Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Congratulations to the parents of our Yr6 students who came to Canberra. We had 44 students to look after and they were all real gems. Historically I would have to admit that with this group there have been significant difficulties, but we never give up. On this excursion, all of our school and home values came to the fore and we were all very proud of the performance and behaviour of every individual child in this group. You would be amazed!

They cared for each other, displayed exemplary behaviour at all venues and the cleaning supervisors at the motel informed us that the tidiness and cleanliness in the rooms during the whole stay were exceptional. This was fantastic to hear because this venue is booked out until 2016. We're included in bookings because our kids are so superb.

Well done everyone! Feel so proud of your personal growth, your general attitude and your courtesy. You all did well indeed.

Huge thanks go to Mr Lyddiard & Ms Connolly for all their hard work to ensure the excursion was a success. I am very mindful that, in our game unlike other public service divisions, there is not time in lieu & no extra salary. It's all about goodwill! Though thoroughly exhausted they both fronted for work the next day, fulfilling all duties.

Please appreciate that the staff in our school are gems and thrive on every opportunity to provide rich experiences for all of our kids. That's just a given!

YEAR 4 SLEEPOVER

The same totally goes to Mr Davies, Mrs Nicholas & Mrs Brady who gave up last Friday night of their own, and after a hugely busy week, to oversee the Yr4 sleepover at our school.

Our staff always goes beyond the call of duty to provide experiences and opportunities so all children can perform under their magic star and I feel very proud to work with such totally dedicated practitioners. Go elsewhere and you may find this is not the case.
SCHOOL MEETING
Thanks a million to all those wonderful parents who came along to our last P&C Meeting to help us with classes & direction for 2013. Mrs McNair was the scribe who recorded all parents suggestions which will be discussed at our afternoon staff meeting this Tuesday. Thanks so much for your valuable contributions. We will deal with each in depth.

One thing that we will take on board this year, is that we won’t be offering students the opportunity to express 2 or 3 or 4 friends (in priority order) that they’d like to be with next year.

Parents thought this created more difficulties than it helped and asked for this process to be abandoned.

We have also set up a special canteen committee to review what we need to do to have a really healthy menu for 2013. In the survey, which will be attached to this newsletter, you will see that many parents would support the canteen if it was really dealing with healthy food options. There are many diverse opinions, which is to be expected but generally, apart from treat days, healthy is the way to go. Departmentally they want all canteens to be this way.

Thanks to Natalie Pulsford, Priscilla Coates, Madelon Scully, Melissa Horvat, Jodie Martin-Bromley, Mandy Ross, Wendy Rippon, Anita Crane and Sandra Fitzgerald for volunteering for the committee and this Tuesday evening, at 7.00pm at school, we will work out what needs to be done and what help we’ll have. I have a list of 20 odd people willing to be involved in the canteen next year & that doesn’t include people who said they would on the survey, but left no names. So if this is you, please advise the office. I’m happy to work out the roster with whoever wishes to help & it seems we’ll be successful. We can do it! There’s a form to complete attached to this newsletter. Thanks everyone.

TOILET REFURBISHMENTS
The successful quote for our toilet upgrade with the change in door entry etc, goes to Mr Craig Melia who is a parent of one of our kindergarten students, Imogen Melia. Mr Matt Fitzgerald will remove the trees in the way & grind the stumps so we can cement the new approaches. We are actually managing the grant by ourselves. “Ourselves” means Col Curry and myself, but you get much more value for the dollar when you do it like this. Yes, we take on extra responsibilities to ensure safety for all at our workplace, it’s a whole heap more work, but it’s worth it.

Col & I have total faith in the process of self-management to rule out what we’d have to pay to the “middle man” which frequently doubles the cost. Refurbishment will start very soon and we are very grateful for such a practical & clear quote. Thanks to Craig.

SERVICE LEARNING
This program involves students from Year 10 at High School working in the community for one week as a practice & worthwhile experience to help them make informed decisions about the careers they may wish to follow in the future.

Many students, both past from our school & those from elsewhere, apply to come to our school for work experience.

Last week it was Whitebridge High School, sending 7 students. This week, Merewether high students will be here too for the whole of the time. Andrew Steele, one of our ex-students, will be among the group who are coming.

As a staff, we feel it’s so important to help these young people in their personal quest to search for their own future. They all express their gratitude for the week’s experience and how they have developed a different attitude towards being a student back at high school themselves.

