Finally, the finish line for the 2014 school year is upon us. Our school has enjoyed a wonderful final week and a half as our school celebrations and activities came to fruition. Congratulations to all students who earned merit awards for efforts throughout this term. Term 4 is busy and chaotic in many ways, but students still show their commitment and focus to learning. I wish to congratulate the students who ran stalls at our 50C Fete on Monday. Our school was a hive of activity across the hour and a half that the fete was in operation and all seems to have run well. I am not sure why so many students saved tokens till the end. My plan of going in the sponge throwing activity at the end of the fete was so that all students had exhausted their tokens and I would get away without being hit. One student, not mentioning Marshall Brown’s name, had enough tokens left to take 12 shots at me. We raised over $700 on the day! Awesome effort!!!

Yesterday brought with it our biggest day of celebrations. Our end of year Presentation Assembly went off well and I thank and recognise the efforts of all parents and community members who joined us. It was a change to previous years where we have held evening events. Holding our assembly during school hours meant all but one student receiving awards was in attendance. This is a huge improvement on previous years and allows our celebrations and acknowledgement to be provided to the students who deserve it.

This assembly was followed last evening by the Year 6 Farewell held for the first time at the Woodburn Bowling Club. Thanks to the club for its support and cooperation.

email: woodburn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au Web: www.woodburn-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
Congratulations to Miss Warren also for bringing this event together and helping us recognise our graduating class of 2014.

Finally, our day concluded with the end of year Disco. With new disco lights, a roaring smoke machine and plenty of loud music the night went well and gave all students a chance to burn some energy and appreciate that the year is all but over.

Farewell Mrs Tracey Tebbutt/Ms Margaret Mayes

As mentioned at the presentation assembly both Mrs T and Ms Mayes will 'retire' from our school this week. I wish both ladies a long, happy and healthy retirement. Both ladies have given above and beyond expectations to our school and it may not be until they are gone that we appreciate their true worth to our school.

2015

The new school year will commence for staff on Tuesday 27 January, 2015. Students in Years 1 through 6 will resume school on Wednesday 28 January. Kindergarten students for 2015 will commence class on Monday 2 February. These students will have individual best start assessments during the first week of school before their class comes together for the first time. The date and time of these appointments has been provided to families.

In concluding my contribution to this week’s newsletter I extend the best of season's greetings to all students, parents, staff and community members. I hope you all enjoy a very safe and happy holiday season and that we all return refreshed and ready for another fantastic year in 2015. To the families that leave us this week I wish you all the best in life beyond Woodburn Public School, and to the families set to join us in the new year we await with welcoming arms to share a successful educational journey over the years ahead.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Until next YEAR....

Farewell from Mrs T

At Year 6 Farewells, Shane often talks to the kids about the dash that goes between the dates marking people’s lives and what we can achieve in the years of our dash. When I look back over my dash here at Woodburn from 1990 to 2014 my dash has been more like a marathon. I have had the great pleasure to be part of the lives of so many over these years. Far too many to count and name now, although quite a few do stand out.

My thanks go to the parents and staff who have supported all the many things I have tried achieve. The ‘But Mrs T says…” will soon become a distant memory.

I would like to acknowledge the patience of my family. My husband Brian and son Drew who have often felt that they never left school. I would all too often come home in teacher mode. Thanks also go to my extended family who on many, many occasions over the years have helped me move rooms, collected stuff I needed and covered books for class libraries. Some members of my family even had to remember not to call me Aunty Tracey!

When I first came to Woodburn, I had just bought a book called ‘Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge’, by Mem Fox, for my son Drew Kenneth Patrick Tebbutt. I was even making connections to texts back then, it was about a little boy who asked a bunch of old people “What is a memory?” because his favourite old person Miss Nancy Alison Delacourt had lost her memory. The various characters responded with answers meaningful to
them. “Something warm, my child, something warm.” “Something from long ago, me lad, something from long ago.” “Something that makes you cry, my boy something that makes you cry.” “Something that makes you laugh, my boy something that makes you laugh.” “Something as precious as gold my boy, something as precious as gold. I have read this book to many classes over the years.

I will remember:
The kids who kept me up until all hours of the night on the Great Barrier Reef and Canberra excursions.
The kids both young and older who stop me in the shops to say hi and catch up.
The kids who gave me a Christmas decoration at the end their year with me.
Each year as I put up my Christmas tree, I will think of you.
The kids who have contributed to my ever increasing owl collection.
The kids who have enabled my chocolate addiction.
The kids who come into class before school each day to help out or have a chat.
The kids who share a smile and a laugh.
The kids who were in my class who now have their own kids in my class.

I did not want a big fuss made over my retirement; I am wrapping up my time as a full time class teacher; but I still love teaching so I will be back when I’m needed and even when I’m not. There are a few projects I want to see completed, the mural painting in the toilets that was planned but postponed; scanning all the old central school photos so they can be easily accessed and creating a ceramic poppy memorial garden to mark the 100th ANZAC Day.

