Principal's Message

With only a few weeks left to go I hope that parents all have these important dates on their calendars:

Monday December 7th - student reports sent home

Tuesday December 8th - Last P & C meeting for 2015
   Year 6 Farewell

Thursday December 10th - Drama Night - 6.00pm
   Featuring The Rainbow Fish by the K-2 Drama group and
   Aladdin by the 3-6 Drama group. Tickets are only a gold coin donation.

Friday December 11th - Sports Presentation Day

Monday December 14th - Presentation Day K - 2 @ 9.30am,
   3 - 6 @ 11.30am
   (NB, 2/3 J and 1-4G are at 11.30)

Tuesday December 15th - Party Day

Wednesday December 16th - Talent Quest and last day of school for 2015.

January 28th 2016 - first day of school for years 1-6.
February 2nd 2016 - first full day of school for Kindergarten -
   best start testing takes place prior, at advised days and times.

Giving Tree

Every year at Parramatta West we collect goods to donate to families who are not as well off as we are.

We place a Christmas tree in our foyer under which we invite children to place goods. These can be foodstuffs, maybe some special treat foods as well as basics, or small gifts. Please do not wrap things, as they need to be identified in order to give them to appropriate families. All donations must be new and foods not out of use by date. Thank you.

Student Reports

These will be sent home next week. Parents should remember that the expected grade is a "C", which tells them that their child has achieved an acceptable standard in the work that has been taught this semester. The reports also inform parents on what their child can do to improve further - everyone has something they can do to make gains in their learning. We hope that parents will assist their children in the identified areas over the holidays. If any aspects of the report concern you, please ask to meet with the class teacher or year supervisor.

School growth

Next year there will be two, or maybe three, more classes of children in our school. Over the next few weeks the garden area between the lower playground and E block will be cleared ready for new buildings, which will be installed during the school holidays.

Extended holidays

Parents taking children on extended holidays are encouraged to do so during school holidays rather than taking them out of school. Children missing school has a very great impact on their learning. Yes, tickets are cheaper out of school holiday times, but your children only have one chance to be in school learning, and taking time out can severely limit this. Please return your children to school on time at the start of 2016. If, however, you are going to be late back, make sure that you have told us so that we can hold a class place for your child. If you have moved and are now out of area, and then you do not return at the start of 2016, your children will lose their places. As you can see from the above information about our school growth - we are well and truly full!

Just because the library is closed for stock take, and the home readers are being sorted, doesn't mean that you shouldn't still be reading every day with your children - or encouraging them to read. Please use the Merrylands or Parramatta libraries, consider books as presents, swap and share books with friends… Reading provides the foundation for all learning - don't let your children fall backwards over the holidays.

Anthea Donaldson
Principal
Stage News

Kindergarten

Swim school continues this week and the students are learning and enjoying each lesson. Parents, remember to pack a pair of underpants for changing into when they return to school.

Library books and home readers need to be returned ASAP.

K - 2 Presentation day is Monday 14th December at 9.30am.

Year 1 and Year 2

We're almost at the end of the year - it has flown by! At this time of the term we're collecting library books and home readers. If you have any of these at home please bring them to school.

Swimming continues this week. Don't forget to bring your swimming things each day and take them home each day. It is going to be another hot week so please make sure you have a bottle of water and your hat.

Parents and guardians it might also be time to start looking at your child's uniform for 2016. Many students have grown out of their uniform. Please see the uniform shop if needed.

Have a fantastic week!
Miss Langhans

Year 3

It's our second week of Swim School and what fun we had last week! Please remember to label everything so that if anything gets lost, it can be returned to you! We are looking forward to another week of warm weather and spectacular swimming - make sure you have applied your sunscreen!

We have seen some extremely hot days over the last few weeks. As the weather is getting warmer it is essential that all students are wearing a hat every day and have a water bottle. Please make sure these items are labeled clearly with your child's name and class. It is also a good idea to apply sunscreen before school.

