Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you so much to all the wonderful parents who came to help at the working "B" last Sunday. We also had a huge band of volunteers, from the Hunter Christian Church, the members of which support our school relentlessly. We are so grateful for their delightful community spirit.

In every way possible, these people support our school. They provide mentors for our children in need, provide financial assistance for extremely needy families, financial advice for those who request it, several hampers at Christmas time, and provide sustenance at our Easter Hat Parade. They also foster the values we teach at our school and sponsor recognition of an award at Presentation Day in December. They have also offered to be the chefs at the Fathers' Day Breakfast sausage sizzle.

Add to that the Christmas Carol festivities and that gives you some idea of what they do for us, asking nothing in return and there is no religious bombardment (which I mention for those parents who oppose scripture for their children.)

We all shared in a wonderful day and I would particularly like to thank Mrs Skye Doel who kept the 18 children who turned up, many without parents, busy and involved. They were encouraged to 'earn' their morning tea and lunch by contributing to the clean up! She did a mighty job.

P&C MEETING
Tonight is our P&C meeting, starting at 7.00pm in our school staff room. Please come along to have your say. I'm mindful of how cold it is, but we do need your support so we can make decisions together in the best interests of your children. We have a fabulous school community, but for some reason our P&C meetings are relatively small. I would be very happy to hear from any of you as to how we can do better to have more folk attend.

CANTEEN
Our school canteen plays a very important role for our school as all profits are spent on resources to help the children. Recently we have had difficulty manning the canteen and some daily closures are becoming more frequent. If there is anyone or any group of people who could see their way clear to help us out, even 1 day a month, it would be very well received.

Kids love seeing parents at school. We love having parents at our school. You and your mate or mates could nominate when you would come and you'd have such a great day sharing laughter in between making sandwiches.
or mastering pikelet making!
See what you can do, or manage, but we do need help. Thanks.

**TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT**
Mrs Carol Callen went down to a course on the “7 Steps of Writing”, focusing on persuasive text last week in Sydney. She will present this additional knowledge to our staff meeting within the next couple of weeks. These courses are vital pins in our knowledge of the latest ideas on best practice and enable all of our teachers to benefit and stay at the cutting edge.

**BOOK WEEK PARADE**
Next Monday is our Book Week Parade and this will be a real fun afternoon. (For new parents, we don’t have prizes. We just emphasise involvement.)
There will be a sausage sizzle lunch ($2 each), and drinks $1 each, as usual. All are welcome to come and we will start at 1.00pm.
Our parade will begin at 1.50pm under the COLA. We hope you can come along to support your child.

**SCIENCE CHALLENGE**
This is run by the University of Newcastle and our venue is very well supported by local and district schools. During the week commencing 3rd September, we will be hosting approximately 900 students from many different public and private schools.

The activities challenge thinking and expose children to many different experiments which they have to work out, and then operate together to find a solution by building or making something that will work.

It’s a very thought provoking day and the third time we have been the hosts. All of our Year 6 students will be involved and the organisers love having this event at our school.

**NATIONAL LITERACY & NUMERACY WEEK**
Next week is a special week where we celebrate both literacy and numeracy at our school. We have planned a maths day on Tuesday, 28th Aug with activities organised by our interns who are our “teachers in waiting.”

These activities provide deep problem solving for our children and also demonstrate how relevant maths is in terms of real life.
The emphasis on maths fits well into the projects we are involved in with all of the schools involved in the Whitebridge Community (which we have abbreviated to our “WCoS”)
Our schools work well together in teams across stages to provide the best & consistent approaches to learning and this is knitted with our connections to Whitebridge High School. We all want to be “on the same page” to make the transition to High School much easier.

**YEAR 5 SCIENCE**
Again this Tuesday, 4 of our Year 5 students will be attending special science activities at Whitebridge High School. There are 5 such days, but because of school commitments, our students have only been able to attend 3 of these lessons. Unavoidable things happen, but to go to 3 lessons is much better than none.

**CHINESE LESSONS**
On chosen Monday afternoons one of the teachers from Whitebridge High School has been coming to 5/6C in and experiment teaching Chinese. It has been rather successful. Not only is the language taught, but students also have lessons in the culture and history so they develop deeper understanding of how other people live.
In our world today, which is becoming smaller by the day, appreciation of other cultures, so different from ours, is crucial to help foster global harmony. You have to start somewhere.

