PRINCIPALS REPORT

Education Week 2015

It was fabulous to see so many parents, grandparents, carers and other family members attend our school open day during Education Week 2015. Families were able to enjoy a picnic lunch with their children and visit classrooms after lunch. Children also participated in a tabloid and parents and carers also enjoyed participating. By all accounts it was a very enjoyable and successful day. Thank you to all staff for their organisation and to all students for their positive participation on the day.

Dropping off children

We would appreciate your assistance with morning drop off routines. Students should not be at school prior to 8:30am, unless attending breakfast club. Please only use the pedestrian gates to enter school grounds as it is unsafe to enter via the car park gates. We ask that parents and toddlers not stay on the playground for safety reasons. This allows your child time to settle and find some friends prior to classes starting.

Author visit

Last week we were fortunate to have a visit from Jess Black, a local author who conducted writing workshops for K-2 and 3-6. She also conducted targeted writing groups for students in both K-2 and 3-6. All students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we appreciate Jess visiting us.

K-2 Excursion

K-2 were blessed with a beautiful day for their long awaited excursion. All the children came back full of enthusiasm for all they had seen and done at the zoo and the staff were full of praise for the way the students behaved. A big thank you to Mrs Houston and K-2 staff for organising the excursion.

Athletics Carnival

The 2-6 students who attended the field events at the Athletics Carnival on Wednesday enjoyed a cool but fantastic day at Bahloo Oval. We will be sending about 20 children to the Zone Carnival next week. Those children who will be attending should already have their notes.

Finally, if you are attending the Rugby League match between the Newcastle Knights and Sydney Roosters this weekend, keep an eye out for our students representing the school singing the National Anthem in Awabakal. What a fantastic effort. Windale Public School is a fantastic place for students to learn. Windale students are Safe, Respectful and Responsible. My sincere apologies for the newsletter coming out late this week.

Amy Owens – Principal (Rel)

PBL

Welcome back from Lucky and the BPL team, we hope you had a Safe, Respectful and Responsible holiday. Our PBL target for the next two weeks is being on task and what it means to be a positive learner. We are so lucky to have the opportunity to go to school as other children in our world do not. Our focus is for our students to understand that everyone has the opportunity to learn in the classroom without distractions. Our target behaviours are:

- Respecting everyone’s opportunity to be the best that they can be
- Doing your best work
- Joining in classroom activities
- Listening to others and being respectful of other people’s opinions
- Meeting classroom expectations for respectful learners

Things you can do at home could be teaching respectful conversation skills, sitting together for an activity for a set amount of time.

Our PBL target for these two weeks is learning how to give and receive positive praise. Things you can do at home to help re-enforce this could be creating a positive praise or thank you box at home.

Lucky says...

You are the best!
CLASS 1HP enjoyed celebrating Education Week by dressing up as characters from stories, movies and other texts. We really enjoyed parading around for everyone to see. Can you recognise us?

ABORIGINAL DANCE GROUP

Our school Senior Aboriginal Dance Group recently performed at Charlestown Square as part of Education Week in the Hunter. The dancers were fantastic and entertained shoppers and proud parents alike.

STUDENTS SINGING AT HUNTER STADIUM ON SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST

This Sunday at 4 o’clock selected students will be performing the National Anthem in Awabakal and English before the kick off, of the Knights taking on the Roosters. This is an exciting opportunity to showcase the wonderful talent of our students that work so hard and enthusiastically.

SCHOOL PRIMARY ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Due to the weather being unkind to us on our last two previous attempts for the Primary Athletics Carnival we decided to run the shot put, long jump and high jump last Friday at the school while the sun was shining. Congratulations to all the students who attempted the activities and displayed fantastic sportsmanship. The running events took place 5/8/2015 at Bahloo oval. Students who qualified for the Zone carnival have been given a note to complete and return to school.

We look forward to our first whole school sports carnival coming up at the end of term, parents and carers get in training for the three legged race.

We would like to do this again in 2016!!!!!!
LAND CARE IN FOCUS

Junior Landcare takes place every Thursday at lunch and at present we have children from Stage 2 and 3 participating. The children have been engaged in various activities associated with gardening. These have included waste management practices, which involved the setting up of the compost bin, and responsibility for collecting the lunch time scraps and waste from the vegetable gardens for recycling in the compost bin or the worm farm.

