CROMER COURTESIES: - Sharing and taking turns.

NOTES HOME:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W1</th>
<th>Mon 28th April</th>
<th>Tues 29th April</th>
<th>Wed 30th April</th>
<th>Thurs 1st May</th>
<th>Fri 2nd May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| T2 | • STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY | • Students return to School
• Flip Sports begins: Yrs 3 and 4 | • 3 - 6 ANZAC Assembly 11:10am
• Tennis begins Yr 2 | • Flip Sports begins: Yrs 5 and 6
• Tennis begins Yr 2 | • Winter PSSA trial
• P & C Mother’s Day stall |

FROM THE OFFICE….

The Semester 1 (Terms 1 & 2) fees were sent home with students on Monday. Semester 2 (Terms 3 & 4) fees will be minimal. They will include costs for excursions and performances for the latter half of the year only. PLEASE DO NOT USE ONLINE BANKING as it is not available to us anymore. We accept cash, cheque or credit card payments.

NAPLAN
Students in Year 3 and 5 at Cromer PS will participate in the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy next term. The dates and tests are as follows:

13th May - Language Conventions and Writing Tests
14th May - Reading Test
15th May - Numeracy Test

Inside
• Principal’s Report
• Principal awards
• Spotlight in sport
• Deputy Principal Report
• Another spotlight moment in sport
• Uniform shop news
• Art News
• Parent / Guardian reading help-
ers
• Leadership
• Canteen news
• Kids club news
• Cyber safety
• Community news
• Application for Yr 5 opportunity class
• Peninsula community of Schools newsletter

Contact Details:-
Email: cromer-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Principal’s Email: maureen.t.gray@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.cromer-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
Ph: 9971 0499     Fax: 9971 4635
Cromer Kids Club: 9971 2332
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

My how quickly time flies when you live your life in lots of ten, eleven or nine weeks! The older I get the quicker the term seems to disappear. Term 1 has certainly been incredibly busy for students, staff and parents. We have a great deal to celebrate with our students having many opportunities to achieve success.

On Monday night, I attended the Rotary Car Raffle Draw with P&C President, Jeanette Williams and Jay Rogers from the Fundraising Committee. This was held at North Narrabeen Surf Club and there were ten community organisations in attendance, including Cromer P&C Association, who had participated in this special fundraising activity. All present had their fingers crossed that someone from their group would be the winner. Local MP, Rob Stokes drew the winning ticket. The winner was a family from Mona Vale Public School. When the Secretary from Rotary rang the family they were truly overcome as their car had literally died the week before and they could not afford to get another one. This was like a miracle for them and they were truly appreciative of the win. Everyone at the draw was pleased that the new Nissan Micra was going to a deserving home. Every school and organisation present received funding back into their group. Rotary has put $1.3 million back into the community over the last number of years so it is wonderful to support Rotary’s work as well as to raise funds that will benefit our students and their learning. Jeanette and her team of incredible parent helpers who have counted raffle tickets and money each morning for the last month deserve a gigantic vote of thanks. I am sure you will be thrilled to read Jeanette’s report about what has been achieved. Well done to all boys and girls who sold their tickets!

Our Captains, Patrick C and Lauren H and Vice Captains, Christopher M and Kate Mc L ably represented Cromer PS on Thursday Morning at the Peninsula Community of Schools, Young Leaders Presentation: “Our Voice, Our Impact” held at Warringah Council Chambers. Warringah Mayor Michael Regan, Pittwater Mayor Jacqueline Townsend and Local Member for Pittwater, Rob Stokes attended as well as PCS Principals and many proud parents and grandparents. Nine primary schools’ captains and vice captains demonstrated their leadership skills by working as a team to present a leadership project they were undertaking within their schools to make a difference on behalf of their school community. Cromer’s student leaders care deeply about the school environment and want to reduce the amount of litter in the grounds. I have asked them to write a report to put into one of next term’s newsletters explaining their project. I am sure you will read it with interest. I was incredibly proud of Kate, Chris, Lauren and Patrick!

I had hoped to get back to school for some of the Easter Hat Parade I’m afraid the rain beat me to my destination. However, I have heard that with some skilful juggling Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 did get to perform their special dances and parade their hats for mums, dads and grandparents before the rain came down. The Easter Bunny also visited classrooms. Parents know our youngest children loved having you come to school to see their parade. Well done, K-2 students and staff! Chief organiser Mrs Sue Battaglene and each Grade Team of Teachers must be acknowledged for teaching the dances and helping the children to make and decorate their hats. Our wonderful Canteen certainly supplied some scrumptious goodies to eat that were enjoyed both by children and adults.

Thursday afternoon saw the conclusion of Band Camp at Camp Kedron for Training and Intermediate Bands and Intermediate Strings. Sixty four young musicians enjoyed this wonderful learning opportunity with their talented teachers Kelvin Anderson and Kathryn Crossing. I absolutely enjoyed hearing their talented performances at the end of the day. I also was thrilled to hear how responsible, polite and sensible all band and strings players had been over the two days of the camp. Well done, girls and boys! I know you mums and dads are incredibly proud of you.

Nicole Herrmann and Nancy Chaffer do a wonderful job in supporting Strings and Bands throughout the year. I thank them for their ongoing support and organisation. Special thanks must go to Nicole Herrmann, Fi Maurer and the group of wonderful parent helpers who supervised the children on Wednesday night assisting with meals, showers, lights out, sleeping over etc. I would also like to acknowledge Julie Johnson and Karen Mitchell who stood in for Nancy Chaffer to run some of the activities. I am sure if you enjoyed the students’ performances at the end of Band Camp you would believe, as I do, that fostering a love of instrumental music is something to be valued. Parents you are there through thick and thin with all of the practising, getting your darling to and from rehearsal and tutorials and equally must be acknowledged for your ongoing support. Many thanks parents!

