Principal's Message

It was great to see so many people at the parent meeting last week. I now have the names of four parents who will be part of our school community cultural team. We also have students on this team, and we will be meeting soon to discuss activities that we want to make happen this year. We will be running parent meetings this year like last year on topics of interest to parents. Please let us know if there are things that you like us to run. These can be run at night as well as during the day. P and C meetings will run separately this year, the next meeting being the annual general meeting, which will be on 10th March 9am. I look forward to seeing many of you there. This Thursday and Friday our executive team will be going to Melbourne to attend an important conference that will provide us all with new learning to bring back to the school. This means that there will be many casuals in the school, and Mrs Seccull will be in the office. I will still be available by email.

Allergy Awareness

Allergies appear to be more common these days, and there are children and teachers at Parramatta West who have a variety of these including things like nuts, eggs, fish, pineapple and kiwi fruit to name a few. We do not say that we are, for example, a nut free school - because we cannot guarantee that everyone will abide by this, and we don't want those who are allergic to relax and think they are totally safe - they need to remain vigilant. However, the canteen does not sell nut products. Children who have severe allergies may be anaphylactic, which is a dangerous condition where they can have difficulty breathing. The school has epipens that are used in instances when someone has a reaction, and all teachers are trained in their use. All teachers have also been made aware of the children in the school who have allergies. As a safety precaution, we advise all children, not to share food with their friends. Parents pack food suitable for their child, and young children in particular may not be aware of all the ingredients in something. Please reinforce this with your children. There will be special occasions during the year when we do share food or have picnics, in these instances teachers will make sure that the food shared is safe for the children in the class.

School App

I hope that you have downloaded this. When you tick the sections to receive alerts, please make sure that you select whole school as well as your children's years, this way you will receive alerts that apply to everyone - like the newsletter, as well as things just relevant to your children's classes.

Remember, you can also use it to send in absence information.

Morning lines, catching up with teachers...

It is wonderful to see so many parents in our school, however it is sometimes difficult to gain the children's attention if there are lots of parents having conversations with each other or with teachers. If you need to talk to a teacher, please try to do this before the bell goes or send in a note. If you are looking for a teacher before school, try the front office and someone can find the teacher for you. Most teachers do have meetings on a Thursday morning, but can still be interrupted if it is urgent. If it is a longer conversation that you need to have, then please make an appointment so that the teacher can give you his or her full attention. Thank you.

Have a good week,

Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Class Awards

KA Mahrosh
KD Jaap
KR Irfan
1F Makadee
1L Harsh
1N Aimen
2F Iris
2L Milad
3B Samantha
3/4S Cooper
4H Fizza
5M Elham
6M Vraj
K-2G Saran
3-5H Tyler

KB Delali
KN Naina
KS Mustafa
1H Sirin
1M Kaiden
2A Pranav
2G Murtaza
2/3J Elizabeth
3H Ibrahim
4A Farhad
5C Dale
5/6R Purva
6S Alisiya
2/3G Rui
Class News

Year 6

The year 6 teachers have been very impressed with the standard of the homework so far. The children have been challenging themselves to mix their own knowledge with research and present their work with pride. Inside the front or back cover of their homework book is a feedback sheet. This will inform you if their homework was complete and the amount of effort demonstrated. Each week we are also asking the children to self reflect on their homework and to think about what is motivating them to complete the tasks. Is an adult, such as a parent or teacher motivating them, or are they motivated to complete the work themselves? We want our students to be intrinsically motivated - be proud of their work, complete it without reminders and to think about how their work connects to other areas of learning.

It is at this time of the year that Year 6 students and parents need to make decisions about HIGH SCHOOL. We will be holding an information session on:

Tuesday March 3rd at 6.30pm in the school library.

The aim of this session is to guide parents on how to fill out the 'High School Expression of Interest Form,' and discuss high school options. We are aiming to have a representative from Arthur Phillip High School and Parramatta High School attend the session to answer any questions about these feeder schools. Please put this date in your diary.

The Parramatta High School Enrichment Program for Year 5 and 6 is now FULL. Some students have been placed on a waiting list if a place becomes available. The first session will be held on Monday 2nd March.

A year 6 notice board has been put up in F Block. We will use this board to keep students updated on important dates, share great work and highlight impressive students! Please have a look next time you walk by.

Don't forget to ask your child how many books they have read towards their reading target of 40 books! They need our support and yours to get there!

Mrs Rhodes

Year 3

Just a couple of quick reminders this week:
Students should definitely have ALL of their equipment by this week. I know some students are struggling to find dictionaries. You can find these at Office Works, newsagents, bookstores, and other major stores (Kmart, Target, Big W etc). It is really important that each student purchases one as we constantly use dictionaries in class. Please cover your child’s homework book in contact ASAP if it hasn’t already been done. This is to prevent water damage from drink bottles and lunch spilling on them. There are spare equipment notes in the office.