WONDERFUL WORLD OF WORMS

Last Thursday Simon Carroll (Sustainability Engagement Officer) from Lake Macquarie Council came to Windale PS to help set up a worm farming and composting system within the school. All the students from Junior Landcare enjoyed the experience and hope to have healthy fully grown worms to help with the garden!!

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART- Jump Off Day Wednesday 9th September

It has been really encouraging witnessing the student’s engagement with the Jump Rope unit, as not only are we helping a wonderful organisation, but supporting healthy living with our students. There have been some beautiful achievements, with students expressing the following comments;

‘I couldn’t skip last week, now I can do ten in a row’ – Great persistence
‘Look Mrs Dugomanov I can do Criss-Cross!!’
‘Can we please have the ropes out to practice at lunchtime?’

Jump rope for heart is a great reminder of collaborative learning, students are engaging in group work performances encouraging problem solving skills, creativity, risk taking, social skills and listening to their peers.

Sponsorship forms were sent home in week two, if your child has misplaced their form, please send them to see me (Mrs Dugomanov) to receive another. Please keep supporting this program and continue fundraising.

Mrs Dugomanov

We hope that everyone can be involved and support this great cause!

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Milabah –
Place of Fun.

Supported Playgroup
Samaritans are running a new playgroup that will be on during Term 3. It is a learning through play based group that will be facilitated by Samaritans. It is running on a Wednesday from 10am - 12pm. Everyone is welcome.

Jarjums Playgroup
Come along and have some fun and pick up some great ideas to keep your children’s active minds busy with reading, nursery rhymes playdough and lots of craft activities. We request a gold coin donation for craft items and morning tea will be provided.

Windale Fresh
Windale Fresh orders for Term 3. Next orders will need to be in by Friday 14th August and delivery will be on Monday 17th August.
$25.00 for a washing basket of fresh fruit & veg. Good value, good quality, so why not order from us and give it a try.

Stories in the Street
SIT’s will be trying a new time in Term 3, so don’t forget to join Lynda in the infants playground on Thursday mornings from 8.45am, for stories, rhyming, songs and more.

WICA
WICA will be holding their AGM on Wednesday 12th August 10.15 am at the Windale Gateshead Bowling Club.
Come along if you are interested in what’s happening in your community.

Roselea
49487786

DEBATING
Our team was successful in their first debate against Warners Bay on 23rd July.
We are very grateful to Kalleb P who stepped in at the last minute as 3rd speaker in place of Jasmin W who was injured and could not participate. Kalleb P, Chloe L, Charlee M and Paige C convinced the adjudicator, Ms Newman “That We Buy Too Much.”

We look forward to our next 2 debates, both in Week 6 and hosted by Mount Hutton School.

BOOK FAIR
Thank you to everyone who supported our Book fair this year. Once again it was a huge success and the proceeds will be used to purchase new books for the library and as Home Reading prizes.

Staff found the colouring-in competitions extremely difficult to judge. The lucky winners of $15 to spend at the Book fair were:
Chevy H (Early St 1) Nadia B (St 1)  
Malakai S (St2) Peita O (St 3)

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN
The school is participating in the Woolworths Earn and Learn program. For every $10 you spend at Woolworths store you earn 1 sticker. There is a box outside the school office for the stickers to be placed into. Please ask everyone you know to collect these stickers so we can choose some great products for our school.

NOTES AND PAYMENTS TO RETURN
• Junior Landcare 2015
• Year 6 Shirt order form
• Knights Game performance note
• Zone note and payment

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER -
9/08 - Knights Game Performance
11-12-13/08 - Life Education
12-13/08 - Zone Carnival
17-18/08 - Start Smart Maths K-6
17/08 - Debating Day at Mount Hutton Public School
YEAR 6 MIDDLE CHILDHOOD SURVEY

This week all Year 6 parents and carers should have received information regarding the Middle Childhood Survey (MCS). All Year 6 students enrolled in NSW primary schools are invited to participate in a survey of child mental health and wellbeing. Our school has agreed to conduct the survey during class time this term. The MCS will gather information directly from the children about their thoughts, feelings, actions, and experiences at a critical stage of development, in order to better understand the needs of children in this age group, and how policies and programs might be improved to promote their healthy development into adulthood. The students complete this survey themselves and all responses by children are protected at all times. If you do not wish your child to complete this survey simply sign the “opt out” form within the information package and return it to your child’s class teacher.