At the official opening ceremony for Woodburn Public School in 2000 I spoke of the potential number of years that would see me to my retirement. The local politician at the time commented that that was one of the big problems with teachers on the north coast, we stay too long in the one school. I wonder if I have achieved more as a teacher than he did as a politician. I’ll stop wondering now, yes I have. I have taught kids who have grown up to do amazing things, become engineers, physiotherapists, scientists, teachers and wonderful parents.

I have also had the great honour of working with teachers at this school who are dedicated to improving their craft, teachers who care about what they are doing, teachers who care about all the kids in the school; teachers who take on the many extras that are part of a teaching career.

To our office and support staff my sincere thanks for your help over the years.
I think if you were able to ask any of the principals in my 35 year career; Harry O’Shea, Phil Bastick, Lyle Whan, Jack Smith, John Culber, Rob Walker, Cathy Reade or Shane Fletcher about my commitment to teaching, I hope they would say that I made a difference for the students in my care.

I know I have left my mark on this school and this community, which has been such a big part of my career, and not just in the paintings on the walls and poles. In time, they will be painted over, but I hope the learning for life, the values we share, that positive attitude we display, the self-belief we promote, will sit as that little voice in your head that reminds you that in life it is “Your attitude that makes a world of difference”.

Getting back to Wilfred, “I am all the richer for precious gold memories I have gathered during my time here at Woodburn.”
Thank you
Tracey Tebbutt
Retired Teacher

**READING UNDER THE STARS**

**Summer Reading Challenge**

Reading is a priority at WPS and we are encouraging students to read for at least 10 mins everyday during the holidays to avoid the ‘Summer Slide’.
A proven way to keep kids reading over the summer holidays is participation in a summer reading program.
Register for the READING UNDER THE STARS Summer Reading program to win great prizes.
for your child and school.
Jump online today and register to be eligible for the early bird prize! www.scholastic.com.au/summer

Mrs Mander

P & C Christmas Hamper
Thank you so much to everyone. It was a magnificent raffle!!! Winners were: Sam Ticknor, Sharlie-Anne Anderson, Corey Svoboda (2), Judd Piggott (2), Indigo Skaines (2), Corey Stewart, Axton Brown, Mrs Mander, Aleigha Butler, Toby Dicinoski & Alex Kirk, Kim, Al, Toni & Dan

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Student Banking
School Banking is on each Friday morning. If you haven’t opened an account and would like to, please drop into the office.
Lyn Blake
COORDINATOR

Community Stuff
-playgroup at Woodburn PS
Every Thursday (during school terms) from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Come along for a fun morning. We have a great facility with plenty of toys and games. It’s very informal - a chat and morning tea while the kids play. It’s open to Mums, Dads, Grandmas, Grandpas and Carers.

Evans Head - Casino SLSC
Charity Bowls Day At The Bowlo Sunday 4 January 11am for a 12 noon start Family’s welcome * Food available * Great prizes and raffles *4 person teams Call the Bowlo for more details on 66 82 43 43

Peggy the Pint Sized Pirate
SHE may be little but she’s not afraid of anything, if only the other pirates would give her a chance to go and fight sea monsters with them. Little does Peggy the Pint Sized Pirate know, she has something much bigger than any of those other lazy, no-good pirates. Peggy the Pint Sized Pirate is the latest children’s production by the Evans Head Village Players which will be performed at the Woodburn-Evans Head RSL Club Saturday, December 20 at 11am and Sunday, December 21 at 2pm. Tickets are $5 at the door.
Children (and parents) are encouraged to dress up as pirates. Ahaaaaar!

Just Dance & Cheer!
Richmond Valley
***2015 Registration/ Trade Day***
Come along to the Woodburn Public School Hall on Wednesday 17 December from 4-7pm to discuss classes on offer for you/ your child for 2015 in Woodburn & Coraki. Be the FIRST to receive a copy of our initial timetable for the new year!!!
Classes on offer start @ $6 & include...
*All ages JFH (Jazz/Funk/hipHop) in both Woodburn + Coraki *Mini, Recreational & Competitive All Star Cheer options for all ages
*NEW!!!- Tumbling/Strength Classes for all ages in Woodburn *NEW
TRIAL!!!- Adult Social Stunting + Strength in Woodburn *Our sassy ’Yummy Mummy’s Fitness + Dance class
Please contact 0409822565 for more info...
See you there!
Tammy Tuck (Studio Director)

Canteen Roster

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<tr>
<th>Rostered Weeks</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wks 1 &amp; 6</td>
<td>HELP</td>
<td>Sam &amp; Rachel Trustum</td>
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<td>Wks 2 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Lisa Cottle</td>
<td>HELP</td>
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<td>Wks 3 &amp; 8</td>
<td>Tammi Davis</td>
<td>Natalie Piggott HELP</td>
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<td>Wks 4 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Amanda Pearce</td>
<td>Samantha Trustum Help</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wks 5 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Samantha Trustum</td>
<td>Jennifer Merton Help</td>
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NO PREPARED FOOD AVAILABLE AT ALL - CANTEEN ONLY OPEN AT LUNCH FOR PACKAGED FOODS. Parent Helpers for the next week are in bold. Thanks for your ongoing help - we really appreciate you! If you cannot make it on your rostered day it is up to you to find a replacement. Any ideas for canteen PLEASE come along to our next P & C Meeting!