Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Responses to our “Canteen” survey have been fantastic. Out of 200 different families in the school, we received 144 replies, filled with useful information, outlining your thoughts, your desires and your needs for your children. All responses are currently being analysed.

I have listed 26 people who have offered to help in our canteen, some for this year and most for next year. With the resignation of Mrs Judy Andrews from all involvement in the canteen effective from last Friday, we will need help to keep the canteen open this year. If you can help, please advise us.

We would like to thank Judy for all of her dedication and commitment to our canteen over the last few years. It’s a big ask for a person to be the buyer and we are all very grateful for her voluntary support. It has been wonderful because she has given so much of her personal time. She would pop in everyday to check that all was well, either with the rostered people turning up or with the food supplies. Huge thanks go to Judy and we will certainly miss her very much.

P&C MEETING
Tonight is the last meeting of our P&C for the year and we have a huge agenda to discuss. (As per yesterday’s notice).
Mrs Melissa Horvat will present new ideas for a coffee club, for canteen thoughts and for a community garden.

Mrs Megan Fraser will be angling for your suggestions for inclusions in a grant based on the needs of disadvantaged students.

I will also discuss the processes we go through in relation to how we form classes each year. It is our desire to be open and transparent with all of our operations at our school but it has to be understood that the staff will then consider whatever feedback I get from our robust conversations, and as a team, we will workout what is best for individual students.

Please come along, listen, be involved and have your say. We will meet in our school library, starting at 7.00pm.

HEADLICE
One of our students in KS has had headlice, reported by her Mum. If your child is in this class, please check their heads. It is very contagious and often only effects “clean heads”. Please don’t be embarrassed. One of the best treatments, apart from chemicals, is to paste their hair with conditioner and leave on for a while before rinsing.

WHAT’S COMING UP

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<tr>
<td>Tues 20th Nov</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting - 7.00pm</td>
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<td>Fri 23rd Nov</td>
<td>Yr 4 Sleepover</td>
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<td>Mon 26th - 29th Nov</td>
<td>Yr 6 Canberra Excursion</td>
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<td>Wed 5th Dec</td>
<td>Whitebridge High Yr7 Orientation Day</td>
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<td>Parent Thank You Lunch</td>
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<td>Tues 11th Dec</td>
<td>Yr 6 Farewell</td>
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<td>Thurs 13th Dec</td>
<td>Presentation Day Assembly</td>
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SERVICE LEARNING
Next week, 7 students from WHS will be at our school for the whole week, involved in their service learning projects. 5 of these people are ex-students from our school and they are so excited about coming back. It's wonderful that they'd love to be here and we welcome them with open arms.

CANBERRA EXCURSION
Next week, Mr Lyddiard, Ms Connolly and I will be taking all the Yr6 students to Canberra. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to spend lots of recreational and educational time with all of these people. They are all special. We leave at 6.00am on Monday morning (sharp) and return about 6.00pm on the Thursday evening. Though we are all on 24hr call for four days, the kids are mostly very well behaved, take responsibility and do the right thing. I know this year won't be any different.

YEAR 4 SLEEPOVER
This Friday night, 23rd November, will see our Yr4 sleepover at our school. It is important that every child attends this activity to develop skills of confidence, responsibility, and cooperation. Teachers and some parents are with the children the whole night and lots of activities are organized to keep them all busy.

Thanks so much to Mrs Kendy Nicholas, Mrs Nicole Brady and Mr Ian Davies for all their organisation.

We must never underestimate the quality of our students. So many work fastidiously to raise funds for the disadvantaged, for flood/fire victims, for disasters overseas, for Ronald McDonald House, for cancer victims and so on. It's important for parents to understand that even children in the K-2 area run different activities, such as colouring competitions, guessing competitions and so on. Before they do this, they need to write for me a procedure. This involves WHAT they are going to do, HOW, WHEN, WHERE and WHY. We teach this. Children have to work all this out, which is part of the planning they have to do, they then stand in front of the whole school to explain what they are doing and then they commit.

So many skills are learnt in this process and each provides a step-by-step process in helping the children develop some basic knowledge in managing events for community involvement.