In closing, I would like to thank Mrs Sue Battaglene who has relieved as Assistant Principal K-2; Mrs Kara Rimmington who has taught 4G for the majority of the term; Miss Amy Harris who has been 2AP’s Class Teacher; Mrs Julia Priest who has taught 5P and Miss Kate Murphy who has taught 5N in Term 1. Each of these dedicated teachers have really given so much to our students which I truly appreciate. In Term 2, Mrs Louise Green will join us as our new Assistant Principal and will be 2AP’s Class Teacher and Mr Ben Tasker will become 5P’s Class Teacher. We will know who has been successful in gaining the other class teacher vacancy at the commencement of Term 2.
I hope students and their families have a wonderful school holiday with lots of sunny days. I also hope that my staff enjoy the break with their families and that they get a chance to recharge their batteries. I will forward to seeing everyone at the start of Term 2.

Maureen Gray  
Principal

PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years 3 - 6</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teagan B - 3P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kade M-W - 3P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samantha W - 3/4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily O’D - 3/4M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet R- 4G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lola V - 4G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley H - 4L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suharsha K - 4L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankie W - 4P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madi M - 4P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom G - 4N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack G - 4N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callum E - 5F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna B - 5F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Axel C - 6R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethanie M - 6R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella S - 6S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex D - 6S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley S - 6S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miesha H - 3P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack H - 3P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel E - 3S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh S - 3S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beau McG -3T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aidan F - 3T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack H - 3P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel E - 3/4M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intermediate Strings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teagan B - Playing consistently well and watching the conductor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominic F - Always plays with a smile on his face!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Strings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Josh B - Taking up the double bass so well, so quickly!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axel C - Excellent effort memorising the Opera House music!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPOTLIGHT MOMENT IN SPORT

At the recent Regional Swimming Carnival held at Homebush, there were several of our Cromer athletes competing. We all did our best in different races. Tahlia D, Hannah T, Tiffany W, Anna B, Lara B and I all swam extremely well. The latter 4 won the Junior Girls relay and are now off to the state titles. We are so excited!

Written by Nikita N

A very big Congratulations to all the children who swam in their respective events. A great day had by all!

A special mention to Amelia S who is representing Cromer in the Athletes with a Disability event along with our junior girls relay team.

Sarah Riddington  
Sports Co-ordinator
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

As term 1 comes to a close we would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, parents and students for their contribution and hard work over the last term. We would also like to congratulate the students on their enthusiasm and commitment to their studies and co-curricula activities.

A special thanks to Mrs Jodie Sly and Mrs Sharon Lorge who have very ably coordinated and organised the Year 6 to Year 7 High school applications.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Tuesday 29th April for an exciting and busy term 2.

CONDOLENCES

Our sincere condolences to Mrs Jodie Sly and her family, whose father in law passed away last weekend.

END OF TERM DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End of Term 1</td>
<td>Friday 11th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Development Day</td>
<td>Monday 28th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENTS RESUME for Term 2</td>
<td>Tuesday 29th April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ANZAC DAY – Wednesday 25th April (Day 2 of Term 2)

ANZAC Day will be acknowledged at Cromer on Wednesday 30th April, at a commemorative Assembly for students. It would be greatly appreciated if parents were able to assist us by bringing in flowers and greenery to make up the wreaths on the morning of Wednesday 30th April. If you have a spare half hour from 9:00 – 9:30am on that morning; we would greatly appreciate assistance in making up these wreaths.

YEARS 2-6 CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL - Monday 5th May (Week 2) at St Matthew’s Farm

- All students from Yrs 3-6 and 8 year olds from Year 2 will participate. All students are expected to join in. Please encourage your child/children to do their best. (Some classes have even begun some early training! Keep it up over the holidays.)
- 11 and 12 year olds will run approx. 3kms
- 10, 9 and 8 year olds will run approx. 2kms.
- Students are to wear a sports uniform. Take recess, a drink, hats and medication (asthma puffers and epipens) in a small bag.
- Be at school by 8:45am. Class rolls will be marked and then students will walk to St Matthew’s farm.
- Parents and friends are invited to meet us at St Matthew’s Farm to cheer on the competitors.

****Wet weather date is Thursday, 8th May.

Zone cross country date is Wednesday, 21st May. (Yr 6 students on camp on this date will be considered for regional Cross Country in consultation with Regional Coordinator.)
**Approximate Schedule**

9:35am - walk the course at St Matthew’s Farm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>10:15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9</td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>10:45am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>11:15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>11:45am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tidy up. Return to school at 12:00 noon.

**STUDENT SUCCESS**

Congratulations to Hadi W (2W) and Yasmin R (1J) for their achievements in the **International Development State Gymnastics Championships** this past weekend. Hadi placed 2nd in the state and Yasmin placed 4th. The girls competed on the uneven bars, the beam, the floor and the vault. Both girls have trained very hard for this event and handled the pressures well on the day. Well done girls! Cromer PS is very proud of you both.

Our amazing **girls State Swimming relay team** swam out at Homebush Aquatic Centre on Thursday of this week. Nikita, Tiffany, Lara and Anna… we are very proud of your dedication and competitive spirit getting you this far! Well done.

**MUSIC CAMP**

Congratulations to Mrs Fi Maurer, Miss Nicole Hermann, Mrs Karen Mitchell, Mr Kelvin Anderson, Mrs Kathryn Crossing and all the parents who assisted at Music Camp for their dedication, commitment and tireless effort in making the 2014 Music Camp such an awesome event! Congratulations to all the students for your respect, responsibility and achievement with not only your Music, but also in participating so well in your activities throughout the day and night.

**NAPLAN Preparation**

NAPLAN, the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy for students in Years 3 & 5, will be held over 3 days on May 13th, 14th and 15th, with a **catch up day on Friday 16th, Week 3 of Term 2**. If you would like to learn a little more about preparing your child for NAPLAN, please go to [http://www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/The_tests/index.html](http://www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/The_tests/index.html) for further information and past papers.

**OPPORTUNITY CLASS PLACEMENTS for 2015**

Government schools use a range of strategies to meet the educational needs of gifted and talented students. One strategy is opportunity class placement which provides intellectual stimulation and an educationally enriched environment for gifted and talented students.

Offers for opportunity class placement are made on the basis of the Opportunity Class Placement Test results and school assessment. The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on **Wednesday 23rd July 2014**.

