### Term 1

#### Coming Events - Term 1

**Week 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 24 February</td>
<td>Years 3-6 Assembly – Primary COLA NO CANTEEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Information Sessions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nebo 3 – 8:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 25 February</td>
<td>Student Banking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Whole School Assembly 1:50pm NO CANTEEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Information Sessions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Keira 3 – 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nebo 1 – 3:15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 26 February</td>
<td>Uniform Shop Open 8:30 – 9:30am District Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RED DAY orders back today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enviro Working Bee 9:00am-11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Information Sessions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Keira 3 – 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 27 February</td>
<td>Parent Information Sessions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nebo 4 – 3:15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canteen – RED DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 28 February</td>
<td>Book Club Orders due back today</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Week 6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 3 March</td>
<td>NO CANTEEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Information Sessions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ousley 2 – 9:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Keira 1 – 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Keira 2 – 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nebo 2 – 9:00am – 9:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 4 March</td>
<td>AG Testing at Farmborough Rd P.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student Banking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO ASSEMBLY</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO CANTEEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Information Sessions:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ousley 1 – 12:20pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kempbla 1 – 9:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 5 March</td>
<td>Uniform Shop Open 8:30 – 9:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enviro Working Bee 9:00am-11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Information Sessions:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drummond 1 – 10:30am – 11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 6 March</td>
<td>Family Fun Night 5:30pm – 7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 7 March</td>
<td>Family Fun Night 5:30pm – 7:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Week 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 10 March</td>
<td>Years 3-6 Assembly – Primary COLA NO CANTEEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 11 March</td>
<td>Student Banking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Whole School Assembly 1:50pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME:

**P & C EXECUTIVE**

Congratulations and thank you to the parents who recently accepted executive positions. I would like to formally welcome Shellie into the position of P&C President, Danyelle into the position of P&C Vice President and Deanne into the position of Fundraising Convenor. Our school community greatly appreciates your support and values the contributions you will make over the next 12 month period. I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Please welcome our new P&C executive:

**PRESIDENT:** Shellie

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Danyelle

**SECRETARY:** Michelle

**TREASURER:** Nicole

**PUBLICITY OFFICER:** T.B.A.

**UNIFORM CO-ORDINATOR:** Nicole

**FUNDRAISING CONVENOR:** Deanne

**FUNDRAISING TREASURER:** Kobe
SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to all the students who participated in the swimming carnival on Tuesday, 11 February. All the students had a great day competing in their races and cheering for their houses.

Many thanks to all the parents who supported the children and teachers, throughout the carnival, in so many ways. Your support greatly contributed to the success of the carnival.

Congratulations to Mr Davies for organising a very smooth and successful carnival and all the teachers for their enormous support.

WOLLONGONG DISTRICT CARNIVAL

SWIMMING STARS

Good luck to our 34 swimmers who will be competing in the Wollongong District Swimming Carnival on Wednesday, 26 February at Unanderra Pool. We wish these students all the best and hope they have a most enjoyable and successful day.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

Parent information sessions are planned for Weeks 5 and 6 this term. Notes with all the class details have been sent home.

These sessions will give parents general information regarding class routines and procedures and ways to support your children at home.

If you would like to have an individual discussion regarding your child any other time throughout the year, please contact your child’s class teacher to organise a convenient time for an interview.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

On Friday, 7 March, 2014 between 5.30pm – 7.30pm, the P&C will be organising a Family Fun Night full of fun for the kids and providing the opportunity for parents to meet up with each other.

This is a great way to start off the year and we encourage all families to attend. Enjoy a sausage sizzle or steak sandwich and a drink while you sit back and relax as the children are entertained with a variety of entertainment.

A reminder that:

- All children must be accompanied by their parents for this event.

I hope you are able to attend and I look forward to seeing you there.

