Principal's Message

This month our parent meeting topic is problem solving in mathematics. If you missed it at school this morning, you can come along on Tuesday evening at 6.00pm in the library. Our children are pretty good at calculating, but they have much more difficulty working out worded problems due to the comprehension of the language involved. Come along to find out how we teach them to work it out.

The P&C have a wonderful array of mother's day gifts for the children to purchase. They all visited the stall today, but there will still be more items available during the week for those who forgot their money today or who want to buy something else. Thank you to the hard working mums who provide this great stall each year.

Make Mum's Day

Yes, we will be having this event this year, but with a late Easter and NAPLAN, we did not have time to fit it in before Mother's Day this year, so it will be on May 29th. More information will follow shortly - but put the date in your diaries now and make plans to get some time off work if you need to. We look forward to having lots of mums at school from 11.00-2.00 on that day.

Medic Alert

There are many children who have a variety of allergies and medical conditions. The school has been given information on medic alert bracelets that can be purchased by parents for children (or anyone else) to wear with the appropriate information on. We will send these pamphlets home to people we think might be interested, and more are available at the front office. Purchase is not compulsory.

Reading to children

Do you read to your child? All the research tells us that children who are read to do better in school - it's as simple as that. And doing better in school will lead to them doing better beyond school. Parents have a very important role to play.

"With all of the information available pointing to the general importance of reading to children, what are the specific recommendations? As long as the reader and listener are interested in what is being read, it does not matter what the book is. "Even picture books and language in simple children's books enhance children's learning and vocabulary because of the conversations between parent and child which take place around books and stories" (Russ et al, 2007, p. 9). This being said, some of the best books to read to children are rhyming books because they help emphasize recurring patterns of sounds that are particularly helpful to the child when they begin to sound out words and letters (Fox, 2001). It also does not matter what language the child is read to in. Reading to a child in the language that the parent or caregiver feels most comfortable reading in shows similar benefits as reading in the child's native language. Lastly, just as in exercise, there is a cumulative effect to reading aloud. The greatest and longest lasting benefits have been shown in children who are read to three or more times a week (Markland, 2011)."

Make a commitment to yourself and your children to read together - right through primary school.

Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Parent Helpers

The parent-tutor reading program is in need of a parent volunteer on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between 2 - 3pm. If anyone is interested in listening to individual children read could you leave you name and number with the office.

Thank you,
LaST Team (K Kench, K Maurice, K Bruckshaw).

Library News

- Bookclub is due on Tuesday 13th May. It will then be ordered and orders usually arrive the week after.
- Anyone who is interested we still have some books 'History of Parramatta West' available for $12-00 each. The book was written and published for the 125th Anniversary last year. A great read!
- May is National Family Reading Month. Can you read for a least 10 minutes per day every day? Challenge yourself.

Mrs Sell
Excellent academic and support programs

Class Awards

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<tr>
<th>Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2)</th>
<th>Stage Two (Year 3 and Year 4)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2/3R William 3J Khaled</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>5/6E Hah Min 5/6H Somaiae</td>
<td>Enjoy the week,</td>
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<td>5/6J Patrick 5/6N Liam</td>
<td>Mr Clarke</td>
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Stage News

Kindergarten

It has been great to see our Kindy kids back at school and keen to learn lots of new things! As the weather is getting cooler please make sure that your child brings a jumper to school each day and that it is clearly labelled with their name and class.

Last week you would have received a note about our upcoming excursion to Calmsley Hill City Farm on Wednesday 21st May. Please sign and return the permission slip to your child's teacher as soon as possible. The cost of the excursion is included in the money paid for our Enrichment Program. This money covers the cost of many events and items that your children use at school, such as excursions, Reading Eggs, Mathletics, paper, exercise books, stationery supplies, USBs and headphones for their XO, etc. We ask that you have paid at least $50 towards the Enrichment Program in order to go to the farm, which covers the cost of the excursion as well as other programs and items used so far this year.

We got right back into Gym last Thursday and had a great time! Just a reminder that we do Gym in bare feet. As it is getting colder many of the girls are wearing stockings, please make sure that on Thursdays their tights are footless so that they can still participate. Leggings are also a great idea for the girls to wear under their sport skirts.