Please remember homework (spelling and maths) is due every Friday. It is extremely important that students learn their words each week and ‘Look’ at the word; ‘Cover’ the word; ‘Write’ the word; and, ‘Check’ the word. It is very tempting for students to copy the same word across all columns four times. Please encourage them to complete their spelling correctly so they learn their words. Students will also complete a word meanings test each Friday which involves the teacher reading out the meaning and the students writing down one of their spelling words.

Thank you to those parents and families who have already paid their Enrichment Money in full or have paid an instalment.

Please make sure your child has a water bottle and a hat each Friday for sports.

Thank you for your continued support with your child’s education.

Mrs Heifetz

Year 1 and Year 2

Our topic talks this week are about different dinosaurs. Students are asked to research any dinosaur and present the information they have found to the class. This could be presented in a variety of ways such as a poster or on a PowerPoint presentation. We can’t wait to learn lots of new information!

Students have been enjoying our weekly sports program however, there are still numerous students that are not bringing their water bottles. A permission note will be going home this week for our excursion for this term. Year 1 and Year 2 will be going on separate days. More information to come!

Have a fantastic week!

Miss Langhans

Kindergarten

Home Reading Books:

Home reading books are the small books that come home with a reading log in a small cotton bag. Your child should have a new book to read with you every night. The purpose of home readers for Kindergarten students:
Excellent academic and support programs

- develop early reading behaviours such as holding a book the right way up and turning pages.
- encourage talking and listening between the child and adult.
- parents modelling good reading behaviour.
- read something that is familiar and achievable and at the child’s level.
- develop good homework routines (as this is Homework for Kindergarten).

Remember home reading shouldn’t be seen as a chore. It is not about reading all the words right. We don’t want you to teach reading, we want you to enjoy reading with your child. We need to promote the message that reading is for enjoyment. Your keen interest in this area will lay the foundations for positive learning.

Please make sure you sign and date the reading logs to ensure your child receives a new book each day.

Mr Ta

Library News

Don’t forget you can access Worldbookonline from home
ID: Parra west
Password: student
Check it out. It is a great place to start for any research assignments.

Home Reading

We have started again. Just a reminder please do not write on the bags or let your children draw on them either. Please let us know in a note inside your child’s Home Reading bag of any issues you might have. The children are levelled according to their class reading levels. If you have any queries please see you classroom teacher. We will only allow 1 book per night per child. If your child reads the book with ease, read the book again or ask your child what the book was about.

Sports News

K-2 sport and gym continues with enthusiasm. Parents please dress your children in their sports clothes and shoes on Tuesdays and Thursdays as this allows for freedom to participate fully in all activities. Parents are still needed to assist students in gym activities, please see your child’s teacher if you are able to help during their session.

Last Friday was a great day at sport, for years 3-6, thanks to the expert organisation from Mrs Abraham, Mrs Heifetz and Mrs Harris, teacher commitment and enthusiastic students. Just a little reminder to parents, please remind your children to wear their sports uniform, shoes and hat, and to bring a water bottle. It is much easier to participate fully in all activities in the correct clothing, especially when we begin with Zumba led by the talented Mrs George, then we go to the field for Newcombe ball, Netball, Cricket, Soccer, Speedminton, Basketball or ball games.

Swimmers, don’t forget, if you are 8 or over and you participate in squad training and/or club night competitions, and you would like to nominate for the zone swimming carnival, please see Mrs Marks for a note this week.

Congratulations to all our PSSA teams for being well dressed in uniform, their sportsmanship and enthusiastic participation in their first match last Friday. If you have been selected in the teams and have not returned all your permission notes to coaches please do so early this week so we have full teams at training and on the field to play.

PSSA Results

Girls T Ball WIN
Boys T Ball WIN
Girls Softball WIN
Boys Softball WIN
Jnr Cricket WIN
Snr Cricket Draw

This Friday games are against Widemere P.S. Cricket teams will have a bye. Please remember your hat and water bottle.

School Photos

Class photos will be taken next Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd March for students. Photo envelopes were sent home last week with your child’s name on it. Please place the CORRECT money in the envelopes as we hand them directly to the photographer for processing.

Your child will be advised later in the week which day their class photos will be done.

Family photo envelopes are available from the school office.
We are very excited and proud to announce that this year we have launched a science club in our school, where students are involved in a range of hands-on, safe, fun and exciting scientific activities.

At this stage, Science Club has been offered for Stage 3 students, and it is managed by Mrs Knedl and Mrs Batac.

Our key aim is to promote and nurture students' curiosity and passion for science, whereby students are encouraged to make meaning of the world around them through simple activities that can be done at home, while using inexpensive products such as milk, water, sugar, vinegar or dishwashing liquid.

In the first week we carried out a rainbow milk experiment in order to investigate properties of milk. For this experiment we used milk, food colouring and a drop of dishwashing liquid and this was the final result.