Dear Parents and Caregivers,

You may have seen or read various media reports recently about the a new government initiative, “Local Schools, Local Decisions”. Some of these items have contained misleading information or they did not include all the information necessary to keep you fully informed.

So that you might gain a clearer picture of some of the issues involved, at our next P & C meeting on 15th May, we will be screening vodcasts from the NSW Director General and the NSW Teachers Federation so that you can listen to both sides of the story. We will hold the meeting in Mrs Nicholas’ room in order to access the big screen and hope you will be able to attend. We will move back to the staffroom when the broadcasts are over.

I would like to congratulate everyone involved in the organization and running of our ANZAC Service on the 26th April. It is always surprising to see how even our youngest students treat the occasion with enormous respect and solemnity. Our choirs moved people to tears and our invited guests were once again made to feel truly special. The flowers the students brought from home were beautiful. They were gathered up and presented as beautiful bouquets to our important visitors as they were leaving. Watching our Year 6 leaders interacting with some of the senior citizens was remarkable, and I am sure they will be talking about the experience for some time to come.

The Whitebridge Community of Schools (WCoS) is a partnership between Whitebridge High School and all of the primary schools in our area (Charlestown, Charlestown South, Charlestown East, Dudley, Redhead and Kahibah).

Whilst our local schools have always worked well together, this new, formal arrangement means that we can enhance the wonderful work we already do. We aim to promote the fantastic work of the Public Education System and also, as a community of schools, to offer additional learning opportunities to our students and their families.

On Wednesday, 2nd May, the Australian Communications and Media Authority presented Cybersmart workshops to high school students, WCoS staff members and parents. The presentations were research-based and provided vital information on keeping kids as safe as we can online. If you were not able to attend, you can go to the website www.cybersmart.gov.au and check the parent section (top menu bar).

**STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

KS - William Monk, Lucy Pulsford

KN - Finn Fleming, Zoe Jones

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**WHAT’S COMING UP…………………………..**

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***THE CANTEEN WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY & TUESDAY ALL TERM***
**CHAPLAIN’S MESSAGE**

Most of us take many things for granted in our daily lives. One thing, is the ability to communicate with others, something which we just accept.

However, one lady whom I massage, has MND, (motor neurone disease). This horrible disease causes a person to lose control of various muscles in the body, so that the use of limbs & speech become extremely difficult, & later cease to operate.

This lady can only communicate by making strange sounds & using her eyes & small head movements. Consequently I have to guess what she wants or needs, & I know her family can't help “translate” her noises. Obviously, this whole situation can be very distressing & depressing for all concerned.

Just recently, this lady's whole life changed. Her family bought her an ipad! Now she can press on letters to make words & sentences. Very, very slow, but SO worthwhile! Then she uses her pencil-like implement to press another mark on the screen, & a very “English” voice says the words she has written.

This has changed her whole outlook on life, because, for now, she can still communicate with others. Whenever I visit this lady, I always leave thinking how fortunate I am & how grateful I am for the gifts I have been given.

Perhaps we could all take a moment & be thankful for the things we do have, rather than whingeing about what we want.

Life isn’t tied with a bow, but it’s still a gift!

Helen Harvie
School Chaplain

**ATTENDANCE**

If you are aware that your child is going to be away from school for a number of days, please ring and let the office ladies know. We always try to contact parents/caregivers when a child is absent for 2 days, but sometimes this isn't possible (phones, disconnected, numbers have changed etc.). So please save us any unnecessary worry by getting in touch with the school as soon as you can to let us know what is going on.

Thank you to all those who are making a really big effort to get kids to school at (or before) 9.00 ... it makes everybody’s lives just that little bit easier!

**NO MORE GLAD WRAP!**


**STUDENT WELLBEING**

There are some amazing resources you are able to access to support your family and, more importantly, yourself.

The Parent Line (1300 1300 52) is a free telephone counselling service which runs 24/7 to discuss any issues that relate to your family. There is also information on their website [www.parentline.org.au](http://www.parentline.org.au)

We have sent home a brochure with Year 6 students to promote East Lake Macquarie’s free Adolescent and Family Counselling Service for students 12 years and over. Michael Burke will see you at his office or can even come to see you if that is necessary. Check the brochure for details or phone 4944 5900.

**Tip for the week:** Be gentle with yourself and keep your own stress levels under control. When pressure starts building, take time for a cuppa, take a walk, phone a friend, try some deep breathing, go for a play in the park with the kids or do whatever it takes to let things settle down again.
• Congratulations to Lucy Smithson (2D) for a sensational effort for achieving 1st place overall (out of 64 competitors) in a recent Hunter Region Gymnastics competition. See you at the Olympics in 2020 or 2024, Lucy!

• Ella Duncan (5/6C) and her family registered for the Life Education Health Challenge and gave up chocolate for a week. (I could never do that!) They were rewarded for this mighty effort—they won an X-Box. Well done, Ella!

WOOLWORTHS EARN and LEARN is BACK!
We are participating in The Woolworths Earn and Learn program again this year. We received great support from you last year and the school benefited with lots of new resources. From the 9th May, when you shop at Woolworths, you can collect stickers from the checkout operator and place them on sticker cards. There’ll be 1 sticker for every $10 spent*. Once completed, you can place your sticker cards in the collection box, at school. *excludes liquor, cigarettes, and gift cards. I am hoping also to get a box outside Woolworths at Charlestown and Mount Hutton. You will receive a sticker card today with this newsletter and when you require a new one they will be available in the office next to the Woolworths box.