They all do a magnificent job and when I de-brief them as to their experience, expectations & realities, they have learnt so much in just one week. That can only grow. We need these people to teach our children because they will play a huge part in the development of young people who will eventually be our leaders of tomorrow.
**MIDDLE YEARS' SCHOOLING**

It's important for parents to understand & know that we were the only school in our cluster to achieve the expected growth in both literacy and numeracy in the middle years of schooling in the latest NAPLAN results of 2012. We are always ready to share what we do and how we do it with local schools.

As a whole group, we have been net working & sharing & studying what we all do in Mathematics.

We are constantly very busy analyzing all results, because we totally acknowledge that "standing still" is going backwards fast." We always research individual & group results to see what teaching needs to happen to enable us to plug the gaps and enrich our strengths. We see this as crucial in teaching children according to their need.

**PREFECT NOMINATIONS and SPEECHES**

I am always impressed by the standard of speeches presented by Yr5 students who are standing for school leaders for 2013. There are so many capable & worthy students and when we know the result of the elections, I invite all children who applied to enjoy a pizza lunch in the privacy of the school library. I do this especially because there's always so much emotion involved. The announcement needs to be private. Some rejoice & others are in pain. The fact is we need to respect both & give each time to celebrate or commiserate in private so each can support each other.

Unfortunately we can only pick 12 student leaders, one for each class. Ms Connolly has explained the process to our P&C members, clarifying any misinterpretations by proving the honesty of the voting system by showing data of results in a previous year.

Teachers' votes count for 1 vote, the same as each student. One year, a student got a huge number of votes from the teachers and yet didn't get in. Another year a child scored only 3 teacher votes & was elected.

The children take their vote seriously because it means a lot. So when you hear talk that the voting is "rigged" please be assured this is not the case at all. Every single child has the same opportunity.

**PARENT THANK YOU LUNCH**

Just a reminder that our parent thank you lunch is next Monday, 10th Dec at 1pm in the Library. If you have not sent your RSVP, could you please do so by Friday, 7th Dec. Looking forward to seeing you there.

We want to see as many parents as possible, because you are the crux of our school activities. We treasure every minute you spend.

**CANTEEN ROSTER 2013**

At the end of this newsletter, there is a canteen roster form for you to fill and return to the school if you wish to assist in our canteen by going on the roster.

Please return to the office by Friday, 10th Dec and your help will be greatly appreciated.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to the following families, with the recent additions to their family: Jack Willis Buderus (a brother for Ella), Alicia Clancy (a sister for Declan), Sivanna Bancroft (a sister for Tanika, Danni-Ella, Joel), and Laszlo (a little brother for Zeraphina Freeman). Well done to all these families because the little bundles of joy bring untold happiness to everyone in the family.

**CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE**

Regardless of people's religious beliefs, most families in our school community will celebrate Christmas in some way. Thankfully, for the majority of us, Christmas can be a happy & magical occasion. However, perhaps we could spare a thought for those folk who will not have such a lovely or wonderful experience.

One of the messages of Christmas, highlights the joy of giving, which is mostly addressed by material means, with gifts to our family and friends.

Many charities request financial aid to help needy families. Yet, not everyone can afford extra cash at this time.
This doesn’t mean we cannot “give” to others. There are many ways we can make someone else’s day a little better.

Take time to do a kind deed by helping someone, especially the old or lonely. Smile, take time to chat, help carry things, water the garden etc.

None of these cost money, but could mean so much. Is there someone you could help?

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas season, & a safe, happy & healthy 2013, with lots of hugs & laughter.

Helen Harvie—School Chaplain

**WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION**

Regulations demand that we put into place certain actions for different situations that may occur in our school. Our students and staff are mindful of how to respond to various alarms and the locations of assembly points around the school. Signs are located everywhere.

Because we have some new parents at our school, I’d like to reinforce what to do in the unlikely event that something may happen.

1. **Evacuation:** There will be a succession of short blasts indicating “Go! Go! Go!” Doors & windows are closed, including the canteen, office area and library & all people assemble on the oval near the cricket nets.

2. **Lockdown:** A continuous siren will sound. People move to the closest of 2 points. The hall is one, and the 2 kindergarten rooms are the other. The doors are to be locked, blinds drawn & everyone remains completely silent until the all clear is given.

3. **Lockout:** We are working on refining this, but until we do, our temporary measure is to follow the evacuation process and from the oval, we will be walking to the Kahibah Park at the end of Frith St.

