

# *Flying Figtree*

Term 1, Week 5

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016

*Weekly Newsletter*



*Heights of Excellence*



## Upcoming Events

<b>29<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Halogen Leaders Conference (selected students) Bookclub Closes
<b>1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Blue Dragon Presentation
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	8:53am Student Leadership Ceremony <b>Figtree High Expo Night 6pm</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Clean Up Australia Day
<b>8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Regional Swimming Carnival
<b>9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	8:53am Swimming Champions Assembly
<b>10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Smith Hill Test Day</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Infants Camp Out
<b>17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Zone Hockey Trials InterRelate Visit Debaters to Farmborough Rd PS
<b>18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Cross Country at Figtree High
<b>19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Working Bee 9am – 12pm
<b>21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	Harmony Day World of Maths K – 3
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	World of Maths 4 – 6 PSC Learning to Lead Day (selected students)
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>P&amp;C General Meeting</b> Kinder Vision Screening Easter Combined Performance
<b>24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Easter Hat Parade Rugby 7's Carnival
<b>25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Good Friday (Public Holiday)
<b>28<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Easter Monday (Public Holiday)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	Pink Stumps Day ( <b>wear pink</b> )
<b>6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	3/4P Class Assembly
<b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Stage 3 Cultural Dress Up Day
<b>Term 2</b>	
<b>28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	School Photo Day

## Community News

### News from the P&C

It was previously advertised that the **Annual General Meeting** for 2016 would be held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, however due to factors outside our control this AGM meeting will be rescheduled.

**The general meeting will still take place on this date.**

The AGM is proposed for Wednesday **18<sup>th</sup> May**. Unfortunately, this cannot be confirmed until we hear back from the accountants. We hope to have confirmation soon.

### Working Bee

We will be holding our very first working bee for the year on **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March** from **9am – 12pm**. Please come down and spend an hour or so helping around our school. There will be plenty of jobs for everyone! We thank you for your support!!!

### Canteen Roster

The canteen is open on a **Monday, Wednesday** and **Friday** for lunch orders.  
Snacks only at lunchtime on **Tuesday** and **Thursday**.  
**Don't forget to use our canteen!**

<b>Monday</b>	Bronwyn Gibson and Elisa Stevanoski
<b>Tuesday</b>	Leanne O'Brien and Judy Warran
<b>Wednesday</b>	Renee Criddle and Hanna Bonacina
<b>Thursday</b>	Lindsay Srbnovski and Natalie Dzeperoski
<b>Friday</b>	Denise DeMartin and Lee Brett

### Vocal Group Contact Information

Thank you to parents for getting your child to our first Vocal Group rehearsal last Thursday.

Remember, the rehearsal begins in the Hall at **8:15 on Thursday mornings**.

Reminder also that I still need contact phone numbers from a few parents so that if, for some reason, rehearsals are cancelled, I can let everyone know by text.

Thank you  
Greg Costello

**Happy Birthday to the following students**

**Xavier Cooper,  
Bree Luke,  
Mia Rutledge  
and Caelan Cook**

# What do you need to know?

## Principal's Report

### Communication Channels

On Wednesday night we had a great turnout for our first P&C Meeting for the year. One of the items discussed at the meeting was the school's channels of communication. As a school we endeavour to cater for the differing needs of our community and therefore have a number of platforms for information. To make it simple for all parents and community members here is a brief run down on how our channels of communication work:

**Newsletter and School App:** Used for all school communication, updates, calendars, and reminders.

**Website:** Platform for school policies, class information, resources, links and general information about FHPS. It also provides a link to our P&C and OOSH.

**Facebook (FHPS LIKE page not the friend page):** School promotion, celebrations, P&C initiatives and news from the canteen. Please make sure you **Like** our page to ensure you receive information.

