



POSSUM POST

Waterfall Public School

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Waterfall NSW 2233

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Term 3 Week 9 2017

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the first Possum Post in four weeks, as previously mentioned we are now distributing the newsletter on a monthly basis (the second Wednesday of each month) to help maximise administration time in the office. Information about school events can still be accessed from the school website, weekly board in K-2 window, Monday morning assemblies and letters/notes posted in the information notice board outside the office. We are currently setting up an **official Waterfall PS** Facebook page and exploring the introduction of a new and improved school app that efficiently and instantly disseminates alert messages and newsletters to your smart phone and tablets. Further information about accessing these will be sent home via a note in the coming weeks.

Teacher professional learning – The teachers have been involved in PL focusing on the review of students independent learning plans; aligning the stage mathematics scope and sequences with key ideas from the syllabus to ensure that learning is continuous and curriculum aligned; visited surrounding community of schools engaging in professional learning with teachers from similar stages and this evening will attend an extended three hour PL with surrounding schools focusing on making thinking visible for learners in the classroom and how to develop growth mindset in students.

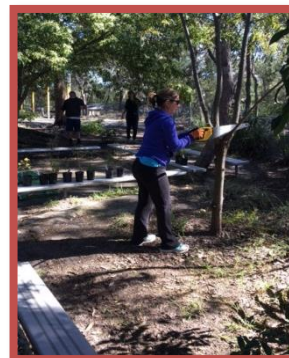
SASS Recognition week – Last week it was SASS recognition week in schools. I wish to acknowledge the outstanding work of all our SASS staff here at Waterfall PS. Thank you to Mrs Holmewood, Mrs Westbrook and Miss Crittenden for their friendly, approachable manner and for always being there for our students and staff.



Student absences – Parents/Carers are legally responsible for the regular attendance of students at school. Attendance rolls are taken at the start of every school day by the teachers. If your child is late to school, please ensure that they are signed in at the office before entering the classroom. If your child is absent from school due to illness or special leave, then a signed note indicating the date and reason for absence must be received by the school within 2 days of the student returning. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions regarding their attendance.

Working bee - A huge thank you to the families who were able to attend the working bee on Sunday 27 August and thank you to those who assisted by allowing us to use their green bins. It was a very successful day, we managed to tidy the grounds of the school and create some new gardens with some beautiful

plants from a few generous family's gardens and also 20 donated native plants from Sutherland Shire Council. It was great to see so many people from the community working together to improve the tidiness of the school for the students.



Engadine zone athletics carnival –It was great to hear how enthusiastic and well behaved our students were and how much they enjoyed being part of the representative team for our school. Congratulations to Isabelle who received notification that she made the zone team to go on to the Sydney East carnival for the 12-13 years 200m race.

Book week – Thank you to Mrs Lundin for coordinating book week in week 6. Thanks also to the parents for ensuring their children were prepared for the day. The students looked spectacular in their many and varied character costumes and it was great to see the teachers get in on the act too.

SLIPS (Student Leaders In Primary Schools) – In week 7 Emily, Julia, Olivia and Taia participated in the SLIPS program with other Year 5 prospective leaders from local primary schools. This event was held at Heathcote High School. I was fortunate enough to also attend, proudly witnessing our students outstanding, mature and respectful behaviour and enthusiastic involvement in the day's activities. Well done girls!



Deadly kids awards – Congratulations to Georgia who was nominated by the school for this award. The award recognises Indigenous students throughout the state who are doing well at school, demonstrating community spirit and developing good leadership skills. Georgia received her award at a celebration last Friday at the University of Technology Sydney.

Premiers Spelling Bee – Well done to Jonathan who represented WPS at the recent *Premiers Spelling Bee* held at Illawong PS. Jonathan made it through to the second round on the day.

ICAS testing – Congratulations to the following students who performed well in the recent independent ICAS assessments. Certificates and results have been handed out in classes for all who have participated.

