Welcome to Week 8 and a mixed bag of weather. The term is rapidly drawing to a close with many major events still to take place. This week is a perfect example with events such as the talent show, excursions for primary and infants and the SRE Christmas Service on Friday.

Finally, good luck to our chess team (Corin, Caelin and Xavier) who will be competing this Sunday at the NSW Junior Chess League One Day Schools Tournament State Final. 

Mr Giles

Congratulations to:

• All Year 5 students who nominated themselves for a captains' position and gave a speech last week. Whilst not an easy task, everyone did an amazing job.

• Our 2015 elected Captains (Phillip Doran and Sophie Coghlan) and Vice-Captains (Charlotte Mackay and Olivia Beeby).

• Our Year 3&4 T20 Milo Cup teams. You represented the school and yourselves proudly and had a fun day – well done.

Presentation Assembly & ‘Thank You’ Morning Tea

Presentation assembly will be held on Friday 12th December, commencing at 9:15am. Students who are receiving awards and/or certificates have already taken letters home letting their families know about this.

The assembly will finish approximately at recess and will be followed by the traditional thank you morning tea for parents and volunteers who have helped at school throughout the year. Staff cater this morning tea which is our way of expressing our appreciation for the tremendous support we receive. Students at this time will be having their own recess out in the playground as per normal. All parents and community members who have helped in some fashion throughout the year are invited to join us.

What’s Happening At Our School ……

TERM 4 – WEEK 8

Tuesday 25th November Talent Show
Wednesday 26th Nov. “Hairspray” @ BHS – all primary Yr6 BHS Orientation Day 4
Thursday 27th November K-2 Excursion – Brewongle EC
Friday 28th November SRE Christmas Service
Captains’ Assembly – 1:45pm

TERM 4 – WEEK 9

Monday 1st December Gymnastics – Day 7
Wednesday 3rd Dec. High School Orientation Day
Friday 5th December 2015 Band Try-outs (new members)

TERM 4 – WEEK 10

Monday 8th December Gymnastics – Day 8
Tuesday 9th December P&C Meeting – 8pm
Friday 12th December Presentation Assembly

TERM 4 – WEEK 11

Monday 15th December Year 6 Farewell
Tuesday 16th December Carols in the COLA
Wednesday 17th Dec. Class Parties
Final day - students

“Hairspray” @ Blaxland High

Primary students will be travelling to Blaxland High tomorrow (Wednesday 26/11) to watch “Hairspray”. Students wanting to go but who haven’t returned their permission note or money have until tomorrow morning to return these. Students not going to the performance will be supervised, with work to do, at school until everyone returns.

If you have any questions please contact the office. Permission note and money need to be returned to school by Wednesday 26th November.
Carols In The COLA
Tuesday 16th December is the night set aside for our “Carols In The COLA” night (7:30pm).
Classes are getting ready with their carols and Mrs Sowter has organised glow stick products for the night. The school choir have been rehearsing their repertoire and the school band have their items ready to play.
Please remember that this is still a school function and that children should be sitting with their classes during the night. School uniform should be worn unless classes have organised something different for the night.
Non-school aged children should of course be supervised and due to the nature of the evening I would like to remind everyone that alcohol and smoking are not permitted.

Mr Giles

2015 Election of School Captains
Congratulations to all candidates who nominated themselves for one of the four captains’ positions in 2015. As mentioned, it is not an easy task and all students need to be congratulated on putting themselves in contention. Their speeches last Wednesday were outstanding and all of them will do a great job next year in whatever leadership role they find themselves taking on.

After all of the votes were counted, four students were elected to the four positions. Our captains for 2015 will be Phillip Doran and Sophie Coghlan and our vice-captains will be Charlotte Mackay and Olivia Beeby. Congratulations to these students and good luck in their new roles for 2015.

End of School Financial Year
The end of November marks the finish of the school’s financial year. To ensure that this process goes as smoothly as possible for Mrs McKellar in the office, I would ask that all outstanding payments for programs this year be finalised by Wednesday 26th November.

For those families who have made an arrangement with the school for payment plans please remain with the agreed plan.

If you feel that you may have trouble meeting this date for final payments, please contact the office to discuss your situation so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Mr Giles

Library News
All library books should start being returned from this week. This will help Mrs Turner out a great deal with the library stocktake.
All home readers will also need to be returned by Monday 1st December so that a stocktake can be carried out on them.