LEADERS’ INDUCTION ASSEMBLY

The Leaders’ Induction Ceremony for School Captains, School Vice-Captains, House Captains and School Representative Council (SRC) representatives for 2014 was held yesterday, Thursday 20 February. Congratulations to the following students:

CAPTAINS

GIRL: Ivy
BOY: Reuben

VICE-CAPTAINS

GIRL: Bonnie
BOY: Wil

HOUSE CAPTAINS

WARATAH:

BOY: Callum and Angus
GIRL: Alexandra and Hannah

GUM:

BOY: Wyatt and Callum
GIRL: Mia and Emma

WATTLE:

BOY: Hamish and Oliver
GIRL: Louise and Zara

SRC MEMBERS:

KEIRA 1: Jordan, Estelle
KEIRA 2: Patrick, Tessa
OUSLEY 1: Joshua, Denali
OUSLEY 2: Lachlan, Chloe
DRUMMOND 1: Jackson, Stella
NEBO 1: Sam, Ella
NEBO 2: Rayner, Sarah
NEBO 3: Jack, Ella
NEBO 4: Caleb, Arabelle
KEMBLA 1: Julian, Elke
KEMBLA 2: Ben, Macy

Special congratulations must go to our new Captains; Ivy and Reuben, and Vice Captains; Bonnie and Wil for successfully leading their first assembly with such confidence and grace. They are already setting a wonderful example to the whole school.
If your child has been diagnosed with impetigo, they are allowed to return to school once appropriate treatment is being supplied and those sores on exposed surfaces are properly covered with dressings.

**Mathletics is coming**

I am very pleased to announce that our school will be using the interactive, web based maths learning program, Mathletics, as a learning tool at both home and school.

Mathletics is used across the world to motivate students and increase confidence with mathematics. As an online teacher-directed and self-paced learning resource, it is in line with the next generation in learning.

Mathletics is aligned to the new NSW Maths Syllabus and set maths homework tasks will reflect skills and concepts taught each week. These tasks must be completed before they can go on to choose their own self-paced activities.

Students also have the opportunity to compete with other students from around the world, as well as students from our school, using Live Mathletics.

Our school has purchased a 12 month unlimited access licence, using School Funds and P&C Funds to ensure all students have an opportunity to access this engaging learning resource. Our school subscription is heavily subsidised under a Government School Sponsorship Program and includes comprehensive training for staff and ongoing web based support.

A note has been sent home this week to gain feedback on the number of students who can’t access the internet at home, so that we can accommodate those children with other alternatives. This response is due back to (maths) class teachers by Monday 24, February.

There will be further information sent home next week regarding how to access the web based program and your child’s teacher will also provide a demonstration in their Parent Information Session. We anticipate Mathletics homework to begin in Week 6.

We are very excited about using Mathletics and we hope the students will enjoy engaging with Maths in this new learning environment.

**ANTS in the Apple spelling program parent booklet**

Teachers will hand out an updated copy of the “Ants in the Apple” Parent Booklet at their Parent Information Sessions over the next 2 weeks. The booklet will give parents more insight as to how Spelling is taught.

This program is a highly effective phonics and phonemic awareness based Spelling Program. The basic premise of the Ants in the Apple method of teaching spelling is that of a problem-solving approach. Rather than viewing spelling simply as a visual memory task, the children are required to logically apply their knowledge of word structure to spell unknown words.

**After School Care - Non Attendance**

If your child attends After School Care and for some reason will not attend any of their allotted days (eg. they are absent from school or going home with a parent), please ring the After School Care organisers and the school to inform them of these changes.

A lot of time is spent by worried teachers and office staff following up absent children when the After School Care bus arrives, when a phone call would have avoided this problem.

**Road rules**

Road safety around the school needs to be revisited from time to time to ensure all children and parents are aware of the road rules. I have included some information in this newsletter reminding families of some of our road rules. Please read and discuss the following road safety items with your family.

**Parking** – in both Taronga Avenue and St Johns Avenue, parking and “drop offs” and “pick ups” can only occur outside the NO STOPPING and BUS ZONE areas. Neighbours have requested that parents not park in their driveways when delivering children.

**School pedestrian crossings** – unlike other pedestrian crossings, cars must remain stationary from the time the child is about to step onto the crossing, until they completely cross the road and step onto the kerb. Only 2 pedestrian crossings exist, one in Taronga Avenue and the other near the northern single gate in St Johns Avenue.

**Humps** – the school humps in Heaslip Street and near the school driveway gate in St Johns Avenue are not pedestrian crossings. Students should not be crossing here, as cars will proceed as normal.

**School Car Park** – for safety reasons, access to the St John’s Avenue carpark is for staff and deliveries ONLY. Students are never to be picked up or dropped off on school grounds (irrespective of the weather).

