Principal's Message

Education of children is most effective when parents and teachers are working together, and the child is aware of their learning and working towards being responsible for their learning. This is what we are doing at Parramatta West Public School. We are teaching children not only to read and write and all the other content areas, but the skills of learning. We know that they are going to need to continue to learn all their lives, just as we are.

All children are setting personal goals, and would like to share these with you at the three-way conferences that will be taking place next week. What is important is not just the goal, but also the strategies that they are selecting to achieve their goals. If they can learn to set appropriate goals, and then work out how to get there, then they are well on their way towards becoming a lifelong learner.

We would love to see all parents attend a meeting with their child's teacher. There is information in this newsletter on how to make an appointment. If you are unable to make one on the date we have selected, please contact your child's teacher to find another time that suits you both. We can make interpreters available, so if you have friends who need this support, please help them to make an appointment and ask for an interpreter. We will also be providing the Best Start (kindergarten) and PLAN reports (Years 1-6) at these meetings. Thank you.

Uniform

Thank you for ensuring that your children are wearing the school uniform every day - they do look good. Please ensure that they have their school hats every day - it is policy that they must wear their hat to run around and play at recess and lunchtime. We are a sun safe school, and it gets them into good habits. I encourage you to have them wear a hat when they play outside at home too.

Parents might consider the girls wearing short bike pants or sports pants under their dresses - the little girls in particular tend to run around as they play.

With the colder weather approaching the children are starting to wear jumpers and jackets. Please make sure that you LABEL everything - we have far too much lost property and it is expensive for parents. If girls want to continue to wear their dresses in the colder weather rather than the trousers or track pants, that is fine, but please don’t let them wear coloured leggings under their dresses. These look very untidy and are not school uniform. They may wear black or dark blue stockings or leggings that go to the ankle for warmth. Children should not wear stockings on gym fun days, as they need to be able to take off their socks.

School Gates

As the fence is nearing completion, the gates that are there are now being locked. The gate on Franklin Street will be open before school and up until 9.30. It will then be locked until 2.30pm. During the day parents can access the school through the "pool fence type" gate on Young Street, and there will be another of these on Railway Street. At the moment the fence at the gate on Railway St is not finished, so it is still as it was before. The gate at the steps on Railway Street will be widened and made safer.

Harmony Day

Next Saturday is Harmony Day. At Parramatta West we will be talking about it in the K-2 assembly this Friday and the 3-6 assembly next Monday, which will also be a mufti day. We encourage all children to bring in a gold coin that will be donated to the Vanuatu Cyclone Appeal. The Colour for Harmony Day is orange, so we ask that all children try to wear something orange on Monday March 23rd. Harmony day is an important celebration for us at PWPS because we can celebrate the differences and the similarities in our wonderful multicultural community.

I look forward to seeing many of you next week at the three way interviews.

Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Class Awards

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Class News

Year 6

High School Expression of Interest forms are due this Friday 20th March. Please ensure all forms are filled out correctly and signed in the appropriate section. If you are unsure, please don't hesitate to ask.

Year 6 students will be setting a learning goal for themselves within the next week. This will be a goal that they will work on with the assistance of both their teacher and parents. To ensure you are aware of their learning goal and the strategies they need to fulfill this goal, please attend the 'Three Way Interviews' held next week.

Wednesday 25th March - Three Way Interviews for 6M and 6S.
Thursday 26th March - Three Way Interviews for 5/6R

Our year 6 students have been preparing to teach their first Peer Support Lesson. This year we have challenged the students to develop their own lesson based on a picture book. Peer Support will take place on Monday 30th March during school time. Each year 6 students will teach a group of younger children and lead them in an activity. Please talk to your child about their exciting lesson. You may notice them making resources or thinking of ways to make their lesson motivating and engaging.

Don't forget to keep updated with your child’s progress towards their reading goal. We are impressed with their reading so far!

Mrs Rhodes

Year 4 and Year 5

A quick reminder, please ensure all lunch boxes and drink bottles are labelled clearly. Last week a number were thrown away because they weren't labelled and hadn't been claimed. Please also endeavour to provide a small piece of fruit or vegetable for crunch and sip. This short break in the morning is important to give children an opportunity to refocus and refuel their bodies prior to the next lesson.

Have you seen our reading blog and class blogs? Please spend a few minutes with your child / children to familiarise yourself with them. If you have any questions the 3-way interviews would be an opportune time to discuss these with your child's teacher.

Have a great week!
Mr Clarke

Year 3

Next Monday the 23rd of March PWPS will be celebrating ‘Harmony Day’. We encourage all students to wear the colour orange and bring a gold coin donation for the Vanuatu Cyclone Appeal.

Our ‘Three-Way Conferences’ will be held next Wednesday the 25th of March. Students will be setting a learning goal this week in class with their teacher and this will be discussed during the interview time. Teachers will also give parents some important suggestions on how you can help your child at home. Information about booking an appointment time will be in this week’s newsletter. We are looking forward to seeing you all there so we can discuss your child’s education.

