Principal’s Message

For the last few months a group of dedicated parents and students have been preparing for our school Diwali celebrations. These will take place next Tuesday, November 17th. Parents who have children performing will be invited to attend these celebrations. This is part of the work of our Cultural Action Team this year. Each year we plan to have an additional celebration from one of the cultures represented at our school. If parents have an idea for 2016, please let us know!

This week sees the last of our scripture lessons for 2015. We have many dedicated voluntary teachers who attend each week to educate our children in their chosen religion. Next year there is the possibility that we may be able to offer ethics classes to the non-scripture students. There will be more information about this later. Next week we will have our annual Christmas pageant, followed by our parent helpers’ morning tea. We would like to invite all our parent helpers to attend our morning tea from 11.00am. We would hate to forget anyone, so please consider this your invitation, in case the one sent with your child goes astray…

We expect that ALL children will attend both the Diwali Celebrations and Christmas Pageant next week. It is important for our children growing up in a multi-cultural society that they develop an understanding of cultures represented here. If you have concerns, please contact the office.

This week we are hopeful that the weather enables our mini fete to take place tomorrow - Tuesday. Our year six students, ably assisted by year five, will have a wonderful array of stalls and games to entertain and feed our children, as well as raise lots of funds to cover their farewell party and gift to the school. We hope that parents will support this by reminding their children to bring their pocket money to school to spend - or maybe give them a bit extra. Thank you.

Home readers

Last Friday only half the home readers were changed over - sadly we did not have enough helpers to enable all of them to be done. Our school is growing - this means that we have more children wanting to borrow books, but it should also mean that we have more parents able to assist. PLEASE, I know that there are many of you who have time in the mornings after children go in to class because I see you in the playground chatting. Take your chat into the home reading room and help us out! Thank you.

New demountable classrooms

The department will no longer be placing buildings on our field as previously advised. They have decided that we can fit more on the main site. There will be two buildings placed in the garden area between the lower playground and the concrete next to E Block before the start of next year.

Extended Holidays

Please remember that if you are planning to go overseas during the school holidays and will not be back at the start of the school year, which is January 28th for years 1 - 6, and February 2nd for Kindergarten, we must have this in writing in order to hold your child’s place.

Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Class Awards

KA        Fubing KB        Safiya
KD        Sarthaksinh        KN        Alina
KR        Zoe        KS        Emily
1F        Queenie 1H        Sumaya
1L        Sione 1M        Aala
1N        Tirth 2A        Pranav
2F        Fatima 2G        Rithwik
2L        Nelly 2/3J        Elaha, Pheonix
3B        Srihaa, Pious 3H        Sameep, Aziza
3/4S        Jessica, Raymond 4A        Bahaa, Sarah
4H        Manraj, Shaahid 5C        Nazim, Timoci
5/6R        Nega, Nina 6M        Tarek, Joshua
6S        Casanita, Rachid 3-5H        Tammy, Shivansh
1-4G        Shreya

Violin Group

Want to play violin? Do you want to perform in the Opera House? Here is your chance to start.

Free group lessons are held Monday morning before school. We are inviting new students for 2016 to an information session on Wednesday 11 November at 3.00pm in the hall.
Ring Mrs Vukovic 0404 408 821 or Mrs Wang 0478 702 060
Class News

Kindergarten

The students are really enjoying talking about different Cultures within their classes. Continue to tell your children stories about what is special in your family so they can share them with their classmates.

Tomorrow Kindergarten students will experience their first Mini fete run by the Year 6 students. They will need some coins to participate in many of the activities. The children get to choose what they would like to do, but they will need some money to join in. It is a great day and an important fund raiser for the Year 6 students.

This Friday is KB’s turn to present the assembly. Mrs Batac will let you know if your child is helping to present the assembly. It begins after recess at 11:15, parents welcome!

Miss Richards

Year 1 and Year 2

Due to poor weather, the Mini Fete will be on tomorrow (Tuesday). Don’t forget that students can wear mufti clothes and need to bring their money in a labelled zip lock bag.

It is important that when a child is away, a note is written to the class teacher explaining their absence. If you have our app, it’s even easier as we receive an email with your explanation. When a student is late every morning, even if it’s only by 5 or 10 minutes, they have already missed important messages and the start of lessons within the classroom. If you're unable to pick your child up on time each afternoon, please contact OOSH. We understand that sometimes things happen out of your control, but if it's happening on a daily basis it becomes a concern.