Have a great week!
Miss Stuart & Mrs Rhodes

Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2)

Welcome to another great week here at Parramatta West! Thank you to those students who have already brought in their 'Me Box'. If you haven't already found one, please try to get one and bring it in this week. If you have any questions, please see the class teacher. Our Topic Talk this week is about something special. This will contribute to their 'Me Box'.

Well done to those Year 2 students that competed in the cross country carnival on Friday. They did a fantastic job! Our new COGs unit for the term is 'Our Families' and each week we will be focussing on different aspects of family. This week it's all about food. Yum! We will be asking students to share what kinds of food they eat at home, what food is traditional etc. Teachers would love every student to share these things with their class this week. Students are more than welcome to bring in pictures/photos of the food they eat at home.

Have a wonderful week!
Miss Langhans

Stage Two (Year 3 and Year 4)

A big thank you to all the students who participated in last Friday's cross-country carnival and the PSSA trials in the afternoon.

A reminder that applications for Year 5 entry into 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. Any applicants without internet access must complete a commercially printed form which is available from the school. Applications close on the 16 May 2014.

I would also like to remind all Year 3 families that the NAPLAN assessment will be next week. If you have any questions please see your child's teacher.

Enjoy the week,
Mr Clarke

Stage Three (Year 5 and Year 6)

The Cross Country Carnival held on Friday was a great success. A massive thank you to Stage Three students for their wonderful participation, their exemplary behaviour and positive attitude on the day. All students should be very proud of their efforts and they certainly made Stage Three teachers proud by trying their hardest. A big thank you to Mrs Abraham, Mrs Harris, Miss Newton and Miss Jennens who organised the carnival.

Congratulations to all those students who tried out for PSSA winter teams. The teachers were very impressed with the level of athleticism in Stage Three and it was a hard choice for all PSSA coaches. A note will go home this week regarding training times if your child has been successful in being selected for a winter team. PSSA will commence next Friday and a training session will be held this Friday at school.

NAPLAN testing will take place next week for Year 3 and Year 5 students. It is really important that you make sure your child goes to bed early and has a nice big breakfast before every test. Please ensure you pack a fruit break, a healthy lunch and plenty of water each day. Year 5 students have been preparing for these tests within their classrooms and we know they will all do their best. Talk to your child about these tests each day and find out what they enjoyed and what they found difficult. On Tuesday the 13th May, the students will be sitting the Language Conventions test (spelling, grammar and punctuation), followed by the Writing exam (which will be either an imaginative or a persuasive text). On Wednesday the 14th May, students will be completing the Reading Conventions test and finally, on Thursday, the Numeracy exam. Please make sure your child is at school early on these mornings (by at least 8.45am) so they are not worried about being late. Good luck to all the Year Five students for next week, we know you will give it 100% and do your best!!

We hope you all have a fabulous week 2!
Mrs Heifetz
Sports News

Last Friday we had our Winter PSSA trials and all the coaches were very impressed with the skills demonstrated by our Stage 2 and 3 students. Final teams will be placed on the sports noticeboard this week and selected students will be receiving a PSSA permission note along with a permission note for training. It is very important for all selected students to attend training to continue developing their skills and understanding of their sport. Our first PSSA game will be Friday week 3.

Congratulations to Logan in class 5/6J who is representing our Merrylands/Parramatta Zone at the Sydney West Netball Championship today. A great effort considering the large number of girls who tried out for the team. We look forward to hearing how she performed.

Mr White.

Cross Country Results

8/9 Boys
1st Fady          2nd James          3rd Mudassir

8/9 Girls
1st Sarah         2nd Teleah         3rd Melike

10 Boys
1st Aro           2nd Adheem         3rd Jai

10 Girls
1st Abhinaya      2nd Danielle       3rd Shreeya

11 Boys
1st Zahren        2nd Spencer        3rd Christian

11 Girls
1st Hassna        2nd Winnie         3rd Sheana

12/13 Boys
1st Abdul         2nd Rushi          3rd Elias

12/13 Girls
1st Krishna       2nd Paridhi        3rd Shabnam