Next Monday reports will be sent home for this semester. Please take the time to read the report and celebrate your child's learning with them. Remember to look at both the grade ('C' is having achieved at the expected grade level) and the effort rating. We are always talking with the children about the effort that is involved in successful learning so it is important that this is discussed too! Teachers have written areas for improvement and ways to enhance students' learning; take note of these tips, many of these can be practised over the holidays! We are very proud of our Year 3 students and their achievements this year - what a fantastic year of learning!

Have a wonderful week everyone!
Miss Stuart

Year 4 and Year 5

Good luck to all the students involved in the PSSA grand finals this Friday. The final training session will be held this Thursday afternoon.

Please remember that all library books need to be returned as soon as possible.

Enjoy the week,
Mr Clarke

Year 6

Please continue to send permission notes and money for the Year 6 Farewell Rehearsal on Tuesday 8th December. Please be reminded that students can leave school early that day if they are signed out of school by a parent. Students cannot walk home from school if they wish to leave after the rehearsal.

We look forward to seeing parents attending the Year 6 Farewell at 8.30pm for the presentation of graduation certificates and the farewell song.

This week students will participate in their second week of the High School Transition Program. The students have enjoyed moving around to different classes and having choice over subject selection.

The DEC High School Orientation Day is this Thursday 3rd December. All students attending a public high school will attend the orientation day organised by the high school they will be attending in 2016.

Invitations for the PWPS Presentation Day went home last week. We hope you come along and congratulate this year's award winners on Monday 14th December at 11.30am in the school hall.

School reports will be sent home on Monday 7th December. Please read the comments carefully to find out your child's strengths and where to next for further growth.

Another busy week in Year 6!
Mrs Rhodes
Library News

All books now need to be returned.

We will be borrowing from the first week Term 1, 2016 so please make sure your child has a library bag ready.

A great website for reading is www.betterreadingkids.com
Great articles and recommendations for books. Check it out!

You can still use worldbook online during the holidays.
User name: parrawest
Password: student

If you have any issues with the overdues please don't hesitate to come and see me. But after having a careful look for the book. Most of the time it is at home but I am happy to look at school.

Mrs Sell

Sports News

What an exciting week last week! Swim school, lots of class sport and fitness, and PSSA winners of the semi-finals!!! Congratulations PSSA teams and coaches on your wins last Friday, and now for the finals this week. Keep focused boys and girls, train well, play as a team and we can win!! GO PARRA WEST!!! (Once again this Friday swim sessions will be swapped so our PSSA players can compete in the finals and go to their swim lessons.)

Our first week of swim school went fast and the teachers who are attending are seeing some amazing bravery from our beginners and daily progress in skill development by everyone. Every day we see growing confidence at every level and skills being taught and corrected. The swimming instructors at Merrylands pool have complimented our students on their lovely behaviour and their desire to improve their skills. They look forward to us coming each day. So don't forget to be organised daily, one week to go! Then students can take their parents to the pool in the holidays to show off their new skills.

Class Awards

2/3J Kush, Mehran 3B Anmol, Zakir
3H Vidhya, Bella 3/4S Keira, Brian
4A Dhwani, Robert 4H Chris, Omar
5C Abdul-Baset, Mudassir 5M Boyu, Elham
5/6R Ian, Tahlia 6M Leyana, Harrison
6S Mohsen, Michelle 1-4G Rui Huan, Talal
3-5H Elias, Choong

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you so much to the entire PWPS school community! Because of your generosity we have managed to create 45 Christmas boxes that will make some children very happy this Christmas. They are currently on their way to countries in South East Asia and should arrive ready for Christmas day.

The SRC
XO Experts training sessions

Our Tech Team have been extra busy this term training up our XO Experts. These students are from all classes Years 2 - 6 and are learning to help their peers and even teachers about technology and the use of the XO laptops. The Tech Team have taught these XO Experts how to connect to the internet, access their student portal, send and receive emails with attachments, create, open and save word documents, activate their Google accounts and download and remove apps from Play Store. All students have given their lunch playtime at least once a week to help others. Well done and thank you Tech Team and XO Experts.