We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which Coledale Public School is situated. We pay our respects to the Dharawal people and to elders past, present and the future.

**Important Dates**

These are our upcoming events for the next couple of weeks. Be sure to check out our website for more events.

### Term 1 Week 4
- Thurs 19/2 District Basketball Trials
- Fri 20/2 - P & C Muffin Orders due
- Interrelate payments due
- GYMSPORTS

### Term 1 Week 5
- Monday morning Assembly 9.00am
- 23/2 Traffic lights are turned on.
- Tuesday 24/2 GYMSPORTS
- Wednesday 25/2 - School Banking
- Wednesday 25/2 - Inter-relate evening Session 1 - 6.00pm Session 2 - 7.15pm Thursday Chimes and Band
- Thursday 26/2 Wollongong High Expo Night
- Friday 27/2 District Swimming and Clean Up Australia Day

### Term 1 Week 6
- 2/3 Monday morning Assembly 9.00am
- Monday 2/3 District Soccer trials
- Tuesday 3/3 Bulli HS Expo trials
- Wednesday 4/3 School Banking
- Thursday 5/3 Afternoon Tea for Wensday
- Friday 6/3 GYMSPORTS
- Friday 6/3 Regional Swimming

### Advanced Notice of 2015 Dates

### Things requiring your attention
- Classroom Resources payments to be paid
- Interrelate Session payments to be paid

**IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU WILL SEE ARTICLES ABOUT:**

- **What's Been Happening**
  - Dragons Visit
  - Chimes/ Band Program
  - 5/6S Archaeologist Visit
  - Garden/Environment report
  - SRC Reps Elected

- **Coming Events**
  - District Swimming
  - Transition to High School
  - Tell Them from Me Survey
  - ICAS Tests
  - Parent Workshops

- **General Notices**
  - School Uniform
  - Attendance / Exemption Changes
  - Medical Conditions

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Email: coledale-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.coledale-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Principal’s Report

We have had a very settled start to the year and we had a great attendance at the disco and parent information sessions last week. Kinder have completed their Best Start testing, had their vision tested, been photographed and by the end of the week Mrs Gould will have completed all her Best Start parent interviews. Our 3-6 teachers have had some additional time to plan and co-ordinate their curriculum programs ensuring that they are meeting the syllabus requirements. We have had our first Religious Education session this week and I thank the many community members who are donating their time to assist in this area.

Next week on Monday the newly installed traffic lights will be turned on. Students and parents will need to ensure they stay alert and take caution when crossing Lawrence Hargrave Drive. I encourage parents to take the time to reinforce our Road Safety lessons and especially the concept to Stop, Look and Listen before walking. Our crossing supervisor will be here for a further fortnight to encourage these practices. Unfortunately it will not be Wensday, as she remains on leave nursing her broken leg. The community would like to thank her for her 7 years of service to our school community and we will be hosting an afternoon tea in her honour on Thursday 5th March at 2.45pm. We invite parents, students, past and present to join us on this occasion. Please bring a plate to share.

There was a wonderful attendance at the first P & C meeting for 2015, on Tuesday night. Thank you to all parents who attended with great spirit and offering to assist. It is such a great community and I know at our next meeting we will look forward to many parents joining us for the AGM.

Bus passes were issued to all the students who made application yesterday. Please note children will not be able to travel on the bus without a pass or payment after this week as the exemption period will cease.

Good luck to the many students that will represent our school at the District Swimming Carnival next week. Please note Gmysport classes will be moved to Tuesday 24/2 in lieu of the Friday 27/2, to enable all students to attend the lessons.

Our sporting focus is shifting for the remainder of the term to running. Our annual cross country races will be held on the morning of Monday 23rd March. Following the races and lunch the students will be involved in activities celebrating Harmony Day. This is the day we encourage all our Grandparent’s and Special Friends to come along and see the students participating in their activities. Some of our Year 6 students are also scheduled to sit the Enrichment Class testing at Bulli HS on this day. I have already spoken to the coordinator and our students will sit this test at another time, this is yet TBA.

Kind regards

Tanya Potter
Principal

WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING……...

Dragons Visit

Coledale recently had a visit from the St George Illawarra Dragons and NRL Development staff to talk to the students about the importance of healthy lifestyles and wellbeing. The Dragons players and staff shared key social messages with our pupils, focussing on healthy eating habits, nutrition, regular physical activity, appropriate levels of sleep and mental health.

CHIMES Music Program

The music program is being very well received by the 3-6 students, staff and parents. The K-2 students will commence their lessons in a few weeks. It is great to hear such positive comments about this P&C funded activity.
Band
We have had a great response to band and have over thirty members. They are having fun making lots of noise at the moment and I am sure we will hear improvements over the coming weeks. At this stage membership is closed to this activity.

