Principal's Message

I hope that parents have talked to their children about ANZAC day over the weekend. The timing of our service this year made it easier for teachers to spend time teaching the children about the significance of the day, and we had had some wonderful visitors on Friday who also helped explain things. If you have time on any Sunday, I encourage you to visit the Lancer Barracks Museum in Parramatta. They have lots of photos there along with other memorabilia as well as a real tank - what we had at school the children called a tank, but in reality it was a staff car.

Nepal Earthquake

Our thoughts go out to the Nepalese Community in our school, Australia and Nepal.

We will be collecting clothing to send to Nepal. Please send to school by Friday.

Reading with your child

Mrs Sell started her reading sessions with the parents of Kindergarten and Year 1 parents today. They will be on every Monday from 2.15. She will introduce you to books, talk about how you can use them and how you can support your child's reading. You will also have the opportunity to collect your child from class and read with them in the library. I know that all parents want to support their child's reading, so if you are available, come along and join in!

Next term the focus will be on parents of children in years 2 - 4.

Reading is an important focus for us at school - we want to do everything we can to ensure that all our children become fluent readers who enjoy reading and are able to read to learn. We will do this better with your help!
NAPLAN

These tests are coming up in week four. All students in years 3 and 5 will sit the tests unless they have been in school learning English for less than a year. Parents should not stress their children about these tasks. They are one off tests that do not tell us everything about the children. Some children respond well to tests, others do not do as well as we know they are able due to stress, or just not feeling well on a particular day. Teachers are preparing the children in class. The best thing that parents can do is to encourage children to read a lot and to complete homework. If you have questions or concerns, please talk to your child's teacher. If you google NAPLAN you will find examples of past tests.

ANZAC

Thank you to all the families who brought flowers to school on Friday. They added something special to our tribute. At the end of the day I was able to take two big boxes of flowers to the Brentwood Nursing Home. The residents there were very appreciative; the flowers will have brightened their weekend.

Have a good reading week,
Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Class News

Kindergarten

Welcome back to all our Kindergarten students. We have an exciting term planned where we will be focusing on the theme of “Farming and us”. We will be looking at different aspects of farming life, including animals, food and products that we use from farms. This will also include our first excursion to Calmsley Hill City Farm later in the term.

Sports days remain the same as Term 1. Gym Fun is on Tuesdays and Fundamental skills lessons are on Thursdays. Please remember to wear your sports uniform on these days. Also now that the weather is getting colder please LABEL all jackets and jumpers with names and classes.

The new Topic Talk list was given out last week and the students should be ready with their mystery bag starting this week.

Next Monday afternoon we would like to invite all parents/carers to an afternoon tea. It is an opportunity to meet and make connections with other parents. It will be held in the school hall from 3pm. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Year 1 and Year 2

Welcome back to another term that is going to be full of learning! This term we are starting our history unit called ‘Past and Present Family Life’ and our science unit called ‘Push, Pull’. Our topic talks start this week and many of the topics relate to what we are learning in class.

Homework also starts this week and is due on Thursdays. Year 2 homework has changed slightly, with some extra activities included. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions. Don't forget to ask for help before homework is due! If you have any clothes that you are able to donate to families in Nepal, please bring them to school this week as we would like to try and support these families in need.

Good luck to the year 2 students that will be participating in our Cross Country Carnival this week (if the weather is suitable). Sport is on Thursday afternoon, so don't forget to wear your full sports uniform.

Have a wonderful week! Miss Langhans

Year 3

Students thoroughly enjoyed participating in all ANZAC day activities during the week. The assembly on Friday was very significant and touching. We hope you all got to see our wonderful dove that was created by the very talented Mrs Harris. Students took home some ANZAC day gifts to commemorate this significant day. A massive thank you to Mrs Harris, Mrs Abraham and all other staff who made this day one that will live on in our fond memories of PWPS.

