Principal's message

I spent most of last week at the National principal’s conference - with 850 principals from around Australia and some international visitors as well. It was a great opportunity to hear from educators and leaders from around the world, as well as view new resources and opportunities for our children.

Probably the biggest imperative from the conference is that we HAVE to change how we "do education". We know this, we know that the world is changing, that the world our children are inheriting, living in, working in, is different to that in which we grew up, but have we really taken in the meaning of this? Here are a few statistics and things for you to think about. In 1900, 40% of our population was in farming. Today there is 1%. Numbers employed in the mining industry peaked in the 1950s and is declining - currently about 25%. Location dependent services - ie jobs where you have to be at the place of employment, peaked in 1980 at 45% and is now declining. These jobs are being reduced by technology. So which areas are increasing? The creative class - non-routine cognitive (thinking) work. These jobs are enhanced by technology and can be done anywhere in the world. New jobs are being created daily. There have been 800,000 app creation jobs created in the last 6 years. Routine cognitive work, even things like accountancy, can be done anywhere in the world using technology. Predictions are that 90% will be outsourced to low cost teams around the world.

What does all this mean for our children and our school? We have to stop thinking about the way WE were educated and think about what THEY need. In a world where children will be wearing tiny earpieces that they can talk to and link to the Internet, what is the future of our current exam structure? Where knowledge is outdated almost before it is known? YES, we must still teach the basic skills of literacy and numeracy. The top three skills that young people will need are teamwork, problem solving and interpersonal skills. They also need to be self-directed. In the next few years, people who need constant managing will not only be unemployed, but unemployable.

Parramatta West teachers are working on our next three-year plan. We have talked with the community and the children and doing our best to develop ideas that will enable our children. We need parents to come on that journey with us. Yes, the future can be scary - but it is also exciting - and it is the future that our children will be living in, so it is our duty to prepare them for it, not for our past.

I will finish with a quote from Helen Keller: The only thing worse than not being able to see is being able to see and having no vision.

School Disco

Of course there is still lots of time for fun! I encourage all children to come along this Wednesday night - 4.00-5.30 for K-2, and 6-7.30 for 3-6. They can dress up in line with our Halloween theme, or they can just dress up. No masks though or face paint thank you. There are also lots of fun glow products to purchase. This is a fundraiser to help send our Year 6’s off in style.

World Teacher's Day

This is celebrated around the world on various dates during October. We celebrate on October 31st. Teachers are absolutely vital to children's growth and development. At Parramatta West we have some outstanding teachers, and I am proud to be their principal. I believe that the P&C is providing a morning tea on Friday that parents might like to contribute to, or a hand made card or note to your child's teacher would be nice. Unfortunately in today's busy world we tend to complain quicker than we thank and acknowledge, so maybe this is an opportunity to stop and be mindful of the good things.

Don't forget the buy one / donate one event in the Library this week. Tuesday / Wednesday 8.30am - 9am, 1.10pm - 1.30pm and 3pm - 3.30pm.

Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Library News

IT'S HERE, IT'S HERE!! This week we will be having a mini book fair. It is a buy one get one free of the same or lesser value to donate to the school library.

We are only selling on Tuesday and Wednesday from 8.30 - 9am, 1.10pm - 1.30pm and 3pm - 3.30pm

Please come and have a browse and hopefully buy a book.

Bookclub orders have been done and are expected back this week.

Mrs Sell
Stage News

Kindergarten

Kindergarten children are excited about the disco on Wednesday. Tickets can be purchased before school for $5.00. It’s time to get dressed up and show off your dance moves!

This week’s assembly will be hosted by KJ. If any parents would like to attend assembly starts at 11.20am in the hall on Friday.

Don’t forget hot dog orders for Thursday need to be in by Tuesday at 3pm.

As the weather gets warmer please make sure all clothing has your child’s name on it as they tend to be taken off and dropped in a basket. They can be returned easily if the name is clearly written on each item.

Miss Stuart and Mrs Rhodes

Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2)

I hope everyone has been practising their dance moves for our Halloween disco this week! K-2 starts at 4pm. Glow products will be available to buy before the disco starts with prices ranging from 50 cents to $10. Students can wear a costume without a mask. It’s going to be a lot of fun!!

The topic talk this week is "What am I?". Students can select an item from a supermarket (it doesn’t have to be food related) to give clues to the class. Be creative!

