Principal's Message

Well we are nearly at the end of the year, and how quickly it has flown by, as I am sure the parents of both Kindergarten and Year 6 will agree. How quickly do the little ones become independent readers and writers, confidently going off to school - are they really the little ones that you sent off to school for the first time in February? And where did the seven years of primary school go our year six parents are wondering? I remember when they started kindergarten, and look what wonderful young ladies and gentlemen they have turned into! We will officially farewell them on Thursday night at the formal function, and then of course there will be the passing out parade next Wednesday just before 3.00pm.

This will be the last newsletter for 2014, but I will post my Presentation Day address on the website next week, as well as information about the start of the school year for 2015.

Parent meeting

Our final meeting for 2014 will be on Wednesday morning due to presentation day being on Tuesday. There will not be an evening meeting this month. At the meeting I will be discussing the school plans for 2015, staffing, school numbers and the new financial model from the department and how it affects us. I encourage you to come along.

Supervision before school

Parents need to realize that children are not supervised before 8.30am. We do have before school care provided in the OOSH building where children are given breakfast and supervised well. Parents need to ensure that their children do not arrive at school before 8.30am. When you are thinking about next year, please organize yourselves for this. Thank you.

Thank you

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents who have been so involved with our school during 2014. I am very aware of the fact that you cannot all be up at school physically helping out due to work commitments, but I also know that so many of you support your children well at home, read my newsletters, stay in touch and follow up things with your children at home. A positive home school connection has an enormous impact on the success of the children's education and is something that we will be building on next year. The parents who attended our meetings earlier this year gave us plenty of good suggestions as to how we can keep you better informed, and we will be trying some of them next year. Thank you especially to the wonderful parents who run the clothing pool and the home reading room. In particular, Renee Addoug who is at school every day helping out. Without her commitment to the school many things just would not happen and she does it all FOR YOU! I encourage more of you to become involved with these programs next year and assist her.

2015

Children in years 1-6 return on Wednesday January 28th. Kindergarten children will have a Best Start assessment time on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday and then start full time on Monday February 2nd. It is important that children do start back on these dates as the department provides us with the number of teachers according to the number of students actually at school, not on the number we think will eventually arrive. We will form classes as soon as our numbers are firm. We are extremely full at the moment and are unable to take out of area children who are not already enrolled in the school. It may be possible in February once the Kindergarten children have all arrived, depending on over all school numbers. I apologise to those parents awaiting answers, as this is as clear I can be at this stage. The enrolment committee will be looking at all out of area applications carefully next year and inform parents as soon as possible. I am waiting on the department to inform me of our official enrolment ceiling as we have already surpassed the previous one. All schools in the Parramatta area are very full, due to the growth in apartments. The department of education is very aware of the problem and is working on solutions. I will be involved in further discussions next year. There will be demountable classrooms and toilets on the top field before too long.

The lower playground is in need of work, and we have been working towards solutions this year. Now that the demountable buildings are in place, we have started working towards building a creative play space for the children there. Work should commence towards the end of term 1 next year and be completed for the start of term 2.

Later this week we will be sending home class equipment lists for each year group in case parents want to get organized over the holidays. The enrichment money information will go out next year, but is likely to be similar to this year.

I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday break; safe travels for those going away, and I look forward to seeing you in 2015.
For those leaving us I wish you all the very best in your children's further education.

Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Stage News

Kindergarten

Thank you to all the parents who baked items for our cake stall today and for everyone who brought along money to spend. Everything looked delicious and all monies raised go toward the Year 6 Farewell.

Tomorrow we will be celebrating the achievements of our students at our K-2 Presentation Day. If your child is receiving an award, you would have received an invitation, inviting you to attend at 9:30am in the school hall.

Over the last week we have been lucky to watch performances from our CAPA groups, which they will be performing in this week's Big Night Out. Good luck to those Kindergarten students performing in the drama group and K-2 choir. If you haven't bought your tickets yet, they are still on sale up until the performance at Parramatta High School on Wednesday night at 6pm.

This week's topic talk is 'My Year of Learning.' Students are asked to share the three most important things they have learnt this year with the class.

This week is a wonderful week celebrating learning at PWPS - enjoy!

