Principal's Message

Last week I told you that the executive team were traveling to Melbourne to attend a conference. We did so, spending two long days learning about the very latest research about how our brains learn. We learnt about what is happening when children learn, how we can help them get better at thinking and learning, and how much the way children feel about themselves affects the way they think and learn. The domains of neuroscience, psychology and education are coming together to develop new evidence based strategies for learning. It is going to take us some time to develop the ideas that we can begin to introduce at Parramatta West, but we will be doing some new things, and we will be keeping you informed. The future is exciting for education at our school.

Kitchen Garden Program

Parents may be aware of our growing veggie patch that has been developed over the last year. Last week two of our teachers attended the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program training last week. Our children are going to have the opportunity to learn about growing vegetables and how to cook them to create healthy meals. More information about this will come as the program develops.

At Parramatta West we encourage children to think about what they are learning. Parents can help this process. I posted the following late last year, but here it is again. I encourage parents to use some of these questions to talk with their children in the afternoons. Children may not know how to have these conversations at first, but I encourage you to keep the conversation going.

25 Alternatives To "What'd You Learn In School Today?"

When did you notice yourself most interested and curious today?
Was there a time today when you were especially confused?
How did you respond?
What is one thing that was hard to believe? Not confusing, but surprising?
If you were more ____ today, how would it have impacted the day?
When were you most creative today?
Tell me one fun thing you learned, one useful thing you learned, and one extraordinary thing you learned.

What does a successful day at school look like to you? Feel like?
What sort of different reasons do your friends go to school?
Who worked harder today, the teacher or the students?
How else could you have learned what the teacher taught?
How do your teachers show they care?
What do you know, and how do you know it?
What would you like to know more about?
What is the most important thing you learned today? The least?
Tell me one chance you took today, and how it ended up.
What is one thing you learned from a book?
What is one thing you learned from a friend?
What is one thing you learned from a teacher?
What still confuses you?
What is something you say or heard that stuck with you for some reason?
Based on what you learned today in ______ class, what do you think you'll learn tomorrow?
Tell me three facts, two opinions, and one idea you heard today.
What should you do with what you've learned?
When did you surprise yourself today?
What's stopping you from being an (even more) amazing learner?

Have a great week,
Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Class Awards

KA  Aashman    KB  Tyler
KD  Ecin       KN  Seki
KR  Nishta     KS  Youssuf
1F  Yazad      1H  Talha
1L  Sarah      1M  Zak
1N  Nedal      2A  Elyas
2F  Millad     2G  Hasan
2L  Johan

P & C News

ATTENTION: SCHOOL BANKING NOTICE

If deposit slip is not filled out correctly we cannot process your school banking. If it is not filled out we will send the money and envelope back to you. WE CANNOT FILL IT OUT FOR YOU. It is against school banking protocol.

Thank you.
Class News

Year 1 and Year 2

Next week, on Tuesday 10th March, Year 2 students will be going to the Museum for our first excursion of the year. Year 1 students will be going in week 8. Thank you to everyone who has already returned their permission note. For most excursions we usually ask for parent helpers to support with supervision. Unfortunately we are not able to bring all of the parents and guardians that offer their help. A note will be going home to some parents who have expressed an interest. As we have another excursion later in the year, we will be asking different parents to attend.

Today and tomorrow, school photos are being taken. This is always a time where students wear their full school uniform and look neat and presentable. Wouldn’t it be great if we tried to look this way every day?

Please don’t forget to have a water bottle and hat ready for sport tomorrow as there continues to be numerous students missing out.

Have a wonderful week!
Miss Langhans

Year 3

All students should have their Mathletics and Reading Eggspress login and passwords. Please encourage your children to use both programs at home to reinforce important skills that are being learnt in class. If your child has not received their details, please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher.

Students should be reading for at least fifteen minutes each night. Every student in Year 3 is involved in the home reading program and is able to change their book everyday. Students also attend library once a week and can borrow books to read during the week. It is important that you monitor your child’s reading at home and encourage and instill the love of reading in them. As the saying goes “Kids who read, succeed!”

