Principal's Message

Thank you to the parents who attended the NRMA workshop last week. The presenters were pleased with the numbers who attended - some schools are less enthusiastic. The children enjoyed their show and the workbooks. I hope that it has stimulated discussion in your family about being safe.

3-way interviews

These are on this Wednesday. If you have not yet booked an appointment with your child's teacher, I encourage you to do so. Parents of children in 5/6E and 5/6N will have this opportunity next term. If you need an interpreter, please let the office know. If you are having trouble booking a time that suits, let us know and we will do our best to find one. We want all parents to meet with their child's teacher. Make sure that you have your children with you when you attend the interview.

The importance of play

What games do your children play? What games do you play with them? Do we "grow out of" play? Play is a very important part of learning. Young children do not separate play from learning. Learning is play for them - discovery, growth, investigating what happens when you do things - like pushing a car along the ground. In later life, this sort of discovery is physics. It is also important for children's imagination. Imaginative play, whether it is in a group inventing games, or playing with construction toys and building something, helps to build concepts and ideas. Puzzles develop spatial skills and visual discrimination. Construction toys are fun - but they are also about maths, physics and science. Playing in groups teaches children about social skills, learning to cooperate, listen to each other's ideas, share, take turns, work together, solve conflicts and appreciate each other's ideas and skills. Trying to do something that is difficult, failing and trying again all helps to build resilience. Doing this in play situations teaches skills that can be applied to "work". Play should not stop, as children get older, it just changes.

Do you give yourself time to play with your children? I think it is one of the best things about HAVING children - it gives adults the licence to play! How many fathers have longed for a son so they can justify buying that train set they have always wanted? When you play with children you can be the role model, nurturing their creativity, helping them when they get stuck (not doing it for them though), encouraging them, talking to them, developing language skills... it is endless. Games with dice - from ludo to monopoly - teach important maths skills in a fun way.

Yes, "homework" is important, but children MUST have time to play. Just as adults need time out from work to relax, and we play too. I encourage all parents - mums and dads, to take time to play with their children this week. I guarantee that your children will remember the times that you played with them forever, and you will not regret it. Childhood goes by so fast - you only have your children a very short time, so use it wisely.

Tree work

The large tree at the end of E Block will finally be removed this Thursday. Also the old tree alongside the car park will be pruned to make it safer. There will be another safety audit of all trees carried out in May.

Parent Meetings - Monday April 7th & Tuesday April 8th

The next parent meetings will be on next week - Monday at 9.00am in the hall and Tuesday evening in the staffroom. The topic for this month is NAPLAN. This is the national assessment program for students in years 3 and 5. However, it is useful for all parents to know about it, and there will be opportunity for parents to ask about and discuss other topics as well.

Have fun playing this week,
Anthea Donaldson
Principal

University of NSW Competitions (ICAS)

These competitions/tests are conducted throughout Australia and the Pacific from Year 2 - Year 6. (Year 2 can enter for Mathematics, English and Science ONLY.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>4 June 2014</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRITING</td>
<td>16 - 20 June 2014</td>
<td>$17-00</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>29 July 2014</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATHEMATICS</td>
<td>12 August 2014</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
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Students may enter these competitions if they wish.

Last day for payment is WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL 2014 at the school office.
Class Awards

KA Mahir    KB Baris
KJ Aadi      KN Edwin
KR Thawtar  KS Sarah
K-2G Talal  2-4H Fateh
1F Zaid     1H Tala
1K Isaac    1N Suprabha
1S Blade    2L Letitia
2P Brendan  2W Holly
2/3R Srihaa 3J Jade
3/4C Cooper 4A Evan
4S Mani     5/6B Rushvi
5/6E Elias  5/6H Jasmine
5/6J Ayush  5/6N Daria
3-6K Jaisleen

Stage News

Kindergarten

It's hard to believe that it's Week 10 already!

The Kindergarten teachers are looking forward to meeting with parents on Wednesday for Three-Way interviews. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with your child's teachers and discuss their progress and any concerns you may have. If you have not booked an interview already, make sure you visit the online booking website www.schoolinterviews.com.au. Times are filling up quickly!

Gym will be back on this Thursday so make sure you remember to wear your sports uniform.

As the weather is getting cooler in the mornings many students are wearing their jumpers to school and taking them off as it gets warmer during the day. Please make sure your child's jumper has their name on it so that it doesn't get lost.

Have a great week,
Miss Stuart.

Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2)

This Wednesday we have our three way conferences starting at 1:30pm. This is a great opportunity to discuss goals that have been set with each student. If you haven't booked a time, please do so before Wednesday. Teachers are looking forward to meeting with you.