**CHARLESTOWN CUP MEETING**
This Wednesday, Mr Davies will be attending a meeting to organize the Charlestown Cup, which will be held on the 12th Sept for our Yr 3 and Yr 4 students. This is another example of how we are bonding together in the Whitebridge Community of Schools to foster sport for the younger children, in this instance.
Many different activities and sports are featured throughout the day and the aim is fitness, fun, friendship and participation. We deliberately try to cater for the needs and talents of all of our students so everyone has the opportunity to taste success, even if this is being part of a team.

**PEACEFUL PARENTING**

This Thursday evening will see our 5th night of the Peaceful Parenting Program, a really effective approach in creating harmonious homes. The parents who come aren't those who have perceived 'difficult' children. Parenting isn't easy. In desperation, many parents resort to yelling, possibly because of total frustrations.

Yelling makes things worse and forces people further apart, it certainly doesn't bring people (or children) closer together. Parents who come to this course have mostly changed some of their behaviours and have discovered different approaches which bring families closer together. Kids and all people hate being put down and we often save our worst behaviour for those who are most important in our lives. And why? Who knows, but we've probably all done it.

**SCHOOL MUSICAL**

We are all hugely involved in practices for our major musical and this year it's even more exciting, given that we have theatrical curtains and our own lighting for the 1st time. It's been worth the wait. For quite a few years we have saved specially the money raised from our hall hire for the specific purpose of fitting out our hall.

Our next venture will be to line the top walls of the hall with insulation and wooden cladding, both for warmth and for sound proofing.

We will do it though it may take time to save. I'll get some quotes so we know roughly what our target will be. I will let you know when I have some ideas of projected costs.

**KIDS' CORNER**

Our children are our champions! Sure there's a few who try your patience, but you need to understand that schools mirror the cosmopolitan environment in which we live. 98% of our students never cause a day's worry and do everything they can to make our school a better place. They are just a pleasure to be with.

- This was echoed by a parent working on our canteen, the week before last. She made a special point of coming up to tell me that every child who attended the canteen that day was so well-mannered and polite and she just wanted me to know. They said "please" and "thankyou", and spoke totally respectfully to all the ladies. That is what is special to hear,...kids being respectful when no one is really watching and there's no reward waiting to be picked up! Kids just wanting to do the right thing and being the person they really want to be!

- Congratulations to the 2 Year 6 boys who witnessed some untoward behaviour at our school on Sunday afternoon, well after the Working "B" had finished. They were disgusted with what they saw and reported it first thing Monday morning. I won't mention names for fear of embarrassing them, but their school spirit couldn't stand by and allow vandalism to take place, especially after the efforts of so many people in our community who endeavoured to make our school look so fantastic. Thanks boys. You ought feel silently very proud of your ethics. Well done!

- Thank you to the 18 children who came to our working “B” on Sunday. Helping one another in a community is what life is all about!

- Congratulations to Indi Rippon (2M) who was invited to be a weather forecaster for 105.3NEW FM late last term. Although she wasn't given much help to prepare for the challenge, Indi's on-air performance was magnificent! The radio station also provided breakfast for Indi and her proud mum. This apparently included the biggest cookie the world has ever seen. Well done, Indi.

- Congratulations to the KPS Cricket team for their win over Morrisset PS last Monday. Our boys scored 154 runs and had Morrisset our for 19. Tom Sharman, Mason Weary & Sam Winpenny were the main run getters, while each bowler got a wicket with Jacob Richardson picking up two wickets. The team is to play Jewels PS in the near future.

- Congratulations to Renee Pountney & Solomon France who will represent KPS at the Regional Athletics
Carnival at Glendale on Friday, 31st August. Renee will compete in the Girls 12yrs 100m, Snr girls 200m, Snr Girls Long Jump & Snr Girls Discus. Solomon will contest the 11yr Boys Discus. All at Kahibah wish them every success.

- Our Zone Athletics Team participated well. Apart from Renee and Solomon’s success our Snr Girls’ Relay came third. Emily Sara had individual success in the 800m. Thank you to the supporters on the days.

