Principal’s Message

It was great to see the children and teachers dressed up for our 125th Birthday Back to Pitt Row Day. Thank you to all the people who went to so much trouble, it made the day lots of fun. There was a great team of teachers behind the organization of the day - led by Mrs Abraham the team was: Mrs Harris, Mrs Kent, Miss Jennens, Miss Hsu, Mrs Seccull, Miss McSpadden, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Macri & Miss Papworth. A BIG thank you also to ALDI who once again have come to our aid, providing the cream for making the butter, and the bread to spread it on! The children were able to learn how butter used to be made at home.

Have you downloaded our app yet? It is available for apple and android phones and tablets. This will keep you up to date with everything that is happening at school, as well as a means to access the newsletter, calendar, photos and notifications of events. Parents should have received a note on Friday that contained the user name and password that you will need once you have downloaded it. If you missed this, ask another parent or the school office. The app is free - get connected!

P&C meeting

Our last P&C meeting for the term is on this THURSDAY at 9.00am in the hall. I encourage you to come along.

NAPLAN - writing workshop

Following the success of the first NAPLAN workshop, Mrs Vo and Mrs Cotter will be holding another one. This time it is on Writing persuasive texts and will be this Thursday from 1.30pm in the school hall. Any parents are welcome to attend.

ABC Filming

This Thursday there will be a film crew at school from 2.00pm. They are filming background footage for a documentary about modern Australian families, including same sex parents, to be screened in October or November this year. Year 6 students have received permission notes to be involved. Those who return permission notes will be filmed playing in the playground in the afternoon. The film crew will also be filming at the school gates in the afternoon outside the school and may ask parents to be involved. Your involvement is up to you. If you wish to be involved, you will be given a note to sign. The school involvement comes with approval from the Department of Education media branch.

Staff Changes

As you read in last week's newsletter, this week we farewell Mrs Thomas. I know that 5/6T will miss her, as will the school, and we wish her all the best in her new position. Ms Small will have the class from the start of Term 2 until the result of the interview process is known.

Students in 5R are also very aware of Mrs Rhodes imminent departure to have her baby. They have had an excellent start to the year and already know Miss Newton who will be taking them for the remainder of the year. Mrs Rhodes has provided Miss Newton with all the information that she needs to continue the programs started. We wish Mrs Rhodes all the best for the
arrival of her baby and look forward to the good news next term. Mrs Rhodes will return to us after her maternity leave.

School Holidays
This Friday is the last day for Term 1. Please note that next term starts with 2 staff development days rather than the normal 1. This is the case for all public schools, and has been designated a special day to assist staff in learning about the new syllabus documents. The staff at Parramatta West will spend the two days working on aspects of the new English Syllabus. There will be parents meetings later in the year as changes begin to occur. The new English syllabus is set for full implementation in 2014. School starts back for term 2 on WEDNESDAY May 1st.

I hope that you all have a wonderful break, don't forget to keep reading good books, get out in the Autumn sunshine (hopefully) and don't spend too long on electronic games!

Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Stage News
Kindergarten
We had a wonderful Back to Pitt Row Day with many students dressing up and enjoying the special activities. Please visit our school website or download the school App to see photos and reports of the day.

Early next term we'll be going on our annual excursion Calmsley Hill Farm. Permission notes will go home after the holidays. Please remember to pay the enrichment money as we have a number of exciting events and programs next term.

Finally I would like to congratulate all the kindergarten children, their teachers and their families on a great term. Enjoy the holidays and be safe.

Mr Clarke

Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2)
Well we have reached the final week of a very busy term! Students in Stage 1 have worked very hard and deserve their well earned break. This week for news students need to talk about what they have learnt this term and how they have changed.

Today we celebrated "Back to Pitt Row" day. All student's had a wonderful time experiencing what PWPS was like when it first open 125 years ago. It was certainly very different to what school is like today.

If you have any home readers or library books still at home please return them before the holidays so that they can be organised for next term.

Term 2 resumes for students on Wednesday 1st May.

Enjoy the break!

Mrs Armour

Stage Two (Year 3 and Year 4)
Everyone had a wonderful day today at the Back to Pitt Row Day today. We played some old fashioned games and even made some butter to have on fresh bread.

Next term we start the Sport in Schools Program each Tuesday. This is an exciting program with lots of specialised equipment for the children to use. This is included in your Enrichment money so please make sure you have paid $50 so far for your child to be included in this great program.

Enjoy your holidays and don't forget to visit your local library and keep reading daily. Pencil cases need to be restocked.

Students return to school for Term 2 on Wednesday 1st May.

Stage Three (Year 5 and Year 6)
Term 1 has typically been very busy and we are looking forward to a well earned break. Holidays are a great time to reflect on past successes and set new goals especially heading into term 2 with some exciting learning ahead. It is also the perfect time to check and make sure that you have all the equipment you require for the new term. Please make sure that you have started to pay your enrichment money as Sports in School will start early in term 2.

Stage 3 is going to miss Mrs Rhodes and Mrs Thomas as they both take new and different directions and we wish them all the best. We also look forward to Miss Nulty's return and thank Mr Roux for his hard work and dedication in her absence.

Thank you Mrs Abraham and your team for a wonderful "Back to Pitt Row"Day we all learnt a great deal about life in the 1890's, and still have the ANZAC service to look forward to.

Stay safe boys and girls and get excited, term 2 is just around the corner and we have a lot planned.

Mrs Harris

Library News
There is no borrowing for this week - I am getting the library ready for next term borrowing in the first week.

Please remember if you are moving or going on an extended holiday please make sure you return all your library books before you go.

Mrs Sell
Canteen News

$2-20 with maple syrup or jam

The cool weather is upon us. What better way to warm up than with a hot serving of hotcakes. Available Wednesday 10th April.

Ode to Mrs Thomas

Oh Mrs Thomas, where do we start?
We know you are leaving and it's breakin our heart.
You've done so much from camping to T-balling,
But conducting the choir was a noticeable calling.
You are conscientious and fun, you teach us different ways.
Do you remember dancing to Queen on hot December days?
Thank you for the laughter, the love and the care.
The corridors of Pilt Row will know you're not there.
You're clever, you're funny, you're the best we have seen.
But barracking for the Tigers, really, you need a new team!
The teachers and students will miss you it's true,
Cos there will never be someone as well loved as you!
So when Friday comes amid all the tears,
We'll wish you farewell and send you off with our cheers.
But please always know, our dear Mrs Thomas,
That we'll never forget you, yep, it's a Parra West promise!

by The Sport's Report Poet

Help Wanted!

We are still looking for a parent who can help out - and listen to individual children read on Thursday afternoons between 2 - 3pm in the staffroom.

Please leave your name and number at the office - and we will contact you.

Regards, K Kench, K Bruckshaw & K Maurice - Learning & Support Team