

Flying Figtree

Term 1, Week 7

IMPORTANT NEWS

CAMP OUT – 4:30pm today until 8am tomorrow morning. Don't forget to bring money for pizza and the coffee van.

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY – next Friday at Figtree High School. 9am – 11am



superstars

Congratulations to the following Bronze Superstar student:

Kasey Reh

We will see you on Wednesday at the morning assembly!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...

Jacob Chichkan,
Joseph Cooper,
Kaide Pratt and
Liam Walter

Are you up to date with what is happening at our school?

Do you have our school app?
Have you liked our Figtree Heights Public School
'LIKE' Facebook page?

Term Planner

17 th March	Zone Hockey Trials
	InterRelate Visit
	Debaters to Farmborough Rd PS
18 th March	Cross Country at Figtree High CANTEEN WILL BE CLOSED
19 th March	Working Bee 9am – 12pm
21 st March	Harmony Day (wear orange)
	World of Maths K – 3
22 nd March	World of Maths 4 – 6
	PSC Learning to Lead Day (selected students)
23 rd March	P&C General Meeting
	Kinder Vision Screening
	Easter Scripture Performance
24 th March	Easter Hat Parade 10am
	Rugby 7's Carnival
25 th March	Good Friday (Public Holiday)
28 th March	Easter Monday (Public Holiday)
1 st April	Pink Stumps Day (wear pink)
6 th April	3/4P Class Assembly
8 th April	Stage 3 Cultural Dress Up Day
	Figtree Heights Fair (4-9pm)
Term 2	
28 th April	School Photo Day

From the desk of the Principal

Information Communications



Parking in a way that blocks buses and crossings or obscures sight lines is illegal, putting children and motorists in danger.

CHILDREN CROSSING

Children's Crossing

Don't stop within 20 metres before the crossing and 10 metres after the crossing. Penalty exceeds \$425 + 2 Demerit Points



Double Parking

Don't stop on a road between the road centre and another vehicle parked at the side of the road to wait, pick up or drop off passengers. Penalty exceeds \$319 + 2 Demerit Points



Speeding

Don't exceed 40km / hour during the designated school zone hours. Penalty exceeds \$186 + 2 Demerit Points

Think ahead - be patient

Follow the traffic rules within school zones.

There are NO EXCUSES - the cost of taking your children to school depends entirely on YOU.

The Internet and other communication technologies offer many benefits to our children. Social networking, gaming and chatting present many opportunities. Young people can communicate with friends and family from all over the world, access all types of information for school projects, and express themselves creatively, all with the click of a button or touch of the screen.

These days, children are known as 'digital natives' and are quick to take up the latest developments in technology. They are often the first to know when something new comes along, as they are growing up in an ever-changing technological environment.

What we must be careful of is how the internet, and in particular, forms of internet communication is being used by our children. Often there are things happening outside the walls of our school that have a deep impact on our students' relationships inside school.

We need to be informed and savvy about what technology our children are accessing. We must know how to protect our young minds. Being informed is the key.

Over the next few weeks, accompanying our school newsletter will be a variety of information sheets relating to internet platforms, including social media for our older students. Working together and being on the same page is important to not only protect our children but also support them as they grow up in this ever-globalised world.

Please note, as a school, we are not endorsing the use of social media by our students, however, we are faced with issues relating to this platform and need to be proactive in our approach to this issue.

In the near future we hope to have a parent forum where these issues can be discussed with police, experts and our community.

From the desk of the Principal

Emergency Evacuation

Over the past few days there have been a number of 'bomb threats' made to local schools. These have turned out to be hoaxes, however, the reality is they need to be taken seriously.

In the event of an evacuation, such as a bomb threat, where we are forced to leave the school grounds, emergency plans and routines are in place. These plans are communicated to all staff and teachers, including casual teachers, and are discussed and reviewed on a weekly basis.

If an event was to occur, whilst we would like to inform our community immediately, **our priority is the safety of our students.** The emergency services have to give permission to the school's chief warden before we can communicate the details of the situation. We would provide the relevant information to our community at the earliest moment possible. Whilst we understand this may be stressful for parents, keeping students calm and ensuring their safety must come first.

