“The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely”.

It is time to register – so please refer to the note which will come home soon! For our Kindergarten students, and new students to Dudley, you will find a great selection of PRC books in our library – just waiting for you to read.

So how do you get involved:
1. Return the signed parental permission note to the library – there is a PRC box in the library foyer
2. After you have returned the note you will be given a reading log
3. Write the PRC number and title of each book you read (or shared reading for K-2)
4. When you have read 7, 14 and 20 books (Years 3-6) or 10, 20 and 30 books (Years K-2) bring your log to the library and you will receive a School Merit Award.
5. The reading log must be entered online as well. You can do this as you read or wait until you’ve finished the Challenge.

The PRC officially begins on the 7th March and closes on the 19th August for students.

For those interested, I will be holding a PRC Information Session in the Library at 3:15pm on Wednesday 2nd March.

Looking forward to full participation – any questions don’t hesitate to see me in the Library – Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons.

Narelle Warren
Teacher Librarian

Canteen Roster - Mon 22nd February to Fri 4th March

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Back to school for another year and unfortunately this often means the start of the head lice season too.

Head lice are extremely contagious. Early treatment is recommended to kill head lice and their eggs and to limit school and family contamination.

Below are 4 crucial steps to keep your school head lice free:

- Avoid sharing clothing, especially hats, ribbons, head bands and helmets
- Discourage children from playing with each other’s hair
- Don’t share brushes, combs, towels and pillows.
- Keep long hair plaited or firmly tied back to prevent contact from other kids.

**UNIFORM SHOP NEWS**

Rejane Monteiro has kindly agreed to take over as the new uniform shop coordinator.

The Uniform Shop will now be opening on a **Friday morning between 8:30am-9:30am**.

This will commence 26th February.

For any queries please contact Rejane on 0420 447 971

**UKULELE REMINDER**

Our ukulele lessons got off to a great start on Wednesday. All ukulele players must have their name on their instrument AND ukulele case.

Our musicians also need a tuner and a black display folder

Permission slips and term payment of $25 should be sent to the office ASAP

**Dudley Redhead United Football Club**

We are now accepting registrations for the 2016 Season.

The club has teams starting from Under 6 to all age and over 35’s.

To register go to myfootball.com.au or email/call club for advice.

Contact: Selena Conway 0422 117554
Email: dru4cf1@gmail.com.au

**Atuka Netball Club**

Come & Try Netball afternoon.

If you are interested in trying Netball or just want to join a team, please come down to Lakeside Netball Courts, Belmont on Friday 26th February between 5-6.30pm. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring a bottle of water. All ages are welcome.

For more information please contact Toni on 49 471414 or 0407466704

**RANGERS**

at Charlestown Public School

Friday nights 6:45 - 8:15

Kindergarten - Year 12

Leadership development

Build confidence • Life skills • Make friends

New experiences with trained leaders

An activity of Vivid Life Church

Enquiries 0413 886 796

**KINDYMATES COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP**

Wandering what to do with your preschool age kids? Why not come to our playgroup? Parents & kids (new born to six) welcome!

Where: Every Monday during school term
Time: 10:00 am to 11:00 am
Where: Church of Christ Hall, Foodise Ave, Whittington
Cost: $2.00 per family
Enquiries: Minerva 0413 886 796

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When speaking with parents when I present at schools, or engaging with them via our social media, bullying is always a hot topic. A recent Facebook post had one of our biggest engagement rates ever. It begged the question—“What is bullying? Do we mix it up with teasing and other forms of mean behaviour?”

It’s an important topic that needs clarification.

Bullying is a term that’s wrapped in emotion. For many people it’s associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40 per cent of people have experienced bullying in the past. It’s something that we don’t want to happen to our kids.

But I fear it’s being overused at the moment and confused with teasing and rudeness.

Rudeness refers to thoughtless behaviours and thoughtless words. Kids often do rude things to each other without thinking their actions through. Examples include breaking wind in a child’s direction; joking about the colour of a child’s hair in front of others; failing to share possessions and neglecting to acknowledge someone. Rudeness is usually about selfishness and thoughtlessness. Taken on their own many rude behaviours can be seen as an element of bullying but when looked at in context they are more about thoughtlessness, lack of consideration and poor manners rather than a deliberate attempt to hurt someone.

Teasing refers to annoying, hurtful behaviour that is used to get a reaction from someone else. Teasing can be persistent in nature, but not always. It’s generally an attempt to get under a person’s skin. It can involve name-calling; it can be personal and hurtful in nature. It can also infringe on another person’s rights. But generally teasing doesn’t have the key ingredients that make up bullying.

Bullying is the selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person or group by another. It involves three elements—intention to hurt or harm; power imbalance; and repetition over time. It takes many forms and guises including physical aggression; verbal abuse; emotional aggression (or blackmail); intimidation; harassment and exclusion.

The new cyber-dimension to bullying has moved the goalpost for many kids. In the past children and young people could escape bullying behaviours by being at home. Cyber-bullying means that children can’t escape bullies like they once could.

Why the distinction? I hear the term bullying misused a great deal in the media and when talking with parents. We run the risk of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” Syndrome where we become so desensitised to the term that we (or teachers) ignore it when children really are the victims of bullying. We also run the risk of failing to skill our kids up to manage rudeness and teasing if we categorise every awful behaviour that kids experience as bullying.

Our ability to be discerning about bullying is as important as the action we take when we are sure that our child is on the receiving end of bullying behaviour. These actions include: dealing with feelings; providing emotional coping skills, getting others involved; building up a child’s support networks; and building self-confidence that can take a battering.

Bullying needs to be taken seriously. But we also need to be discerning about bullying behaviours.