Principal's Message

Every Face has a Place at Parramatta West Public School. This is the message behind our RESPECT mural that we created last week. Eventually it will be hanging at the back of the school hall. Our school is a wonderful place, and we love our diversity. Our children are able to live and work happily together with children from all over the world. Children do not worry about where their friends come from. As a child who grew up in a variety of countries myself, I often had friends who did not speak my language - but that did not stop us playing for hours. Unfortunately it is adult concepts and ideas that can sometimes colour children's perceptions of others who are different to us. We need to appreciate difference, accept each other as we are, and look for our common likenesses. For a child, whether their friend likes football, or the same author, is more important than what religion they are. If the world operated at this level, it might be a more peaceful place. We are teaching RESPECT for all.

Keeping children safe online

At Parramatta West we work in a safe environment, and we are teaching children the use of the internet, email and now, through the XO's, chat rooms. We know that this is a new environment for many parents, as well as children, and we need to teach them to be safe. We cannot protect them from something that they have no experience of, so denying them access will not work. They need to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly.

Below is some information from parents from the Kidsmatter website. If you have any concerns for your child, or about something that your child has experienced, please let us know.

The internet offers a wealth of learning and leisure opportunities for children but, understandably, many parents and carers worry that their children may experience cyberbullying - or perhaps cyberbully others - when their personal and virtual worlds collide.

Cyberbullying is the use of technology to bully a person or group. Bullying involves deliberately and repeatedly attempting to hurt, scare or exclude someone. The main purpose is to have power over someone else. Children can cyberbully each other in a number of ways; for example, sending abusive text messages and emails, posting hurtful images, spreading nasty online gossip and excluding others online.

Cyberbullying is a mental health concern because it causes distress and can lead to loneliness, anxiety and depression. It can also affect children's concentration and lower their achievement at school. Cyberbullying is particularly nasty because it is often done in secret, shared with a lot of people and difficult to remove.

Cyberbullying has consequences for families, too. It can be stressful for families to discover that their child is being cyberbullied or cyberbullying other children. So what should you do if you're concerned about cyberbullying? First, explain to your child that cyberbullying is not okay and that they should report it if it occurs. Schools have anti-bullying policies in place and should be able to support your child, whether the bullying is occurring on school grounds or not.

Supervising your child's use of electronic devices and teaching your child about ways to keep safe online can help to reduce the risk of cyberbullying.

If your child is being cyberbullied:
• listen and provide support to your child
• try to understand what has been happening online, including how often and how long
• encourage social skills, like being assertive, telling the bully to stop and seeking help
• support your child to think through different ways they could deal with the problem
• talk with your child's teacher and ask for help
• keep talking with the school until your child feels safe.

If your child is doing the cyberbullying:
• make sure your child knows the cyberbullying behaviour is inappropriate and why
• try to understand the reasons why your child has behaved in this way and look for ways to address problems
• encourage your child to think about how their behaviour makes other children feel help your child think of alternative paths of action.

Teacher emails

We understand that many working parents find it hard sometimes to communicate with teachers. All teachers have a work email. If parents would like to email a teacher, please send the email to the school email so that it can be forwarded to them and they can then respond with their own email address. Please remember, however, that teachers are busy people, and may not respond immediately. Any urgent messages should be indicated as such in the subject line, along with the teacher's name.

School email address is: parramattw-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Excellent academic and support programs

Principal's Message cont....

Road Safety Day

This Thursday the children will all attend a Road safety / Science show. They will also receive a workbook and drink bottle. There is a workshop for parents in the afternoon at 2.15 in the hall. I encourage parents to attend if they can. There will be important information for you that will help to keep our children safe.

Have you been asking your children what they are learning? I hope so.

Have a good week,
Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Class Awards

KA Zakariyah       KB Dorsa
KJ Aryan           KN Krisha
KR Huda            KS Elanur
1F Siya           1H Shreeyukta
1K Jacob          1N Roma
1S Sophia        2L Raydon
2P Pious          2W Devkrish
K-2G Tammy       2-4H Reyaz
2/3R Swadip       3J Robert
3/4C Madison      4A Ian
4S Neha           5/6B Ali
5/6E Damindi      5/6H Simar
5/6J Dilara       5/6N Ayaan
3-6K Leila

Stage News

Kindergarten

Have you made a booking to come and speak to your child's teacher on 2nd April about how your child is learning at school? You can book online or come into the school and the office ladies can help you.

There will be NO GYM FUN this week as on Thursday we are having a Road Safety Day. Children will receive a drink bottle and an information booklet. There is a parent workshop in the Hall at 2.15pm. All welcome.

Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2)

We had a fabulous time last week dressing up for Harmony Day. This Thursday we have another special day. It's Road Safety Day and we'll be doing different activities to ensure we all know how to be safe on the road. As we will be busy learning about road safety, stage sport will not go ahead. Teachers will endeavour to take students out for extra fitness sessions during the week.

This week's Topic Talk is sharing an insect model made from recycled materials. Teachers and students are looking forward to seeing how creative everyone is.

Please remember if your child is absent from school, a note must be provided.

Have a wonderful week!
Miss Langhans

Stage Two (Year 3 and Year 4)

We all had a wonderful time last Thursday celebrating Harmony Day and launching our social and emotional learning program. It was great to see so many wonderful costumes on display. The children completed a number of activities including badge making and contributing to our school collage of portrait photos forming the word 'respect'. The collage will be on display in the school hall shortly.

Information went home last week regarding three-way interviews, parents, students and teachers. If you require assistance in making a booking please contact the school office or see your child's teacher.

A reminder that I'll be on leave from Wednesday and that Mr Roux will be teaching 3/4C and Mr Ta supervising stage 2 for the remainder of term 1.

Have a great week!
Mr Clarke

Stage Three (Year 5 and Year 6)

A big thank you to all the students who dressed up for Harmony Day last Thursday. You all looked AMAZING in your beautiful cultural outfits. It was a great day with wonderful activities.

Details on how to book an appointment with your child's classroom teacher for the 'Three-Way Conferences' went out last week with the newsletter. This will be held next Wednesday the 2nd April and we are looking forward to meeting with you and your child.

Stage Three will be going on a walking excursion to the cinemas in Parramatta this Tuesday to watch some short films made by students all over the world. Students must bring their signed permission note back to their classroom teacher by Tuesday morning at the absolute latest. Students will need to wear full school uniform and their hat. They will need to pack a small bag with their recess, lunch and water. Just a reminder not to order food from the canteen that morning. Please make sure your child is wearing comfortable shoes as it is a long walk there and back. It should be a great opportunity for students to gain an understanding on short films.

This Thursday PWPS will be hosting an NRMA Road Safety Day. Students will be participating in workshops throughout the day and we encourage all parents who are available from 2.15pm to also attend the ‘Parent Workshop’.
Stage News cont...

A couple of other quick reminders:

• Please return emergency contact details note ASAP to class teachers.
• Enrichment money should be either paid in full or as an instalment to the office.
• Please remind your child to read for at least 20 minutes each night and record the book and the pages in their diaries.
• Encourage your child to use Mathletics and Reading Eggspress at home.

We can’t believe how quick this term is going. Have a wonderful week!

Mrs Heifetz

Library News

• Week 9 already. This will be our last week to borrow. Week 10 and 11 all books need to be returned.

• Bookclub is due back this week but please be patient it was a large order this issue. Thank you to those who order as every order earns books for the school.

P & C News

SCHOOL BANKING UPDATE - No silver tokens will be given out from last week. All students deposits are stored on the computer database and when your child reaches 10 deposits a note will be sent home with your child to pick a reward. Please send this note back with rewards circled and the item will be given to your child as soon as it is delivered. Just a reminder we will not and cannot fill out any deposit slips. If it is not filled out, it will be sent back.

There is a “Sausage Sizzle” on Thursday 10th April for the end of term. If you can help please visit the uniform room and place your name on the helpers list. The time to help will be from 12pm on 10/4/14.

Mother’s Day Stall is on 5th May 2014. If you would like to help, place your name on helpers list in uniform room. The times will 9am - 11am.

2nd April - Home Reading helpers morning tea. 9am in the staffroom.

SENIOR DANCE GROUP

There will be no senior dance group practise this Thursday after school. Senior Dance will be back on next Thursday 3rd April, 3-4pm.

Miss Stuart

Sports News

Congratulations to our PSSA teams last week. Some very pleasing results. Our coaches have been working hard as evident with our players being some of the best prepared children in the zone.

Girls T Ball 16 - 10 WIN
Boys T Ball 12 - 9 WIN
Girls Softball 6 - 2 WIN
Boys Softball 3 - 1 WIN
Jnr Cricket 40 - 5 WIN
Sr Cricket 16 - 13 WIN

This week is an away game and also the last PSSA game of the term. All PSSA teams will be playing against Hilltop P.S. at Ted Burge Oval. All children will need to be at school early, ready to pay their coaches $6 for bus money. Summer PSSA will re-commence in Term 4.

Mr White

Harmony Day