Thank you.
Mrs Turner

Lower Mountains Services Christmas Hamper Appeal 2014
The community services in the lower mountains are combining again this year to provide Christmas food and gift hampers to families in the Lapstone to Faulconbridge area who are experiencing financial hardships. In 2013 they were able to provide in excess of over 461 hampers to local families needing support. To provide these hampers each year they rely solely on donated food and gifts.

To help support this venture, our school will be collecting food items that families wish to donate. All donated items need to be at school by Friday 5th December.

Suggested food items include 1L juice, tinned food (ham, beetroot, carrots, corn, fruit salad, peaches, peas, pineapple, tuna, etc), biscuits (crackers, shortbread, sweet), cake mixes, chips, coffee (50g jars), cordial, UHT cream and milk, gravy, jelly packets, lollies, plum pudding, seasoned stuffing, tea bags, pasta and rice.

ASR Surveys
It is that time of year again when I will be sending home surveys for our Annual School Report to a randomly selected group of parents.

The surveys will be sent home during the next week and I would ask that if you are one of the families selected for this year’s surveying process, that you please consider taking a few minutes to complete them. Information gathered during this process is used to help steer the school’s management plan for the next 12 months and beyond. Surveys will be due back to school by Tuesday 16th December.

In addition, Year 6 will be helping out with the end of year surveying. They will come out prior to the end of the school day and ask parents waiting to pick up their children a few questions.
Roza Sage MP – Christmas Card Competition

Roza Sage MP is once again running her Christmas Card design competition for interested students.

This year’s theme, for the Christmas card competition, is “My Christmas wish is ………:

There will be two categories for the competition:
- Kindergarten to Year 3
- Year 4 to Year 6.

To participate students should send their completed artworks (on A4 paper) to Roza Sage at 132 Macquarie Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777. Entries are due by 21st November 2014. On the back of the entry students should put their name, school and grade. If there are any questions then please contact the office.

The StEPS program, offers free vision screening assessments to all 4 and 5 year olds.

If your child has not had their vision screened this year, we would like to invite you to attend a free StEPS Clinic.

Clinics are available at:

**Hawkesbury Community Health**
Monday 15th December 2014 and Thursday 15th January 2015

**Penrith Community Health**
Tuesday 2nd December 2014

**Cranebrook Community Health**
Friday 21st November 2014

**Springwood Community Health**
Wednesday 17th December 2014

Please phone 47305100 to make an appointment for one of the above clinics.

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**UWS PENRITH OBSERVATORY**
Great Western Highway, Werrington North (Building AO)

**Astronomy Night**
Saturday 6th December (8-10pm)

The UWS Penrith Observatory will be running an Astronomy Night on Saturday, 6th December from 8pm – 10pm.

The evening will include a presentation, a 3D astronomy movie and stargazing through the University’s computerised telescopes (weather permitting).

Cost: $15 adult, $10 child/concession & $40 family
Bookings essential:

Enquiries:
Phone: (02) 4736 0135
(Mon, Wed or Thurs)

or email: r.mccourt@uws.edu.au

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Lost A Copy Of A Past Educom Issue??

**The Educom Is On the Internet**


If you are not receiving your fortnightly issue of the Educom please contact the office and update your email contact.

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**School Security, You Can Help**

If parents or community members observe any destructive or suspicious behaviour in the school grounds please ring the School Security phone number listed below. All reports are treated discreetly; names do not have to be left with the operator.

**School Security - 1300 880 021**

TROPHY TOUR INVITATION – PARRAMATTA

Cricket’s most prestigious global tournament is returning to Australia and New Zealand after 23 years, the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015.

The ICC Cricket World Cup is one of the biggest sporting events in the world! In 2015 the tournament will be bigger and better than ever before as the best players from the best nations come together to compete for the ultimate prize.

To celebrate its return, the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 Trophy Tour will be visiting selected locations across Australia with free family-friendly cricket activities available for all to enjoy.

If you’re a fan of cricket or just want to be part of the action, then there’s only one place to be:

Date: Tuesday, 6 January 2015
Time: 10.00am – 6.00pm
Location: Parramatta
Address: Centenary Square, Macquarie Street

Participants will have the opportunity to get their photo taken with the ICC Cricket World Cup Trophy, test their batting and bowling skills and show their support to the 14 nations competing in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015.