Last week we learnt about road safety. We hope all students remember to stop, look, listen and think before crossing the road. This week's topic talk is sharing an information report about an insect. Students are encouraged to use an insect that has not already been researched in class. It can be presented in a variety of ways such as on a poster or even on a computer program like PowerPoint. Students and teachers have had a lot of fun learning about different bugs.

Tomorrow will be our last gym session for the term. Students have become more confident in using the equipment and have shown great improvement. We hope to get out for sport this week.

Have a wonderful week!
Miss Langhans

Stage Three (Year 5 and Year 6)

We are looking forward to our meeting with you this Wednesday to discuss your child's goal setting and progress so far this term. Details on how to book an appointment with your child's classroom teacher for the 'Three-Way Conferences' went out two weeks ago with the newsletter. Times are filling up quickly, so please jump online and book in an appointment.

Stage Three had a lovely day last Tuesday at Event cinemas in Parramatta. We viewed many different short films made by students from around the world. It was wonderful to see so much creativity. We hope over the next few terms Parramatta West students will also produce short films using iMovies on the iPads.

Last Thursday we also took part in an NRMA Road Safety incursion. It was very informative and students learnt and revised extremely important key concepts whilst being a pedestrian; riding bikes, skateboarding and, riding scooters; and also safety in a car. Please ask your child what they learnt from this session.

PSSA trials for winter teams (Soccer, Rugby, Netball and Newcombe ball) will be held this Friday at school. So don't forget to encourage your child to sign up and try out!

Please remember to return all Emergency Contact notes ASAP as we need these to update our very important school files. Thank you to all the wonderful parents who have already paid all Enrichment money.

Looking forward to another super learning week at PWPS. Not long now until the holidays :)

Mrs Heifetz

Library News

We are not borrowing this week as this is the last library week for the term. Please return all the books you have borrowed.

Now is a great time to check out the local library and what they have to offer.

Don't forget to try out worldbookonline
Log in Parrawest Password: student
Great things to look at and do.

Mrs Sell
Sports News

Our last round of Summer PSSA for Term 1 was cancelled on Friday due to wet weather. Our Summer PSSA was re-commence at the beginning of Term 4. This Friday we will be trialling for our Winter PSSA teams:

- Mod League – Mr White
- Soccer – Mr Budden
- Newcombe – Miss Billingham
- Netball – Miss Jennens

Thank you to the Summer PSSA coaches for the great job you have done this term and thank you in advance to our Winter PSSA coaches for volunteering your time.

This week I will be taking 10 Stage 3 boys to the rugby league Peter Wynn Shield. It is an annual event that we proudly participate in and we wish the team best of luck on Thursday.

Mr White

NRMA Science Show

All the students enjoyed the show last week.

Lost Property

- A gold ring has been found in the upper playground on Friday 21st March.
- A small black jogger
- A small pair of reading glasses

If any of these items are yours, please see the office.

P & C News

On Thursday 10th April we are having a bbq for the end of term. If you can help (we need you from 12pm) please let us know in the uniform room or email us at pwps.parents@exemail.com.au

Our next P & C meeting is on 8th April 2014. Please come along to find out what we are doing in our school and to find out how you can help our children and school. We welcome everybody.

Just a reminder daylight savings ends this Sunday. Wind your clocks back an hour.

Easter is on during the school holidays this year so we will be having our Easter Raffle before the end of term. Tickets will come home this week with your child and they are $1-00 each with 3 prizes. (A large, a medium and small basket of eggs). Please send sold tickets and money in an envelope to your class teachers or office clearly marked P & C Easter Raffle. The prizes will be drawn on Thursday 10th April at lunchtime and winners will be notified by phone so don't forget your phone number on all tickets. If you require more tickets they will be available from the office.

Rugby League Gala Day

In conjunction with the NRL, Parramatta District Rugby League and Parramatta City Titans the annual under 6 & 7 rugby league gala day will be held this Sunday 6th April 2014.

This is an invitation for a free event for kids aged 4-7 years old to come, try and play and have fun playing 3 games of rugby league this Sunday starting at 8am. They do not need to know how to play as they will have a teacher with them during the games. Uniform will be provided for the day kids just need to wear shorts and sandals.

There is also free carnival rides all day and each kid that participates will get a free gift for their participation.

The kids can play with their school friends if you organise a group or we will put each kid into a team.

Details for event and contact:

Where: Ollie Webb Reserve
Address: Corner Glebe & Pitt St Parramatta
When: This Sunday 6th April 2014
Time: 8am - 2pm
Cost: Free
Age: 4 - 7 years old
Free Gift for participation
Contact: Joseph for booking 0424754886