THANKYOU
I would like to thank Kahibah Public School, Staff, children and parents for their generosity and support of the Cake stall held to raise money for Renee. I am extremely humbled by the efforts of everyone involved. These funds will be a great help to make our trip to Darwin more manageable. Thank you very much.
The Pountney Family

LOST PROPERTY
If your child is missing any jumpers etc please make sure you check the lost property situated in the same room as the uniform shop / quiet room. The basket is over loaded with jumpers with no names and some look new. If the items have names on them we do try to get them back to their owners. We also have lunch boxes, drink bottles and swimming goggles?

UNIFORM SHOP
Just a short note to let everyone know the uniform shop is open on Thursday and Friday mornings from approx. 8:30am. You can also access order forms on the web site if you are unable to get to the school. These orders will be made up on Thursdays and Fridays and sent home with the children. We currently have some second hand girls’ uniforms. They don’t have sizes on them although they appear to be around size 10 in good condition.

CHAPLAIN’S MESSAGE
One of my roles at school is to assist children experiencing social problems, such as a friendship dispute. To some children it is devastating when a friend says, "I don't want to play with you." Many feel mortally wounded, & intense pain can result.

Adults sometimes dismiss a child’s complaint, because we know how fleeting & trivial some disagreements can be.

Yet, by bringing both sides together to calmly discuss a problem, a simple solution can frequently be found, & children depart with their friendship intact.

Friendships are important to people of all ages, & fostering strong friendships usually begins early in our lives.

It has been said that “Friends are like walls. Sometimes you lean on them, & sometimes it’s enough just know they’re there.”

Helen Harvie
School Chaplain

FATHERS DAY BREAKFAST
Our annual Fathers Day Breakfast will be on again on Friday, 31st August, in the hall (starting at 8.00am). The Hunter Christian Church has organised for a team of cooks to prepare the sausages, so all you need to do is to turn up! Please mark the date in your calendar.
A note will be coming home this week asking for definite numbers.
Looking forward to seeing you there!
Maggie McNair
GET READY for THE MATHS MARATHON

On Tuesday 28th August we will hold a Maths Marathon as part of the Literacy and Numeracy Week.

All classes will participate in the outdoor maths activities around the school. The children will need to wear their Sports Uniform on the day. Please remember slip, slop, slap. You can even frizz up your child's hair like Einstein. Have fun!

We could use donations of:
* sea shells, blocks, buttons … or any other materials to make arrays
* objects that have an interesting shape or wooden blocks

Maths Marathon organising committee  Melanie Davis

GIRLS’ BASKETBALL KNOCKOUT REPORT

Last Wednesday, our girls’ basketball knockout team went to the basketball stadium at Broadmeadow. The team included: Ella Duncan, Renee Pountney, Brodi Robertson, Lauren Farina, Isobel Carr, Amelia Rarity, Layne Carter, Jasmine Atchison, Kahri Anderson, Hannah Gregory, Maddy Leask, Jasmyn Tessier, Bree McLeod and Rhiannon Jennings.

Our first game was against Jewells and we won a close fought game with 8 baskets to 4.

Next we played Rathmines, Mrs Britt’s old school, but sorry Mrs Britt we won that one easily, 16 - 2. Then we faced our toughest challenge, Floraville. Luckily we had Mrs Richardson supporting us for this one and we won 14-11.

We only had one more game in the round robin side of the draw to complete and that was against The Junction. We won that one 21-0.

So, we were undefeated and the top team on our side of the draw.

After lunch we played Belair in the semis and had another strong win 29-14. This meant that we were in the finals; one of the top 2 teams in the lower Hunter.

We faced Hamilton, who had two really tall rep players in their team. Unfortunately, they were too strong for us, and they deserved to be the champions on the day. We were still very proud to have come second in the competition and we were absolutely exhausted at the end of the day. We couldn't have given any more.

Miss Connolly would like to thank all of the girls for the great sportsmanship that they displayed on the day and also say a huge thank you to the parents and grandparents who stayed and supported us.

Special thanks must go to our super coach, Mr Glen Carr, who has trained the squad over many, many lunchtimes. We wouldn't have been such a strong team without his help.
**WCoS LEADERSHIP DAY**

On Friday, 17th August, Year six students from Charlestown, Charlestown East, Charlestown South, Dudley, Redhead and Kahibah had the Year six Leadership Day, held by Kahibah in our hall.

It was a great day with many speakers from the High School and the community. There were singers including Georgia Carter a fellow member from our school, musicians in bands and we met the drama teacher and some of her drama students who got as involved in their drama activities.

