Principal's message

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to visit the school last week and meet with their children's teachers. When we work together, the children are more successful. If you were unable to make an appointment, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher to arrange another time, possibly by phone. The PLAN reports that were sent home contain suggestions for you to use with your child, I encourage you to read them through and choose some ideas.

Term 1 finishes this Thursday. The teachers return on Monday April 20th, children return on Tuesday April 21st.

We will be having our ANZAC service on Friday April 24th. As it is a special year this year, we will have a Kindergarten / Year 1 service at 9.30, and our normal Year 2-6 service at 11.30. We will have some special visitors on the day, and have some additional extras to mark this 100th anniversary. The Kindergarten / Year 1 classes will be making craft wreaths, but years 2-6 will make ones from real flowers. We will be asking children to bring in a few flowers or ivy from their gardens to put together to create these on the morning of 24th April. All children will also be receiving a few commemorative gifts on the day.

Community Action Team

This group of Parents, students and teachers met for the first time last week. This team is part of our Strategic Directions for the next three years. The purpose of the team is to improve school community understanding and communication. We have started by creating a list of cultural and religious celebrations that we want to acknowledge as a school. Some we already celebrate, others we have not in the past. We have so many different groups at PWPS, we are attempting to build the knowledge of all in our community. The list we came up with is with this newsletter. Some events will be acknowledged through assemblies or class activities, others will be bigger, whole school events. There are so many things that we could celebrate, unfortunately we can't do them all or we would never do anything else! You will hear more from this team as time goes by. Thank you to the team for getting things started.

School Holidays

Do you have plans for the holidays? I hope that parents are looking forward to spending time with their children without the stress of homework, getting to school on time and all the extra curricula commitments that parents can spend their time running around doing. I am saddened when I hear parents not looking forward to the holidays. I hope that you would be looking for things to do with your children to enjoy the time. These don't have to be expensive. The local libraries have events on, picnics in the park are free, walks in the bush, bike rides, board games or card games, reading books together, playing with lego or craft materials and creating something wonderful together, involving the children in cooking - create a restaurant at home, get them to design a menu and invite the family round... I am sure that you can add to this list. I suggest that you sit down together and plan the holiday. Yes, they need some "down time" too, include some time when they amuse themselves - that is good for them as well, but it doesn't have to be on an electronic device - this is OK, within limits. If you plan your time, it is more likely to be a fun one.

Have a wonderful holiday
Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Class Awards

KA       Abhijitha
KB       Zaina
KD       Saif
KR       Salam
1F       Asma
1H       Kaedon
1L       Sameer
1M       Gavinder
1N       Arozo
2F       Jem
2G       Jefferson
2L       Nelly
3B       Mohtasham
3H       Roya
3/4S     Navraj
4H       Hakim
5C       Sameer
5M       Muhammad
5/6R     Korina
6M       Harrison
6S       Mursael
1-3G     Talal
1-5H     Damon

ICAS (University of NSW competitions)

Forms are available from the school office for these competitions.

Science, English and Mathematics are available for students Year 2 - Year 6. Writing is available for students Year 3 - Year 6.

Entries close Friday 24th April 2015.
Class News

Year 1 and Year 2

Congratulations to the Year 6 students and teachers for a fantastic day with Peer Support! Students loved being read to and doing activities designed by the year 6 students. This week is the final week for Term 1. Wow! It has gone by too fast! If your child’s topic talk is on Friday, they can bring their dinosaur creation in on another day as there is no school on Friday. All of the Stage 1 teachers hope you all have a very safe and happy holiday. Make sure you go outside, explore and stay active!

Have a fantastic final week everyone!

Miss Langhans

Year 3

What an absolutely fabulous term it has been! Thank you to all the parents for your support and coming to meet us last Wednesday. It was wonderful to have the opportunity to talk about your child’s goals and the progress they have made throughout this term. The students have had many amazing educational opportunities and have hopefully expanded their knowledge and imagination in a range of different areas this term. A massive thank you to the hardworking, dedicated teachers on Year Three for all you have done for the students at PWPS already this year. I know our students and their parents truly appreciate it.

Our excursion to the ‘Field of Mars’ last Thursday was a brilliant experience for all students. They were involved in numerous activities including using iPads to create a scientific page on an Australian Native plant with photographs, a description of the plant and a scientific drawing. They went on a bushwalk where different species of plants were examined and they created a scratch art drawing. Students also planted their own native plant, which they will be bringing home in the next week. It was an educational and fun excursion. Thank you to all of the teachers and staff who came along to support Year 3 students.