5/6S Archaeologist Visit
Last week we had a visit from Professor Bert Roberts from the University of Wollongong. He is our Scientist in Schools partner. His field of expertise is in Archaeological Sciences. He led the dating of the cave deposits on the island of Flores, Indonesia, where the skeleton of a new species of human, Homo floresiensis—nicknamed ‘The Hobbit’—was discovered in 2003. He has also dated some of the earliest known human occupation sites in Australia and helped date ‘Mungo Man’ of the Willandra area at 40 000 years ago. He brought in two skulls (not real ones!) to show us the size of ‘The Hobbit’. Lochie was a giant standing in comparison! We are studying Desert Survivors, a Science unit that looks at how Australian flora and fauna have survived and adapted to desert environments.

Check out our photos on our class blog
http://mrsstoneswhalewatchers.edublogs.org/2015/02/09/archaeologist-visit/

Bec Stone

Garden/Environment - report by Mrs Stone

Clean Up Australia Day
On Friday 27th March, the school will be joining the annual Clean Up Australia Schools project as part of their 25th anniversary celebrations. All parents are invited to join our clean up that will commence after lunch at 11.45 am. The site has been registered and kits will be sent out to us that will include - rubbish and recycling bags and gloves. Sturdy enclosed footwear, gloves and protective equipment must be worn. See Mrs Stone to register your interest.

Kids K-6 can play the 'Clean up the River' interactive game found at: http://cleanup.noco2.com.au/

Waste Free Wednesday
A reminder that on Wednesdays we have started a waste-free lunch day. A waste-free lunch is where there's no throw-away packaging and is an easy way to make sure the lunch is less ‘manufactured’ and therefore healthier. Everything in a waste-free lunchbox can be re-used, composted or recycled.

Children learn to REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, AND COMPOST.

Canteen Day Rubbish Sorting
As part of a canteen initiative we are implementing a Canteen Day Rubbish Sorting. Primary students will be helping and teaching all students to use the rubbish bins provided in the correct way. This will help reduce what our school sends to landfill. Please talk to your children about this and how they can help you sort at home!

Sort rubbish by starting at:
Bin 1-Compost Bin
Bin 2- Green Bin
Bin 3-Yellow Recycling Bin
Bin 4- Red Bin- landfill

Hopefully Bin 4 will be empty!

SRC - Student Representative Council
Congratulations to the following students who were elected to represent their classes: 1PM- Andie and Henry  2GP - Luca and Rhett  3/4G Kayden and Billy  4/5W Isabella and Yasmin  5/6S Clara and Matt.

Kinder have Year 6 support them - Ben and Jemma. The school captains also are members Lilly, Kylan, Charlotte and Max. All SRC students will receive their badges at next Monday's assembly.
COMING EVENTS

District Swimming
Good luck to the following students who will represent our school on Friday 27/2 at Corrimal Pool. The team will be accompanied by Mr Galvin and Mrs Pemberton. Good luck to the following students: Lily, Maya, Charli, Yve, Skye, Isobel, Ella, Isabella, Summer, Charlotte, Ava, Alyssa, Abeni, Audrey, Phoebe, Lilly, Max D., Billy, Toby, Wilkie, Cam P, Kyle, Ryan, Lenny, Louis, Jett, Tallis, Ben, Rielly, Luke, Matt and Flynn.

Transition to High School
Parents of Year 6 students will receive a high school Expression of Interest form in a few weeks’ time. This form requires parents to make their choices of High School, in order of preference, on the form. Many schools are currently holding open evenings and special sessions to promote their programs. It is important that parents take every opportunity to investigate what each school offers. The following activities have been added to the calendar:

Bulli High Expo Evening
A special Expo Evening for year 5 and 6 parents and students is to be held on Tuesday 3rd March. This is an excellent opportunity to see firsthand the outstanding programs and environment on offer at Bulli High. Bulli High Enrichment Class - Application forms for this class were sent home last week. These applications need to be sent to Bulli High by Tuesday 17th March. The Enrichment Class Test will be held at Bulli High School on Monday 23rd March. Coledale PS students will sit at a different time TBA.

Wollongong High School of Performing Arts
Applications for Performing Arts placement in Year 7, 2016 are now available from Mrs Stone. These forms need to be sent to Wollongong High by 6th March. Auditions will be held in the last 3 weeks of this term. An Expo Evening will be held on Thursday 26th February.

The Tell Them From Me - student feedback survey
I am delighted that this term, students in Years 1-6 from our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities 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. More information about the survey is available at:  [http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents](http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents) The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school 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 and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. 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 by Friday 27 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

ICAS Tests
The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) are independent skills - based assessments with a competition element. Commonly referred to as the UNSW tests, ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments and school tests for primary school students. A new ICAS test is developed annually for each subject in each year level. All ICAS tests are reviewed by experienced teachers to ensure that they accurately assess students’ skills and are relevant to what they are learning at school. Each test is sat at the student's school under exam conditions. Parents may visit [https://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about](https://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about) to find out more information and even access sample tests to determine if they would like their child to participate. Participation is voluntary, there are costs involved with each test. If parents wish their child to complete ICAS Tests they will need to send along the request form below and fees. The money can be deposited in the school account but the request must be submitted.
It must be noted that some tests may need to be administered early and students may be requested to be at school from 8.30am to complete the test, prior written notice will be given. The official closing date for participants at Coledale Public School is: Friday 20 March 2015.

