NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum
Over the next few years NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum will be rolled out in schools. This year, teachers have been given syllabus documents from the Board of Studies and have begun professional learning sessions to become familiar with the documents and begin programming using the English Syllabus for 2014. The Department of Education and Communities has organised two days at the beginning of Term 2 for School Development Days so that one full day is dedicated to the new syllabus.

On the school calendar you will notice that the students do not resume school until Wednesday 1 May in Term 2 for the reasons above. Thank you for your co-operation.

Thank you to the families who were able to attend the parent afternoon last Tuesday. Many parents had a chance to chat with their child’s teacher and have a good look in the classroom. Classrooms are exciting spaces with the many activities that take place and the complexities of learning and management also add to the mix. It was also a wonderful opportunity to ‘show-off’ our new synthetic surface under the COLA. It is certainly receiving many positive comments.

We were all able to enjoy a sausage sizzle expertly cooked by our friendly and helpful general assistant, David. Thanks David for your help!

Continuing on from last week here is some more information by Michael Gross on ‘Coping Strategies’. Strategy 2: Don’t let it spoil everything - Help your child to park his or her bad thoughts somewhere
The ability to compartmentalise bad events and keep them from affecting all areas of life is a powerful coping skill. Resilient sports people such as golfer, Greg Norman and former cricketer, Shane Warne have the ability to segment their lives and prevent disappointment (in the case of Norman) or personal issues (in Warne’s case) from impacting on their sporting performance. Somehow they park their hardships, frustrations and difficulties (HFD’s) for a time, and then revisit these issues when they choose.
Similarly, kids can be encouraged to park their HFD’s for a time so that they can function normally and then revisit them when it suits. For instance, if something negative happens at recess at school they need to make sure that it doesn’t spoil their whole day. They need to think about something else when they are in class and revisit their issue later on.
This strategy requires kids to distract themselves, think about something else and focus on the job at hand. What to say: “Park your problems for a while.” “Don’t let this wreck your day.”

ANZAC Day will be celebrated in the second week of the school holidays. Once again we are encouraging as many students as possible to march with the school and the school leaders. Mrs Osborne will coordinate the march and send home a note with students this week.

Principal
Dean Sneddon
**COMING EVENTS TERM 1 WK 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 2nd April</td>
<td>Junior Choir Garden Village visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 5th April</td>
<td>All District Chess Tournament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10th April</td>
<td>Early S1 &amp; S1 Reward Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 11th April</td>
<td>Stage 2&amp;3 Reward Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12th April</td>
<td>Last day of school Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 1st May</td>
<td>Students return to school</td>
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**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Little Bookworms**

- **When:** Tuesday mornings 9am – 9.40am
- **Where:** Westport Public School Library.
- **Who:** Pre-schoolers and their carers
- **What:** Listen to a story, craft activities and borrowing from the library. For more information ring the school on 65832944.

Bernadette Cassidy

**WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN**

Westport has received its order from the 2012 Earn and Learn program. We would like to thank all the families and community members who collected stickers and enabled us to obtain over $1000 worth of resources. Our new resources include books, board games, maths games, alphabet lacing sets, a display stand for the library and craft items.

What impressed me the most was the way that our students were able to respectfully socialise with the other several hundred people there. A number of service providers had stalls there which gave out stickers, drink bottles, lollies, slinky apples and playing balls. I hope all students take the opportunity to write a story for their class and parents about their experiences and what they learnt from this excursion.

Thank you to Mrs Osborne for organising our participation in the day! Thanks to all the parents and relatives who came along, especially Amy Anderson for helping so much. Thanks to Marilyn Donovan for supporting all the students and assisting with supervision and finally, thanks to all the students who had fun, were cooperative, were polite, were fair and most importantly, were safe.

The following students attended:
- Jackara Vale 2-3TF
- Tiana Lambert, Jai Smith- Lloyd 3-4B
- Benji Awilijandara, Shontai Fernando, Sachin Heath, Brodie Orchard, 3-4B
- Ryan Bray, Ebony Edwards-Lambert, Kiara Irving, 4-5M
- Wes Wiseman, 5-6A
- Jay Benham, Chloe Hardy, Taniesha Inglis, Coen Wright, 5-6B
- Samson Awilijandara, 5-6P

**YEARS 6 SHIRTS**

Orders for the Year 6 shirts have been a little slow in coming in. This will be the only opportunity to buy a shirt so please don’t miss out. All orders will be finalised on the 11th April so students can receive their shirts to start wearing from early Term 2. We apologise that no late orders can be accepted.

Any enquiries please see Mrs Bradtke.

**SPORTS SHIRTS**

A call for anyone who has sports gear at home particularly the new maroon and yellow soccer shorts and yellow soccer tops with maroon trim which were used last year in Term 4 for a soccer Gala Day. Please return to Mrs Benson. Thank you.