The SRC has begun an initiative called Operation Christmas Child. Information about this will be coming home via class teachers, as each class will be providing something slightly different. It's a great initiative that we hope you’re able to support!

Have a fantastic week everyone!
Miss Langhans

Year 3

Today Russ the Bus arrived at school and our Year 3 students had a great time visiting the bus and participating in the book exchange. Make sure you ask your child about Russ the Story Bus and get them to show you their new book! Thank you for supporting this valuable book exchange program and making sure your child had a book to swap when visiting Russ today.

After last week’s rain, the Mini Fete will now be held TOMORROW - this Tuesday. Tomorrow will be a mufti day. We are very excited for this fun day which is a fundraiser for Year 6, with Year 5 and 6 students having prepared lots of different stalls: hairspray, face painting, nail art, games and competitions, as well as selling food and drinks. You may still have your money ready from last week, it is best to bring coins and keep them in a zip lock bag or wallet, labeled with your child’s name so that if it is lost it can be returned.

Last week students should have brought home a note about Swim School. If you are attending Swim School, make sure that you are starting to get your swimming bag ready and have finalised your payments with the Office.

This week we have our last scripture lesson for the year. Next Wednesday will see our annual Christmas pageant. After this I hope to see our fabulous parent helpers at the Parent Helpers Morning Tea at 11am next Wednesday. Thank you for all that you do to support our school.

Have a marvellous week!
Miss Stuart

Year 4 and Year 5

The mini-fete will be held tomorrow! It's a great fun event that raises money for the Year 6 farewell at the end of the term. I would encourage all children to bring some money (we recommend a plastic zip lock bag) to spend at the stalls. Most of the activities and games will cost $1 or less. The Year 5 students have been busy organising their stall; they do require some support from their parents / caregivers to ensure that it's a success.

I would like thank all the students who submitted 2016 School Leaders applications. There was a lot of effort and thought put into them. We have carefully read the applications and will invite selected students to an interview with Mrs Donaldson, Mrs Marks and myself to select the candidates for the school leaders’ election later in the term.

A reminder that applications for Selective High Schools will close on 16 November 2015, applications can only be made online at this time. For further information parents may go online to www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement or see Mr Clarke.

Enjoy the week,
Mr Clarke

Year 6

The Mini Fete was postponed last week due to the rainy weather. It will now be held on Tuesday 10th November. Many of the children have already bought in resources and equipment, but if not then Tuesday morning is fine. Let's keep our fingers crossed that the weather clears up.

Please lock in the date for the Year 6 Farewell dinner. The details are as follows:
Date: Tuesday 8th December
Time: 6:30pm
Venue: Merrylands Bowling Club
Excellent academic and support programs

Year 6 cont....... 
A note will go home this week with further details about the event. The students are busy learning dances for the evening.

All classes within the school will be supporting a Christmas Charity called ‘Operation Christmas Child.’ Every class is asked to pack a wrapped shoebox with a number of special items. This will be sent off to children in countries less fortunate than ours for Christmas.

We now have 28% of our students that have completed the 40 Novel Reading Challenge. What an achievement!

Mrs Rhodes

Library News
Don't forget to use Worldbook online for any research.
Log in details are:
username: parrawest
password: student

This is our last week to borrow so don't forget to return your books to borrow a new lot before borrowing ends completely.

Overdue notices are coming out - please have a really good look for the books. I have sometimes found the odd one in the library but usually they turn up at home.

If overdue books are not found they need to be paid for.

Please do not repair books at home - return them and I will fix them. Thanks.

Operation Christmas Child
The SRC will be running a program called Operation Christmas Child. It is where each class will collect items and send a shoebox filled with Christmas gifts to a child living in poverty, to give them hope at Christmas time. Students will be asked to make donations to their classes’ shoebox. These items are not to be used so that they meet customs regulations. Donations need to be received by the 25th November, so that they can be shipped. Thank you for those that are able to make donations to this cause!

Sport News
The rain held us to ransom last week and clever teachers managed to treat students to sport time in the hall, under the cola or in the playground between showers.

PSSA teams are getting excited about the upcoming finals! Good luck PWPS! Its a shame we missed out on play last week due to rain.

Swimming school is fast approaching for the lucky ones! Please make sure you finalise payments if you booked a place as we have students on the waiting list ready to take your place if you change your mind. Please begin to gather essential swimming day's items. Students need a swimming costume to wear (not just play clothes), towel, goggles, thongs (flip-flops) to wear to the pool and back, underpants (in their bag to put on after swimming), put on sun-screen at home before coming to school and have a plastic bag to put wet items in to take home.