PSSA winter trials were held on Friday during sport. Information will be displayed on the Sports Board this week. Don’t forget to get practising for the Cross Country Carnival during the holidays!

We hope you all have a relaxing and safe Easter break. We are looking forward to catching up on Tuesday the 21st of April.

Mrs Heifetz

Year 4 and Year 5

It was great see so many parents & caregivers visit our classes last week for the three-way interviews. I would encourage all parents now to stay in touch with your child’s teacher from time to time, and if necessary arrange an additional meeting if you have any ongoing concerns. A reminder that 4A will hold their three-interviews after the school holidays.

After the holiday break students in Year 3 and 5 will be sitting the NAPLAN assessment. While I don’t encourage children spending hours preparing for this, I would encourage all children to keep visiting the class blogs, the reading blog, as well as mathletics and reading eggspress. This will assist in consolidating their learning from this term. I have really enjoyed reading the publishing on the class blogs and responses children have written about the books they have read. If you haven’t seen our blogs, the holidays may be great time to familiarise yourself and your child will be able to explain them to you.

Have a great and a wonderful Easter holiday,

Mr Clarke

Year 6

Thank you to all the parents who attended the ‘Three-Way Interviews’. A strong relationship between parents and teachers will only strengthen the work of our students. If you were unable to attend the interview and would like to arrange an alternative time to meet with your child’s teacher, please contact the school and book a time that is suitable.

We are extremely proud of the students in 6M, 6S and 5/6R so far this year. They have studied hard in class time, shown initiative throughout the term and applied their learning in a range of settings. We are impressed with the amount of students using Edmodo to strengthen their studies. Please encourage your child to use Edmodo over the holiday period. Teachers will be online at various times to have discussions with the kids.

Today all Year 6 students led Peer Support lessons for the first time. Please ask your child how it went, what they learnt from the experience and how they plan to improve even more in the next lesson to follow. We are proud of their organisational skills, confidence and leadership.

We wish all the students a safe and happy holiday. Enjoy the break and we look forward to another great term of learning.

School returns Tuesday 21st April.

Mrs Rhodes

Library News

Please return all books this week.

Borrowing begins Week 1 next term so have your library bags ready.

Thank you to all the Parents and Community members who supported our book fair.
Sports News

Our summer PSSA competition has adjourned till term 4. Last Friday saw many students in years 3-6 try out for winter PSSA teams. Well done boys and girls for showcasing your skills and courage. Please see the sports notice board on F-Block for team selections. You will soon receive PSSA Friday competition permission notes and training day notes. Return these as soon as possible to your coaches. Over the holidays make sure you have your school hat ready and any personal safety equipment, clothing and shoes organised.

Year 3-6 school sport groups enthusiastically enjoyed a tabloid of skills thoughtfully programmed by Mrs Harris and Mrs Heifetz. Next term school sport will be on Friday afternoon due winter coming. Students will still need to wear their sports uniform and have a hat to wear.

Don’t forget to keep up training for our Cross Country running event that will take place in Week 2 Term 2. All students years 3-6 will compete and those with the best times will go on to represent our school at the next level.

Keep up your healthy eating of 2 serves of fruit and 5 serves of vegetables a day while you are on holidays. Be careful not to over eat those sometimes foods.

Keep safe when you are out and about by crossing roads at the lights or designated crossings. Be aware of strangers as you are out and about in the community or online.

Keep up a regular routine of eating, sleeping and having fun.

P & C News

Easter Raffle - If you need more tickets please see the office.

Raffle will be drawn on Wednesday lunchtime. Winners will be notified by phone.

Home Readers - were collected last week to be levelled and updated.

MORNING TEA this Wednesday in staffroom. Helpers are invited so please come along.

Child Dental Benefits Scheme

Great news, the above scheme continues in 2015! The Commonwealth Government dental scheme provided eligible children with a $1000 free kids dental benefit** on selected dental services within a 2 year calendar period.

To gain access to benefits, children must be eligible for Medicare, must be between 2 and 17 years old for at least 1 day of the calendar year with the child or parent, guardian or carer receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A or another relevant government payment.

** Free when services covered by the Commonwealth Government’s Child Dental Benefits Schedule are bulked billed by participating Practitioners for treatments provided to eligible patients.