Spelling	Science	Digital technologies	English
Jonathan - Credit	Emily - Credit	Julia - Credit	Jonathan – Credit Emily – Credit Julia - Credit

Woronora River Zone Public Speaking Finals – Good luck to our representatives: Jonathan, Rachel and Grace.S who will compete at the Woronora River Zone Public Speaking finals at Engadine West PS this Thursday.

NAPLAN online – Since August, schools across the state have been trialling the NAPLAN online. Last week students in Year 3 and Year 5 completed this in their classroom as a trial to determine the school's readiness for the implementation of the NAPLAN online next year.

Fathers' Day stall – It was great to see that the students were given the opportunity of purchasing a small gift to give their Dad, Grandad or someone special on Father's Day. Many thanks to Mrs Sweeny and her team of helpers for their time in purchasing, wrapping and selling the gifts this year.

Grandfriends day – Today we celebrated Grandfriends Day at Waterfall PS. It was fabulous to welcome so many visitors into the classrooms. Thank you to the P&C for organising morning tea and to Mrs Lundin for coordinating the popular book fair in the Library. We hope our visitors enjoyed the student performances and would like to thank you for visiting our school and spending quality time with your Grandchildren and/or little Grandfriends.



Parent & Community Forum - A one hour afternoon tea Parent & Community Forum will be held at 2:00pm – 3:00pm on Friday 22 September in the school Library. This will be an opportunity for people to have input into future directions for the school whilst providing feedback on programs and initiatives from the past three years. A note will be sent home tomorrow requesting parent and community attendance at the forum, please send back the RSVP attached by Thursday 21 September for catering purposes.

School holidays – The last day for term 3 will be Friday 22 September. The first day for students and teachers for term 4 is Monday 9 October. Students will finish term 4 on Friday 15 December.

Kind regards,

Nicole Gilmore
Relieving Principal

School news

Tell them from me surveys

Student feedback survey - I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey 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.

You may remember that our students in Years 4-6 also participated in a *Tell Them From Me* student survey in Term 1 this year. Asking students to complete the survey twice in one year allows us to identify trends in student responses as well as track engagement and motivation across the school year.

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au>

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between Monday 18 September and Friday 13 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary and is only open to students in Years 4-6 at Waterfall PS.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **Friday 15 September**. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>.

Parent feedback survey - This Term, our school will be participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and

practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online on smartphones, ipads, tablets, laptops or computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 11 September and 13 October. Although participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, your responses are very much appreciated.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au>. To access the survey for our school go to:

<https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/2waterfall2017>

The computers in the K-2 room will be available each morning if you would like to complete the survey when you drop your children off at school, just see the teacher on duty who will give you access.

A message from the GA

On Sunday 27 August we held our working bee. Thank you to all the parents and children who turned up on the day.

In just three hours the working bees solely removed 250kg of leaf litter into the trailer, filled multiple green bins (I lost count how many bins went out) planted twenty plus plants, created some new gardens, leaf-mulched around the new plants and tidied up the area outside the staff room and the bike racks.

I would like to thank everyone who came and assisted, those three hours have saved me many days and hours of work, beautified the school and made a huge dent in keeping the school fire safe for the coming summer months.

Alison Crittenden - General Assistant

Dates for your Diary

September	October
Wednesday 13 September Grandfriends Day, Book Fair	Monday 9 October First day of term 4
Thursday 14 September Public Speaking District Final at Engadine West PS – Stage winners to compete	Thursday 19 October Leadership by the River Interrelate Parent Session 6.45pm at Waterfall PS
Wednesday 20 September School photographs K-6	Friday 27 October World Teachers Day
Friday 22 September Last day of term 3 Hot food day Parent Forum afternoon tea 2.00 - 3.00pm in the library	Friday 10 November Whole school disco
	Tuesday 12 December Year 6 Farewell

P & C News

Message from the P&C

A **general meeting** was held last Monday. The minutes will be send out soon, but just wanted to bring some items to your attention. With term four just around the corner, it is going to be a busy end of year.

Thank you to those who could assist with the Working Bee. You must admit the gardens look much better. We have one of the students in charge of watering the gardens a couple of times a week. There is still some leaf litter that still needs to be picked. Maybe during the school holidays, a few families can assist by taking it away, if they have their green bin available to use.

