Principal's Message

What a wonderful display of parent helpers we had last week at the morning tea on Wednesday - I think we had the most parents ever! I know that there were some parents who were unable to attend, but it was lovely to see so many of you there. We really have a wonderful parent community, and look forward to an exciting time next year as we provide more opportunities for you to work together with us to make Parramatta West the best school it can be.

What a wonderful Diwali celebration we had on Tuesday last week. We all learnt more about what it means, and thoroughly enjoyed the drama and dance performances. Congratulations go to all the children who took part, and the wonderful parents and scripture teachers who assisted. Thank you.

I have had several conversations with parents about what celebrations we can have next year. We have so many interesting cultures represented at our school, and we have the opportunity to learn about them. If you have any ideas about what we can do, please let us know.

Swim school started today. It is a big job organising 240 children to go swimming, but it is made easier if children have all their appropriate clothing, labeled, and are on time to school. Thank you for assisting us with this. Children who are not going swimming will remain at school in year groups and do other appropriate work. We realize that next year we do need to try to get more places available for swimming lessons, as we have many more children these days, and we don't like children missing out. I encourage parents to seek external swimming lessons for their children at local pools during the holidays. It is much easier to learn to swim as a child than an adult!

School Holidays

I have had many parents informing me that they will be going overseas during the holidays. Thank you for this advanced notice. Even though going overseas for a holiday is not considered a reason for school exemption, we still need to know that you are going. If you go on leave for a holiday, your child will be marked absent on the roll. If you are going to be late coming back next year, as long as we have this in writing, we will be able to hold a place in a class for your child. If you are planning to move over the school holidays, please let us know, as well as the school that your child will be attending next year.

Hot Weather

When the weather is as hot as it was last week the school does a number of things. The library is air conditioned, and we make this available to children during lunchtime to watch a video and sit in the cool. We close the field area so that the children are not running around in the sun, and if it is really hot, close the top concrete area and have children in the hall as well. Children should all have a bottle of water with them every day, and be encouraged to drink regularly. Please make sure that these bottles are labelled!

Library stocktake and home reader collection

It is the end of year coming up very shortly, so we need to collect our resources in. Please return any library books and home readers this week. Thank you. This doesn't mean that you stop reading though - head to the Parramatta or Merrylands library and find books there instead.

Anthea Donaldson, Principal
Stage News

Kindergarten

This is the first opportunity that some Kindergarten students have to attend swim school. Please ensure that they have everything that they need and it is labelled. Please talk to your child about looking after their belongings.

As the weather has been getting much hotter recently, you need to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately. We still have children coming to school with tracksuit pants and two T-shirts on. They find it difficult to stay cool when they are not wearing suitable clothing. Please make sure they are bringing hats and water bottles as well.

This week’s topic talk is "My cultural story". It is an opportunity for your child to share a story from your culture. Story telling is an important skill to develop.

Have a great week!
Miss Richards

Year 1 and Year 2

Thank you to all of our parent helpers that came to our morning tea. It was lovely to chat with you and celebrate all the wonderful things you do to support the school and our students.

Swim school starts this week. Make sure everything is labelled clearly and don’t forget to put your towel out to dry! If your children are not going swimming, they will be participating in lessons with the teachers staying at school. Students will be doing fitness each day so please make sure students are wearing their sport shoes.

Home readers are being collected this week so please make sure all books are returned.

Have a wonderful week everyone!
Miss Langhans

Year 3

Congratulations to all those students who performed in our Diwali celebrations last week. It was spectacular to see and great to learn about this important celebration for our Hindu students.

Swim School starts today! Make sure that you have your swimming bag ready each day. Students need to wear their swimmers under their uniform and have a towel, thongs, a change of underwear, a brush or comb and sunscreen in their swimming bag. Please make sure you have applied sunscreen before school. It is a good idea if you have a rash shirt / swim shirt to wear one, as the pool is outdoors. We hope our swimmers have a spectacular time and learn lots of new swimming skills.

Have a fantastic week everyone! Miss Stuart

Year 4 and Year 5

2016 Leaders Application

Last week all the candidates for the 2016 Leadership presented a talk to the students from years 2 to 6, which was followed by the election. All the candidates spoke wonderfully and presented many fine reasons why they should be elected to be a leader. Mrs Donaldson will announce the 2016 School Captains and Leaders during presentation day.