ICAS Tests

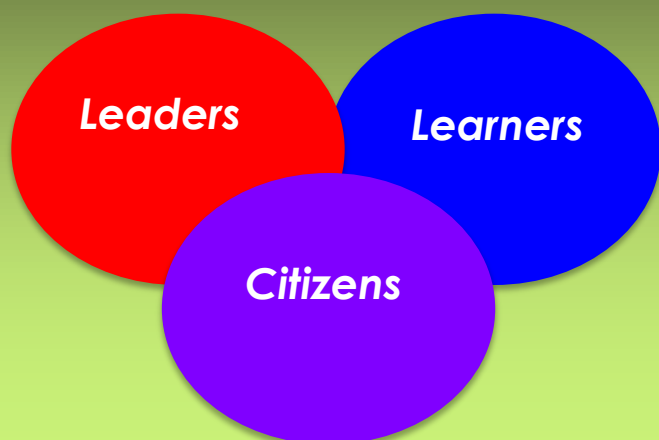
Every year our students in years 2-6 have the opportunity to sit University of NSW exams. These exams are voluntary and students can elect to sit for as many or as little exams as they wish.

Each test incurs a cost, payable by the student. If you would like your child to participate in these tests please pick up an application form from the front office. **All entries are due on April 1st.**

This year all tests will be performed outside of class time. Please see the table below for test dates.

ICAS SUBJECT	ICAS SITTING DATE
Digital Technologies	Tuesday, 17 May 2016
Science	Tuesday, 31 May 2016
Writing	Monday, 13 June – Friday, 17 June 2016*
Spelling	Wednesday, 15 June 2016
English	Tuesday, 2 August 2016
Mathematics	Tuesday, 16 August 2016

2015-2017 Plan Creating Tomorrow's...



School Planning

Our executive team is currently evaluating our school plan and where we are going next. We are busy comparing data, analysing feedback and plotting our achievements from 2015. This process will ensure we are on track to achieve our goals in 2016.

Part of this process is putting together the FHPS Annual School Report. This report will be available on the school website in the upcoming school holidays. There will also be copies available in the front office in Term 2.

Community News

News from the P&C

Working Bee

We will be hosting our very first working bee for 2016 on Saturday 19th March. It will run from 9am to 12pm so come on down to school and help out for however long you can. We have some great plans and are looking forward to working together to freshen up the school grounds for our children. Please see the flyer attached for more information.



Night at the Fair

Accompanying today's newsletter is an information sheet outlining the plans for our upcoming 'Night at the Fair'. Please take a look and see how you can help. Every little bit counts. Every dollar raised goes back into our school for resources, equipment and initiatives for our children.



GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 23RD MARCH

6.30PM IN THE HIVE

CHILD MINDING AVAILABLE

ALL PARENTS & CITIZENS WELCOME

**SHOW YOUR COMMITMENT AND STAY INFORMED
BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!**

WWW.FIGTREEHTS-P.SCHOOLS.NSW.EDU.AU/FHPS-P-C/P-C

Community News

Canteen News

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 & Rachael Thackray
Tuesday	Angelia Godfrey & Nicky Lawler
Wednesday	Atared Latif, Sonia Latif & Asmaa Moussi
Thursday	Shari Fox & Karina LeClerc
Friday	CANTEEN WILL BE CLOSED due to the students being at the school cross country carnival

Donation Please

Unfortunately, in the last school holidays, our 'Buddy Bench' was burnt and destroyed!

This bench was a place our children could go if they did not have anyone to play with. Children who passed by the bench could invite those, who were sitting on the bench, to play.

Do you have a bench seat you do not use anymore or do you know of somewhere we can ask to donate one?

We would love to have one to paint at the working bee!

**FIGTREE HEIGHTS** Out of School Hours Care

Experience the fun, adventure and play everyday!

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE NOW AVAILABLE AT FIGTREE HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL

- 6.30AM - 8.30AM
- BREAKFAST INCLUDED
- GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
- GAMES AND CRAFTS
- ONLY \$20 PER CHILD PER DAY
- **CHILD CARE BENEFITS AVAILABLE**

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CARE

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

BOOK NOW!
PH: 4227 2515
EMAIL: CENTRE@FHOOSH.NET

FIGTREE HEIGHTS OOSH... A FIGTREE HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C SERVICE

FHPS Student Star Files

Chase Grant - Athletics



Chase Grant has qualified to compete in the Under 9 years boy High Jump at the Little Athletics State Championships at the end of March.

Little Athletics rules require any athletes under 10 to perform the scissor kick method so the frosby flop method is not allowed.

Chase may be small but at his personal best he can jump 88% of his body height with a scissor kick! WOW!