If you would like to apply for opportunity class placement for Year 5 in 2015 on behalf of your child, you will need to discuss this with your child’s class teacher before filling in the Expression of Interest form attached to the weekly
and return it to school by Friday 2nd May.

Detailed instructions on how to apply online will be available from Monday 28th April 2014 at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement.

Online applications close on Friday 16th May 2014. Applications after Friday 16th May 2014 WILL NOT be accepted. If parents do not have internet access, commercially printed application forms will be available on request from the school on Monday 28 April 2014. They must be completed and returned to the school by Friday 16th May 2014.

K-2 EASTER HAT PARADE

A huge thank you to all the K-2 staff for making the Easter Hat Parade such a huge success! A special thank you to Mrs Sue Battaglene, for all her time and effort with the organisation of the morning. Oh, of course, thank you to the Easter Bunny for visiting us all and leaving us some delicious chocolate eggs! They were scrumptious!!! Many thanks also to all the parents who came and supported this annual event.

DEC INFORMATION

School holiday kids and family camps
It’s not too late to book your child into a NSW Sport and Rec holiday camp. There are also family camps available year-round, for an active, family-friendly (and pocket-friendly) getaway. Find out more: http://bit.ly/1hWxTra

Managing screen-time
Helping kids find the right balance between activities, homework and screen time is a challenge that only gets harder as they grow older. Commonsense Media has lots of useful resources to help – from movie and game ratings to articles like this one on setting screen time limits that are realistic enough that your children will actually follow them. Read the article here: http://bit.ly/1pBlfmk

Books to boost brains
Literacy skills often progress suddenly in leaps and bounds. The secret is to keep kids of all ages reading over the weekends and school holidays. Even 20 minutes a night can make a huge difference to their reading, comprehension and general knowledge. It’s also a great way to settle their minds down before sleep (for adults too!). If your child hasn’t found a book that grabs their imagination, why not try them on a series book from the Premier’s Reading Challenge list? Here are top suggestions for all ages, including young adult: http://bit.ly/1dLSGC0

Happy Easter everyone!

Warm Regards
Julie Johnson and Nicole Herrmann
Deputy Principals

ANOTHER SPOTLIGHT MOMENT IN SPORT

Well done to Ronan C, Ben G and Aiden C who were successful in being selected in the Sydney Squad for soccer. This is an outstanding achievement!

Not only were they successful in gaining a position in this team but they also WON the event. A big congratulations. Following the event, Ronan was also selected as part of the Sydney Nth Squad. An excellent achievement considering the high level of talent and interest in soccer across the whole region.

Congratulations boys for a fabulous effort. We look forward to hearing how Ronan and his team go at the State Championships.

Mrs Sarah Riddington
Year 6 Teacher
UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Term 2 is fast approaching and students are expected to return to school for Term 2 in **WINTER** uniform.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>SPORT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long grey pants</td>
<td>Winter Tunic or long SCHOOL navy pants</td>
<td>Long blue Parachute sport pant (NO leggings or other pant to be worn)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(No dance pant or other pant to be worn)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long sleeve sky blue polo</td>
<td>Navy tights or white socks</td>
<td>Polar fleece jacket, Zip jacket or Track top</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polar fleece jacket, Zip jacket or Track top</td>
<td>Long sleeve sky blue polo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Polar fleece jacket, Zip jacket or Track top</td>
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**YEAR 5 AND 6 GIRLS ONLY**

We are introducing a new **SENIOR** skirt for girls in year 5 and 6 only that can be worn all year round (Summer and Winter). The girls can wear this new skirt with our sky blue polo or with their new year 6 white polo. The skirt will retail for $39.00 in sizes 6 - 18 and expected delivery is 1st week in term 2. We will keep the year 5 and 6 girls updated.

Please purchase your Winter items early! Queues will be very long next term.

**Leigh McPherson**

Uniform Shop Manager

**What’s happening in the art room?**

We have an exciting art-filled year ahead of us. This year we will be holding our biennial art show on the **22nd, 23rd & 24th of July**. Our Cromer Art Show is a great fundraiser for our school resources and showcases the exceptional talent of our Cromer students. More to come on this exciting event!

Parents and friends of Cromer, can you help? The art room needs:

- Art shirts (Old t-shirts, preferably child sizes)
- Plastic ‘take-away’ containers (see through disposable containers with lids)
- Donated art supplies such as pencils and brushes (to use as prizes in art show raffles)

Stay up to date with news from the art room by following the In The Art Room blog.


**Miss K Nixon**

Art Teacher

**PARENT / GRANDPARENT READING HELPERS**

Throughout the school we have a number of students who have been targeted as requiring extra support to progress with their literacy skills. To give these students the best opportunity to move forward with their reading, we desperately need volunteers to work with them one on one. If you are able to spare 30-40 minutes of a morning or afternoon we would love to hear from you. We would also love to hear from any aunts, uncles, grandparents or friends who might be able to spare some time. Each student will be working on a structured individualised program and you will receive training in how to support them.

If you would like to help out with these programs, or if you have any questions, please contact me via the school email (cromer-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) or by phone on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday (99710499). Thank you for your assistance.

**Mrs Katie Woodley**

Learning and Support Teacher
LEADERSHIP

On Thursday 20th March the Sports Captains were invited to Freshwater Senior Campus to learn how to lead and play different sports. There were many different sports you could choose from and we chose three for the day.

We chose basketball, golf and rugby. It was lots of fun. There were nine different schools at the leadership day. I learnt how to play golf and it was a great opportunity to be involved. I felt it helped my leadership skills.

Written by Misha M Year 6

KIDS CLUB NEWS

Wow, week 11 already. First term has just flown by. This week at Kids Club we continued to celebrate Easter with craft and cooking. For cooking, we made an Easter egg cake, choc cupcakes with nests and we iced and decorated biscuits as Easter eggs. We made cards and Easter baskets as well.

Our end of term Welcome BBQ is this Friday from 5pm till 7pm. Staff will be present to answer any questions you might have as well as enjoying a sausage sizzle and an Easter egg hunt for the children! See you there.

