Principal's Message

Welcome to Term 2, 2014. I hope that you all had an enjoyable Easter break and ANZAC long weekend, and that the children are all set for another busy term.

With this newsletter is the calendar for this term - make sure that you put it somewhere safe!

Opportunity Class applications - for year 5 2015

The applications for opportunity class placements are open from this week at the following online address:

www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

Parents may also request a paper copy to complete. Parents may wish to discuss this application with the class teacher or me. As a rough guide, children who scored in band 6 last year in the NAPLAN would have a good chance of being successful. However, being in an opportunity class where all children are advanced academically does not necessarily suit all children, even if they are capable of working at this level. Parramatta West will continue to challenge and extend children who remain at this school for years 5 and 6.

NAPLAN

Children in years 3 and 5 will be sitting the NAPLAN tests in week 3. Children have been well-prepared and should not be overly worried about this.

Parent Meetings

The next parent meetings are on next week - Monday 5th from 9.00am in the school hall and Tuesday evening at 6.00pm in the library. The topic this month is problem solving in mathematics. We look forward to seeing lots of you here.

Staffing changes

Miss Billingham will be taking 5/6E for the rest of the school year. Mrs Stocks will be with us for 3 more weeks prior to her maternity leave. From week 4 Miss Montoya will be taking 1S. Mr Dawson and Mrs Frank will be taking the classes for their relief from face to face time. Mrs Rhodes is back this term three days per week. She will be assisting Miss Stuart with the management of Kindergarten and being an ESL teacher for Kindergarten.

Cross Country Carnival

I look forward to seeing the children running on Friday - I am always so impressed by the children who have a "never give up" attitude. We are not all long distance runners - but everyone can have a go and do their best supporting their house teams and challenging themselves.

Student Goals

I hope that you and your child can still remember their goals from last term and are working towards achieving them. Parental support and encouragement can make all the difference.

Have a great term,
Anthea Donaldson
Principal

P & C News

Hope everyone had a great holiday.

There is a petition in the office and uniform shop for improvement at the crossing at Franklin and Railway Streets and the unused bus stop in Railway Street to be removed. Please come and sign this petition as that intersection is always concerning to everyone in our school community. It will then be sent to council. On that note, if anyone has a concern with parking or traffic, attend a council meeting at Holroyd Council and let your voice be heard.

Banking is every Tuesday. Mother's Day stall is on Monday and helpers are needed.

Uniform Shop - Sport Polo shirts have arrived so if you ordered one please come and pick it up.

Library News

We are borrowing this week so be sure to send Library bags in.

Any book that is damaged please return and I will fix it - do not put sticky tape on the books.

Mrs Sell
Stage News

Kindergarten

Welcome back to Term 2! We hope all of the Kindergarten kids and their families had a wonderful and relaxing holiday. We have lots of exciting things planned for Term 2!

Topic Talks will start next week. This term on their news day students will present a short talk on a particular topic based on what we are learning about in class. Next week students will start presenting their ‘Mystery Bags’. Students are asked to bring in a bag with a mystery object inside. They then have to give the other students in the class clues about their mystery object without revealing it to the class. After the clues have been given they invite the class to guess what their mystery object is. A note will go home outlining topics for the term later this week.

We will be running our Gym program again this term on a Thursday. If you would like to help out we would greatly appreciate your help on a Thursday morning. Please see your child's teacher for more details.

This term we will also be starting 'Crunch 'n' Sip' which is a quick 5 minute break each morning where students can eat a small piece of fruit or vegetables (cut-up is best!) and drink water to re-energise themselves for the rest of the morning's learning. It is a good idea to send fruit break in a small container or plastic bag so that it doesn’t get confused with recess or lunch.

Have a great week!
Mrs Rhodes & Miss Stuart

Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2)

Welcome back! I hope you all had a safe and happy holiday. We're all looking forward to getting back into a routine and continue learning. This week we will start our Fundamental Sports Program on Thursday afternoons. We won't have gym on Tuesdays but we will be starting a new fitness program next week. Class teachers will let you know what day students need to wear running shoes.

Our Topic Talks will begin in week 2 and you will receive the note about the topics this week. We are also starting our new unit called 'Our Families'. We have lots of great activities and learning to do about families! A note will be going home this week about a ‘Me Box’ that we would like students to bring to school by week 2. During the term we will also be inviting parents to share information about your family's traditions and celebrations.

As the weather is starting to get cooler, please make sure all jumpers are labelled. We hope Year 2 students have restocked their pencil cases with lead pencils and glue.

Have a wonderful week 1!
Miss Langhans

Stage Two (Year 3 and Year 4)

I hope everyone enjoyed the school holidays. We have an exciting term ahead.

Firstly, applications for Year 5 entry to an 'Opportunity Class' in 2015 are now open. All applicants with access to the internet, a printer and their own email address (not the student's) should apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement . Applicants without internet access must complete a commercially printed form which is available from the school. All students who are completing the application process need to see myself during eating time. All applications close on the 16 May 2014.

A note also went home today regarding the NAPLAN for Year 3 and 5 students. Please read this information carefully.

This Friday is the school cross-country carnival. We expect all children to compete; this may mean that children run, jog or walk the course. If your child is unable to participate for any reason please provide a note to your child's teacher.

Enjoy the week,
Mr Clarke

Stage Three (Year 5 and Year 6)

Welcome back to another action packed term in stage three. I hope you had a relaxing holiday and that all students took this opportunity to read lots of books during this break.

The Cross Country Carnival will be held this Friday at Jones Park. Students can wear their house colours, suitable running shoes, a hat and should wear something warm so they don't get cold while they are waiting to run. They will need to bring water, fruit break, something to sit on (e.g. large garbage bag as the grounds are often damp) and something to occupy them while they are not running (for example playing cards or a book to read but no electronic devices). It should be a wonderful day.

PSSA trials for winter teams will also be held this Friday at school. Students have the opportunity to try out for Newcombe ball, Netball, Soccer and Rugby. It would be great if you could encourage your child to try out for one of these teams.

We are all looking forward to another successful and productive term. Thanks again for your continued support with your child's education.

Mrs Heifetz

University of NSW Competitions

Tomorrow is the last day to return your forms and payment if you wish to enter these competitions. Science, Writing, English and Mathematics are available.