Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The year is flying by, but I won't tell you how many "shopping days there are left till Christmas."

**WCoS**

Last week saw the launch of the Whitebridge Community of Schools. Many dignitaries and parents were present and Paul Harrigan spoke glowingly of the public education system and notably about the positive outcomes achieved in our local schools.

We share ideas and resources to build a better learning environment for our students and this is clearly defined by Mr Andrew Cornwell in his speech to State Parliament. (Attached at the end of newsletter.)

**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT DAY**

This Wednesday, from 10.00am until 12.00pm the Principals of all Schools in our Whitebridge Community of Schools will be signing a Partnership Agreement ensuring that all Aboriginal students attending our school will be given every opportunity to follow their talents and skills through education.

Though we have had this as a mission for years, this agreement will be a formal recognition.

We also will be pledging to respect that Aboriginal people belong to the oldest living culture of humanity, as well as being the first peoples of this land. We pledge to recognize the unique place Aboriginal people have in this country.

There will be many dignitaries present and all of our Aboriginal students have been invited to attend. These children have all been asked to invite a non-Aboriginal friend to accompany them.

We need to break down all barriers, work together as brother and sisters in our land and be able to celebrate the different cultures which surely enrich our nation.

We will proudly hang the signed agreement in our school hall, along with Zeraphina Freeman's wonderful poem re the Stolen Generation, and for which she won a Prime Ministerial medal.

It is a very important day and its message runs deep.

**ATHLETICS CARNIVAL REFUNDS**

As everyone knows, David Lyddiard is known as the drought breaker, because each of the 3 or 4 times he tried to run our Athletics Carnival, the skies fell in.

Children paid $5 for buses etc for this day.
To provide a refund cheque for this amount for 288 students would take a huge amount of secretarial time to process and therefore we have the following 3 suggestions.

- Re Year 6 students, their $5 can be handed to Mr Lyddiard so the children will have that money to spend at McDonalds on the way home from their Canberra Excursion.
- For the remainder of the school, we would put each child’s $5 towards their cost of next year’s swimming carnival early in February.
- For K/1/2 students who don’t attend the swimming carnival, their $5 would come off an excursion.

If there are any parents who disagree with the above proposal, please advise the office and a cheque will be made payable to you forthwith.

**GATs BAND**

Scott Ryan will be running a workshop for gifted band musicians in our school hall on Thursday, 8th Nov. He is expecting over 100 visiting students from around the region and after lunch they will put on a performance for our whole school.

They have requested we run a sausage sizzle lunch & drink etc. Paul and Ellie Tindall have offered to be the chefs and if there’s another few spare hands, especially with serving, it would be much appreciated.

All profit goes to our school, so do let the ladies in the office know if you can help out.

**KINDER ORIENTATION DAY**

Last Wednesday saw us welcome 42 new little kindies for 2013. They are a lovely lot and they seemed so confident as they came forward to meet their buddies.

The Year 4 children took the responsibility of nurturing these children very seriously and to see our “big boys” holding the hands of the little “fellas” was a bit tearful. They all did a mighty job. Thanks all Yr 4’s.

Thank to Mrs Sue Tripet, Mrs Jodie Martin-Bromley and Mrs Priscilla Coates who organised and served the morning tea.

**FRESH IDEAS—FOOD for THOUGHT**

I’ve just enjoyed a fabulous meeting with Mrs Melissa Horvat, Annika’s Mum. Melissa is a graphic designer, and rather inspirational in terms of fresh thinking for what we can do at our school.

She is very willing to address our P&C meeting on Tuesday, 20th November re ideas for the canteen and ideas for a community garden.

Melissa has helped Redhead PS and the changes made there have been absolutely tops. They call their canteen the Sandy Shores Café and we feel rather inspired to see what we can do too.

Maybe coffee in the morning for all the Mums and Dads who could sit and relax and chat. Maybe coffee in the afternoon? Maybe a coffee club?

We could set up a community garden. The one at Hamilton PS is so interesting with its walks, a cow, a scarecrow and other bits and pieces. Redhead also have a vegie garden which is quite spectacular. Our kids could be so involved.

We desperately need a few really keen, interested people who can help with the implementation of these ideas. It’s a really fresh approach and Mrs Wand and I are jumping through hoops with this new offer of help.