Vacation Care:

Week 11 is here and the term is almost over, so it’s time to book into our fantastic Vacation care program! These holidays we are visiting the Australian Museum to see the Dinosaur Exhibition, going to the Circus in Manly, having the Fun Sports Company and Rockpool Adventures come to the service as well as a visit from the Easter Bunny!

The service will be situated at St John’s Kids Club Narraweena behind the St John’s Catholic Church off Waratah Pde, Narraweena. Pupil Free Day will also be available. Check out our website for details or ask us in centre.


All of our team at Kids Club would like to wish our families a Happy Easter and a great holiday. See you in Term 2!

Have a great weekend!

The Team at Cromer Kids Club!

www.ooshnb.com.au
CYBER SAFETY

As your child spends more time on computers, portable devices and mobiles, it is important to understand how to help them stay safe and responsible. You don't have to be a computer whiz. The great news is, there is help out there! Learn about CyberSafety and Digital Citizenship at the Department of Education and Communities website: [www.digitalcitizenship.nsw.edu.au](http://www.digitalcitizenship.nsw.edu.au). On this site you will find interesting facts, tips and interactive activities to support you and your child.

We have also found a great link to show children about safe searching on YouTube. Although they don't have access to it at school, it's a great quick video to help children surf safely at home.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkMPZuNFBs&feature=player_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkMPZuNFBs&feature=player_embedded)

Happy and Safe Searching!
Patricia Tizard

CROMER CAR RAFFLE UPDATE

A massive thank you Cromer Community for pulling together to produce an awesome result for the Car Raffle this year. It was wonderful to see the participation from so many classes and the amazing results that classes and individuals produced to bank an awesome $27,752 in ticket sales!! This equates to an average of $33.43 raised by every student...which goes to show that a little bit of effort can go a long way when everyone pulls together. Once all the associated costs are taken into account the school will receive $20,000 to put towards our Literacy and Numeracy Programs here at Cromer. This is by far the most efficient and financially rewarding fund raiser that the school runs, so we truly thank you for your support. In addition, we hope the children also have some fun with their Pizza Parties, as they certainly deserve them.

In all, 11 classes have qualified for a PIZZA PARTY which is a HUGE result. The children will have to wait until a whole school assembly on Monday 5th May (Week 2 Term 2) to find out which classes have won. The individual sellers will also be announced and rewarded at this Assembly and finally the Cromer Family Holiday will be drawn.

As for the winner ... a very well deserving family won the car. Their car had broken down only last week and they were experiencing difficulties in securing a loan to purchase a replacement car. So it is great to know that not only has our School Community benefited from this fundraiser, but that a Northern Beaches family has been helped out in a time of need.

Finally, if you still have your unsold tickets, they do need to be returned for auditing purposes, so please return these tickets to the office as soon as possible.

P&C Fundraising Committee

Please note that the advertisements appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily carry the endorsement of Cromer Public School. The credentials of advertisers have NOT been checked by the school. For reasons of child protection, interested parents are strongly advised to closely check the credentials of any person or group advertising activities that would directly involve the participation of their children (e.g. camps, coaching, classes etc.)

WARRINGAH COUNCIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

The Autumn school holidays are fast approaching and Warringah Council have supplied the school with copies of their Vacation Care brochures. Activities for the autumn vacation include visits to Taronga Zoo, Chinese Gardens, Luna park and Nikki Webster Dance studio and more. Pick up a brochure with discount vouchers and enrolment form from the front office or download a copy from www.warringah.nsw.gov.au
**BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU**

Our Academy is a fun place where kids learn important life changing skills and the Art of Jiu Jitsu. Discipline, Fun, Friendships, Self-Awareness & Defense.

Call Vince on 0452-535-741 or Morgan on 0402220269

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**BOOK FAIR**

**Balgowlah Boys Campus**

*Sydney Road & Maretimbo Street*

Balgowlah

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>2 May</td>
<td>4pm – 9pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>9am – 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>9am – 2pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Entry by gold coin donation very much appreciated

Via, Visa, MasterCard and EFTPOS accepted

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**HAIR CARE**

*Colour & haircutting specialist.*

Nicole Connolly

phone: 99442001
fax: 99441000
mobile: 0408 297 881

---

**April Holiday Camps**

14 – 24 April

Join our holiday clinics and play soccer indoors on grass.

- Clinics fill fast, so book now!
- Professionally qualified & engaging FFA & AFA Coaches
- Learn new tricks, skills & techniques to improve your overall ball mastery and game play. We teach you how to execute a "Maradona Spin", "Cryuff Cut", "Ronaldo Stepover", or learn how to do an "Oxford"!
- Play football indoors in your boots!
- Small-sided games.
- Heaps of fun! Finish the day with Laser football.

For 5 – 13 year olds 9am – 3pm

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**Extreme Football Tournament - Daily**

- Play Bubble football, Laser Football and 5 aside!!! from 3pm daily
- Play an extreme mini world cup with 5 A-Side.
- Laser Football & Bubble Football.
- Organise a team of mates.
- Team registration 200.


www.thefootballfactory.com.au

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**bear aware FUN DAY**

**SAT 10TH MAY**

VENUE: Dee Why Scout Club
Arthur St Dee Why 2099
Time: 9am – 4pm

Attractions on the day: AND LOTS MORE!

- Tooth Fairy Floss
- Face-Painting
- Raffles
- BBQ
- Cake Stall
- Bouncy Castle
- All Money Raised Will Be Donated To bear cottage Childrens Hospice MANLY
Very Limited Vacancies for 2014!
NOW offering Show Team Performance Classes and Elite Extension Program along with classes “Just for Fun” and official Angelina Ballerina Partner Studio!
Ballet (RAD), Jazz, Hip Hop, Tap, Tiny Tots, Boys Only, Acro, Leaps and turns, Strength and Conditioning, Stretch, Contemporary.
Classes conveniently held at Cromer Public School and at our new professional Studios

24 Middleton Rd Cromer
Phone 8084 9339
www.nbdanceco.com
admin@nbdanceco.com

Tennis Whizz is a new innovative program that teaches 3 to 5yr olds how to develop their tennis and athleticism through storytelling and other unique, innovative approaches! www.tenniswhizz.com

Term 1 Classes:- commencing
Wed 5th Feb ..... 9:00 to 9:45am
Thurs 6th Feb... 9:00 to 9.45 am
Fri 7th Feb ..... 9:00 to 9.45 am
Sat 8th Feb ....11.45 to 12.30
*First lesson is a free trial lesson.