Hot Weather

We have been experiencing some hot days of late. Please check the forecast and ensure students are dressed appropriately. Wearing jumpers and jackets on days which are hot can cause some to become dehydrated or experience heat exhaustion. I’ll be asking students to remove jackets and jumpers on days which are hot.

Swim Scheme

A reminder about the swimming scheme, this year they are swimming at Merrylands Pool. There is little shade and I recommend that all children wear a swim shirt while they are at swimming lessons.

Enjoy the week,
Mr Clarke

Year 6

Permission notes for the Year 6 Farewell Rehearsal need to be returned to the office in the next week or two with $5.00 to cover the cost of the bus. We ask that parents let us know if your child will be unable to make it to the Year 6 Farewell dinner. We need to have accurate numbers for catering and table placement.

All items for Operation Christmas Child are due this Wednesday!

This week students will participate in a transition program at school in preparation for high school. Students will be grouped for boot camp fitness sessions each morning, English classes and their chosen electives. We have asked that each student is equipped with a folder to transfer their books and papers between classrooms. We hope they enjoy and learn from the experience.

Students who are attending swimming school this week must be prepared with all of their belongings each day.

We are very proud to say that 35% of our Year 6 students have reached their 40 novel book challenge with many more almost there! We encourage all students to aim high and push themselves during these last few weeks.

Mrs Rhodes
**Class Awards**

KA  Buse  
KD  Arush  
KR  Nishtha  
F  Mitchell  
L  Omar  
N  Gurleen  
F  Zain  
L  Roma  
B  Rihanna  
S  Kento  
H  Angelina  
M  Mustafa  
M  Urooj  
G  Stephen  

KB  Abdel  
KN  Shah  
KS  Ryan  
1H  Damion  
1M  Toby  
2A  Taiba  
2G  Murtaza  
2J  Shrey  
3H  Kumail  
4A  Sarah  
5C  Boxi  
5R  Husbaan  
6S  Karan  
3-5H  Damon  

**Library News**

Bookclub is on Tuesday so please return the order form. I will not be able to process late orders because they will not return to school before the end of the term.

We are no longer borrowing so please return any books you have at home. Overdue notices will begin to come out so please see me if there are any issues. Many books that the children think they have returned are actually at home so please look everywhere.

Overdue books remain under the child’s name and they will be unable to borrow in the new year.

Please have a look at your child’s library bag - it may need to be replaced for the new year.

Mrs Sell

**Sports News**

IT WAS HOT LAST FRIDAY! But we went, we played and most teams won! Go Parramatta West! We are heading for the finals! Yay Team! PSSA sporting competition will go ahead in its usual time slot even though it is swim school. If you happen to be enrolled in swim school and are in a PSSA team your swim time will be swapped around, please listen to morning announcements this week for the details.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SOME STUDENTS ARE STILL COMING TO SCHOOL WITH NO HAT and NO WATER BOTTLE! Please parents organise your children for their safety!

Sport will go ahead at varying times throughout the week for all Parramatta West students, but at different times to suit swim school and other events; so students and parents need to listen to morning announcements and teacher instructions for times and days.

All Parramatta West students K-6 play sport and participate in fitness activities throughout the week. Just as you support your child’s classroom learning at home through homework and reading, Mathletics and Reading Eggs and research activities; you can support your child's sporting skills too by throwing, catching, kicking, bat striking and running and much more.

PLEASE HAVE A HAT AND WATER IN YOUR BAG EVERY DAY.

**Partnership with Women’s Health Clinic**

Westmead Hospital

The aim of the Perinatal CALD Conference is to improve the health and wellbeing of CALD women engaging perinatal services to explore maternity and cross cultural perspectives in motherhood.

These women carry different birth experiences and preferences due to the nature of the health care system in their original countries.

This special event provides insight into diverse perspectives affecting CALD Mothers and families.

8am - 4:30pm  
Friday 27th November 2015  
FREE

John Loewenthal  
Auditorium Education & Conference Centre  
Level 2 Westmead Hospital  

For details contact:  
Norma Boules 9687 9901 cald_familyworker@cmrc.com.au  
Nelma Galas 9845 6153 nelma.galas@health.nsw.gov.au