Tyla O'Brien – Jiu Jitsu

Tyla O'Brien is a superstar in the making!

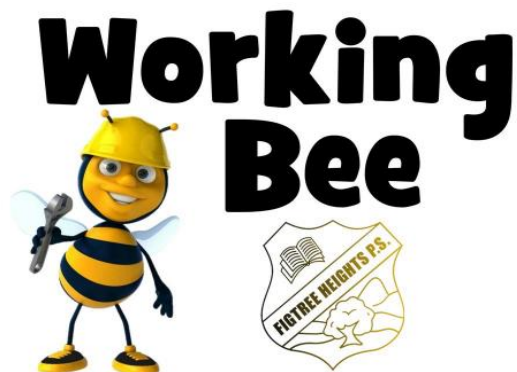
One of the many sports he competes in is Jiu Jitsu. Over the past few years, Tyla has been competing at an extremely high level. This year, he is currently sitting in first place, not only in NSW rankings, but also first place in AUSTRALIAN rankings! That is the **best** in Australia for his division.

Congratulations TYLA, what an amazing achievement!

**Do you have
something to add to
the STAR FILES?**

**Send it in to the school email
address so we can celebrate
the achievements with our
students.**

**Include photos and a short
spiel and we will add it to our
Star Files page.**



SATURDAY 19TH MARCH 2016 9AM - 12NOON

We invite all the families and friends of Figtree Heights Public School to join us for our first working bee in 2016. You may not know, but our school is only allocated a General Assistant one day per week to maintain over 3.3 acres of property that our beautiful school sits on - so we need your help!

Working Bees help us maintain our buildings and grounds whilst providing a great way to make new friends or do a bit of catching up; getting to know other parents, renewing friendships and building a good school community. It is also vitally important that your children see you taking interest in the school and helping to develop the fantastic facilities and grounds we have at Figtree Heights Public School.

Our main focus on the day will be tidying gardens, mowing lawns, repairs, cleaning and painting.

We also have a major project on the day of building a new office for our P&C and OOSH facilities, which will be located in the hall storeroom to free up the current offices in the hall for teaching staff. For this project we need builders, electricians and air conditioning installers. If you can help with any of these trades please contact Stuart Wilkinson on 0410 687 157 ASAP.

All materials needed for the day will be on hand for each job. To assist we ask that you please bring your own tools if possible (spade, rake, gloves, grass trimmers, buckets, sponges, toolkit etc). Please ensure all tools are clearly marked with your name and please be aware it is our expectation that other people's tools are not borrowed. If you don't have tools we will have a supply on the day to use.

Children are invited to the Working Bee but must be supervised by you at all times. On the day sign yourself and your children in at the table outside the main office when you arrive. At that time someone will tell you about what you are doing for the day and answer any other questions.

On the day morning tea will be served at 10.30am and a BBQ lunch will be provided at 12noon.

We would love to see a representative from every family at Figtree Heights Public School involved in the day.

Stuart Wilkinson
P&C President

Skye Hayward
Principal



-----PLEASE RETURN BELOW BY FRIDAY 18TH MARCH -----

FAMILY NAME: _____ NUMBER OF PEOPLE: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

AREA OF INTEREST (PLEASE TICK):

☐ USE ME WHERE NEEDED

☐ GARDENS ☐ LAWNS ☐ REPAIRS ☐ CLEANING ☐ PAINTING ☐ MAJOR PROJECT



P&C Federation

Committed to Public Education



Fact sheet

INSTAGRAM (For parents)



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What is Instagram?

Instagram is a photo-sharing app which allows users to take photos and videos, apply filters and share these with either followers or the general public. Users are able to 'like' and comment on photos as well as send these images directly to individuals through a private messaging option. Private messaging is accessed by the inbox symbol at the top right corner of the home page.

What is the age classification for Instagram?

Instagram users must be 13 years or older. This service is owned by Facebook and usually links to a Facebook account where a user's age can also be verified. There may be content on Instagram, which is confronting, graphic or not appropriate for children and young teens.

How are young people using Instagram?

Instagram is being used by young people to share photos, occasions and situations with their friends. The ability to like and comment on photos provides a useful communication function for young people as they explore and express their personality.

Should I be worried if my child is using Instagram?

Any application when used incorrectly, has the potential to cause harm. It is important that you openly communicate with your child about how they may be using an application and the legal and ethical ramifications of inappropriate use. They also need to be aware the dangers of communicating with people they don't know via any mobile application.