Contact Information:
To book or for further information call Theresa 0405424413 or Email: tmstapp@optusnet.com.au

Narraweena has a complete junior tennis program as well Holiday tennis camps.
MANLY WARRINGAH
BASKETBALL
CAMP
Tues 22nd, 23rd and 24th April 2014
Session 1(ages 5-9) 10am – Noon
Session 2(ages 10 & above) 1-3pm
Venue: NBSC, Jackson Rd, Warriewood
• Special Guest Coaches
• Professional coaching
Day 3 is Competition Day with
great prizes
Cost: $70
This is a 4 day camp ONLY
Payments must be made prior to camp starting date.
Please complete details and forward to:
Fax: 9953 3564
Email: camps@mlcbasketball.com.au
Enquiries: 99533562
Due to administration and coaching numbers camp enrolments close 3pm Thursday 10th April 2014
Placements may be taken on the day of camp for places on a wait list. Please utilise email if you do not receive a reply to your photographic
REFRESH YOUR SKILLS • IMPROVE YOUR GAME • HAVE SOME FUN
Name:__________________________Age:_________Sex:_________
Address:__________________________Post code:_________
Email:__________________________School:__________________________
Health Concerns (specify please):__________________________
Master Card/Visa please make note Name on Card:__________________________

$100 for any 5 full days  $60 for any 3 full days  $30 for 5 half days
Casual rates – $40 per full day  $20 per half day
Discounts for family members
All camps subject to numbers.
FOR ENQUIRIES OR BOOKINGS CALL
Theresa Stapp on 9981 2592 or (Mob) 0405 424 413
Email: tmstapp@optusnet.com.au
Junior Development Coach and Hot Shot Mentor for Tennis Australia Finalist. . NEWCOMBE Medal 2010

HOT SHOTS MLC
HOLIDAY TENNIS & SPORTS CAMP
BEVERLEY JOB PARK
MCINTOSH ROAD NARRAWEENA
Camp 1 - Mon 14th April - Thurs 17th April (4 days)
Camp 2 - Tues 22nd April - Thurs 24th April (3 day)
Time: 9.00 - 12.30 pm OR 9.00 - 3.00 pm
Cost: $150 for any 5 full days  $110 - 5 half days
$110 for any 3 full days  $80 - 3 half days
Casual rates - $40 per full day  $30 per half day
Discounts for family members
FOR ENQUIRIES OR BOOKINGS CALL
THERESA STAPP on 9981 2592 or (Mob) 0405 424 413
Email: tmstapp@optusnet.com.au

“HOT SHOTS” MLC
HOLIDAY TENNIS & SPORTS CAMP
BEVERLEY JOB PARK
MCINTOSH ROAD NARRAWEENA
Camp 1 - Mon 14th April - Thurs 17th April (4 days)
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Junior Development Coach and Hot Shot Mentor for Tennis Australia Finalist. . NEWCOMBE Medal 2010

Mel GT Explosive Speed Clinics
MEL GT EXPLOSIVE SPEED CLINICS
14th and 15th April 2014
Clinic 1: Monday 14 April, 9.30am – 12.00pm. Registration 9.15am
Clinic 2: Monday 14 April, 1.30pm – 4.00pm. Registration 1.15pm
Clinic 3: Tuesday 15 April, 11.30am – 2.30pm. Registration 11.15pm
(Program for each clinic is the same)
Where: Narrabeen Athletics Track, Sydney Academy of Sport & Arts, Wakahuni Park, Narrabeen
Age: For children aged 8-16 years. Limited to 30 children per clinic.
Price: $60 per child per clinic.
To register please go to: www.meltgt.com.au/speed-clinics
Enquiries email: clinic@meltgt.com.au
These clinics are not just for track and field enthusiasts but also for any child that takes part in
an individual or team sport and would like to improve their speed.
My speed clinics will involve the following areas of speed development:
• Analysis & correction of running technique
• Technical running skills
• Technical in developing strength and stability
• Tips on injury prevention
The kids will hear about my Olympic experiences and involve a Mel GT water bottle and spike/shoe bag.
Hope you can join me?
Harry, numbers are limited.
Melinda Gainsford-Taylor

“Completely Free!”

Go4Fun
Healthy + Active + Happy + Kids

It’s so wonderful

to have my active, happy, motivated and confident
10 year old boy back.
Cate Latham, Go4Fun parent

A FREE 10 WEEK PROGRAM FOR KIDS AGED 7 TO 13 YEARS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO BECOME FITTER, EAT HEALTHIER AND IMPROVE THEIR SELF-ESTEEM.

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REGISTER NOW FREECALL 1800 780 900 OR GO4FUN.COM.AU

NSW Government
Northern Sydney Local Health District
Intention to apply: Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

Government schools use a range of strategies to meet the educational needs of gifted and talented students. One strategy is opportunity class placement which provides intellectual stimulation and an educationally enriched environment for gifted and talented students.

Offers for opportunity class placement will be made on the basis of the Opportunity Class Placement Test results and school assessment. The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on Wednesday 23 July 2014.

If you would like to apply for opportunity class placement in Year 5 in 2015 on behalf of your child, you need to do so soon.

Most applicants are expected to apply on the internet and submit their application online. They will need to have an email address (not the student’s email address), access to the internet and a printer.

Detailed instructions on how to apply online will be available from Monday 28 April 2014 at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/opclassplacement. Online applications close on Friday 16 May 2014. Applications after Friday 16 May 2014 will generally not be accepted.

If parents do not have internet access, commercially printed application forms will be available on request from the school on Monday 28 April 2014. They must be completed and returned to the school by Friday 16 May 2014.

The applications will be processed by the school in exactly the same way whether you apply online or submit a commercially printed form. Parents are to submit only ONE application for each student.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]
Principal

Cut along the dotted line and return the completed slip below to this school by next Friday.