Name:                                                                      Year level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICAS SUBJECT</th>
<th>ICAS SITTING DATE</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>Available for Years</th>
<th>Please insert cost and total at bottom.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Tuesday, 19 May 2015</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>Years 3-6.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Wednesday, 3 June 2015</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>Years 2-6.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday, 15 June - Friday, 19 June 2015*</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
<td>Years 3-6.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday, 16 June 2015</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
<td>Years 3-6.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday, 28 July 2015</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>Years 2-6.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday, 11 August 2015</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>Years 2-6.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Parent Volunteers Needed
We need reading tutors to work 1:1 with students once, twice or three times a week for approximately 30 minutes a session. If you would like to volunteer please let the office or myself know. If you can also let us know when you would be available it would be helpful. I would like to hold a training session as soon as possible. Mrs Potter

Parent Workshops - We would also like to hold Parent Workshops. The aim is to share with parents the strategies that are utilised in the classrooms to assist with the acquisition of knowledge and skills in numeracy and literacy. This knowledge will support parents to assist their children with a common language and methodology. We are calling for parents to complete an expression of interest to show their availability and area of interest. From this information we will then set our sessions. Please return this EOI by next Friday 27/2.

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PARENT WORKSHOPS - NUMERACY and LITERACY**

Name:                                                        Child/ Children:

Please tick most suitable time:                                                Please tick most suitable day:                                                What areas would you like support:

8am - 10am ☐                                                        Monday ☐                                                        Numeracy K-2 ☐
10am - 12pm ☐                                                        Tuesday ☐                                                        Numeracy 3-6 ☐
1pm - 3pm ☐                                                        Wednesday ☐                                                        Literacy - reading ☐
3pm - 5pm ☐                                                        Thursday ☐                                                        Literacy - writing ☐
6pm - 8pm ☐                                                        Friday ☐                                                        Literacy - speaking ☐
GENERAL NOTICES………

School Uniform
Could I please reinforce that school uniform is black school shoes with our blue uniform and joggers with our sports uniform. Below is our summer uniform. A number of the girls are wearing many variations and adding in extra pieces. The royal blue skirt that is being worn is acceptable. The shorts need to be the length of the skorts and flowing. There are some very short shorts which are not acceptable. The P&C and I discussed this on Tuesday night and we would like everyone to strive to wear the correct uniform. We are proud of our school uniform and appreciate it being displayed with pride each day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOYS SUMMER UNIFORM</th>
<th>GIRLS SUMMER UNIFORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid blue short-sleeve shirt</td>
<td>School dress or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey shorts</td>
<td>Royal blue shorts/skorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey socks</td>
<td>Sky blue polo shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black shoes</td>
<td>White socks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Black shoes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ATTENDANCE / EXEMPTION CHANGES
I would like to inform parents and carers that there has been a change to the Department of Education and Communities School Attendance Policy. As part of the implementation of the National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose. Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel outside of school vacation periods is necessary, parents will need to complete an Application for Extended Leave - Travel at the school office for my approval. If the application is approved, your child's absence will be marked as Leave. If you have any questions regarding this new procedure, please contact our school office. All leave is recorded on the students' records.

School Website
Keep up to date with all the latest news by visiting our school website. Newsletters, permission notes, parent correspondence and photo galleries are all uploaded and updated each Wednesday. A calendar of up and coming events is also available for your information.

Medical Conditions and Information
To ensure your child is safe at school please inform us of your child’s health and any changing medical conditions. All students ‘Health Care Plans’ will need to be reviewed and updated in the next fortnight. This includes a range of conditions from mild to severe: Anaphylaxis, Asthma, general allergy and any medical condition that requires medication to be taken at school.
If your child requires an Epipen for an allergy, can you please ensure the school has a new 'Action Plan for Anaphylaxis' from your doctor and a new Epipen. If your child has a medical condition that the school is not aware of please make an appointment to see your Classroom Teacher or Mrs Potter ASAP.
Any inquiries please contact the front office.
Dear Parents & Carers,

Coledale School Canteen would like to assure families that it uses only fresh Australian strawberries, no frozen imported berries are used.

Kind regards,
Vesna & Ang C
Canteen Coordinators

Community News

We would like to thank IGA Thirroul for their ongoing donations of food/drinks which are greatly appreciated.

COLEDALE HOUSE FOR RENT

Located in a quiet cul de sac near Sharkey's Beach, the house has escarpment and sea views.
Offering three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a study and private deck.
Available 11th April. Please contact Vesna M: 0404 626 651, E: vesnakatebaric@gmail.com
Bulli High School Expo Night
For Year 5 & 6 parents and students

Tuesday 3rd March
Commencing at 6.00pm

Year 5 & 6 parents and students are invited to Bulli High School’s Expo Night.

The night will start with a presentation in the school hall, followed by the opportunity to tour the school and facilities. This is an opportunity to learn more about our great school.

We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Mrs Chris Gregory
Principal