Who can see my child's photos on Instagram?

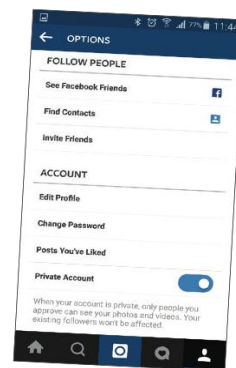
An Instagram account can be made visible to the public, or to approved followers only. Account settings can be changed through the Instagram app on a mobile device



by selecting the 'Profile' option on the lower right-hand side of the screen. Click 'Options' (signified by three dots), under 'Account' ensure 'Private Account' is in the 'On' position. It is important to note that even if an account is private, content shared on Instagram can easily be posted to a linked Facebook account which means Facebook friends can also see the post.

What could be revealed through an image?

There is a lot of information which can be revealed through a photo when it is shared online, in particular your location. This is revealed through a process called 'geotagging'. Geotagging is when the GPS coordinates of where an image was taken or a post was made, are stored within that post. This means that people may be able to find out location specifics such as where your child lives, works, or goes to school.



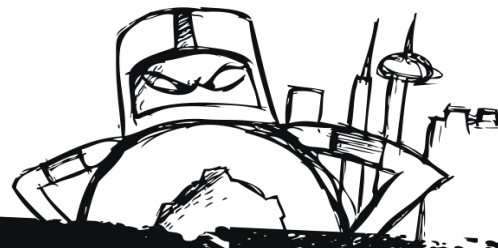
How to limit sharing location information?

It is important to turn off the location function for the camera on your child's mobile device, especially if they are using social media apps such as Instagram. For most devices, you can find where to do this in the 'Settings' menu. If you are unsure how to do this on your child's device, you can look up the device's user guide online.

It is also best to avoid using the Photo Map function on Instagram as this will pinpoint where photos have been taken on a map, potentially showing others the locations where your child spends much of their time. It is important to maintain open lines of communication between yourself and your child and discuss safe privacy settings.

What are the potential problems with Instagram?

Potential problems faced when using Instagram include the sharing of private information through photos, such as a home address or where a child goes to school. Your child may post a photo and receive negative comments





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from other users or have their images shared without their permission. They may also be exposed to photos which are rude, offensive or upsetting to them. It's important you and your child know how to block and report inappropriate users on Instagram.

You can block users via the Instagram app on your mobile device. Open the profile page of the offensive user and select the **Further Options** icon on the upper right-hand side of the screen. Select the **Block User** option and when prompted by the dialog box, select **Yes, I'm sure**.

If your child experiences cyberbullying report it to the social media platform in first instance. If it hasn't been removed in 48 hours, you can report it on the Office of the Children's e-safety Commissioner's eSafety hotline (eSafety.gov.au).



How can I delete my child's account?

If after talking with your child about the ethical use of Instagram and your family's rules around technology, you may think it's appropriate to delete the Instagram account.

To delete an Instagram account log into the account at instagram.com, click the account username in the top right and select **Edit Profile**, click **I'd like to delete my account** in the bottom right.

Note: Accounts can not be reactivated and photos may be lost.

Open and supportive discussions around technology usage are vital in ensuring your child understands their responsibilities when using technology. Simply removing the technology is not the best response as it could potentially make your child hide their usage where there are fewer opportunities for you to support them.



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DATA COM



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MINECRAFT (For parents)

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What is Minecraft?

Minecraft is a video game where players are given a 3D world to create and adapt as they see fit. It is popular with primary school-aged children, but is played by millions of people of all ages from all over the world. It's like a huge virtual sandbox in which players use a variety of tools to gather resources

from the environment and use them to build structures and craft tools. Players can create weapons and armour to fight monsters and interact with other players.



What devices can Minecraft be played on?

The original version of Minecraft is available for Windows, Mac, and Linux computers. A console version is available on the PS3, PS4, PS Vita, Xbox 360, and Xbox One. There is a condensed 'pocket edition' of Minecraft for phones and tablets running Android, iOS and Windows Phone.

How do children interact with other players?

Players can interact with other players in several ways when playing Minecraft. While you can play offline and play on your own, players can also join small private servers where a group of friends play cooperatively online, or huge servers with thousands of players from all over the world.