School Disco – Please keep Friday 10th Nov 2017 free. More details to come. Whole school invited.

Year 6 Farewell – Tuesday 12th Dec. This is for students in Year 3 to 6. In the first few weeks of term 4, I would like to arrange a get together with the year 5 parents to discuss the format of the night and see who will be able to assist. It has been a Waterfall tradition that the Year 5 families assist on the day, making sure the night is a success.

Chocolate Drive – **Thank you for supporting this fundraiser.** The funds are being used to purchase 5 blazers, which we should see soon. They will be used at special functions, and where students represent the school at events.

Uniforms – New school hats arrived. They are a normal shaped peak green cap, with WPS embroidery on the front. It was decided they would be more practical for the children to wear. The current hats are still available to buy. They will be on sale from next week. The price is \$12 same as the current ones. Please see Belinda, Jo in the office or myself. Please see Belinda for second hand clothing.



Garage Sale: Saturday 21st October in alignment with Garage Sale Trail. A note has been given out requesting assistance. If you could please hand into school, or to Allison as soon as you can.

We would be looking for donations of most items, in sellable condition only. Donations will be accepted 1 week prior to the event and stored in the Parkview room, for sorting and pricing. If you have big items, like lounges, it will be best to drop off in the morning of the garage sale. So, start cleaning out your cupboards and draws.

Lots of helpers will be required to help sort and price in the week leading up the garage sale. And, also assistance on the day, with setting up, cash register and cleaning and packing up.

Hot Food Day – Friday 22nd September 2017, last day of the term. A note and lunch order will go out at the end of the week.

Hope you all have a wonderful and safe school holidays.
Until next term, Sarah

Message from the RFS

Our annual “Get Ready Weekend” Open Day is on Saturday 16th September. We will have live fire demonstrations, activities for the kids, the trucks will be open to sit in, and our members will be on hand to answer any questions you may have, including advice on what you can do to help prepare your home for the upcoming bushfire season.

The station will be open from 9:00am till 2pm.

The brigade will also be holding a free sausage sizzle. Donations are greatly appreciated. With the funds received on the day going towards Motor Neuron disease.

We will also answer questions on how you too can become a brigade member and help serve the community in which we live. Look forward to seeing you all at the Station on Saturday.

Healthy Tips Healthy Kids

Quick Bites

Easy ways to add physical activity to your day:

- ❖ Walk to the store, the school or the playground instead of using the car
- ❖ Allow time for children to play outdoors
- ❖ Park the car away from the shops
- ❖ Get off the bus one stop earlier
- ❖ Don't use the remote control
- ❖ Plant a veggie garden
- ❖ Take the stairs instead of escalators or lifts
- ❖ Schedule regular time each week for your family to be physically active together
- ❖ Limit television time to no more than two hours per day or 14 hours a week



Quick Bites

Wednesday 6 September is National Health & Physical Education Day!

Did you know Australian school children rank among the worst in the world when it comes to their physical activity levels?

Parents and caregivers have an important role in promoting physical activity to children and there are heaps of ways to get involved this National Health & Physical Activity Day.

To show you are serious about helping kids get more active more often, make a [parent pledge](#) and commit to spending at least 30 minutes of physical activity with the kids on National HPE Day.



To find out more head to <http://hpeday.com.au/get-involved/>

Quick Bites

It's Fruit & Veg Month! This year's theme is 'Get Loud for Fruit & Veg!'

Did you know that only about 5% of Australian adults and children eat enough fruit and vegetables? This is affecting the health and wellbeing of our nation!

Join in Fruit & Veg month by signing up to the family challenge. There are some great prizes up for grabs including:

- ❖ Nikon Coolpix W100 camera
- ❖ Yates family gardening pack
- ❖ Harris Farm Markets online shopping voucher
- ❖ Subscription to Get Kids Cooking @ Home



To find out more head to <http://healthy-kids.com.au/teachers/fruit-veg-month/get-loud-for-fruit-veg-family-challenge/>

Quick Bites

How much time does your child spend in front of a screen?