Intention to apply: Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2015

Note: This is an expression of interest only, NOT an application. You will need to submit either an online or a paper application for your child to be considered for placement.

Student’s name: _________________________________ Class: ____________________________

I am interested in applying for opportunity class placement in 2015

Y es □ No □

If Yes:

I have internet access and will be applying online

Y es □ No □

OR

I do not have internet access and would like to receive a printed application form

□

Signature of parent/carer: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Caroola Road Cromer NSW 2099
Telephone: (02) 9971 0499 • Facsimile: (02) 9971 4635
Email: cromer-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
The Peninsula Community of Schools is committed to nurturing lifelong learning and leadership development through its Student Leadership Program. This program saw me presenting to the Primary School Captains and Vice-Captains on Wednesday 5 March 2014. The focus of the presentation was the leadership skills that they will need to support them throughout 2014, their secondary and tertiary education, and lifetime careers.

The brief asked me to deliver "Ten Top Tips" for successful leadership. Having great faith in the students' ability, rather than deliver, I chose to workshop the session and assist these outstanding young leaders in developing their own agreed set of "Ten Top Tips". The session was an incredible success. I spent a short amount of time outlining the five leadership concepts of the Department of Education and Communities Leadership Capability Framework: Educational Leadership; Organisational Leadership; Strategic Leadership; Interpersonal Leadership; and Personal Leadership.

Your student leaders worked comfortably in school teams to develop some ideas around their designated capability area. Two representatives from each school then sat with another school working on the same capability element. We then merged into five groups to select two agreed ideas for refinement in each capability area. Spokespeople, supported by the rest of the team, stood to present their leadership statements to the greater Peninsula Community of Schools Student Leadership Team.

Having articulate skills in "managing up", your children have tasked me with the duty of collating their work to develop the first ever Public Schools Student Leadership Capability Framework. As you can see our children went far beyond developing "Ten Top Tips". As we understand so clearly in Public Education, when the learning activities have meaning in the local context the capacity of our students to develop exceptional work is limitless.

It was a rare honour to be invited to work with such an incredible team of young leaders. With Leadership capacity being developed in this way by the Peninsula Community of Schools the future of our cherished way of life is in very capable hands.

Dean White, Director | Public Schools NSW
Mona Vale PS and NRL Launch Literacy Initiative

Sea Eagles hooker and Mona Vale Public School parent, Matt Ballin, launched the NRL’s “Rugby League Reads” program that helps to break down the stereotypes that sports stars don’t like to read. Matt features in a new series of readers that focus on personal stories from NRL stars. Matt’s story focuses on health and wellbeing.

Matt joined with his son Fletcher and Year 6 students to discuss the importance of reading, telling students that learning to read is the most important skill they need. Year 6 students asked Matt how he supports reading at home with Fletcher and he said that, “as a dad it is important to read with your child and to read in front of your children”. Matt also discussed the importance of a healthy diet and lifestyle being vital if you want to be successful, pointing out that a happy, healthy person is more likely to be able to study and learn.

Matt’s last tip to Year 6 was, “Don’t give up, if reading is difficult keep at it,” he said, “success comes from hard work.”

Barrenjoey High School Students Beyond School

Barrenjoey High School students performed very well at the HSC last year. More than 70% of all results received were in the top three Performance Bands.

We have just completed a survey of the 2013 departed HSC students regarding their post-school destinations.

Of our 77 students: 43 are currently enrolled and attending University, TAFE or private college courses (including 9 with apprenticeships); 18 are taking a GAP year but are enrolled to attend University/TAFE in 2015 and 14 are working.

Impressively this means that 56% of last year’s graduating class is currently engaged in tertiary education, with the likelihood of that figure becoming 74% in 2015 when the deferring students join them.

The most popular TAFE courses are within the Northern Sydney area with 10 of the 23 choosing to study locally and the most common universities being Macquarie and Sydney University.
The students of Narrabeen Lakes Public School participated in National Ride2School day on Wednesday 19th March by walking, wheeling, scooting and skate boarding to school. Since 2008, NLPS has participated every year in Ride2School day. The students look forward with great excitement every year to the event. During past events, there have even been students arrive on horseback. Families who live a greater distance away are encouraged to do ‘part journeys’ – drive half way, then walk or wheel to school.

An environmental, safety, or active healthy travel theme is chosen for the day and students decorate their bike, scooter or skateboard. They can also dress up and this year’s theme was ‘Super Hero’.

What excitement as students started arriving at school! There were so many students, parents and teachers dressed in their ‘Super Hero’ outfits and so many decorated bikes. There were Spider Man bikes, Batman scooters, Cat Woman, Wonder Woman, ‘Eco Warrior’ and ‘Compost King’ outfits. Even Bindi Irwin and her Wildlife Warrior bike arrived from Australia Zoo in Queensland, thanks to Keoni in year 3, as well as an appearance by ‘Ocean Man’ and ‘Brats on Bikes’. There were bikes decorated with flowers, and covered in newspapers, streamers, and environmental messages. The ‘Wonder Worm’ scooter was a huge hit with its green bucket load of colourful worms, thanks to Phoebe in year 1. ‘Super Science Woman’ (aka Mrs Clark) made a special appearance with her mini, magical, magnifying glass.

Sadly, Mr. Rankin (Principal) and Mr. Phillips (Assistant Principal) were nowhere to be seen during all the excitement, but the ‘Riddler’ from Batman, dressed in a fine, lime green suit, put in an appearance, along with a strange looking fellow, with long black hair, claiming the title of ‘Bogan Man’. Mr. Rankin? Mr. Phillips? We can only wonder …

Ride2School ambassadors (year 1-6 students) assisted tirelessly on the day to make it a tremendous success. Ride2School ambassadors attended lunchtime meetings to plan and allocate roles for the day. Ride2School ambassadors were at school by 8.00am helping set up bike parking stations, tagging and parking bikes, and handing out stickers, information brochures, show bags, safety vests and prizes. The ambassadors ensured the success of this important day on the school calendar.