If anyone wants to jump on our band wagon, let the office staff know, find out all about it at our P&C meeting, let’s set up a community garden committee (we’ve got heaps of land) and let’s set up a special café where we’ll make the best capoccinos in town!
P&C MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20th November in our staffroom. We do need more people because ideas bounce off one another and the more people there the more thoughts can pop up.

Currently, these people attend. Michelle Hill, Kelly Aurisch, Kim Sharman, Wendy Rippon, Madelon Scully, Ellie Tindall, Sandra Fitzgerald, Priscilla Coates, Anita Crane, Skye Doel, Jenny Richardson, Amanda Lawrence, Cathy Pountney and Judy Andrews are regulars.

We have lots of fun, a lot of laughs, they ask questions, suggest improvements, plan ahead and organise fund raising.

Come along and bring your suggestions.

KIDS’ CORNER

Our kids never stop ceasing to amaze me. Today, at the Student Council meeting their first resolution was to foster an overseas student from a war-torn region or one where people are starving. It would cost the children $30 per month which equates to approximately 10c per month from each child in the school. With everyone pulling together, we can make someone else’s life much better or possibly provide animals for a whole village. Community thoughts have spread into a much wider world and our kids sure have their hearts in the right place. Combine this with their actions and they will make the world a better place.

We must never lose sight of the fact that out of our 288 students there’s probably more that 270 children who have never caused any grief. They automatically do the right or fair thing, they act responsibly, they are cooperative and they show genuine care and concern for others. Thanks to all those kids!

♦ Cody Neat from 3D ran sensibly from the playground straight to the staffroom and interrupted a conversation so well, “Mrs Richo, sorry to butt in but this is urgent. Pavel has his leg caught in the fixed equipment. He needs help straight away.” His manners were superb and Cody knew exactly what to do. Thanks Cody. Most impressive.
♦ Jack Douglas in 3D helped me out enormously by looking after my grandson almost all day. He patiently played with him and showed him the chickens. Jack’s bad day turned out to be a good day all round and our conversations were delightful. Thanks Jack.
♦ Dane Randall of 3/4N was successful in being chosen as the best and fairest forward for his footy team. This is a fantastic award because it relies on skills of sportsmanship. Top effort Dane.
♦ Amber Hughes and Holly Randall came 3rd at the National Cheerleading Championships in Sydney on 28th Oct. WOW! 3rd in Australia is pretty big stuff! What champions you two are. Well done!

HUNTER REGION MATHS COMPETITION

This year our students performed very well indeed. Jye Hollier received a High Distinction and came 50th out of almost 17,000 students. He has also recently been admitted to Merewether Selective High School for 2013. Congratulations Jye!

Yr6 Distinctions:
Isaac Powell
Olivia Adderley
Matthew Crane
Jasmine Atchison
Jasmyn Tessier
Georgia Murray

Yr5 Distinctions:
Tyran Cameron
Lauran Farina
Solomon France
Ella Duncan
Kahri Anderson
Brynn Hulls

Yr6 Merits:
Michael Richardson
Layne Carter
Simone Engel
Shannon MacDonald
Connor Reid

Yr 5 Merits:
Cameron Hayward
Ty Hughes
Paul Battaglia
Jasmyn Blythe
Marcus Johnson
Congratulations to all of these students who have performed very well indeed. Questions in this paper can be tricky and tough so the above results are extremely pleasing.

**CHAPLAIN’S MESSAGE**

It is no secret that I am a very passionate JETS Football supporter. I thoroughly enjoy seeing the brilliant skills exhibited by the players, especially one, Ruben Zadkovich.

Ruben may not be the cutest or most handsome of the Jets’ team, but I admire him for 3 important traits he displays. Firstly, he never gives up trying. Secondly, he’s a “team” player, & thirdly, he encourages others, especially the younger members of the team.

As adults, we could emulate these characteristics. If something good is worth aiming for, be persistent and keep trying to achieve your goal. Next, our family is our “team”. Being a good “team” player, fortunately comes easily for most people.

Thirdly, we need to encourage our children & show that we believe in them.

Hopefully these ideas may help us all succeed in the “Game of Life”.
Helen Harvie—School Chaplain

**LOST PROPERTY**

We have mountains of lost property. This includes jackets, jumpers, track suit bottoms, shorts, tee-shirts, lunch boxes and drink bottles. There are some brand new expensive winter jackets.

Even after our big display and invitation to children and parents to come and retrieve any lost items, we still have over 40 pieces of clothing, none of which has been labelled with names.

