May 2014

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Upcoming Dates

- Science Challenge
- Naplan - 13th, 14th, 15th May
- Walk Safely to School Day - Fri 23rd May
- Firewise - Wed. 28th May
- John O'Neill - Thursday 12th June
- Small Schools Athletics - Wed. 18th June
I hope your students, as well as yourselves, enjoyed the last day of term at the Willawarrin T20 Blast School Gala Day. It seemed as if most students enjoyed their time, which was pleasing to see. As discussed amongst my staff, the turnout of students was far bigger than anticipated, and their behaviour was also fantastic for the day. Hence, I must thank you all for your attendance, the way your students behaved, as well as acceptance of this very unique event.

The Willawarrin T20 Blast School Gala Day is the first that has incorporated entire schools for the day. This Gala Day also brought an end to most of the in-school programs run at the majority of the schools.

Kind Regards,

Ashley Bryant
Senior Development Officer – Mid North Coast

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**Walk Safely to School Day.**

Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an annual, national event when all Primary School children will be encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

**It will be held throughout Australia on Friday 23 May 2014**

The objectives of WSTSD are:

- To encourage parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
- To promote the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age.
- To ensure that children up to 10 years old hold an adult’s hand when crossing the road.
- To help children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
- To reduce the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
- To promote the use of Public Transport.
- To reduce the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles.
- To reduce the level of traffic congestion.
Science Day
The second Science Day of term1 was Up In the Air.. One group explored propulsion using balloons as rockets while the second group used recycled plastic bags to determine how big a parachute was needed for different size and weighted objects.

Science Challenge
The Macleay Schools Science Challenge is on this week. It is for students in Years 5 & 6. Millbank will be represented by Michael Riley, who will be joining Bellbrook and Willawarrin for the day at Kempsey High.

Students will be put into groups and compete to find the best design solutions to real life challenges.
The P & C firewood raffle was won by Gloria Harvey.

Congratulations to Mr Duncan and Kate. They have a new baby daughter, born on Friday 2nd May.

**NO HAT NO PLAY**

**Naplan**

Year 3 will be doing Naplan testing from Tuesday 13th to Thursday 15th.

The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of each school’s assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.