Have fabulous week six!
Mrs Heifetz

Year 6

This week we will be holding an information session about the high school application process. We will guide parents in how to fill out the ‘High School Expression of Interest Form’ and also have representatives from Parramatta High School and Arthur Phillip High School to answer questions. The details are below.

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

There are 2 exciting events happening this week. The Parramatta High School Enrichment Day for those students who returned their note, and also the Grip Leadership Conference for our school leaders. We wish them well at these activities.

Please make sure your child has returned their Edmodo Form. This form is an acknowledgement that you are aware of your child’s Edmodo use as a tool for learning.

The High School Selective Test date is Thursday March 12th and parents should have received notification of the venue and time. These applications were closed at the end of last year and it is too late to apply now for this test. Good luck to all of those students.

Please continue to ask your child how many books they have read towards their target. It is pleasing to see that some students have already read 4 or 5 novels. How can you help your child reach this target?

Mrs Rhodes

Library News

Last day for Bookclub is 10th March. Please use the order form provided.

On 16th March Paul McDonald, a Guest Speaker from Beecroft Children's Bookshop, will be talking to the parents at 2pm in the Library.

Sports News

Thank you to those students who have given their swimming times to Mrs Marks for our PWPS zone swimming entries. Now we will wait to hear who will be successful to challenge at the next level.

3-6 Classes are now beginning serious training for our Cross Country Carnival to be held early Term 2 at Jones Park. It is important that all students attempt to build their running fitness and stamina, so heading to the park for a little extra running after school or on the weekend is recommended, to assist the strength we are beginning at school.

Don’t forget your hat and water bottle every day for play and sport. Wear your sports clothes and shoes on Friday for easy and full participation in sport.

Thank you to 3-6 students for being safe, responsible and respectful for our Casual Teachers who led you through some fun sporting activities last Friday. Congratulations once again to our PSSA T-Ball and Softball teams who gave their best effort to play fair and support their team members last Friday.

Last Tuesday five boys attended the zone cricket trials at Dundas Public School.

Haraneesh Shah, Ryan Janu, Asmit Bishwakaran and Vraj Patel were all selected to represent the Parramatta/Merrylands zone to attend the Sydney West regional trials. Congratulations to the boys and best of luck to the other students attending numerous other zone trials in the coming weeks. Do us proud.
Chance Kohu and Shayan Rezaie were also selected to represent PWPS at the regional Rugby League trials. Congratulations boys, and best of luck.

PSSA Results:

- T-Ball: Boys loss
- Girls Draw
- Softball: Boys win
- Girls win

PSSA this week is played at Jones Park against Greystanes.

Holroyd Family Festival

Food, Fitness, Fashion & Fun

Saturday 21 March 2015
5.30pm - 9.30pm
Holroyd Gardens
Cnr Walpole & Pitt Sts, Merrylands

Cooking with Janelle Bloom, fitness with Commando Steve, free rides and activities, stall, fireworks and much more!

For more information phone 9840 9840 or visit www.holroyd.nsw.gov.au

Book Launch

Funny man Oliver Phommavanh is launching his new kids book for boys, 'Ethan' at Merrylands Library.

Saturday 14 March 2015
1 - 3pm
Merrylands Central Library

Bookings essential.
Call 9840 9960 or online at holroydlibrary.eventbrite.com.au

Science Club News

In our science club, we have been inspired by the famous words of Albert Einstein:
"Play is the highest form of research"

This week we carried out another rainbow colour experiment. Yet again we used simple ingredients that can be found in most kitchens, such as water, sugar and food colouring. Firstly, we made a range of different colours in six jars using food colouring and water (red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple). We really enjoyed mixing colours. Then we added different amount of sugar to each jar. The red jar had no sugar. The orange jar had 2 spoons of sugar, yellow 4, green 6, blue 8 and the purple 10 spoons of sugar. It was a pretty sticky, sweet but exciting activity.

The final step involved layering different sugar solutions over each other in order of decreasing density. We started with the purple colour first, as this one had the most sugar in it. Then we slowly added the blue sugar solution, then green, yellow, orange and finally the red. For this, we had to practice our laboratory precision skills and this is what we made: our sugar density column!