We have booked our first excursion for the year and this will take place next Thursday the 26th of March. The classes involved are 2/3J, 3B, 3H and 3-5H. We will be travelling to the Field of Mars reserve to continue our discovery of our science unit ‘Plants in Action’. Students will bring a note home early this week outlining the details. Please make sure you sign the permission note and return it to your child’s classroom teacher ASAP. Enrichment money NEEDS to be up to date for your child to attend. As the excursion will cost $30, Mrs Donaldson would like a MINIMUM of $30 to be paid towards your enrichment money by no later than this Friday. We are looking forward to this exciting excursion.

We hope you have a fantastic week 8!
Mrs Heifetz

Year 1 and Year 2

Tomorrow Year 1 is going to the Australian Museum. We hope they enjoy the day, searching and discovering all sorts of fossils and bones and learning new things! Year 1 students only need to bring a small bag with their fruit break, recess and lunch and wear their full school uniform (including their hat). All Year 1 students need to be at school before 8:55am. Thank you to the parents that attended the Year 2 excursion. It is always a pleasure having you come along and assist with supervision. Our next excursion won't be until later in the year so those parents who would like to help out will be notified next semester.

This week we're asking students to present a 'What season am I' talk. Try and use some tricky clues so that we can't guess it too easily! Next Monday (23rd March) we are celebrating Harmony Day. Students are encouraged to wear orange and bring a gold coin donation. In week 9 we will also be having our parent-teacher-student interviews to discuss each student's learning goal. Information about how to book your appointment is in this newsletter. Please talk to your child’s teacher if you have any questions.

Have a fantastic week everyone!
Miss Langhans

Kindergarten

Being able to hold a pencil and using a pair of scissors are some of the fine motor skills that are essential in Kindergarten. The development of these skills takes time and a lot of parental guidance. I encourage parents to take a little bit of time tonight and ask your child to pick up a pencil or a pair of scissors and allow them free time to draw or cut a few pictures from a magazine or newspaper. Take some time to observe how your child is doing this. If you notice they have no control of the pencil or the scissors then you will know that your child needs your help in developing their fine motor skills. There are lots of
Excellent academic and support programs

Kindergarten cont ....

incidental activities you can do with your child to develop these skills. Some very simple ideas can be found following this link

http://www.ot-mom-learning-activities.com/kindergarten-hand-exercises.html

I also encourage parents to come and talk to your child’s classroom teacher and ask them for some ideas on how to help your child develop this important skill.

Reminders:

• ‘Crunch n Sip’ is starting in Kindergarten this week. Please remember to pack an extra piece of fruit or vegetable for your child so that they can practice this healthy initiative.

• We love parent helpers in Kindergarten. Perhaps you could come into the classroom and help work with a group of children for 30 minutes on fine motor skills activities. Please speak to your child’s teacher and let them know you are available.

Mr Ta

P & C News - Uniform Shop

We have a new line being delivered this week -

Long sleeve royal polos ready for winter.

Get your orders in early to reserve one.

Uniform shop is open
Tuesday 8.30am - 9.30am
Wed & Thurs 9am - 9.30am.

Public Speaking

The Arts Unit will be hosting this yer's Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition. This Public Speaking competition is designed to develop confidence, communication and speech writing skills. If you are in Stage 2 or 3 and would like to take part, speak to Mrs Gatt or Mrs Batac by this Friday the 20th March.

Library News

Thank you very much to Mrs Azzopardi for doing a great job of keeping the library going in my absence.

This is the last week to borrow so please make sure you return all your books next week. Thanks.

A note for your diary, I am having a bookfair at the election (28th March) with some great books to buy. Every book sold helps the school. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Thanks,
Mrs Sell

Science Club News

A couple of weeks ago we conducted a survey asking students to tell us about the experiment they would like to do the most. It turned out that an erupting volcano was the most wanted experiment.

This experiment is really simple and once again requires basic materials that can be found at home.

To build a volcano we used a small bottle and old playdough. Instead of playdough, you could use torn up strips of newspaper, craft glue and masking tape.

To make the lava we used vinegar, baking soda, water and red and yellow food colouring.

First, we added baking soda into an empty bottle. Then we added generous amount of food colouring and mixed it very well. Finally the vinegar was poured slowly into the bottle, which made the volcano erupt. This part was very messy but we used a baking tray to keep our room nice and clean.

As we watched the homemade volcano erupt, we learnt about the chemical reactions between the baking soda and vinegar.

It was an extremely exciting and fun experiment for all of the students. Have a look at our happy faces and maybe try making your own volcano at home.
School Holiday Program

Does your child enjoy Rock Climbing, Movies, Don Bosco or Sports Workshops?

If you answered Yes, go ahead and book in now for the upcoming School Holiday Program!

Upcoming holidays:

Tuesday 7 April 2015 to Friday 17 April 2015

Council Operates five services:

Parramatta West OOSH - Double Digits
Ringrose OOSH
Guildford West OOSH
Sherwood Grange OOSH
Pemulwuy OOSH

Please find attached School Holiday Booking Form and program description, to make a booking and view our programs visit our website: http://www.holroyd.nsw.gov.au/children/school-holiday-care/school-holiday-care/

Fees must be paid and a receipt number issued to Council before your booking is confirmed. Fees can be paid by BPay, credit card or if you come to the Council chambers you can pay by eftpos or cash.

For additional information please email: info.schoolholidays@holroyd.nsw.gov.au