### Hot Weather

Of late, we have been experiencing some extreme heat. In such circumstances we always attempt to make our students as comfortable as possible. Air-conditioned classrooms are always open to our students on these days. Teachers also remind our students to keep hydrated and physical activity is postponed.

### Star Files

Celebrating the achievements of our students is something we enjoy doing. In the past we have added these moments into our general newsletter, but in 2016 we would love to add a 'Star Files' page to our weekly publication. If your child has something exciting to share with our community please make sure you inform the school. Include a photo (if you wish) and a short blurb outlining their achievement. Please send this information to the school email address [figtreehts-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:figtreehts-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) and title your email *Star Files*. We look forward to sharing these achievements with our community.

### PoP

Accompanying today's newsletter for our new families is an information booklet on Pop (Parent Online Payment system). This system is a great way to electronically transfer payments for school events rather than sending money into school. If you have not used this system and would like more information on how to do so please contact the front office.

### Notice Boards

Outside the front office you will see two brand new, lockable notice boards. One of these boards will be for school notices and reminders of events and the other will be for P&C and community news. We often get quite a bit of correspondence from associations in our community and we cannot always advertise these events in our school newsletter, the community notice board gives us the opportunity to do this. The school notice board will be utilised for announcements such as leadership teams, sports teams and general reminders which have been advertised in the newsletter and on the school app.

### Figtree High Expo Night

As advertised, the Figtree High Expo night for Year 6 students and their families is on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**. This is a great opportunity for all families to see what wonderful opportunities our children will be provided at our local public high school.

## How to Learn

They say a picture tells a thousand words...

Over the past year our teachers have been involved in professional learning opportunities in HOW2Learn or also known as Higher Order Ways To Learn. **HOW2Learn is a strategy focused on building students' capacity to learn.** This picture represents many of the skills our children are required to possess to be successful in today's world. Which of these skills are the most important? The answer is they all are. But how can we focus on all these things at once? It is a process, but by utilising the elements from HOW2Learn our children will gain these essential skills and apply them in many different situations.

This is achieved by explicitly teaching dispositions and habits within the existing programs and practices at Figtree Heights Public School. We aim to develop a learning culture that enables everyone to:

- Be self-aware in their learning
- Use the language and dispositions of successful learners
- Share a belief that intelligence is learnable and expandable

HOW2Learn complements the NSW Quality Teaching Model and draws upon a respected body of research, including much of [Guy Claxton's](#) work on *Building Learning Power*. This research identifies the higher order thinking ways that enable students to be successful lifelong learners. Stay tuned to hear more about what our classes are doing with HOW2Learn.

## Central Wollongong PSSA (Public Schools Sports Association)

Congratulations to all of the students who represented our school at the District Swimming Carnival. Not only were a handful of our swimmers successful in moving on to Regional level, but most importantly our swimmers competed with heart! They may not have been the fastest on the day, but did they give up? Not a chance. Thank you students! You should be proud of your effort and commitment. Thank you also to our parents who not only gave up their time to volunteer at the carnival, but were there to support all the students at this carnival. A big thank you to Mr Nielsen, who organised and ran this wonderful event.