As the weather is heating up, we are really encouraging all students to bring their water bottle to school every day. It is so important to stay hydrated. Some students even keep their bottles in the fridge or freezer overnight so they have cool water the next day. Great idea!

Have a fantastic week!
Miss Langhans

Stage Two (Year 3 and Year 4)

The school disco will be held this Wednesday. The stage 2 & 3 disco starts at 6pm and finishes at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased before school or on the night. As halloween is approaching, children may a costume, but no masks, painted faces or make-up. Parents and caregivers will also be required to pick their children up from the disco at 7.30pm.

Russ the bus

Russ the bus will be visiting us on Friday the 14th of November. This is opportunity for children to swap an old book for a new one. On board the bus there are many books that are new from the publishers to choose from. This is a great opportunity for our children to get a new book to read before the end of the year. If you are interested please bring in a book to swap.

Enjoy the week. Mr Clarke

Stage Three (Year 5 and Year 6)

The very exciting annual School Disco will be held this Wednesday the 29th of October. Tickets are on sale in the mornings outside the wet room. The K-2 Disco will be held from 4.00pm – 5.30pm and the 3-6 will be on from 6.00pm – 7.30pm. You can come in fancy dress to celebrate Halloween, just remember no masks! There will also be glow products on sale before both events. All money raised will go towards the Year Six Farewell. Thank you Stage Two for organising this event, it’s going to be a fun night!

Last Thursday Year Six students attended ‘A Day on the Hill’ at Parramatta High School. This was a transition program to prepare students for Year Seven. Students participated in a variety of classes throughout the day. Some of the lessons included; mathematics; English; science; food technology; visual arts; language (Indonesian); PDH/PE; geography; and, industrial arts. The students had to read a timetable and find their classroom. Parramatta West students were, as always, extremely well behaved and an absolute credit to their parents, teachers and their school.

Last week the Stage 3 PELC Public Speaking Competition was held at Hilltop Public School. Hadya Aman, Jasmine Van and Krishna Pradeep proudly represented Stage Three at this friendly competition. They all did a superb job and should be proud of their efforts. Well done girls!

This Friday is ‘World Teachers’ Day where teachers are recognised for all their hard work and dedication. Stage Three students are extremely lucky to have such committed and passionate teachers who always go above and beyond to ensure that your child receives the best possible well-rounded education. I encourage Stage Three students to write a little card or a note thanking their teachers this week. These lovely gestures mean the world to teachers. So a massive THANK YOU to all the Stage Three teachers for everything they do each and every day!!

Selective school applications for 2016 are now open for Year Five students who are interested in trying out for a selective placement. A note went home a couple of weeks ago with the website details. The closing date is the 17th of November for online applications. If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to see me.

I hope you all have a brilliant week and we are looking forward to another action packed learning week at PWPS.

Mrs Heifetz
Sports News

Cricket - Bye

Tee Ball

Boys defeated Widemere
Girls loss to Widemere

Softball

Boys defeated Widemere
Girls defeated Widemere.

Training is held every Thursday.

Swim School

Outstanding payment for swim school needs to be finalised by Friday 14th November. Thank you.

Class Awards

KA Arya
KB Dorsa
KJ Akilesh
KN Crystal
KR Tawsul
KS Isabella
K-2G Tammy
1-4H Tyler
1F Hamza
1H Jem
1K Pranav
1N Roma
1S Obaid
2L Muhammed
2P Lujain
2W Jawad
2/3R Ahlaam
3/4C Darren
4S Iljaz
5/6B Jerome
5/6E Murssel
5/6H Arvin

P & C News

Hot Dog Day is this Thursday 30th October at lunchtime. Last day to order and pay is tomorrow Tuesday 28th before 3pm. No orders will be taken after that time.

If there is anyone available to help out please come to the top playground at 12pm on Thursday. Thank you.

This Friday is World Teacher’s Day. To celebrate our wonderful teachers there will be a morning tea set up for the teachers. Please bring in a plate of finger food to the office on Friday morning so the teachers can enjoy their day. Thank you in anticipation.

Banking - Tuesday. If you want to start school banking just go to your local Commonwealth Bank and open a dollarmite or youthsaver account and bring the deposit book along with your deposit in Tuesdays.

Thank you to everyone helping out in the Home Reading room. It is greatly appreciated.