



Flying Figtree

Term 1, Week 2

Friday 5th February 2016

Weekly Newsletter



Heights of Excellence

What do you need to know?

Principal's Report

I would like to firstly start by welcoming our new families to our haven on the hill. The Figtree Heights community is always excited to welcome new faces and we would especially like to thank you for choosing to be part of this community. We hope you have had a smooth start to the new year and are looking forward to the year ahead.

It was a relatively smooth start to the school year with classes sorted by the end of the first week. I understand there were some hesitant children and parents, but as a school, we are committed to ensuring our students are prepared for life beyond our gates. This may mean they are not in their best friend's class in 2016, however, this is a wonderful opportunity to expand their friendship groups and interact with more children. Our school is not large and it is important for our children to not only interact with new people, but also be comfortable with seeing their friends at recess and lunchtime. Becoming Tomorrow's Citizen is a strong focus for our school and we are continuing to support our students to achieve this goal.

As the first official newsletter of the year, it is a perfect opportunity to go through a few housekeeping details our new families may not be aware of and also remind everyone of some changes we saw towards the end of last year.

- **Parking:** The staff car park and back driveway is strictly off limits to all parents. This includes, but is not limited to: parking, dropping off and picking up (even for OOSH care). The safety of our students comes first and the car park is an accident prone zone. Please put your child's and other children's safety first and park in the designated areas around the school. Please also be aware of unlawful parking around the school. Attached to today's newsletter is a pamphlet explaining the appropriate parking places and rules concerning no stopping and drop off zones. **The police and council will be familiar faces in our area ensuring the road rules are obeyed. Hefty fines apply.**
- **Newsletters:** Our school newsletter is distributed to families on a weekly basis. Distribution can be by a number of methods, including: email, school app or website. Paper copies are also available by request only. If you wish to change the delivery method of your newsletter please ensure you notify the front office. Over the past year we have tried to move to a more electronic version of the newsletter to cut down our paper usage. If you are desperate for a paper copy please see the ladies at the office.
- **Notes:** All permission and information notes are to be distributed to families on a Friday, where possible. This allows parents the opportunity to check bags one day a week for any correspondence. If your child is away on Friday, please see the class teacher or front office for the notes you may have missed. This year we will be uploading all notes to our school website. This will provide families with the opportunity to print off notes that have been misplaced and also check information if needed. Stay tuned for more details on this new feature.
- **Handing in notes:** All permission notes and money is now to be handed to the front office. At the front counter we have small letterbox slots with headings informing where notes and money needs to be placed. Please do not hand any notes, including absentee notes, to the classroom teacher.
- **Lunch Orders:** All lunch orders are to now be directly taken to the canteen BEFORE school. This is especially important with the swap of lunch and recess to ensure the canteen volunteers have enough time to organise lunch for 11am.
- **Contacting your teacher:** If you have concerns or questions regarding your child or anything that is happening at school, it is always best to speak to your classroom teacher first. Teachers are always the best point of call as they are the front line to anything involving your child. At the upcoming information sessions teachers will outline the best way to contact them.
- **Early departures and late arrivals:** Under the Education Act, all children must attend school every day the school is operating for students. If there is a reason your child needs to miss part of a day

or an entire day, it is imperative the correct procedures are followed.

Leaving: All students MUST be signed in and out by an authorised carer. Parents/carers are to come directly to the front office and provide a reason for picking up a child, once this reason has been validated, the office ladies will provide a slip which the parent or carer can take to the class teacher. No child will be permitted to leave the school without being signed out of the office first.

Arriving: If your child is arriving any time after the 9am bell they must be escorted to the office by a parent or carer. The parent or carer will then sign the child into school and escort them to the classroom. This is essential. If a child is late, the class teacher is not expecting them and in the event of an emergency it is essential we know where all students are at all times.

Sick day: If your child is unwell and will not be attending school, please let the front office know. For every day a child is absent there must be a note provided explaining why they were away. This is a Department of Education condition and is audited on a regular basis. At the end of every week an absentee note is automatically generated for every child who has not produced evidence for their time away from school. It would be greatly appreciated if these notes could be signed and brought back to school as soon as possible.

- **Expectations around uniform:** At Figtree Heights we pride ourselves on being inclusive and part of a wonderful school. Not only does a school uniform save the hassle of deciding what to wear every day, but also it gives a sense of belonging to our students, no matter what their background or circumstance. It is expected that all students attending Figtree Heights wear full school uniform, including school hats and correct footwear. It is also expected that boys have their shirts tucked in when not participating in activities in the playground. The rule of thumb is when the bell signals the end of play, shirts are tucked in ready to enter class. Our six core values of respect, integrity, responsibility, fairness, care and excellence are values our children will take with them throughout the rest of their lives. Providing them with opportunities to learn what these values mean and look like in everyday life is an important element of our school culture. We appreciate parent and carer assistance in this matter.