Miss Stuart & Mrs Rhodes

Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2)

Wow! We're in our second last week of school for 2014! There are a lot of events happening this week. Today, Semester 2 reports will be going home alongside the 'Feedback to Parent' report from our PLAN software. Reports have been written with a focus on 'where to next'. Remember to read the front page of the report for a description about grades.

Tomorrow is our K-2 Presentation Day at 9:30am. Students receiving an award received an invitation for parents. We're looking forward to celebrating these fantastic students! This Wednesday is our Big Night Out. A huge thankyou in advance for all the hard work put in by students, teachers and parents to support such a big event by PWPS. We look forward to seeing you there!

Next Tuesday is our Party Picnic Day where we will celebrate a fabulous term of learning. Students will be organising what they will be bringing on the day. Students will only be in a small group (4 or 5 students).

Have a great week!

Miss Langhans

Stage Two (Year 3 and Year 4)

We have a number of important events this week.

Firstly, reports are going home this week. If you would like to discuss your child's report please make an appointment as soon as possible with the class teacher.

Secondly we have a huge week of assemblies and performances. The presentation day is Tuesday morning, Big Night Out is on Wednesday and the sports presentation is on Friday. There are also a number of rehearsals taking place throughout the week. Please ensure your child has everything they need, this may be costumes, musical instruments or wearing full school uniform. We would really like to see as many parents and family members as possible at these events to celebrate a wonderful year.

Finally, a reminder that all home reading and library books need to be returned as soon as possible for the annual stock take.

Enjoy the week,
Mr Clarke

Stage Three (Year 5 and Year 6)

We have an action packed week and a half coming up!! This Tuesday the 9th of December will be PWPS Presentation Day; Years 3-6 will start at 11.30am. Friday the 12th of December will be our Sports Presentation Day which will commence at 9.00am. We hope to see lots of parents at these two special events to celebrate students’ achievements and successes for 2014!

A note went home a couple of weeks ago to all the Year 6 students about their Farewell. Please read the note carefully as it has important times for dropping students off and picking them up on the night (this Thursday the 11th of December). Students should be there at 6.30pm and parents are invited to join us from 8.30pm. On the morning of the Farewell we will be going to practise our songs and dances at Merrylands Bowling Club. Don’t forget if you are picking your child up from school please be there at 1.00pm sharp. Students are super excited about this amazing event and can’t wait to show off the dances and songs that they have been working extremely hard to perfect with Mrs Harris and Mrs Heifetz!

A note will also go home to all Stage 3 students about ‘Party Day’. This will be held next Tuesday the 16th December. Students usually form a group of approximately 5-6 classmates and bring in special food and items to celebrate their successes for 2014. The note will outline what the students will need to bring on the day.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the ‘Swim School’ program over the last few weeks. It’s great they have started to learn important life skills for our Australian summer.

The holidays are even closer now! We are really looking forward to all of the end of year celebrations and activities. Have a wonderful week 10!

Mrs Heifetz
Giving Tree

Thank you once again to Dural Christmas Tree Farm for donating our beautiful, real, christmas tree which is located in the school office.

Please place your donation under the tree and they will be delivered to a local charity so they can help needy families in our area at christmas time. Non-perishable food, toiletries and new toys make great items to donate.

Thank you for your support.

Become a Timehelp volunteer

Timehelp is a community program that links retirees with local schools through volunteering. Our Timehelpers are invaluable members of our school, and we can always use more helping hands. You don't need to be an expert, just have an open mind and a good attitude. Volunteer opportunities range from numeracy to gardening, literacy to maintenance and everything else in-between.

For more information contact your friendly volunteer coordinator -
Brittney:
0401733626
www.timehelp.com.au
brittneyv.ihrig@gmail.com

P & C News

This wednesday is our final P & C Meeting for 2014. Please attend to find out what is in store for 2015.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and wonderful New Year.

Uniform Shop

Opening time for Term 1 2015
Tuesday 27th January         10am - 1pm
Wednesday 28th             8.30am - 1pm
Thursday 29th               8.30am - 1pm
Friday 30th                  8.30am - 12pm

We will only be allowing 3 customers in at a time so please be patient.

School Banking

Last day will be Tuesday 16th December, 2014.

First day for 2015 will be 3rd February.

Library News

There are still a large number of overdue books to be returned. Please search the house. Overdue books that cannot be found must be paid for.

If you have a problem with the overdue notice don't hesitate to see me.

Please return anything with a barcode as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Mrs Sell