Attendees are encouraged to wear their favourite nation colours or traditional attire.

Don’t miss this rare opportunity to be involved. For further information about Trophy Tour locations or the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015, including ticket information please visit www.cricketworldcup.com
I am in transition and it has happened way too fast. I hope I am prepared. I am now the mother of a high school student. Entering high school is a phenomenal year of change for parents and youth. Actually, it was the first week that really made its mark. Suddenly my daughter has her own laptop, email addresses and a smart phone.

When I was her age I had a fairly simple transition. I simply walked across the parking lot and turned right towards the high school instead of left for the primary school and the transition had occurred. That was one of the privileges of a rural education – not the norm for most youth as they make the change from primary school to secondary college. Back then, thoughts of laptops and phones with internet connection were non-existent, or at least only possible in the realm of movies like Star Trek. Fast forward to today and our kids are carrying these devices around in their backpacks.

With all this technology comes a great deal of responsibility for youth and their parents. I know I expect my children to use their manners, show respect and treat others as they would like to be treated. I expect this in the real world and I expect this online – constantly and consistently. Social netiquette is exactly that: online rules and guidelines that match real world rules and guidelines.

Here are some guidelines you can teach your child to help them develop social netiquette:

Don’t be an ‘open book’
Giving away too much information, too soon, to people you may not really know can put your child at risk. What you need to know and understand is that your child is now hanging out in the biggest possible public place there ever was. Placing themselves online and being an open book can make your child a target. Once they have put themselves out in this public place, they are accessible to billions of people. Even with tight privacy settings and all the awareness in the world, that post, that photo is out there; chances are that sometime, someone out there is going to make a derogatory comment about something they put online. I’m not saying that is right, but I am saying that it is bound to happen. Be prepared for that, and talk to your kids about what to do when it does. We recommend they do not respond, let a trusted adult know what has happened and do not re-enter that conversation.

Building your personal brand
In a world where social media rules, we have all become brands. Everything we do online is either adding or detracting from our personal brand. Does your child want their brand to be like a Nike or Coca Cola: a top shelf brand that people want to buy into because it is seen to have value? Everything your child says, ‘likes’, re-posts, comments or retweets on social channels tells others what they are all about. Online presence is not only about the content that they provide themselves – it is also about what’s written or posted about them by others. Today’s first impressions occur on the internet.

Your child’s personal brand will take them further than any education or university degree. In today’s world an individual’s online reputation is far more believable than anything they can provide on a piece of paper. A comment on a piece of paper doesn’t have a lot of ‘weight’, but what others can see about them on the internet – now that is ‘real’. A strong personal brand will allow your child to move between opportunities with ease.

Housekeeping required
Your child’s personal brand will also outlive any of their personal and professional achievements. Setting up and maintaining social networking requires constant work. Work with your kids to maintain a clean house, so to speak.

Today’s transition to high school usually comes with a transition to a greater online presence. Here are four great ways to help your children develop ‘social netiquette’
Keep social networks tidy and tight. Some apps make it very easy to connect with people they have never met. Have a conversation with your child about why ‘quality friends’ should win over ‘quantity of friends’. Are they connecting only with real life face-to-face friends? Who will stand beside them if they don’t, and things go wrong?

Mistakes will be made, and our aim is to minimise the slip-ups our children will make. The first thing is to reassure your child that you will be there to help if something goes wrong or gets out of control. Yes, we may be angry at first, but your child will need your support; we may be disappointed, but we will get over it. Let your child know that you are far more likely to respect them for being upfront about issues rather than trying to bury any mistake they have made.

Even the most insignificant online actions can have an influence on how your child will be perceived. Take a proactive and preventative stance – spending the time now to help your child navigate their way through their new digital world, and to help them attend to any stains and spills that might happen along the way, will pay off in the long run. Learning how to edit, block and delete content is a great place to start.

**Encourage kids to T.H.I.N.K.**

This is an ‘oldie but a goodie’ and it works every time. Work with your kids to have them answer these five simple questions before they post. Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? And is it Kind? If your child can answer yes to those questions, then certainly they can consider putting their material online. But even a single ‘no’ to one of these questions means they will be pushing the boundaries of social netiquette.

Times certainly seem different these days, but the rules are still the same. Be nice in public, make a first good impression, tidy up your mess and think twice before speaking.