Whether it's the TV, computer or hand-held games. Australian guidelines recommend that kids spend no more than 2 hours each day in front of the screen.



Aim to prioritise being physically active first and save the screen time for later. Give it a go, you might be surprised to find that reducing the screen time also improves your communication with your child.

For more information on reducing screen time and getting active visit www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au

Community News

BIKE TO THE BEACH

Presented by Sutherland Shire Council as part of NSW Bike Week.

**Sunday
17 September
2017**

**FREE
Fitness and Fun
for the Family**



Pump up your tyres, pop on a helmet and get ready to pedal. Bring the family down for a great 5km supervised off-road cycle ride from Woolooware Bay to Wanda Beach and then join the party at Don Lucas Reserve. At the conclusion of the ride, there'll be lots of fun for the kids, such as a face-painting, inflatable rides, giveaways and a free hot dog!

RIDE DETAILS

- Registration and ride from 10am to 12pm at Solander Park, Captain Cook Dr, Woolooware
- Free activities for riders until 2pm at Don Lucas Reserve, Mitchell Rd, Wanda

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- All riders MUST WEAR a helmet. Visit our event partner rideability.com.au for information on how to get ready for the ride and other great riding tips.

FOR REGISTRATION AND FURTHER DETAILS

Visit sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au or contact Council's Road Safety Officer on 9710 0341 or mstuart@ssc.nsw.gov.au



SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL VACATION CARE

**Fun, interactive and safe
school holiday care.**

- Indoor crafts such as 3D drawing and straw craft.
- Outdoor experiences including sports, games and nature play.
- Excursions to destinations such as Symbio, Sydney Aquarium, bee garden and Mount Annan for some outdoor fun – plus more.

Burraneer Bay: Kindergarten-12 years
Lucas Heights: Kindergarten-14 years
Miranda: Kindergarten-14 years

Centres open 7am-6pm.



Programs and enrolment:

P: 9710 0466

E: VacationCare@ssc.nsw.gov.au

W: sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/VacationCare

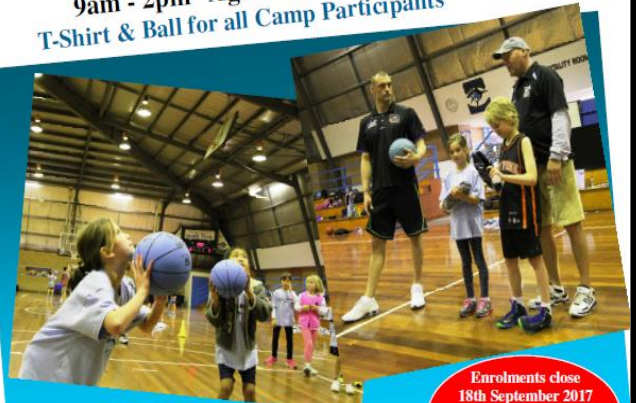


SHARKS BASKETBALL HOLIDAY CAMP

25th to 28th September 2017

9am - 2pm Age 7 to 15 years

T-Shirt & Ball for all Camp Participants



Download enrolment form from our website:
www.sutherland.basketball.net.au

Enrolments close
18th September 2017
(Unless maximum
numbers are reached prior
to closing date).

Waratah Park Rawson Ave Sutherland

Phone: 9542-1999

Email: admin@sutherlandbasketball.net.au

Website: www.sutherland.basketball.net.au



HEATHCOTE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL COLOUR DASH

Saturday 28th October 2017

Find us on [f / hepscolourdash](https://www.facebook.com/hepscolourdash)

Family Fun Day 12pm - 5pm Mimosa St, Heathcote East

Obstacle Course | Jumping Castle | Food Stalls & Sausage Sizzle

Colour Dash 2km at 1pm | 5km at 2pm | 10km at 3pm



REGISTER NOW

Early Bird Tickets from just \$20 | Register by 30 Sept. to receive discounts

www.hepscolourdash.eventbrite.com.au

Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors!



**Caringbah Markets.com.au
FAMILY FUN DAY
Sunday 24th September**



**Markets 7am - 1pm
Fun Day 9am - 12.30pm**