Happy shopping!!
Beth Filipo

BOOK FAIR
COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR !!!
WHERE : Our school library
WHEN : Thursday 24th May from 8.30 am until 3.30 pm
WHY : To celebrate the National Year of Reading and buy lots of good books.
(and get lots of books to our school library as well !!)

The students will be able to preview the books on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in their library times and may bring home a wish list of interesting books. All donations to the library are very welcome.

I see this as a chance to raise money for the library and stimulate interest in reading.

Looking forward to meeting you !!
Anne Britt
Teacher Librarian

MOTHERS DAY STALL
The annual Mothers Day Stall will be on this Wednesday the 9th May.
All gifts are only $5 with a great variety to choose from, all beautifully wrapped, ribboned and with gift tags. Students will come to the hall with their teacher in an allotted time during the morning and be able to purchase one (1) gift.
For students who wish to buy more than one gift, they are able to come back to the hall at lunchtime for additional purchases.
If anyone can help out on the day (between 9am – 1) that would be great, even if it’s just for an hour or so.
Thankyou
Karen Johnson
0410 754 294
Congratulations to all students who attended the Zone Cross Country on Friday, 27th April. Everyone gave it their best effort and encouraged their peers.
The senior girls, in particular, were wonderful at supporting and cheering on all members of not only the Kahibah team, but all participants on the day. Congratulations to Renee Pountney who has qualified for the Regional Cross Country to be held on Friday, 11th May. Best wishes Renee.
Ribbons will be presented on Monday, 14th May at our assembly starting at 12pm.

Netball
Yesterday, our senior Netball team played their first game against Hillsborough PS, winning 22-14. Well done girls, it was a great game. We now progress to the next round and are due to play Valentine.

School Band
Band practice will start Week 4, Friday, 18th May at 8.30am in the old demountable classroom. A note from Miss Emma Johnson regarding fees will be sent home today. We are still seeking clarinet players if anyone is interested.

Request
Kindergarten are in need of the cardboard tubes from inside paper towels or cling wrap etc. If you could save yours and bring them to the Kindergarten rooms as soon as possible, this would be much appreciated.

Vegetable Garden
We urgently need someone to help our Green Gang with the vegetable garden (planting and maintenance). If you know anybody who might be interested (perhaps grandparent, neighbour?), please contact the office.

Opportunity Class Placement for Year 5 in 2013
Hard copies of the application form are now available for parents who do not have internet access. Completed forms will need to be returned to the school by Friday, 18th May (the same day that the online registration closes). Please ring or call in at the office if you need the forms.

Sincerely

Maggie McNair
Relieving Principal
8th May, 2012

**It's a boy!**
BROOKE Mattila’s NEW BABY - ALBY ALEXANDER
Born: 9.4.12 at 3.34pm  Weight: 3.8kg or 8lb 6oz
Our school will be participating in this year’s *Walk Safely to School Day*. Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual, national event where all Primary School children will be encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

**The objectives of WSTSD are:**

- To promote the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age (children need a minimum of 60 minutes physical activity per day).
- To help children to develop the vital road crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
- To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
- To reduce car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults (60% of children are being driven to and from school).
- To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.

We hope you can participate in this very relevant event promoting community road safety and health. It’s the perfect opportunity for parents and caregivers to teach children that walking all or part of the way, to and from school, is a good thing to do. Even if you have to drive to school on the day, park your car a good distance away from the school and walk the rest of the way. So, go on; hold your child’s hand and Walk Safely to School on **Friday 18 May 2012**.

For more information visit the *Walk Safely to School Day* website at: [www.walk.com.au](http://www.walk.com.au)

Road Safety Coordinator

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**LIVE LIFE WELL @ SCHOOL**

**Be healthy – be active**

Children and adults need physical activity every day. Activity helps build better bones, muscles, joints and helps maintain a healthy weight. Physical activity can also reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. Get active anyway you can - walking, riding, swimming, and playing active games such as Duck, Duck, Goose or Bull Rush.
KINDYMATES COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Wondering what to do with your pre-school age kids? Why not come to our playgroup? Parents & kids welcome!

When: Every Monday during school term
Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
Where: Church of Christ Hall, Foxdale Ave, Whitebridge
Cost: $2.00 per family

Enquiries: Merise 4944 8540
An Activity of Church 4 Life

www.swinfieldtennisacademy.com
Whitebridge Tennis Club, Lonus Ave.

Enjoy lessons with Tennis Australia qualified coaches

MLC Tennis Hot Shots for 4-10yr olds
Beginners to advanced private & group tuition for adults & students

For bookings & more details phone Sue 0403 194 751

SOUTHERN CROSS TAE KWON DO

ACADEMY
For Men Women & Children
(From 5 yrs +)

CARDIFF
John Young Community Hall
Thomas Street
Mon: 5.30 – 6.30pm

THE JUNCTION
St Josephs School Hall
182 Union & Kenrick St
Tue: 5.45 – 6.45pm (White & Yellow)
5.45 – 7pm (Blue Belts & Above)

WALLSEND
Callaghan College
Cnr Minmi & Macquarie St
Mon: 5.30 – 6.30pm (White & Yellow)
5.30 – 6.45pm (Blue Belts & Above)

DUDELY
Dudley Vintage Hall
96 Ocean Street
Tues: 5.30 – 6.30pm

BROADMEADOW
Merewether High School
Chatham Rd
Thurs: 5.45 – 6.45pm (White & Yell.)
5.45 – 7pm (Blue & Above)

4963 4151
www.southerncrosstkd.com.au

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