



FIGTREE HEIGHTS

PUBLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs Skye Hayward

respect, responsibility, care, integrity, excellence, fairness

Term 1 Friday 20th February 2015

What's Happening at the Heights?

**The school
canteen is closed.
A message will go
out when it's
ready to
commence
operating for 2015**

Change of date for
Kindergarten Vision
Screening. Please adjust
your term planner the
Vision Screening is now
on Thursday 19th March

Week Beginning 23/2

Wed 25

District Swimming carnival
– please make sure all
notes are handed into your
class teacher

Week Beginning 2/3

Shhhh....it's a quiet week

Heights of Excellence

Thank you to the Figtree Heights staff for establishing a welcoming and productive first 4 weeks of school. A special thank you for all the effort that has gone into setting up class routines, procedures and the informative parent evenings that took place this week.

Thank you to our Year 6 students for being outstanding leaders and ambassadors for our school. You have been fantastic role models to all our students

Parent Information Sessions

The start of the school year is always hectic for staff, students and our community. I would like to again, personally thank our FHPS teachers for their dedication to their classes and presenting the essential information to our families. It is imperative to start the year with these sessions, establishing the home-school relationships and outlining expectations for the year. Parents play a major role in these evenings and on behalf of the teachers, I would like to thank each and every parent who attended. We appreciate the effort you have gone to organising your home and work commitments around these information sessions.

P&C Meeting

On Wednesday evening, the Figtree Heights P&C held their first meeting for the year. It was a remarkable turnout with a record 37 attendees, many of whom were new faces. Sadly at this meeting, **Steve Hailstone**, our current P&C President, gave notice that he would be stepping down from his role at the next meeting. Words could not explain the gratitude our school, staff and students feel towards Steve and the role he has played in moving Figtree Heights towards excellence in all areas. Under Steve's leadership, the P&C has donated more than \$40,000 towards the education and resources of our Figtree Heights students. Last year alone, the P&C purchased 40 laptops, many of the value signs you see around our school, subsidised school events such as Musica Viva and enabled our Presentation Day to be held at Figtree High School by donating the \$1000 required for the bus cost. These are just a handful of ways the P&C have supported our students and enriched their learning opportunities. Thank you Steve, your leadership and guidance of the P&C has ensured our students are looking towards bright futures.

Parent Online Payment System (PoP)

Accompanying today's newsletter is the instruction booklet for the much anticipated PoP facility. This information booklet gives a step-by-step guide to this user-friendly system. We are very excited to be offering this alternate payment option to our families and look forward to hearing your feedback on this option. It is essential that if you do utilise this payment option, permission notes are still sent into the class teacher.

Continued over page...

www.figtreehts-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

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Twitter:
twitter.com/FigtreeHeights

Creating Tomorrow...

Also at this week's P&C Meeting, parents had the opportunity to share the next phase of planning for the future of Figtree Heights Public School. This session was a wonderful chance for our community to hear about and have input into our priorities for the next three years. This collaboration is a key aspect of the newly released School Excellence Framework and School Planning. It is about building a positive school culture and working together to drive our school towards the "Heights of Excellence". After months of consultation with staff, students and parents, the three focus areas for Figtree Heights, 2015 – 2107, are based on the theme of "Creating Tomorrow". They are:

- Creating Tomorrow's Leaders
- Creating Tomorrow's Learners
- Creating Tomorrow's Citizens

These three strategic directions will provide the landscape where our small school can make a big difference in our students' futures. Please stay tuned for more updates on these directions.

Illawarra Mercury

Keep an eye out for the Illawarra Mercury this week, especially Tuesday's edition, as we have a small article in the Captains and Principals feature. It is very exciting to give the outside world a small snippet of how wonderful we are.

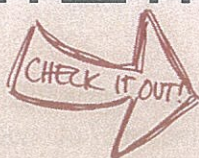
Parent Feedback

In the coming weeks we will be sending home a selection of feedback opportunities for families to provide information on a variety of topics relating to Figtree Heights Public School. It is part of our school self-evaluation and we thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Have a great weekend!

Warm regards,

Skye Hayward



QR Reader Codes

What to do?

1. Go to the iTunes store, download and install the following free app
2. Hold your device up to one of the QR codes on this page and it will take you to the pre-recorded link.



Try it out!

School Website

This is a fun and interactive way to provide more information to families who are interested. **Have a look in classroom windows for more links to some great sites.**

Please note: If you are viewing the newsletter on a computer screen, simply hold your phone or device up to the screen and it will connect you to the QR link.



Sports Star



Congratulations to Chase Grant who is off to Leeton in February to compete at the Regional Little Athletics carnival. Chase has qualified for three track and field events & is very excited to be competing at this level. We look forward to hear how he performs.

Happy Birthday to students who are celebrating their birthdays today and next week.

Brooke Baird, Eve Christensen & Najib Matar

Canteen News

Volunteers needed for the following days:

3rd Monday of the month 9.30am – 2.30pm

2nd Wednesday of the month 9.30am – 2.30pm

Volunteers are also needed for the 'emergency' roster, where volunteers are available on short notice to work in the canteen particularly at lunchtime.

The canteen is moving towards a 'fresh taste' canteen. We need volunteers to help with food preparation. If you would like to help in this capacity please contact
Christina Bonacina: phone: 0407895515 or
Email: christina_bonacina@yahoo.com.au

- **The canteen is not operating (yet) for 2015.**
- **A note will go out when it will commence. Thank you for your patience.**

Books Covers Needed



We have lots of new library books that need covering. If you would like to cover some books please call to the office to collect books and contact. Covering can be done at home and instructions are available if you haven't covered books before.

Our staff and students really appreciate your help!

Payment Reminders:

- **Textbooks-** Textbook payment notes were sent out Thursday (yesterday) as reminders to students who are yet to pay for their textbooks. Students will receive their books once payment is received. Thank you for your assistance.
- **Nan Tien Temple** excursion for Yrs. 2-4 \$20 Due now
- **District Swimming Carnival** for participating competitors \$5 due now

POP (Parent Online Payment) system has arrived!

An information / instruction booklet has been sent out today. Read carefully and please contact the school office if you are unsure of how to process your online payments.

Please remember it is for school activities only- not P&C, uniforms, fundraisers or canteen business. Student permission notes MUST still need to be completed and sent to the class teacher.

All permission notes that require payment will have a '**Payment Description**' name on them. This name **MUST** be typed into the **Payment Description** box on the online **Payment Details** page. For the ICAS competitions (Yrs. 3-6 students) you **MUST** itemise each comp you are entering e.g. SPELLING \$11, English \$8 etc.

Thank you for your assistance and please do not hesitate in asking at the office if you have any questions.

Useful Information

To download our school phone app go to the App Store on iTunes (Google Play for Android users), search for Figtree Heights and simply download. **Username:** community **Password:** figtreehtsps Please make sure you allow notifications from Figtree Heights in your phone's control settings.

The Community Noticeboard is located outside near the office and is used to advertise local sporting groups and community groups who offer services to our students and families.

School Uniform Information

Our school uniform supplies are now available from Lowes at Westfield Figtree. There is still a small amount of new uniforms available from the schools uniform shop. Parents are welcome to purchase these. Second hand uniforms are for sale by way of self-serve. Parents can request the key to the uniform storeroom from the office; they then select garments and bring them to the office to pay. Please assist this process by keeping the stock tidy.

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