I hope this promotes some good discussion at home about road safety.

The safety of our children is always of the highest importance to us all.
WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL RANGER SERVICES

Wollongong City Council Ranger Services regularly visit schools in the Local Government Area and numerous infringement notices have been issued. The Ranger Service is responding to a very large number of calls about dangerous drivers picking up and setting down children in school zones.

Wollongong City Council has a commitment to safety around schools and to this end will continue to patrol all schools in the area.

To avoid confrontation at schools, Rangers will situate themselves very obviously and photograph offending vehicles. They will post out fines rather than risk a confrontation with drivers, in front of their children.

Please help us reduce the risk to our children and help stop these few putting the many at risk.

RIDING BIKES TO SCHOOL

It is school policy that only children in Years 3-6 may ride their bikes to school.

This permission has been given on the understanding that the following conditions apply:
- a bike helmet is worn at all times;
- bike safety rules are adhered to travelling to and from school;
- bikes are safe and roadworthy;
- all bikes are secured to the bike rack;
- the school takes no responsibility for loss or damaged to bikes; and
- bikes are only ever walked in the school grounds.

If your child rides a bike to school it would be appreciated if you could discuss these rules with him / her and ensure that helmets, bike chains, etc. are used and that the bike is roadworthy.

Skateboards and scooters are not allowed on school grounds at any time, **this includes after-school functions as well.**

We would prefer to be pro-active rather than deal with these issues after a bad accident.

WOLLONGONG HIGH SCHOOL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS 2015 YEAR 7 AUDITIONS

An Information Package and Application Form for enrolment at WHSPA in 2015 as a Performing Arts student is available.

Any parents still interested in their child auditioning, are requested to pick up a package from the Mount St Thomas PS front office. Please take the completed forms to the Principal at WHSPA by Wednesday 19 March 2014.

SUN SAFE

Teachers have been reminding children of the need to constantly look after their skin and protect it from the sun.

The sun safe policy was developed to highlight the need to have strong skin protective actions and the role that the school and parents can play in supporting this.

In particular we have been emphasising to children the **“NO HAT – PLAY IN THE SHADE”** rule. All children are encouraged to wear their **school hat** on every occasion they are out in the playground. Should they not have a hat after eating, the children will then move to a shaded area where they can spend the rest of the ‘break time’ playing in the shade.

Have a great week.
Regards,

Christine Schnebli
PRINCIPAL

EMAILING THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

If you would like to have the newsletter emailed to you, please complete the form below and return it to the school office. Paper copies will continue to be forwarded home to families who have not supplied their email address. A paper copy of the newsletter will always be available at the office.

**PLEASE NOTE:** It will be your responsibility to inform the school of any changes to your email address.

**EMAILING THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

CHILD’s NAME:________________________
CLASS:________
PARENT’s NAME:_______________________
EMAIL ADDRESS:_______________________
Canteen News

The canteen will be holding a RED day on Thursday 27 February. The RED Day Meal Deal, will consist of a Hotdog, Jumpys and Juice, The cost will be $4.00.

Please see the attached Order Forms. These MUST BE RETURNED by Wednesday 26 February.

NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN.

Thank You
Gail

Sports News:

School Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday, 11 February we held our annual school swimming carnival at the University Pool.

We can all be proud of our Mount St Thomas students on their excellent behaviour and sportsmanship. It was great to see all the students having a go and achieving their personal best.

Thank you to all the parents and families who helped and supported the students. A big thank you must go to Mr Cummins and Mr Lazar who gave freely of their time to help on the day.

Thirty-four students will now be going on to the District Carnival on the 26 February.

Central District Swimming Carnival Reminder

Parents transporting students other than their own children to the Central District Swimming Carnival, will need to show their driver’s licence and sign a working with children form at the office.

Many thanks for your support.

Peter Davies – Sports Coordinator

Important

Managing Anaphylaxis in Our School

We currently have 7 students in our school with severe food allergies (anaphylaxis) to combinations of all types of nuts, eggs, dairy and seafood.

In order to minimise the risk in our school, we request that parents not send peanut butter on sandwiches or any nut products to school in your child’s lunch box, especially if a class member is Anaphylactic, in early primary years.

Please check below to see if there is an anaphylactic child in your child’s class.

