Principal's Message

I hope that parents are taking the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher this week. If you have not yet made an appointment, please do so before 3pm Tuesday as the booking window will then close so that we can do the necessary organization at school. If you need help booking, please see or ring the school office and they can assist you. Interpreters are available - I encourage parents who do speak English to assist those who don't to make appointments and to request an interpreter.

The interview time slots are only 10 minutes long. Teachers try to keep to the timetable as closely as possible, but this can be difficult. I encourage you to request another appointment at the end of the meeting if there are important things that you need to discuss further at another time, rather than holding up all those who are waiting to follow you.

Mr Ta and I will be around during the interviews if you wish to speak with one of us about anything.

Please remember, the purpose of these meetings is to develop a better understanding between teachers, parents and children about the child's learning goals, what they are achieving at and how they can progress further.

Children and Independence

One of our expectations at Parramatta West is responsibility - we want children to learn to be responsible. In order to learn responsibility, children need to be given things for which they are responsible. If as parents we continue to do things for them, picking up the pieces when they forget things, then they will not learn. The best way to learn anything is to make a mistake and learn from it. If we never made mistakes, we wouldn't learn. So - if your child forgets something, it is not your job to run up to school with it. If they forget their library bag, their homework, their news item… whatever - then there will be consequences of some sort, and they will need to think of ways to remember next time. This is where you can help, by teaching them strategies like leaving themselves a note, putting up a list in their room of what they need on which day etc. Of course if a child forgets their lunch we do ring you up and let you know. Sometimes parents will bring up the lunch, or we are able to give the child something to eat.

If you do need to bring something up for your child, please bring it to the front office rather than the classroom as this disturbs the lessons and can embarrass the child.

Remember, you are not doing them a good turn by not teaching them responsibility.

Lower Playground

Work will be starting on the lower playground this week. The work area will be fenced off and the children will still be able to play under the COLA and on the concrete area outside E Block. There is a picture of the design in the front office. We are very excited about the creative play that will be enabled by this new design. We will be allowing the older children to play in the area as well, but not all at once!

Parent sessions in the library

Mrs Sell is providing opportunities for parents to learn more about reading and how they can support their children in this area. Next week she has invited the librarian from Merrylands library to talk about what they have to offer. I encourage you to come along at 2.00pm on Monday 30th March.

Apologies for the late cancellation on todays meeting. This will be rescheduled.

Next term Mrs Sell will be working with the Kindergarten and Year 1 parents. She will be providing support and guidance on how to help your child develop reading skills, and choosing books that will enthuse them. There will also be opportunities for you to collect your child from class and work with them in the library. I encourage you to put aside Monday afternoons for this project.

School App - Tiqbiz

Please ensure you have ticked WHOLE SCHOOL so you can access the newsletter each week and other important items.

Anthea Donaldson
Principal
Class Awards

KA Jordan KB Sri Ram
KD Angus KN Evan
KR Safiya KS Jovan
1F Baris 1H Matt
1L Sione 1M Sadaf
1N Arham 2A Sami
2F Tyrone 2G Hasnain
2L Yasmyn 2/3J Jerrell
3B Leila 3H Yojit
3/4S Lujain 4A Siraj
4H Ece 5C Batool
5M Nairmeen 5/6R Aylin
6M Sameer 6S Jerome
K-2G Buvi 1-3G Fateh
3-5H Shreya

Class News

Kindergarten

The Three Way Conference scheduled for this Wednesday is where the student, teacher and parents are able to sit and discuss achievements and future directions for improvement. I encourage parents to come to the meeting prepared with questions they would like to ask. Be specific with what you want to know. I am sure teachers will lead the discussion, however, at times when you get home, there is always that one question that you forgot to ask. Ask questions such as:

• What are my child's strengths?
• Which learning area does my child need to focus on?
• How will you help my child improve in this focus area?

Having specific questions for teachers will help to make the time productive and giving you a better understanding of the learning that is happening in the classroom.

Don't Forget:
- Pack fresh fruit and a bottle of water to encourage healthy choices as students have 10 minutes at 10.00am for "Crunch 'n' Sip".
- Every student at PWPS is registered for Reading Eggs. It is a fantastic program designed to make reading fun and interactive. Ask your child's teacher for the Username or Password if you have forgotten or misplaced it.

I can also arrange for a demonstration session on Reading eggs for parents if we have enough interest. Please let your child's teacher know.

Mr Ta

Year 1 and Year 2

Today PWPS celebrated Harmony Day by wearing orange, having discussions and participating in activities about inclusiveness, respect and having a sense of belonging for everyone. What a fantastic day!

