Principal’s Message

At our parent meeting today I spoke about the NAPLAN tests that are on in week 3 next term for years 3 and 5. This will be the topic for our parent meeting tomorrow night also - starting at 6.00pm in the staffroom. We will also have general discussion on whatever people want to talk about. If you have a child in years 3 or 5, I encourage you not to worry too much. We need to remember that it is just a snapshot of your child's development. We do not want the children worrying about it and becoming too stressed. Having reading stamina - being able to read for 20 minutes at a time, and understanding what they have read, will help. There are sample tasks online and in books that can be purchased at a newsagent if parents want to do a bit extra with their children during the holidays.

It was great to see so many parents attending the 3-way interviews last week. If you missed out due to time or work commitments, I encourage you to talk to your child's teacher to make another appointment. If at any time in the future, parents need to speak with a teacher about their child's progress, please contact the office or send in a note to the class teacher.

During this week teachers will be planning for next term. They will be spending some time working with a consultant on the new English syllabus, as well as developing programs and plans for term 2. The children will be supervised by various support staff, and continue their learning.

ANZAC Day falls in the holidays, but we will be celebrating this important event on Wednesday at Parramatta West. The children will be making poppies and learning something of the history. We are fortunate in Australia that we are a nation that is at peace, but we do remember those countries that are not so fortunate, and the wars around the world that Australians have been involved in as peacekeepers in more recent times.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable holiday and that the children return to school refreshed for the new term. School starts for the children on Tuesday April 29th. Teachers will be at school on 28th, and the office will be open on this day.

Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Stage 1 Choir Performance

On Friday the Stage 1 Choir performed Rockin' Robin at the K-2 Assembly. They did a fabulous job on stage and were watched by many mums, dads, family members and school community members.

They performance was the culmination of each Tuesday's practice and many thanks to those students involved and Mrs Negi.

Next term choir is open to Kindergarten, so if you are in Kindergarten or want to be involved please come to 2/3R at lunchtimes on Tuesdays.

Thank you again to all those students involved in choir and all those parents and family members who were able to come along and make the performance a success.

Miss Ricketts

P & C News

Easter Raffle tickets went home last week and should be returned ASAP. Raffle for the 3 baskets will be drawn on Thursday 10th April at lunchtime. Tickets are $1-00 each.

Sausage sizzle is on Thursday 10th April. Pre-order you halal sausage or veggie pattice for $2-50 each or $3-00 with a juice by 3pm on Wednesday.
Class Awards

2/3R  Jasmine  3J  Amir
3/4C  Saavi  4A  Yeghaneh
5/6B  Alisiya  5/6E  Deborah
5/6H  Aditya  5/6J  Winnie
5/6N  Furkan

Stage News

Kindergarten

How quickly this term has flown by! It's hard to believe that Kindergarten have been at school for a whole term! They should be very proud of what they have achieved during their first term at school.

This week there will be no library borrowing or home readers as Mrs Sell and the home reading mums are busy getting the books and readers ready for next term. There will also be no gym this week.

Next term we will be starting "Crunch and Sip" in our classrooms. This is a quick 5 minute break at 10am each morning where students can have a drink of water, a small piece of fruit or some vegetables to boost their energy levels. Some ideas for fruit break: carrot or celery sticks, cut-up apple, banana, grapes or cherry tomatoes.

During the holidays make sure you continue to practise all the things you have learnt at school this term - writing your name, reading, counting and speaking in full sentences. Read lots of interesting books in the holidays, your teacher will be keen to hear about the books you have read!

Have a relaxing and safe holiday. We look forward to seeing you after the holidays ready for another busy term.

Miss Stuart

Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2)

Can you believe it's the last week of school for term 1 already? This term has flown by and it has been full of great learning. This week for our topic talks students are able to reflect on their learning this term and share what they know. It is also a great time for you to reflect with them on their learning.

Thank you to parents that made it in for our 3-way conferences. It was a great opportunity to discuss goals that each student has set and share the learning they have done so far. If you were not able to come for the meeting, teachers will be sending home their goals and a handy hints page about what you can do at home to support their learning.

There will be no gym fun tomorrow. Teachers will take students out for some extra fitness during the week. If weather permits, sport will still be on Thursday. As we are nearing the end of our first term in 2014 it is important that all home readers and library books are returned to school.

School returns on Tuesday the 29th April.

We hope you have a great week and a safe and happy holiday!

Miss Langhans

Stage Three (Year 5 and Year 6)

What an absolutely fabulous term it has been! Thank you to all the parents for your support and coming to meet us last Wednesday. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to talk about your child’s goals and the progress they have made throughout this term. The students have had many amazing educational opportunities and have hopefully expanded their knowledge and imagination in a range of different areas this term. A massive thank you to the hardworking, dedicated teachers on Stage Three for all you have done for the students at PWPS already this year. I know our students and their parents truly appreciate it.