Every week we will be adding a housekeeping item to our newsletter to ensure parents are informed of policies and procedures at our school. It is important that our community feels in the loop with items such as the ones mentioned above. This will not only ensure the home school-connection remains strong, but it will assist in maintaining the supportive culture we have at Figtree Heights.

P&C in 2016: Please remember on **Wednesday 24th February** we have our very first P&C Meeting for the year at 6:30pm. This meeting will also be our Annual General Meeting. It would be great to see new faces at this meeting and welcome back the very strong association we saw in 2015. The P&C meetings are not only a great way to find out more about what is happening in the school, but it gives our community the forum to have a voice in many of the decisions that impact your children. Plus there is free child minding... what else could you ask for? I hope to see you there.

Enjoy the weekend!

Warm regards,

Skye Hayward

Principal



Upcoming Events

5th Feb	PSSA Trial notes DUE
5th Feb	School Swimming Carnival 12 – 3pm
8th Feb	Stage 2 Parent Night @5pm
9th Feb	Stage 3 Parent Night @ 6pm
10th Feb	Scripture begins Stage 1 Parent Night @ 5:30pm
11th Feb	Kinder Parent Night @ 5pm
12th Feb	Various PSSA Trials
29th Feb	Halogen Leaders Conference in Sydney (Yr 6 leaders)
29th Feb	Bookclub Closes

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!

Monday	Simone Pratt and Rachael Thackray
Tuesday	Karen Craft
Wednesday	Julie Jones and Karen Parry
Thursday	Gerty Pelekanos and Brooke Kiley
Friday	Belinda Monkman and Alix Murphy

Community News

Ethics Class

Ethics classes have become very popular in our school, as a result we now have two classes for years 1 & 2, one class for years 3 & 4 and one class for years 5 & 6. Our ability to offer a Kindy class this year may not be possible as we need another teacher. If you are free for half an hour on Wednesdays, please consider becoming an ethics teacher. Contact Amanda Bowen via email to find out more information. Primary Ethics offers all training free of charge and you do not have to be a teacher to facilitate ethics discussions. Currently, there is training taking place at OUW in March!

figtreeheightspsethics@outlook.com

Happy Birthday to the following students

Barry Dennis, Clay Baldock, Morgan Davey, Ashley Freitas, Piper Godfrey, Chase Grant, Eliza Harvey, Kai Lovegrove, Toby Moore, Chelsea Neill, Samuel Newton, Alyssa Srbnovski, Marcus Stevanoski

Are you feeling
EMPOWERED
today?

Are you
choosing
happiness?

Flipping your
mindset will set
you free!

Wellbeing Snippet

What you look for you will find.
-Cindy Russell-



School Band and School Vocal Group in 2016

Expression of Interest notes were sent home this week for students in Years 2-6 interested in joining the School Band and/or Vocal Group this year.

Band starts next Tuesday morning for continuing students from last year. Mr Burns pupils from last year will begin lessons next Friday in the 'Hive'. I will tell students when their lesson is scheduled.

If there is a new student interested in beginning either flute or clarinet with Mr Burn, there is a space and instrument available. Please see Mr Costello at school.

I will talk to 'new' band students next Tuesday at lunch time.

Leisa Adlington hopes to conduct lessons before school again this year for guitarists. She is contacting all her students from last year. Mr Burns guitar students from last year will have lessons with Leisa this year.

If your child did not come to the Vocal Group meeting to receive a note on Thursday, they can see Miss Dejanovic or the Office.

I am still looking for more students in Years 2-6 to join this group and would love to have some seniors this year. Please consider becoming part of this group.

Details regarding rehearsals and commitments are on the notes.

Thank you
Greg Costello
Music Teacher



ILLAWARRA SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL

SUPPORTING TALENTED ATHLETES THROUGH EDUCATION

Illawaspor-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.illawaspor-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

OPEN NIGHT
MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY, 6PM @ ISHS

Illawarra Sports High School allows students to combine their education with their love of sport.

The Talented Sports and Development Program offers many opportunities that do not exist at other comprehensive high schools.

- Rugby league, Rugby Union, Football (soccer), Netball, Tennis, Basketball, Girls All Codes (RL, RU, Touch, Oztag), Baseball, Surfing.
- Exclusive Sports High only and Elite Level competitions such as GIO Schoolboy Cup
- Fully qualified, high quality, external coaching during school hours
- Access to fully equipped strength and conditioning facility as well as personal training sessions
- Exclusive pathways with the University of Wollongong and TAFE
- Partnership with Physiotherapist
- Academic Mentors to ensure that schoolwork is the main focus
- Sports Leadership Program
- Targeted Academic Program
- Years 7 to 10 Academic Challenge and Excellence Program
- Rail Shuttle for out of area students.



Students applying for the selective sports program attend the Year 6 Trials Day on Thursday 31st March 2016. 8.30am to 12.30pm

See primary school or contact ISHS for permission notes and info.