**CLOSING THE GAP DAY**

Seventeen Westport Public School students joined other local primary and high school students, community members, parents, teachers and elders in participating in the ‘Close the Gap Day’ celebrations held at the Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council on a sunny and warm Wednesday 27 March.

‘Close The Gap’ is a community and government program to specifically address the disadvantages that our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face: poorer national educational and school engagement outcomes leading to higher unemployment rates; poorer national health outcomes, and higher incarceration rates especially of young indigenous males.

There were a number of activities students could choose to join in. They included craft, social and sporting games. Students could listen to a picture book being read to them. They could join in throwing and catching, a spear throwing competition and a ‘hedgehog’ making craft activity to name a few. There were some Westport Public prize winners and ‘finalists’. I hope I haven’t missed out any one when I say, “Well done Brodie, Ryan and West!”

Then there was the food! All participants were provided with a sausage sizzle or a burger with salad and a slice of cake. Uncle Bill even was interviewed about his bar-queue tips.

Ben, Kirra-Lee, Lachlan and Fonu
RUGBY 7’S

Last Monday was a fantastic day for Westport’s Rugby Union 7’s. They played 3 games – losing the first and winning their next two. Throughout the day, they continued to improve and work on their “cleaning out” which enabled them to put the ball across the line. A big thank you to everyone who supported the 7’s on the day. We look forward to the next game at Kempsey where the boys will have the opportunity to advance further to Sydney.

Mr Tedd

CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen Roster Week 10

- Tues – Help needed
- Wed – Justine
- Thurs – Larisa
- Fri – Kelly E
- Mon – Help needed

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Bilbies and Bunnies Day. It would not have been possible without our volunteers and Ingrid our trusty Milko.

Next week, for our last Wacky Wednesday of the term, we will be having fish fingers. This will be a new item to our menu. Fish fingers are in the amber food group on the Healthy Kids School Canteen Guide. They will sell for 4 for $2.50.

Don’t forget Tara is coming in on Friday lunchtimes to slinky apples. Buy one here for 60c or bring your own for 10c.

Imogen Archer

ICAS 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>21st May</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>5th June</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>31st July</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>14th August</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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Please return permission notes and money to school by 12th April.

Nicole Osborne

EASTER HAT PARADE

1/2MB proudly showing their homemade Easter hats.

P&C AGM REPORT

It was great to see some new faces and a whole new Executive Committee: President – Amy Corrigan, Vice President – Richelle Day, Secretary – Kelly Evans and Treasurer – Larisa Smith. We would love to see more parents/carers come to our next meeting on the 4th Tuesday in April. We also need somebody to head up fundraising.

MAD MUFFIN DAY

My Kitchen Rules – “eat your heart out!!” WOW!! What a great array of cakes, muffins and sweets!! A big thank you to all the mums, dads and grandparents who donated the mouth-watering treats. The stall was a huge success and the money raised will go towards the Senior Choir’s trip to the Opera House in October. Thank you. D.Jenkins, D Bradtke and the Senior Choir.

BUY A SQUARE COMPETITION

Last Wednesday afternoon the ‘Buy a Square Competition’ was drawn. Thank you to everybody who donated the fantastic Easter Prizes. There were 65 lucky winners. All monies raised will go towards the Opera House trip. Thank you from the Senior Choir, Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Bradtke.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

WEEBOPPERS

Music and Movement for Pre-school children (0-5 years) and parents. We are a group which promotes parents participation with children in enjoying and developing a love for music and movement. Where: Honour Church, Ruins Way, Port Macquarie. When: Tuesdays, 10:00am. We ask for a $3 donation per family and a small contribution to morning tea. Meet other parents and share a cuppa afterwards. All enquiries: Jenny – 65824545. See you there!

PMNC CHILDREN’S SERVICES VACATION CARE

Enquiries for our April 2013 Vacation Care program are now being taken. Please contact the Centre on 6584 2627 for information or packages can be downloaded from the PMNC Website – www.pmncinfo.org.au – follow the link to the OOSH and Vacation Care pages.

Go4Fun

The Go4Fun program provides a fun approach to learning skills for life, such as preparing and eating healthy foods, reading food labels, keeping fit and healthy and shopping on a budget. Mid North Coast families who participated in the program last term highly recommend the program, describing improvements in their children’s fitness, physical activity levels, nutrition and self-esteem.

Families living in Port Macquarie and surrounds are welcome to take part in a free Go4Fun program in term two. Venue: Hastings Public School. When: Mondays, starting 29th April 2013. Register: please contact Go4Fun on 1800 780 900 or text 0409 745 645 for a call back. Local Contact: Margo Johnston 6562 0324.