The Cross Country Carnival will be held this Thursday at Jones Park. Students can wear their house colours, suitable running shoes, a hat and should wear something warm so they don’t get cold while they are waiting to run. They will need to bring water, fruit break, something to sit on (e.g. large garbage bag as the grounds are often damp) and something to occupy them while they are not running (for example playing cards or a book to read but no electronic devices). It should be a wonderful day.

In week four, NAPLAN testing will take place for Year 3 and Year 5 students. More information will be given in next week’s newsletter.

We hope you all have a fabulous week 2!

Mrs Heifetz

Year 4 and Year 5

Applications for Year 5 entry into an ‘Opportunity Class’ in 2016 are now open. All applicants with access to the internet, a printer and their own email address (not the student's) should apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement. Any applicants without internet access must complete a commercially printed form which is available from the school.

Parents / Caregivers will need to complete the intention to apply for ‘Opportunity Class 2016’ note that was sent home today to all students in Year 4. Students that return the intention to apply will then receive information regarding how to complete the application online. Please return the intention to apply to school as soon as possible.

Applications close for the 2016 Year 5 Opportunity Class close on the 15 May 2015.

Enjoy the week,
Mr Clarke
Year 6

Welcome back to another term at school. I hope that there has not been too much damage or inconvenience to families in this weather. Let's hope the heavy rain stops soon enough.

Thank you to the parents for supporting your children with their reading target over the holidays. Remember, that every child is aiming to read 40 books by the end of the year. They will need our help to do this. Students are currently having conversations with their teachers about these books and having their Book Planners signed off. Our aim is to build reading stamina and endurance.

By now all parents should be aware of their child's learning goals. Please stick the 'Learning Goal' image up on your fridge so that you are aware of your child's goal and the first strategy towards meeting that goal. Parents and teachers need to work together to help the children be successful with their goals.

Notes went home this week regarding the 'Sydney Writer's Festival.' We have secured 40 spots only for this fantastic event. It is a great opportunity for the kids to listen to successful authors talk about their books and writing techniques. It will strengthen their love and learning about books.

Homework starts back this week. A reminder that 'Class Homework' and 'Maths Homework' is due on Thursdays.

Mrs Rhodes

Library News

Bookclub is due back on Tuesday 5th May. Please use the order form enclosed in the catalogue.

Thanks to those who came today for the Reading with your child. Parents from Kindy and Year 1 are welcome next Monday at 2.15pm.

Sport News

This week begins an exciting week of sport at Parramatta West. We begin our Winter Sport schedule, we have new PSSA teams and our annual Cross-Country Carnival is on Thursday.

This term sport will be in the afternoon session of Friday with a rotation of exciting sporting activities organised by Mrs Harris, Mrs Abraham and Mrs Heifetz. Make sure you have your hat, a drink bottle and wear your sports uniform.

PSSA winter sport begins this Friday teams have been chosen. Please make sure you have returned your permission notes for playing and for training to your coaches before Friday so we can field full teams. Remember you will need to pay bus fare to your coach before school on Friday morning. All students selected in teams must wear full sports uniform, school hat and safety equipment. Be organised.

This Thursday is our annual Cross-Country Carnival, organised by Mrs Abraham and Mrs Harris. Students need to wear their sports uniform for ease to run. House colour t-shirts (NO inappropriate logos or prints) may be worn with our school sports uniform, appropriate shoes and hat. You will also need your drink bottle and a blanket or mat to sit on. Students will walk to Jones Park, as soon as possible, after the roll is marked. Be at school on time after a good night's sleep and a good breakfast.

Dance Off! Camp

Congratulations to Winnie and Korina who attended the Dance Off! Dance Camp last week in Kurrajong. Over the three day camp they participated in a series of dance workshops which covered a range of styles - jazz, hip hop, lyrical, JFH, Afro jazz, ballet and choreography. They were taught by some of the leading dance professionals and choreographers in Australia and performed their routines with the other students in a showcase of their work on the third day. Well done girls!

P & C News

New Uniform item - LONG SLEEVE Winter Polo.

Size 4, 6, 8 and 10 will arrive by the end of the week so place your order to be sure to get one.