On Wednesday we are having our three way conferences with you and your child. Teachers are looking forward to discussing each student's learning goals and what we can do to support them. Keep in mind that each interview can only go for 10 minutes. If there is something you would like to discuss in more detail, you will have to arrange an appointment.

This week students are going to try and persuade us to visit somewhere in the world. We can't wait to hear about wonderful places to go and see!

Have a fantastic week everyone!
Miss Langhans

Year 3

PWPS ‘Three-Way Conferences’ will be held THIS Wednesday the 25th of March. Information went home in the newsletter last week with details on how to book an appointment online. We will be discussing your child’s learning goal and giving you some important suggestions on how to help your child at home. We are looking forward to seeing you all there!

Our excursion to the ‘Field of Mars’ is THIS Thursday the 26th of March. Please make sure you have signed the permission note and returned it to your child’s classroom teacher. Enrichment money should now be up to date for your child to attend. Remember a minimum of $30 should have been paid to the office by last Friday. Students need to wear full school uniform, a school hat and comfortable walking shoes (as part of the excursion is a bush walk). They will also need ‘Nude Food’ (no packaging or wrappers) for recess and lunch and two water bottles. All the information is clearly outlined on the excursion permission note. We are all looking forward to this exciting day!

We hope you have a wonderful week 9 and we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday!

Mrs Heifetz

Year 4 and Year 5

We are looking forward to meeting parents and caregivers this Wednesday afternoon to discuss your child's goals as a part of our three-way interviews. We have allocated approximately 10 minutes for each meeting, if you require additional time please request another meeting at a later date.

A reminder about our reading blog, we are expecting all children to read 3 or 4 books and write a response on the blog before the end of term. If you are experiencing difficulties or have questions about the reading blog please see your child's teacher or myself.

Have a great week!
Mr Clarke

Year 6

High School Expression of Interest forms have been collected. They will now be passed on to Mrs Donaldson for signing and then sent on to the nominated schools. You will receive
information regarding placement later in the year.

A reminder that the 'Three Way Interviews' are being held this week on the following days. Please book an interview online. Interpreters are also available if needed.

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

At the interview, class teachers will discuss your child's progress so far this year and their personal learning goal. A strong partnership between parents and teachers will strengthen your child's learning. We hope to see many parents there.

Don't forget to keep updated with your child's progress towards their reading goal. We are impressed with their reading so far! Find out what genre your child is reading at the moment.

Mrs Rhodes
Assistant Principal

**Library News**

On Saturday 28th March we are having a Book Fair at the Election, so come past - do your voting and buy a book. All profits go to help the school.

On Monday 30th March Renee from Holroyd Library is coming to talk to parents about Holroyd library and their services.

Please return all your books we are tidying up ready for Term 2.

Mrs Sell

**University of NSW Competitions**

International Competitions and Assessment for School (ICAS) competitions / tests are being conducted at Parramatta West and the following are available:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 June 2015</td>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>15 - 19 June 2015</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>$17-00</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>28 July 2015</td>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>11 August 2015</td>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
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Forms are available from the school office or may be downloaded from the school website or tiqbiz.

Entries close Friday 24th April 2015.

**Sports News**

We had good weather all week for sport and PWPS students enjoyed a variety of activities.

Friday was a warm day for 3-6 sport and it was good to see nearly everyone with hats, water bottles and correct clothes. Mrs George and her team did a great job getting us warmed up with Zumba, and then all students put in a good effort with team sports and skills. Sporting activities not only develop strength and agility but also benefits brain function when working academically. Going to the park to toss, hit or kick a ball, use the fixed equipment or run/walk around for 15 to 30 mins is a good support to the developing body.

Don't forget Cross Country is coming up week 2 term 2 so keep up the training. A good way to support this is to walk or ride a bike/scooter (wearing safety gear) to school, or park the car a block away and walk the last distance (this eases the frustration of parking for parents and gets everyone fit).

Last Friday, 20th March, was Anti-bullying day and after sport students 3-6 watch a news segment on BTN called 'I'm Behind You'. This segment discussed how to identify bullying, and strategies to use to be active in stopping this anti-social behaviour. If you would like more information or would like to watch this news clip again or want to help your child develop strategies recommended, go to "Behind The News" on the ABC website.

Don't forget to include some chopped fruit or veg for your child each day to nibble on when we have our 5 minute 'Crunch n sip' or 'Fruit break'. Make sure it is chopped as a whole piece of fruit is often nibbled then wasted.

**Before and After School Care**

Dear families,

As of Term 2, 2015, there are very limited vacancies for Parramatta West OOSH. If your child is enrolled as a casual and you require any permanent bookings, please contact the centre director immediately.

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