Principal's Message

It has been wonderful seeing all the happy faces of the returning children and meeting lots of new friends to Parramatta West for 2015. I know that children get bored by the end of the holidays, and parents are usually glad to get them back to school. Kindergarten children started full time today - and as I have a granddaughter doing just that, I know how exciting this can be.

Routines

At the start of the year it can be difficult getting the family organized, but this is a good time to set up the daily routines to get everyone off to school and work on time. Being very clear with children what needs to happen when will make parents' jobs easier. Sometimes even a checklist is needed. Regular attendance patterns need to be set up straight away, and will make it easier later on. This is especially important for Kindergarten students who are busy making new friends and learning "how school works". If any parents are having problems getting children to school for any reason, please let us know and we will help. Sometimes there are little things troubling a child that we can sort out. Not sending children to school regularly is considered educational neglect.

Getting children to bed at an appropriate time can be difficult for some parents, especially after the holidays. With this newsletter is some information about the importance of children getting enough sleep, and some suggestions on how to help your children get the sleep that they need.

School times

There are teachers on duty in the school playground from 8.30am. Children should not be at school before then. Holroyd council runs a before and after school care service on our school grounds. Parents who need to leave for work early should investigate this rather than just send the children to school.

School Fence

Our school is finally being fenced. Now that the weather has improved, we hope it will be finished soon. It is also involving replacing the brickworks along Railway Street. Once completed, there will be gates with pool fence type openings that adults can open, but not children. These gates will be located at the Railway Street entrances near the crossing and the front of the school on Young Street. Other gates will be locked during the day. The Franklin Street gate will be opened in the morning and afternoon. Parents and children should not walk through the car park. The purpose of the fence is to keep our children safe during the day, and our school safe at night. I'm sure that you agree this is an improvement.

Classes for 2015

Once all the kindergarten children have started full time at school - hopefully today, and we have tracked down all the children we are expecting to return to school from last year, we will be able to form our new classes. As you can see, this is why it is SO important for parents to inform us if their children are going to be late back at the start of a year. We spend many hours ringing parents and tracing family members to find out where children are. We have to inform the department of education how many children we have, and this determines how many teachers we are allowed to employ for the year. Thank you to the parents who have given us this information, and those who have rung up to tell us if their child is sick. Once we have the children in permanent classes we will send home a list of all teachers and class names. Thank you for your patience.

Paper newsletters

This newsletter is going out to all families. However, we know that many of you like to receive it electronically, and this saves paper, money and the environment, so we like it too! Please download the new school app and let us know if you need a paper newsletter - otherwise you won't get one next week!

Calendar

The term calendar is with this newsletter. Please keep it safe and note these dates in particular.

Meet the teacher nights - please note they are on 2 different dates this year.

Monday Feb 9th - Kinder @ 5pm (in the Hall); Year 3 @ 5.45pm (in the Library); Year 6 @ 6.30pm (in the Year 6 classrooms)
Wednesday Feb 11th - Yrs 1 & 2 @ 5pm; Yrs 4 & 5 @ 5.45pm (notes to go home this week)

Playgroup starts on Wednesday 11th Feb and Friday 13th Feb from 9-11am.

The first parent meeting will be on Tuesday February 17th in the hall from 9.00am. We will have a morning tea and talk about our school plans for the year. All parents are most welcome.

If you have any questions or concerns, please come and see me, make an appointment or give me a call. I love talking with parents!

Anthea Donaldson, Principal
Library News

Welcome back to the new school year.

We are already borrowing so make sure you have a library bag with your name on it. Library bags can be purchased from the school office for $5-00.

Bookclub is due by Feb 17. Please use the order form provided.

Tae Kwon Do

Classes conducted in our school Hall on Monday and Thursday evenings from 5.30pm. Phone Michael 0409 928 534.