- Congratulations to Jay Weeks-Bentley & Isaac Powell for organizing a competition to raise money for Ronald McDonald House. They received their certificates yesterday at assembly from Ronald McDonald House. Thanks boys for your efforts. You ought feel very proud of your contribution to our Hunter community. Well done indeed!!
- Congratulations to the whole of 6L who set about setting up the chairs in the hall yesterday. They do this regularly, but this time, I was busy with Mr Lyddiard & the whole class set about fulfilling their duties without one issue and without a teacher paying attention to what they were doing. They were all brilliant & I look forward to a fabulous time in Canberra. Thanks kids! I knew you could do & be how you want to be when nobody else is looking. That's what makes what you did so special. Thanks champions!!
- Jayden Gibson has recently produced the website www.charscafe.weebly.com for a local café. He is very proud of what he has created. Feedback from the café has been so positive that he has also been asked to create a website for a hairdresser in Broadmeadow and a printing company in Merewether!! This is just a brilliant outcome.

It is also worth noting how proud Jayden is of his own efforts. His diligence and persistence has taught him so many life lessons far beyond what on 11yr old child would normally experience because of the challenges he has had to face. You are a champion Jayden, and never give up!

- Lilly Nicholas and Ella Ross held a competition recently to raise money for Ronald McDonald House. They collected $13.85. Every little bit helps and it's great to see these young people develop a community conscience. Well done girls.
- Congratulations to Tristan Connolly of 6L. There were papers in the playground and a teacher asked a group of boys to pick up the litter because it was messy and these boys started to argue, saying it wasn't theirs. Without any fuss, Tristan walked over to the group, picked up the papers near the boys & popped them in the bin. He was totally unaware that Mr Davies saw this act of kindness. Thanks so much Tristan for helping us out. Well done!
**CHAPLAIN’S MESSAGE**

One of the most enjoyable & satisfying classes I was privileged to teach, was a Year 6 “Remedial Class”. There were over 120 children in Year 6 and my students were the ones who struggled in academic subjects.

During that year, we incorporated Life Skills, Bike Education and social behavior into the program. After following their progress from High School, many of these students found successful jobs. One girl became a florist, & now owns her own business. Another took over her parents' Health Food Store. Some of the boys became tradesmen, another, a professional fisherman, and another owns his own asphalt business.

I truly believe there is a niche for each of us if we care to look.

As report time approaches, some parents have high expectations regarding their children's results. Not every student can achieve the highest outcomes. But if each one has given the best possible effort, we should be proud and satisfied, and offer congratulations and encouragement.

Helen Harvie—School Chaplain

**ROCK QWIZ 2012**

Many thanks to all the parents, teachers and friends who came along last Friday night for a night of fun, friendship and trivia. Everyone dug deep into their pockets and we raised $1350 which will go towards the car park and will help make our school a safer place for our children. It was a great night and many thanks to Sara Smithson for putting on such a fabulous event! The winners were a table of new families from Kindy - Congratulations!

A very special thank you needs to be given to the businesses in our community who generously donated some excellent prizes. These businesses include:

- The Beesting Bakehouse Kahibah
- Beauty by Blush
- Whitebridge butchers
- Whitebridge Foodworks
- Whitebridge Bottle-o
- Kahibah Bottle-O
- Lombards the Paper People
- Petbarn Kotara
- Lollipops Play Café
- Newcastle Roller Derby
- The Good Guys Kotara
- Bunnings Kotara
- Gateshead Indoor Sportsworld

Some of these businesses donate every time we ask them and for this we are very grateful. Also thank you to Madeleine Gedney’s parents who donated 2 very special bottles of wine. What a great community we live in!

This was a hugely successful night. Congratulations to the whole committee and thankyou to everyone who supported the evening. Whatever would we do without such help!

**CANTEEN**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Canteen will be **CLOSED** tomorrow, Wednesday 21st Nov. Please ensure your child/children have their recess and lunch tomorrow.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLE**

This is a very interesting article recently published in the “Education” magazine. The information is not new. Research reported these findings quite some years ago. It should put your minds at rest regarding your
Public school students succeed at university
Mary Fogarty
Research Officer

The type of secondary school a student attends prior to university is a better indicator of future university achievement than socio-economic status.

Research jointly conducted by Monash and La Trobe universities reveals little difference in student achievement at university when the socio-economic status of individual students was examined.

However, what type of secondary school the student attended prior to university did impact on their achievement at university.

A typical government school student will out-perform a private school student with the same ATAR once they are enrolled at the university.

The difference in achievement roughly equates to five ranking points, meaning that a government school student with an ATAR 70 will perform as well as an independent school student with an ATAR of 75. At the lower end of tertiary rankings, achievement differences are even more pronounced.

It's hard to understand why Public Education gets "knocked" so often. It actually is fantastic and prepares children to work and live in the real world.

Sincerely

Pam Richardson
Principal
20th November, 2012