Mr Watson - Stage 3 Leader.

THE TELL THEM FROM ME STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

THE PARTNERS IN LEARNING PARENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

Our school will also be participating in the Partners in Learning parent survey, another part of the Tell Them From Me suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents’ and carers’ perspectives on their child’s experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically takes 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.


This Week's Road Safety Tip

'Safety on Wheels'

- Always wear a helmet when you ride your or skate
- Ride your bike in a safe place away from the road
K-2 Zoo Excursion

On Tuesday 4th August, our wonderful Windale K-2 students and staff had the awesome privilege of visiting the Hunter Valley Zoo. It was an awesome day for all, with many special memories made. Teachers were proud of the excellent behaviour our students displayed, which helped make the day more enjoyable. There were so many different animals, reptiles and birds to look at, many of these not usually seen in our community. Students were given the opportunity to interact and pat many of the animals, including a baby alligator, tortoise, koalas, goats and kangaroos. We all especially loved watching the cheeky monkeys playing tag with each other and climbing all around. We would all definitely recommend visiting if you have the opportunity! This excursion has given our classes some interesting writing material that we have used in our writing sessions back at school.

Well done Wonderful Windale Students on a Wowser of a Day!!
WINDALE’S QUALITY KIDS
Classroom Achievements

KS
Noah P  Outstanding commitment to completing Semester 1 homework.
Jordan F  Outstanding commitment to completing Semester 1 homework.
Kayla F  Welcome to wonderful Windale and KS.
Aliqua D  Welcome back to wonderful Windale and KS.
Kayla F  A responsible class leader in week 2.
Lilly-Anne S  Respectful behaviour for visiting teachers.
Aliqua D  A responsible class leader in week 3.

1H
Elijah W  Steady work during reading activities this week.
Levi M  Improvement in listening and work efforts. Keep it up!
Sharna W  Being a good learner and staying on task during reading activities.
Hayley J  Focussing on being a good learner at school.

1/2R
William G  Being a safe, respectful and responsible learner.
Lorenzo D  Trying hard during numeracy.
William R  Being a more focused and on task learner.
Owen N  An improved attitude towards learning.

2W
Cohan D  A settled ‘welcome back’ to our wonderful Windale school!
Jarrama N  Always displaying our PBL expectations in the class and playground.

2W
Georgia K  Excellent effort and results in all class work.
Amber S  Enthusiasm in all class activities!

3/4D
Robert K  Application and effort in class this week.
Grace B  Trying hard in literacy groups.
Katelyn D  Fantastic skipping!

Ruby S  Working hard during literacy groups.

3/4R
Morgan D  Wonderful welcome back to Windale.
Courtney G  Wonderful work with angles.

Hunta P  An improved effort in the classroom.

5/6T
Jayden G  Working hard on his research on rainforests.
Samantha S  Being a Super Star in class.
Taylor G  Being a ‘Great Learner’ by always doing her best.

Cooper C  Great reading in Reading Groups!

5/6W
Chloe L  Being a positive role model. Safe, Respectful and Responsible.
Jacinta F  Being a positive role model. Safe, Respectful and Responsible.

ATTENDANCE AWARDS
Week 4 : 1/2R

ASSEMBLY ITEM - 1H

UNIFORM SHOP
Opening hours are now Thursday and Friday mornings from 8.30am–9.15am.
We are becoming great writers in 1 HP. We are learning to use sentence punctuation, express our ideas, edit our writing in aim to entertain our audience. When we circle a word it means we need to check the spelling of the word.