The NLPS parent club provided healthy breakfast treats for students and parents as they arrived at school. Parents donated home baked treats, breakfast foods and fruit to support the ethos of active and healthy travel on the day. NLPS would love to see students keep up the walking and wheeling throughout the year, as the benefits greatly assist in the personal and academic development of every student. Students feel fresh and alert as they start their day. They are more likely to reach the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity they need. Best of all, there are fewer cars around the school, which eases ‘drop off congestion’.
Collaroy Plateau Swimming Success

Collaroy Plateau Public School has recently had great success in the pool, with many long-standing school records being smashed. Our school carnival was highly contested with many close finishes on the day.

Our Zone Swimming team represented CPPS with pride and achieved many personal bests at the Pittwater Zone Carnival. The team was successful in taking out both the Overall and Handicap PSSA trophies, an enviable feat and one which we have not achieved before.

Such success at the Zone Carnival led to seventeen of our students progressing to the Northern Sydney Regional Carnival at Homebush, where we were lucky enough to be represented in all relay events. Again, this is an outstanding achievement and shows the depth of talent and sportsmanship at CPPS.

Kyle Neville will now represent Sydney North at the State Swimming Carnival in April and we wish him every success.

Narrabeen North Farewells Mr Blanchfield

After an amazing career spanning 38 years, Mr Robert Blanchfield is retiring. Mr Blanchfield started teaching in the country at a small school called Hermidale, between Nyngan and Cobar in the middle of New South Wales where he taught K-2 in one classroom. He then came back to teach at Galston, Balgowlah, St Ives, Dee Why, and Narrabeen North and had 1 year where he taught in Seattle, America, as well as 2 years as a Maths Consultant.

Mr Blanchfield has been the Principal of NNPS for 7 years. His achievements are many, but the building of the new NNPS library and classrooms really stand out. One of the other accomplishments during this time has been the way in which the school has grown substantially over the years. Mr Blanchfield also feels that finishing off at Narrabeen with a whole wireless network will be a wonderful thing for the new principal and for the teachers to be able to use in their teaching and learning to really make it exciting for the students throughout the whole school. Mr Blanchfield has utilised his skills as a Maths Consultant by having students participate in Maths Club for many years. He has inspired many students to think about the different ways they can solve problems, developing creative and critical thinking skills for high achieving maths students.

Mr Blanchfield’s well-known love of travel has inspired his teaching including learning about other countries, and cultures. This next year will be a ‘gap’ year, but at this stage he is not sure what this will involve. After his gap year, Mr Blanchfield is going to do volunteer work with a friend in a hospital. Also in 2015, he may even come and do Maths Club! Even though he won’t be principal, he is thrilled to be coming back to see the exciting things that people will be doing for the 75th Anniversary of NNPS in September.

Farewell Mr Blanchfield; we will miss you!
A Joyfully Harmonious Day at Elanora

The students of Elanora Heights Public School joined joyfully together on Harmony Day to show Everyone Belongs. They validated Harmony Day as a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world – by coming together as one with decorated coloured rope, symbolically ‘joined’ on the day.

During the preceding week each class were given coloured lengths of rope and asked to talk about how these ropes, or their intertwined strands could be used to symbolise harmony. Some classes pulled the coloured strands apart and re-tied them to show how differences can work together and still be as strong.

Other classes cut out pictures of people in different native dress and attached them to show diversity; traced around their hands and wrote on the palm what harmony meant to them; decorated symbols of peace with multi-coloured streamers, and wrote poems with harmony as a theme.

All these lengths of rope were joined into one long piece on the day and songs were enjoyed together. Some of our teachers and students greeted the assembly with messages in Thai, Armenian, Spanish and Farsi then we all sang the Australian national anthem together. It was a proud and respectful moment for everyone.

At Newport We Can Do It!

At Newport PS, our students have been participating in many activities tied to our Newport Quality Behaviour Program. The program encompasses social emotional learning for students, as well as protective behaviours for preventing bullying and cyber-bullying.

The students have been learning about the characters from the ‘You Can Do It’ program. These characters are designed to help students develop positive social-emotional-motivational attitudes towards themselves and their learning. The characters include Penny Persistence, Oscar Organisation, Gabby Get Along, Connie Confidence and Ricky Resilience.

Penny Persistence keeps on trying when things seem hard and not fun. Persistence means trying hard and not giving up when schoolwork feels like it’s too difficult or boring. Penny gives everything a go. The positive habits of mind that help to develop a young person’s persistence include:

- I Can Do It – thinking;
• Giving effort – the harder I try the more successful I will be; and

• Working tough – thinking that in order to be successful in the future, I sometimes have to do things that are not easy or fun in the present.

Our five keys to school success are persistence, organisation, getting along, confidence and resilience. The students at Newport PS have improved personal development, a readiness to learn, excellent classroom behaviour, strong academic performance and are having fun.

At Newport, we can do it. Can You?

Wheeler Heights PS Woolworths Rewards Help Others

Recently Deputy Principal Liz Armstrong & SRC Co Ordinator Tracey Mavromatis visited the Royal Far West School (RFWS) in Manly to donate some wonderful teaching resources that WHPS earned during last year’s “Woolworths Earn & Learn” project.

The resources included hand puppets, percussion instruments, numeracy & literacy games and big books. The SRC of 2013 nominated the school to be the recipient of these goods.

The Royal Far West School works with over 1500 students a year (3-18 years) from country NSW, often in remote areas of the state. They cater for a range of developmental, learning and behavioural difficulties. It was lovely to see the children explore the resources and enjoy them!

The Principal & teachers from RFWS asked us to extend their appreciation to the Wheeler Heights PS community.

Avalon Public School – Pia’s Phenomenal Pool Performances

Students and staff of Avalon Public School are in awe of the outstanding swimming performances from Year 6 student, Pia Lenarduzzi during Term 1. At Avalon School, Pittwater Zone and Sydney North Area carnivals, Pia has raced superbly in all events contested and has established many new records at school and zone level.