Unfortunately PSSA trials for winter teams (Soccer, Rugby, Netball and Newcombe ball) were not held last Friday due to bad weather conditions. The good news is they will be held after the Cross Country carnival on Friday the first week back. So over the holidays don’t forget to get practising for the Cross Country Carnival!

There are only a couple of Emergency Contact notes left to come back in Stage Three. Please complete and return before the holidays. Next term Stage Three will be going on an excursion so please remember to ensure your child’s enrichment money is up to date.

We hope you all have a relaxing and safe Easter break. We are looking forward to catching up on Tuesday the 29th of April :)

Mrs Heifetz

Library News

• We do not have library this week but please continue to return your books.

• The Library is closed at lunchtime this week so it can be tidied ready for next term.

• Don't forget you have access to worldbookonline in the holidays.

www.worldbookonline

id: parrawest
password: student

Mrs Sell
Sports News

Due to wet weather our PSSA Winter Sport trials were cancelled on Friday. The trials will now take place Friday week 1 after lunch.

Congratulations to the 10 stage 3 students that participated in the Peter Wynn Shield last week. The team performed very well and proudly represented our school. Two of the students, Nathan Lee and Vilami Sikalu will be participating in the Zone Opens Rugby League tournament tomorrow. We wish them the best of luck. A great achievement for both boys.

We would like to thank the Merrylands Rams for their donation of rugby league balls and water bottles to be used by the PSSA mod league teams. The Rams are currently seeking new players. If your child is interested in developing their rugby league skills and enjoying a fun team environment please contact the club on 0408 437 267.

Mr White.

Fun's the name of the game

Most parents know it can be a battle to get their child away from the TV and outside playing or switching from a can of soft drink for a bottle of water. Now there's a free family lifestyle program that helps children and their families lead a healthier life.

It's called Go4Fun and the emphasis is on the fun. Run over 10 weeks, Go4Fun is aimed at children 7 - 13 years who are above a healthy weight range. Children attend with a parent and enjoy fun and interactive games, healthy eating advice, a supermarket excursion and goal setting exercises. Go4Fun Coordinator, Michelle Nolan says, "Over 630 families have participated in the program in Western Sydney, and the results have been very encouraging. We're seeing significant improvements in children's weight, waist measurement, activity levels, nutrition levels, nutrition habits and self-esteem".

Importantly, families enjoy attending with comments such as "Our family is more active and smiling", (Karina, 8) "It's fun", (Chelsea, 12). Mother of 2, Rebecca says, "We love Go4Fun because there is good practical information about healthy eating for kids they can use in their everyday life".

Healthy habits formed early can stay with a person beyond childhood. To register today for this FREE program call 1800 780 900 or visit go4fun.com.au

April Holidays - Creative Writing Courses

At Bicentennial Park, Homebush Bay with award-winning authors Bernard Cohen and Emily Maguire

The Writing Workshop helps young writers improve literacy, build confidence, take pride in work, develop creativity, increase general braininess and have a lot of fun.

- Switch on to writing: "Kids in the Park Special" (ages 6-9 years and 8-12 years groups – 22nd – 24th April, two hours each day)
- Realise your ambitions: "Write Your Own Book" (ages 8-13 – full-day course 16th April)
- Stretch yourself with high-level skills and new techniques: “Skilled Young Writers” (ages 10-15 – full-day course 17th April)
- Be waaaay more convincing: "Persuasion and Advocacy" (ages 8-13 – full-day course 12th or 27th April)
- Unleash the creatures from your imagination: “Fantastic Beasts” (ages 8-13 – full-day course 26th April)

Fun and inspiring after-school courses in Cammeray, Eastwood, Annandale, Haberfield and Leichhardt during term time.

For details, bookings and past feedback, visit www.writingworkshop.com.au.
Phone bookings and info line on 0468 543 933.
Email writingw@writingworkshop.com.au.

COME AND PLAY RUGBY LEAGUE WITH MERRYLANDS RAMS - 'THE CLUB ON THE MOVE'

Whether you're an established player or just starting out bring a mate, enjoy the fun and learn the game.

All ages under 4 to "A" Grade - Girls 4 to 12

Not happy at your present club - join the Rams and be appreciated

NRL Players, Dene Halatau & Liam Fulton - Tigers, Ken Sio - Eels, Jamal Idris - Panthers and Jamie Lyon - Sea Eagles have all played for the Rams.

Registration only $80 for juniors 3rd Child free.

Contact Belinda on 0408 437 267 or go to www.merrylandsrams.com.au