We cannot store so much clothing any longer so Thursday morning we will offer the remaining pieces of clothing and other lost property to anyone who wants a ‘spare’. Please come up or encourage your children to collect a spare piece of school clothing. All items have been washed and many have the school badge. Many are quite new.

After Thursday, the left overs will be given to charity. As a reminder to all parents, please clearly label all items brought to school. The waste is exhorbitant.

Sincerely

Pam Richardson
Principal
6th November, 2012
**ROCK QWIZ**
HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TICKETS YET???
Kahibah Public School P & C present – ROCK QWIZ
Musical Trivia Night
Parents Night Out of fun
When: Friday 16th November
Where: Kahibah Public School Hall
Time: 6:15pm – till late (10:30/11ish)
Cost: $15 per head or $100 for table of 8

Help us raise money for a new carpark and have a great night out.
GREAT PRIZES – gold coin activities – LIVE BAND
Steak Sandwiches on arrival for purchase for more details or to book your tickets call SARA – 0419 636867 or sarasmithson@hotmail.com

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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

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Mr ANDREW CORNWELL (Charlestown) [1.10 p.m.]: I want to acknowledge a fabulous program in my electorate called the Whitebridge Community of Schools. This is a learning community whereby a group of public schools unite to reap the benefits of a strong and strategic partnership. The Whitebridge Community of Schools has seven schools from the Charlestown area in its learning community: Whitebridge High School, Charlestown Public School, Charlestown East Public School, Charlestown South Public School, Dudley Public School, Kahibah Public School and Redhead Public School.

The learning community allows these schools to: build strong partnerships with their neighbouring schools; promote existing partnerships; provide students with both competitive and diverse sporting opportunities—the schools have a combined sporting carnival; provide extracurricular cultural, social and academic opportunities for our students; share and maximise key resources; participate in combined events; have a unified approach to transitions, such as pre-school to kindergarten and year 6 to year 7; and have a common approach to student welfare policies and practices. This learning community has been collaborating for many years, and it is enjoying official recognition in 2012.

To celebrate this thriving partnership that spans more than 10 years the launch of the Whitebridge Community of Schools will be held on 24 October. The purpose of the launch is to forge new links and celebrate existing links between the school, its business community and supporters. I acknowledge the hard work of the principals to make this learning community a success: Mr Ian Wilson, Whitebridge High School; Mr John Theissen, Charlestown Public School; Mr Neil Sneddon, Charlestown East Public School; Mr Colin Johnson, Charlestown South Public School; Mr Peter Adams, Dudley Public School; Mrs Pam Richardson, Kahibah Public School; and Mrs Jo Clews, Redhead Public School.

The Whitebridge Community of Schools is in some way a metaphor for what has happened in that part of my electorate, because each one of those school communities was based around either a coalmine two centuries ago or an orchard. Over time those villages that were once isolated by bushland have now coalesced to become effectively one community. But each one of the communities, and its interaction with their school, maintains its individual identity. It is fitting that they have formed this community of schools. I also acknowledge that these are feeder schools for Whitebridge High School. The work to develop the students in the primary schools makes them not only academically, socially and sportingly sound but also well rounded individuals who enter high school very resilient and ready to enter the new challenge of being a small fish in a big pond from being a big fish in a little pond. Those students are then provided with fabulous opportunities from then on by the principal and staff at Whitebridge High School. When I have attended end-of-year celebrations at the high school I am struck by the quality of students leaving high school. They are far more polished and rounded than any of us ever were when we finished school.

Mr Bryan Doyle: Thank heavens.

Mr ANDREW CORNWELL: That is a fair point. Our schools are not just there to produce students based on academic performance; they are also there to produce students who will become good citizens. Whitebridge High School, as the end point of this community of schools, produces good citizens. All governments can be proud that our education system has focused on producing well rounded individuals. I congratulate the Whitebridge Community of Schools and wish it well for its launch.
Increase fitness levels and tone up with:

BOXING, TONING & CARDIO

For any fitness levels

For only $10 for 1 hour

Day classes @ Lugar Park Kotara South

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Night classes @ Kotara South Public School

NIGHT and SATURDAY BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Call Heidi on 0417 456 083
It’s on RAIN, HAIL or SHINE....

Check out photos on: https://www.facebook.com/#!/chabb20

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Bounce!

TENNIS ACADEMY

Established in 1992

Whitebridge Tennis Club
Hillsborough District Tennis Club

Tennis Coaching! Hot Shots! Competitions!
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