She was placed 1st in the six events she entered at the school carnival and in the process broke the school record in every one of these events. Four of these records were set way back in 1994 by Laini Harris, who went on to swim at National Championships.
For the second successive year, Pia has been awarded the “Richard Hoskins Trophy” for the Outstanding Swimmer of the Meet at the Pittwater Zone Carnival conducted at the Warringah Aquatic Centre. Again she dominated competition, winning all events she entered and set new records in the 4 x 50 metre Senior Girls’ Individual Medley and Senior Girls’ 50 metre Breaststroke. Both these records were set in 2004 by Brooke Miller.

At the Sydney North Area Carnival held at the Sydney Aquatic Centre, Homebush, Pia once again swam superbly in elite competition. In winning the 4 x 50 metre Senior Girls’ Individual Medley, she bettered her personal best time by three seconds. She also placed 1st in the 12/13 years 50 metre Breaststroke, 2nd in the Open 100m Freestyle and 3rd in the 12 years 50 metre Freestyle.

She will swim in each of these events at the NSW PSSA Swimming Championships during the last week of term. A dedicated and tenacious swimmer, it would not surprise to see Pia set new personal bests during these championships.

Cromer Public School Harmony Day

Cromer Public School students participated in Harmony Day on 20th March.

Harmony Day is about community participation, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. This year’s theme was about everyone belonging.

The day began with students wearing a variety of coloured clothing. Students worked with their buddy classes and read stories from different cultures. They discussed the different cultures and talked about where their families had originated from.

The students then designed a puzzle piece and paper chain with their buddy to show that:

- Our society is made up of different people from different backgrounds.
- While we are unique, we all share the goal of wanting to live together in harmony, peace and understanding. We must respect other’s religion, gender and race.
- We must not accept hate, violence or unfair treatment of any person or group.
- We must strive to give all Australians equal opportunities and assist those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We are proud to be Australian.

The day concluded with a picnic lunch on the oval with many students participating in a variety of games. The students were a ‘harmonious rainbow’ of colour throughout the day.
Bilgola Plateau PS

Jet setting Bilgola Plateau journeyed around the world during Multicultural Day on Thursday 27th March 2014.

The enthusiastic tour guides were small groups of Year 6 students. Each group chose a country then devised a PowerPoint presentation detailing fascinating facts about that place. Colourful crafts, energetic games/dancing and tasty food samples were also prepared for other students to experience some significant cultural aspects from each destination.

This year’s Year 6 decided to choose some countries that were less familiar to Bilgola students; Tonga, United Arab Emirates, Cuba, Poland, Zimbabwe and Papua New Guinea were some of these.

In class groups, the younger students travelled to four of these countries throughout the morning having ‘passports’ stamped as they followed their itinerary.

Students enjoyed delicious ‘multicultural’ lunch orders supplied by the canteen then participated in a vibrant and noisy incursion by Drumbeats in the afternoon with hosts from Malta and Africa.

An absolutely wonderful and memorable day was had by all.

Narrabeen Sports High School World of Maths Day

Last Monday Narrabeen hosted the World of Maths Day which was a fabulous opportunity for students in Years 7 and 8 to experience Maths in a user friendly and hands on manner. It was a great success, with all students working in teams to problem solve the various puzzles and activities presented. Opportunities like this are important for students as Maths is presented in real world terms. Additionally all students have recently been working on Manga High, an online computer Maths program which presents Maths in easy to understand, clear formats. A special thank you to our hard working Maths Head Teacher Michael Palme for organising these opportunities.

Building our capacity - Peninsula Community of Schools update

Narrabeen Sports is an active member of the PCS. Our involvement benefits Narrabeen Sports directly and indirectly. Through building the capacity of our feeder Primary Students as seen in the recent Young Leaders Program, these skills will flow into our high schools in the years which follow.

Two weeks ago the PCS coordinated the extension test for Year 7 2015, held at our school to ensure we are extending the learning capacity of students on the Peninsula. The PCS builds capacity in both students and staff through increased opportunities made available as a result of its relationship with Macquarie University and our professional link with Adobe. The outcome for our teaching staff is the direct access to opportunities to become more proficient in pedagogy and the implementation of technology in teaching and learning. Such ongoing and relevant Teacher Professional Learning builds the capacity of our staff. In everyday terms, Narrabeen Sports benefits from the curriculum sharing arrangements we have with the other two high schools. This offers a greater range of subject choices for our students.
Mahboba invited Ms Ferris and four students to represent Pittwater High at a dinner for Nowruz, the Afghani New Year Celebration. Fern McNulty (Year 12), Rosalind Hardy (Year 12) and ourselves, Sam Groom and Meagan Story, were in attendance alongside Ms Ferris and students and teachers from Cherrybrook Technology, Auburn Girls, Asquith Girls and Mackellar Girls High Schools.

Mahboba is an Afghani woman who immigrated to Australia via Pakistan to escape the war-torn environment she grew up in. She is the founder of Mahboba’s Promise, which is an organisation that supports Afghani orphans and widows. The prefect body, with the aid of Ms Ferris and Ms Ferguson, organised Spirit/Multicultural Day as a fundraiser. On this day Mahboba made a visit to our assembly giving a presentation outlining the foundations of her Promise. Our school raised around $2000 which Ms Ferris then matched.

On Friday 21 March we were guests at Mahboba’s house in North Ryde to celebrate at her family’s annual Nowruz dinner. She cooked a Nowruz meal for us to share and enlightened us with the traditions of the Afghani New Year. Luckily, in Afghani traditions guests are expected to eat a lot of food, allowing us to indulge in the feast, and spicing up the event was the occasional unexpected chilli. We got to socialise with the other students and got to know Mahboba’s family. Her son spoke about his experiences in the HSC, giving us valuable pointers in how to succeed. Mahboba also made a speech thanking us for supporting her and her promise, telling us how our contributions and money raised will go towards enabling her to continue empowering Afghani schools resulting in higher education levels within the female community. After dessert we learnt an Afghani dance and started saying our farewells.

We thank Mahboba enormously for allowing us into her house on such a significant night on the Afghani calendar. Thank you very much to Ms Ferris for taking the four of us - it was a wonderful experience and one we won’t forget.

Sam Groom and Meagan Story (Year 11)