To play Minecraft you need a username, and players select their own username to identify them in the game. If you want to restrict your interaction with others, it's important players know their friends' usernames, and vice versa, so they know who they are playing against.

What are the benefits of playing Minecraft?

When played alone, Minecraft is a game that enhances creativity and

problem-solving skills. It can help children with their reading, writing, maths, and basic geometry. Played online with others, it can encourage teamwork and improve social skills.

What are the potential problems with Minecraft?

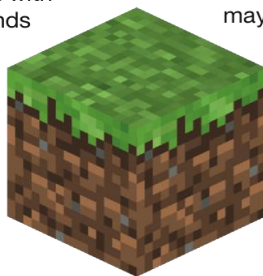
As with any online environment, children playing Minecraft online may be exposed to undesirable content or malicious individuals. Players can message each other privately or participate in a public chat with all other players connected to the same server. (A server is like a 'room' in which the game is played in, so only the people allowed into the room can play and everyone within that room can see what everyone else is doing.)

Bullying, swearing and rudeness are not uncommon in online gaming and, because servers in Minecraft can be hosted by anyone, there's no guarantee that server administrators will moderate the chat or stop negative behaviour when a complaint is made. Online gaming may also be an environment in which young people are exposed to inappropriate content or unwanted contact from adults for exploitative purposes.

Can I restrict who my child plays Minecraft with?

If your child plays on a server administered by someone you don't know, then you have no control over who your child plays with. Some servers may have hundreds or even thousands of players on them.

If your child wants to play online with their friends we recommend they play on a server administered by a trusted adult, such as a parent. Whitelisting mode (where only players on the approved list, the 'whitelist', can access the server)





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MINECRAFT (For parents)

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should be turned on and configured to ensure that only your child and their friends are provided with access to the server that they play on.

Advice on how to configure a private server, or how to purchase hosting through a third-party, can be found at minecraft.net.

Disabling the chat function

Chat can be disabled in multiplayer mode by selecting **Options > Multiplayer Settings** and clicking on the chat button to toggle it between 'Shown', 'Hidden', and 'Commands Only'.

By setting the chat function to hidden, your child will not be able to see private messages or the public chat.

Disabling multiplayer mode

In single player mode, a user does not interact with other users of the game; however, you can still access the multiplayer mode and enable online play with others. The ability to access this multiplayer mode cannot be disabled.

Downloading 'mods'

Mods are user-created files which modify the game by adding new features or changing existing features. Mods are not inherently dangerous; however some malicious users attach viruses and other malware to the mod files they post online. If your child wants to download mods for Minecraft, we recommend that they only download them from reputable websites and that the files are scanned by up-to-date anti-virus software.

What can I do if another player is harassing my child?

Server administrators are able to control which players are given access to multiplayer servers. You should contact the server administrator for the specific server that your child plays on and report the abuse to them. However, it is up to the server administrator to determine what action should be

taken. While some servers have strict rules and codes of conduct for players, others may operate with no rules.

If you are unhappy at the response from the administrator you should consider having your child move to another server with more strictly enforced rules, or hosting your own server for your child and their friends to play on privately.

More information

The Minecraft website (minecraft.net) contains further information on the game and links to further resources.



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TALENTED SPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

YEAR 6 SPORT TRIALS

Illawarra Sports High School will be holding the Year 6 Sport Trials for YEAR 7 2017 enrolment in the Talented Sports and Development Program.

Date – Thursday March 31st, 2016

Time – 8.30am to 12.30pm

Where – Illawarra Sports High School Stadium and Oval.

Transport Arrangements – Private transport.

Sports to Trial for –

- Rugby League & Union
- Girls All Codes (RL, RU, Touch, Oztag)
- Netball
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Baseball
- Surfing (no surfing at trials, fitness and skills test only)
- Tennis
- Cross Codes (athletics, fitness, mixed sports)

Student Registration -

Students must register their attendance at the trials no later than Thursday March 24th. Primary schools can send through a list of students attending or parents can contact Illawarra Sports High School front office.

If a child is unable to attend the trial due to other commitments, please still register and return the permission form.

Information and Permission Note –

See your primary school for the information and permission note.



Amy Child - Director of Sport

Phone: 4271 1099

Email: amy.child2@det.nsw.edu.au

www.illawaspor-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

 Illawarra Sports High TSDP

 @ISHS_SURFING or ISHS_TSDP

SUPPORTING TALENTED ATHLETES THROUGH EDUCATION