Bringing Food to School:
Also check with your child’s teacher if you are bringing in a Birthday Cake or other food, as steps must be taken to ensure that the anaphylactic child is not exposed to an allergen via this food source.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Allergies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nebo</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Year 4 All nuts* including Sesame Seeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kembla</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Year 5 Nuts*, salmon, tuna and shellfish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keira</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Year 2 Eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ousley</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Year 1 Tree nuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ousley</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Year 1 Tree nuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ousley</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Year 1 All nuts*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*All Nuts include</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walnuts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pecans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Almonds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazelnuts,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peanuts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macadamia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pistachio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pinenuts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sesame Seeds.</td>
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</table>

Many thanks for your support to ensure the safety of our students.

Environmental News:

Plants and Vegies for Sale

Lovely fresh plants and vegies from our school garden are available to buy from the office. All proceeds will be used to support our gardening initiatives.

Currently we have:

* Mixed plants - $2.00 each
* Strawberry & Rosemary plants – only $1.00 each
* Frangipanni plants – only $2.00, $3.00 & $4.00 each

Bookclub

Orders Due In By: Friday, 28th February, 2014
The **NATIONAL CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY** will be held on Sunday March 2. All families would be most welcome to clean up our beaches and parks. I will again be at City Beach and look forward to seeing you all there, so put this date in your calendar.

_C.Davis - Environment Co-ordinator_

**Weekly Gardening Group**
We are continuing our weekly Wednesday Gardening Group to maintain and improve our grounds. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us, especially our new Kindy families.

**WHEN:** Every Wednesday 9:00am – 11:00am.

**WHO:** Parents, grandparents, friends, relatives, neighbours, etc. Anyone with a spare hour or two! Come and help make our school even more beautiful for our students and the community, join a friendly group and meet great people! There will be regular reports and updates in the school newsletter.

Last year’s wonderful group put in a massive 729 volunteer hours in our school environment. A fantastic achievement. Come and join us, you will be most welcome.

Please fill in the interest form below and return to the office. For more information ring me on 42297010.

See you there!
_Rosemarie Bowden – Garden Coordinator_

_Dear Mrs Bowden_

I am interested in helping with the Wednesday environmental group at school.

NAME:____________________________________

CONTACT No.:________________________

CHILD:____________________________________

CLASS:_________________

CONTACT No.:________________________

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**Can You Help?**
We are looking for gardening pots, particularly the very small pots for herbs and seedlings and the 30cm plus pots for children to grow plants and vegies in. Any donations of pots or spare garden accessories, such as bird baths etc will be very gratefully received.

Thank you,
_Rosemarie Bowden_

**P&C NEWS:**
Please see a separate message from Shellie Eastley, the new P&C President, in the newsletter.

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**P & C SUBSCRIPTIONS**
To update your financial membership with the P&C, a subscription of $1.00 per parent is now being taken at the office.

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

[**name - please print**]

I have enclosed $1.00 for P&C membership.

Signed:..............................................................

Date:..............................................................

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**COMMUNITY NEWS:**

WESTS ILLAWARRA HOCKEY CLUB.
Ages 5-15 Boys and Girls welcome.
All enquiries address to
juvenirs@westsillawarrahockey.com.au
Or contact David on 0437578963.
Players can register online at
www.westsillawarrahockey.com.au
CUBS/ SCOUTS

1st Mt St Thomas Scouts are currently welcoming boys and girls as Cub and Scout members to the Group

**CUB SCOUTS** - ages 7 ½ to 11 years
**SCOUTS** – ages 11 to 15 years

Cubs and Scouts have a lot of fun doing a lot of exciting things! There are games to play, codes and skills to learn, places to see and new friends to meet. Cubs and Scouts all help each other and try to help other people too.

**WHERE**: 120 Ocean Street, Mount St Thomas
**WHEN**: Cubs - Each Mon during Term, 6 – 7.30pm
Scouts – Each Tuesday during Term. 7:00 – 9:00pm

For more information see [https://mtstthomasscouts.wordpress.com/](https://mtstthomasscouts.wordpress.com/) or call James Dellow on 0414 233711.

RABBIT FOUND

If anyone has lost a Grey Rabbit in the Mangerton Area, could you please phone Mount St Thomas P.S. on 42292192.