After lunch we got split into groups of five and made puppet people.

Leadership day taught us how to be a great leader and not a follower (even if you're not the loudest).

By Georgia Murray

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**FATHERS DAY STALL 2012**

The annual KPS Fathers Day Stall will be held on Thursday the 30th August.

All gifts are only $5 with a great variety to choose from.

Students will come to the stall with their teacher in an allotted time during the morning and be able to purchase one gift.

For students who wish to buy more than one gift they are able to come back to the stall at lunchtime for extra purchases.

If any parents could help out on the day that would be great, even if it’s just for an hour or two.

Thankyou

Karen Johnson

0410 754 294

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Sincerely

Pam Richardson
Principal
21st August, 2012

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**An Invitation to Catholic Families:** Parent of children currently in Year 3 or older are invited to contact the Parish Office on 49434153 Wed, Thurs 8.30 – 3.00 or Friday 9-12, if they are interested in enrolling their child/children in the family based Parish Sacramental Programme for 2012 13.

Any enquires are welcome.
Fr Robert Searle, Parish Priest.
Learn to Surf Newcastle is still operated and owned by Miles Niddrie, Level 2 Surf Coach, the name has changed this summer from Redhead Mobile Surf School which I opened in 2004. Same smaller group sizes, with flexible beaches and times.

Vegeta Surf Groms is back again this year. Locations and times are flexible to suit the surf conditions, main locations are Blacksmiths and Stockton beaches. All equipment supplied including full length wetsuits when required.

Cost is $220pp includes registration & the Surf groms gift pack valued over $250.

Age groups are 5-8yrs (max 8 kids/2coaches) and 9-12yrs (max 12 kids/3coaches) Lessons run Monday to Saturday both weeks of the holidays and the 8 session x 1.5hrs program start on October 8th for after school.

Saturday or Sunday sessions commence 13th October.

For bookings and enquiries please call 4944 9585 or 0404 83 9585. Standup Paddle Surfing too.

Adults and older kids also catered for and family discounts can be arranged.

Email at miles@learntosurfnewcastle.com or visit my website www.learntosurfnewcastle.com
Charlestown Junior Cricket Club invites you to join our Club for the 2012 / 2013 Season. Excellent Coaching and support for all children from ages 7 to 17 years.

Registration days will be held at the Club House, Kahibah Soccer Oval, Kahibah

Tuesday 28th August 2012 6pm - 8pm
Thursday 30th August 2012 6pm - 8pm
Tuesday 4th September 2012 6pm - 8pm
Thursday 6th September 2012 6pm - 8pm

Telephone enquiries phone: Scott Chillingworth 0417 499 239

NJCA CHAMPION CLUB 2010 / 2011 & 2011/2012

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Swansea Belmont Nippers Registrations For Season 2012 / 2013

- **Sunday 26th August, 9am to 2pm (Special Open Day Event with Boar Squad training demo, young age group activity demo’s, equipment & uniform displays, meet& greet opportunity)**
- **Tuesday 4th September, 5pm to 8pm**

The Swansea Belmont Surf Club Nippers is one of the most educational sporting activities to help develop water competency and confidence in the surf environment in a healthy and fun way. Our Nipper program is available from Under 6 to Under 14. Held at Blacksmiths Beach, one of the safest beaches in our region, kids experience water confidence activities and racing every week.

Our elite team of coaches are life time members of surf lifesaving with professional Ironmen and numerous State & Australian Title holders. This extensive surf knowledge and experience is now being passed on with **FREE coaching** provided to all nippers.

*Join the Hunter’s most successful competitive surf club for the past 30 years.*

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KOTARA SOUTH ATHLETIC CLUB

Invites you to register and participate in the summer season of athletics for school aged children who are turning 5 or older by 31 December 2012.

Nesbitt Park, Grayson Avenue, Kotara South

- **Registration Nights**
  - Monday 3, 10, 17 or 24 September 2012 from 6 to 8pm
  - If you are new to the club, please bring along birth certificate or passport to verify date of birth.

- **First Night of Competition**
  - Monday 8 October 2012 at 6pm

The summer season runs from September to March and is a fun way to get fit, improve your athletic skills, and make new friends.

The club provides a variety of events and also the opportunity to compete in Athletics NSW and Little Athletics competitions.

If you require further information about Kotara South Athletics Club please visit our website

www.kotarasouthathletics.org.au