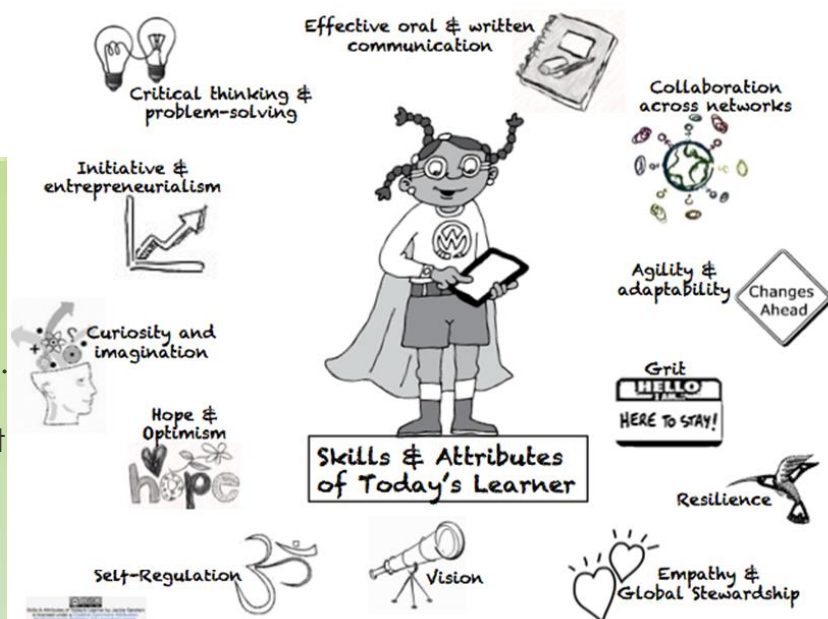
Well done to **Mackenzie Smart** who will be representing the school at the South Coast Swimming Carnival in the Senior Girls 50m breaststroke and **Riley Baird** who will be competing in the 10 Years Boys 50m freestyle!

Good luck to all our students who are participating in PSSA trials in the coming weeks. We wish you all the best and know you will put your heart and soul into these trials. Remember, it is not always about making the team; sometimes it is about the experience of the trial. If you do not make this team, do not be disheartened, keep knocking on that door as one day it may just open!

## Have a wonderful weekend!

Warm regards,  
Skye Hayward  
Principal

## What does today's learner need?





# I Give a GONSKI

Gonski funding is designed to ensure that every Australian child, no matter what their background, can get a high quality education. This funding began in 2014, after the independent Gonski Review warned too many children were missing out on the education they needed due to a lack of resources.

The review, headed by respected businessman, David Gonski, said Australia was under-investing in education and not delivering funded to where it was needed most. Under the Gonski plan, all schools are funded according to the individual needs of their students and what is required to educate them to a high level.

Schools can use the additional resources to better meet the individual needs of students. The ways we can use the funding include:

- Reducing class sizes
- Employing additional specialist teachers in areas such as literacy and numeracy
- Providing greater assistance and support for students with disabilities or behavioural problems
- Building the skills and knowledge of teachers.

## Gonski in action

Five state and territory governments in 2013 signed agreements with the Federal Government to follow the Gonski plan and improve the way schools are resourced. Those agreements specify the level of funding each government must contribute over six years from 2014 to get to a point where all schools have the right level of resources. States that did not sign agreements (WA, the NT and QLD) are receiving 4 years of federal Gonski funding but have not contributed their own one third share.

## So what is the problem?

The problem is that the Turnbull Government is refusing to honour, in full, the Gonski agreements signed with NSW, SA, Tasmania, Victoria and the ACT. It wants to end the tear up the agreements in 2017 and stop delivering to all governments the needs-based Gonski funding.

**That means children across Australia will be denied the resources and the opportunities they need to get a good education.** The financial impact of this decision will be huge because the majority of the funding is due to flow from the Federal Government to schools in the final two years. **For our school it means we will miss out on a SIGNIFICANT amount of funding!** In NSW alone, it means schools will miss out on funding that could pay for *four* teachers, on average.

The Commonwealth government's budget decision is more than a breach of a commitment with the NSW government; it is a breach of faith with all school students in the state. NSW Education Minister Adrian Piccoli. The Federal Government has also failed to deliver on its election commitment to extend Gonski funding in 2015 to all students with disability.

## We can change this

Getting the right resources into schools to ensure all our children get a high quality education should be something all politicians can agree on. We need a bi-partisan commitment to delivering Gonski, in full, from all state and federal political leaders.

By signing up for the Gonski campaign you can join over 150,000 other Australians who are committed to this cause and to putting pressure on the politicians to do the right thing by our kids. [Register your support today and join us in this important campaign.](#)

<http://www.igiveagonski.com.au/>