All parents on the school grounds are asked to follow the above procedures, even if you are just dropping off your children in the playground.

**A HUGE THANK YOU from the Cooper Family**

Thank you very much to Kahri Anderson, Michael Richardson, Jacob Richardson & Sam Winpenny for organising a fund raiser for Jacob Cooper. You are all very kind and it is very much appreciated.

Also a huge THANK YOU to all the staff, students and carers who helped make this a success.

Liam, Sue, Bailey and Jacob Cooper.

---

**KIDS’ CORNER**

Congratulations to all of Year 6 for their exemplary behaviour in Canberra. They were absolutely fantastic.

♦ One of our neighbours, Joy Hughes, phoned this morning to let us know about a wonderful student who stopped and asked her if she needed assistance to bring her garbage bin down her steep driveway. His name is **ARLAN RAYMENT** from 6L. How good is that!! Well done Arlan!! Fabulous community spirit!

♦ Ryan Ritchie in 3D is one of those wonderful children who always does the right thing. No matter what is going on around him, he always maintains his focus on a task. Well done Ryan!!

♦ Jessica McMorrow in 2M got a whole page of money problems correct in her maths book & she felt as proud as punch with her effort. Congratulations.

♦ Rhys Dobbins of 3D also showed me a whole page of maths which was excellent. Great work Rhys.

♦ Charlie Hickey, Sophie McLeod, Sophie Murray, Dylan Stevens, Wil Morgan, Zeraphina Freeman, and Kye Osmond, all from 3/4N are also to be congratulated for working independently, without fuss. They are settled and just get on with their work. They frequently move from the classroom to the computer lab to do individual work. There are never any problems. Well done to all of you!

You are all great treasures and a pleasure to have in our school. Well done indeed.
Survey Response Overview

Total number received: 144

Does your child/children use the canteen?

YES 111
NO 11

How regular is the usage?

Once per week 40
Twice per week 7
Daily 2
When open 1
Once per month 19
Twice monthly 21
Once per term 7
Twice per term 9
Three times per term 6
Sometimes/Rarely 9

Do you currently volunteer in the canteen?

YES 27
NO 106

If No, could you please expand on the reason i.e. Work, Infant children etc

Work.
Could not commit to whole day.
Volunteer in classroom.
Work plus infant.
Infant
Kids not allowed
No baby sitter/family
University

What would encourage you to volunteer? How can we encourage more volunteers?

Offer not taken up
Allow children in canteen.
Place 3 and 4 year olds in Kindergarten
Outline/ duties/role.
Keep asking for help at every opportunity, school assemblies etc.
Split shifts.
Shift duration 2-3 hours.
Pair experienced volunteer with new volunteer.
Payment to volunteers $10 - $20.
Incentives.
Volunteers who do more than 5 days per year do not have to pay school contributions.
Make those who don’t work feel guilty.
Keep parents aware of the lack of volunteers.
Get the kids to ask their nonworking parent or grandparent.
Keep the awareness of lack of volunteers regular.
Change lunch and recess times (reverse).
Post canteen roster in newsletter with vacant days. Operate 1 month in advance.
Food choices.
Too many lollies.
Menu low in additives, colours and preservatives.
Change of canteen menu. No pies or hot dogs but use as a special feature.
Better rostering organisation and communication between volunteers and co-ordinator.
Volunteer work as a centre link requirement.
Free lunch and cuppa.
Lunch at 11.00am.
Approach new mums and dads.
More variety.
Family day in canteen (mother/daughter day).

Return calls to those who offer to volunteer.
Baby sitter/Child care.
Unsure of what to do
Not cool for dads to work in canteen.
Encourage grandparents.
Pair up with friend.
Half days.
Parents need to be willing to volunteer.
Payment for staff.
Pay a canteen supervisor.
Nothing.
“Supported wages” for young people with disabilities.
Reward for class your child is in when you volunteer.
Express to parents the “vital” part of canteen economics
More notes home asking for volunteers.
Free lunch/morning tea for volunteer (teachers get it free).
If they volunteer put the names in the newsletter.
Open, and available roster where you can scroll down on random days.
No lollies, ice creams or sugar drinks.
Standard of food.
Fruit salad, yogurt, salad sandwich, toasted sandwiches.
Healthier menu without chips.
Promote a healthy food menu and have a volunteer drive.
If the canteen was a wholesome education process about real food.
School to co-ordinate volunteers.
Negative momentum at moment, change to positive more helpers.
Free lunch for your child when you work.
Cleaner canteen.
Shorter hours/shifts.
Stop working.
Correct money with order – volunteers can start at 9.15am.
Is there any day that suits your availability? (Canteen Hours 8.40am – 200pm Recess 11.00am, Lunch 1.00pm):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Would a half day suit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a volunteer would you be happy to work with Year 6 students in the canteen?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a parent, would you allow your child (Year 6) to assist in the canteen during recess and lunch?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What, if any changes would you suggest for our canteen.