So far the transition has gone smoothly and we have both settled into the new demands of online learning and the world of ‘bring your own device’. Being the mother of a high school student is a privilege, and I welcome the new challenges it will bring.

*Catherine Gerhardt*

‘eSmart Schools has found the content in the Kidproof Safety program to be a valuable and credible resource on cybersafety for schools’
The Alannah and Madeline Foundation
Please complete the membership form overleaf if you are a new member or if any details have changed.
SUMMER TOURNAMENTS

Summer Three-Day Tournament  Wednesday-Friday 7-9 January
Summer One-Day Tournament  Wednesday 14 January
Summer Two-Day Tournament  Wednesday-Thursday 21-22 January

The One- and Two-Day Tournaments are fun tournaments intended for all levels of players, especially those who might not be ready to play at the slower time limits and higher standards expected in our more serious tournaments, such as the Three-Day Tournament.

Format: Each tournament will be run in one open section suitable for all ages (under 18). You play all rounds (it is not a knock-out) and you play someone with a similar score to yours. This means that after the first round or two you will be meeting players of approximately the same ability as yours.

Venue: North Ryde Community Centre, 201 Coxs Road, North Ryde (see front page).

Time: Registration 9 a.m. on first day of each tournament. Play starts 9.30 a.m. and finishes at approximately 3.30 p.m.

Time Limits and Number of Rounds:
Summer One-Day Tournament: 15 minutes per player, at least 7 rounds.
Summer Two-Day Tournament: 30 minutes per player, at least 9 rounds.
Summer Three-Day Tournament: 40 minutes plus 20 seconds per move (from move 1), 9 rounds (recording of moves is not compulsory but is encouraged.)

Players unfamiliar with chess clocks will be given guidance and practice before play starts.

Closing Date for Entries: Two days before the start of each tournament. Late entries may be accepted upon payment of a late fee (see below).

Entry Fees: Summer One-Day Tournament $15; Summer Two-Day Tournament $25; Summer Three-Day Tournament $35.

A late payment fee ($5 per family) is charged if payment is made at the tournament after an online, email or phone booking. A late entry fee ($10 per family) is charged for entries made at the tournament if no booking has been made by the closing date.

To avoid delaying the start for everyone, late entries will be processed after play starts and late entrants (and latecomers, even if already entered) may miss the first round. To avoid this, please enter (and pay) beforehand – and arrive on time.

Prizes: There will be trophies for the first three places and the highest scoring girl, plus some other age awards.

Enquiries: Eunice Koh, email eunice.koh@nswjcl.org.au or Richard Gastineau-Hills, phone 9498 2760, email RichardGH@nswjcl.org.au

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NSWJCL WEBSITE: www.nswjcl.org.au

ENQUIRIES: Eunice Koh, email eunice.koh@nswjcl.org.au, or Richard Gastineau-Hills, phone 9498 2760, email RichardGH@nswjcl.org.au

ENTRIES: Online or NSW Junior Chess League, 2 Northcote Ave, Killara NSW 2071

PARENTS AND FRIENDS, HELP IS NEEDED!!

NSWJCL office-bearers work very hard beforehand preparing our holiday tournaments and other activities. They also work hard on the day – supervising, with clerical work, in the canteen, setting up, putting away, etc. We really need your help with some of these tasks. Please arrive a bit early and help set up, or come at the end of the day and help with putting away sets and furniture and cleaning up. Or spend a few hours during the day with our happy band of volunteers in the canteen. Contact Richard Gastineau-Hills, phone 9498 2760.

2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Please complete if you are a new member or if details have changed – otherwise leave blank

FAMILY NAME .................................................. Home Phone .........................

GIVEN NAME .................................................. Date of Birth .........................

Sex (M/F) ...... School ........................................

Additional Family Members (for family membership):

GIVEN NAME .................................................. Date of Birth .........................

Sex (M/F) ...... School ........................................

GIVEN NAME .................................................. Date of Birth .........................

Sex (M/F) ...... School ........................................

ADDRESS ...................................................................................................................

..........................................................  Postcode  ...................

EMAIL ADDRESS ..........................................................................................

.......................................................... Date  .........................

PTO

The applicant(s) agree to be bound by the rules of the NSW Junior Chess League Incorporated for the time being in force. SIGNED [by applicant(s) or, if under 18 years of age, by their parent or guardian]:

..........................................................