After editing and rereading our writing we publish our writing for our audience to read and enjoy!!
WINDALE CUP RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION
FRIDAY SPORT

Junior
Round 4- Friday 7th August:
Windale PS vs Eleebana PS (Field 1) at 1:00pm
Windale PS vs Belmont North PS (Field 2) at 1:45pm

Round 5- Friday 14th August:
Windale PS vs Mt Hutton PS (Field 1) at 1:45pm

Senior
Round 4- Friday 7th August:
Windale PS vs Jewells PS (Field 1) at 1:45pm

Round 5- Friday 14th August:
Windale PS vs Floraville PS (Field 2) at 1:00pm

WINDALE JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

Playing against the best team in the competition, St Pauls, Windale put up a brave fight and played to the best of their ability. The big three of Caleb, Harry and Malakai played brilliant football, punching holes in the St Pauls defence. Jaxson carted the ball up hard to set up attacking raids. Jesse made many darting runs. Jayden and Jayson are fitting nicely into the team. Lachlan is improving with every game and Seth is finding his feet nicely. Ben made a great tackle, one on one, on a much larger kid, showing great courage. Morgan showed a bit of speed in a couple of good runs. Brayden, Connor and Levi made important tackles and ran the ball well. Jasmine K-B played her first game and enjoyed herself. A big thank you to super coach Luke who always prepares this team brilliantly. Mrs Dugomanov is learning the ropes well and will be a great coach herself in the near future.

P & C NEWS

Fathers Day Raffle: PRIZE: 38 litre cooler on wheels

Raffle tickets are going out this week. They are available from the canteen and can be returned to the canteen. This year we are doing something special for the children. When you sell all your book of tickets children are to put their name and class on the inside of the front cover for there chance to go into a drawer for them to win an arm band for the Mini Fete. Raffle to be drawn at assemble on Thursday 27th August.

Fathers Day Stall
The Fathers Day Stall will be held on Wed 26th and Thurs 27th August. Items will ranging in price with no items over $5.00.

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Winners work well in 2W!

Last Thursday, wonderful Windale students had the awesome privilege of attending a writing seminar presented by a local author, Jess Black. Jess has written over forty children’s books, including books from the ‘Bindi Irwin’ series and the ‘David Warner Cricket’ series. These books are aimed for students of primary school age. They provide opportunities for students to engage in and foster a passion for reading. She spoke to our K-2 students first, followed by the 3-6 students. Also, a number of our 3-6 students were offered further opportunities with a writing workshop. Many tips and techniques were discussed to help inspire, equip and engage students’ in writing. Our amazing Year 2 students were also offered the same small group workshop. Teachers were most impressed with the creative juices that flowed throughout these writing sessions.

Below are a few sample plans from 2W’s group session. Students will use these plans to write stories next week. We also have a few photos of our wonderful students during reading groups and maths; we do activities like these, each day. Our class love learning through games and are developing cooperative team work skills too, being awesome learners! This supports our Windale’s PBL expectations; safe, responsible and respectful behaviours!

From Mrs Williams and 2W
Over the last two weeks, our PBL focus has been “Being a Good Learner”. 1/2R have been discussing what a good learner looks like and how to act to be a good learner. We had a great discussion and decided that these points are essential to be a good learner:

* Be focused.
* Always try your best.
* Be Safe, Respectful and Responsible.

We believe that if we have these three qualities, that we are on track to be a fantastic learner! A task that 1/2R then completed was to work cooperatively and collaboratively to create a poster, explaining how to be a good learner. As you can see we worked extremely well as a team and produced excellent posters to remind us how to be great learners!
Term 3 Week 4

THE HUNTER SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT
The Hunter Sports High School redevelopment is gaining momentum at present with project team meetings recommencing last week. Over the last few months the focus has been on discussions and negotiations with a number of community and sporting organisations including NSW Cricket, AFL, Lake Macquarie Council and the PCYC to ensure that the potential and benefit of the redevelopment is maximised for the school and the local and wider community. Despite recent media reports indicating that funding was no longer allocated to the project, the NSW Government has assured their commitment with funding confirmed and allocated from the 2014 NSW State Budget. More detailed discussion regarding the redevelopment concept design will take place at the next HSHS P&C Meeting on Tuesday 4th August (from 6pm in the Common Room). Please come along if you are interested in hearing more about the project. It is certainly an exciting time for Hunter Sports High.

Creative Writing for Young People
Learn valuable writing tips and practical exercises to fuel your imagination and build your writing confidence at this relaxed and supportive workshop
East Maitland Library
Thursday 6, 13, 20 and 27 August
4.00 pm - 6.00 pm
$40.00 for 4 sessions