- Most answers similar to menu question
- Permanent paid supervisor
- Buy wholemeal bread
- Focus on management of volunteers, emergency backups, streamline day to day tasks.
- Revamp bench top heights
- Relocate HWS switch
- Send out updated menus
- Frozen oranges
- Do parents working the canteen need to undergo “working with children”??
- Frozen berries, watermelon, fruit slushies
- Coffee and muffins for parents
- Proper ovens not warmers
- Buy bread locally
- Change orientation
- Compare to Merewether Hts and New Lambton South
- Refurb. Canteen
- No pricelist published
- Special days
- Corn on the cob
- More school involvement in the running of the canteen as they want profits but with no help.
- Promote the healthier options closer to the counter
- Fresh fruit

As a parent are you happy with our menu options?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any comment

- Haven’t seen a menu this year
- A few more gluten free options
- Too many options, keep it simple
- Too much processed stuff
- No lollies or fizzy drinks
- School’s responsibility to provide only healthy food
- Add soup and a roll
- Take out chips and ice cream
- Some good choices but a lot of junk food on menu
- Pleased with options and prices
- Mostly fast food good for school budget, bad for kids.
- Lunch selections ok need options for recess
- 5 and 10 cents options
- Remove the surcharge for spoons
- Food overcooked
- Only the teachers make the healthy choice
- More seasonal options
- Link healthy menu with health lessons in class
- Good to have a novelty day i.e. Popcorn day, fruit sticks
- Nachos in winter
- I like healthy and filling foods
- Better range of sandwiches. Old menu good “teacher inspired”, hot food selection seems unhealthy.
- Theme days, Mexican, Italian
- Love slushies
- Menu not suited to some health issues.
- Too much junk
- Promote healthier choices
- Menu may suit majority, we try to be additive free we can have chips and pikelets.
- Remove pies and hot dogs
- Closer scrutiny of prices for sandwiches and wraps
- There are very healthy options
- Compare our menu with other small schools
- With all the options, how does it impact on our profit?

Are you aware of the consequences of closing the canteen?

* Please expand on your answer.

If you, a family member or friend can assist as a volunteer, please provide contact details below.

Good response

Any additional comments or suggestions you wish to make.

A lot of the comments relate to “Healthy” options and paid supervisor.
Kidz activities

Our school holiday sports and activities camp will be running on 21\textsuperscript{st}, 22\textsuperscript{nd} and 23\textsuperscript{rd} of January 2013.

Run in the grounds of Whitebridge high by a qualified p.e. Teacher.

Activities include; volleyball, water slide, archery and much, much more!

For more information contact Sharon on 0409 603 403 or Email kidzactivities@hotmail.com
We invite all parents (mothers, fathers, grandparents, etc.) to assist in the operation of our school canteen. This generally involves one day per month between the hours of 8.30am and 2.00pm approximately.

Proceeds from our Canteen are vital for the continued progress of the school. We rely on our volunteer parents and grandparents who work so hard to help make the canteen a success.

We would be very grateful if you could spare some time to help out too. Children love having parents involved in the school and it’s also a great way to meet new people.

To enable an early completion of the 2013 Term 1 roster, could you please complete and return the form below by 10th December, 2012. The roster will be done term-by-term. Please do not commit yourself if you cannot make your roster days.

Rachael Devon
Canteen Supervisor
Ph – 49424182 or 0404513201

---

**CANTEEN ROSTER 2013 “TERM 1”**

Please circle day preferred:- Wednesday Thursday Friday

Alternative day _______________________________________________________

I wish to remain in my present rostered day, which is ______________________

Name ______________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________

Telephone No. _______________________________________________________

Child’s Year (2013) _________________________________________________

Note: If you can only help occasionally, please indicate a day that you might be able to help for our Emergency List.

*Please return by 10th December, 2012.*