Excellent academic and support programs

Principal's Message

Thank you to the families who have supported our appeal for Nepal so generously last week. We had so many clothes that we had to say stop bringing them in! We will let you know if there is a need for more later. As I write this I do not know how much money was raised on Friday, but we will let you know when it has been all added up. Thank you. As Parramatta West is such a multi-cultural school, when tragedies happen around the world there is always someone here who is more deeply affected by it. Our hearts go out to our families who have relatives and friends in troubled parts and hope that they are safe and in communication with their loved ones.

This Friday I will be going on leave. I will be visiting the Galapagos Islands and Peru before going to the UK to visit my family there. I look forward to sharing my adventures with the children when I return next term. Mr Ta will be acting Principal in my absence, with Mr Clarke taking on the Deputy Principal role.

On Friday I uploaded the school annual report for 2014 to our website, and also the new three year plan. Parents are welcome to read those there and ask any questions arising from these documents. The three-year plan is an overview, supported by annual plans that are much more detailed.

Parent Information

There was a fabulous group of 16 parents in the library last Monday talking about reading with their children and learning more about books from Mrs Sell. They then had the opportunity to collect their children form class and read with them. We have 125 children in Kindergarten and 117 in Year 1. Can we find some more parents who want to make a difference in their children's reading? We are all learners who can learn more every day and Mrs Sell is an expert in selecting and sourcing great books for children. I encourage you to use her expertise.

Next Tuesday will be the next P and C meeting from 9.00am. I encourage you to come along.

Make Mum's Day will be on again this year - it will be on May 26th, so if you are a working mum, I encourage you to try to get some time off on that day to spend it with your child at school. We have had some parent and student input in the organization and activities for the day, so do come along. It will run between 11am and 2pm.

Thank you to the P and C for for organising the mother's day stall once again. The children do love to do some independent shopping. It was on today, but if your child missed out or forgot their money, I am sure there will be an opportunity to shop during the week.

Cross Country Carnival

The weather has been against us, but we will try to run this as soon as we can.

Healthy Harold

All children are taking part in these important lessons. If you are paying off your child's enrichment money, please remember to keep making payments. Thank you.

I hope that the rest of this term is a successful one for you all, and I look forward to catching up again next term.

Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Class Awards

KA        Mahrash            KB        Chelsea
KD        Sasmuktha            KN        Hamzah
KR        Tabasum            KS        Samir
1F        Asma                1H        Mohamed
1L        Elanur                1M        Michelle
1N        Rahl                2A        Liam
2F        Hamza                2G        Zain
2L        Roma        2/3J    Zahra, Karthik
3B        Nadije, Krish        3H        Devkish, Pranjul
3/4S    Mridvika, Abbas        4A        Hajra, William
4H        Nisworth, Aarya        5C        Nicole, Diyari
5M        Mazdier, Tarandep    5/6R    Petar, Jale
6M        James, Catherine        6S        Murssel, Rahul
K-2G    Stephen                1-3G    Rui-Huan, Rudy
3-5H        Choong, Shivansh

School Photos

Unfortunately due to the recent storms in Sydney our photographer, MSP had their office badly damaged.

Therefore there will be a delay in our school receiving the photos. As soon as they have been received they will be distributed to the children.
Class News

Kindergarten

This afternoon we are having our first Kindergarten afternoon tea. The Kindergarten teachers are all very excited to be able to chat with parents. We also hope that you might meet some other parents who you have not yet spoken with.

Please keep practising mystery bags for the weekly topic talks. The students are really enjoying using clues to figure out what the objects could be. Remember to practise speaking in full sentences.

Now that the timetables have been organised for Term 2, please let your child's teacher know if you are available to help in any way.

Year 1 and Year 2

This week the year 2 students participating in the Cross Country Carnival will hopefully run either tomorrow (Tuesday) or Thursday depending on the weather. We will be starting our stage sport program on Thursday. Don't forget to wear your full sport uniform.

As the weather is getting cooler, please make sure school uniforms are still being worn. We would like to see students wearing the appropriate colours (blue and white) for their hats, jumpers and leggings.

Are you using Reading Eggs and Mathletics at home? Please see your teacher if you need some help accessing these resources at home as they are a great way to practise skills taught during the week.

Have a wonderful week!

Miss Langhans

Year 3

Hopefully, the Cross Country Carnival will be held this Tuesday at Jones Park. If the grounds are too wet then we hope that we can successfully hold it on Thursday. Don't forget 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). Fingers crossed that it will be held on either of these days this week.

NAPLAN testing will take place next week for Year 3 and Year 5 students. It is really important that you make sure your child goes to bed early and has a nice big breakfast before every test. Please ensure you pack a fruit break, a healthy lunch and plenty of water each day. Year 3 students have been preparing for these tests within their classrooms and we know they will all do their best. Talk to your child about these tests each day and find out what they enjoyed and what they found difficult. On Tuesday the 12th May, the students will be sitting the Language Conventions test (spelling, grammar and punctuation), followed by the Writing exam (which will be either an imaginative or a persuasive text). On Wednesday the 13th May, students will be completing the Reading Conventions test and finally, on Thursday, the Numeracy exam. Please make sure your child is at school early on these mornings (by at least 8.45am) so they are not worried about being late. Good luck to all the Year Three students for next week, we know you will give it 100% and do your best!!

We hope you all have a wonderful week 3!

Mrs Heifetz

Year 4 and Year 5

A reminder to parents and caregivers whose child is in Year 4 that the applications for Year 5 '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.

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

Next week students in Years 3 and 5 will be sitting the NAPLAN assessment. It is important that your child is well rested and prepared for these assessments. It also important that children attend school by 8.55am as the NAPLAN assessment will be held in the morning.

Home reading and the Reading Blog

We have reviewed and are making some changes to the our reading blog and home reading expectations. Hopefully, these changes will be ready for all classes after NAPLAN. In the meantime, we would like all children to borrow and read a book each week of their own choice. They can then post a response on to the reading blog. The books that they read and write about doesn't need to be from the set reading list.

Enjoy the week,

Mr Clarke

Year 6

As you know, Edmodo is the online tool we use for communicating, learning and reflecting upon the work done at school. It is extremely important that all Year 6 students have access to Edmodo in order to stay on top of their studies and be aware of learning and events that are coming up.

Within the next few weeks we will be inviting parents to join Edmodo and share in the everyday learning of our Year 6 students. It will give parents an insight into the topics we are studying and the tools that we post in order to assist with their learning.
Have you discussed your child's learning goal at home? We can see that the children are working hard to achieve their goals.

Notes went home last week regarding the 'Sydney Writer's Festival.' We have secured 40 spots only for this fantastic event. Over 25 spots have already been taken so be sure to bring in your note and money if you are keen for your child to attend this fantastic event.

Please ensure you are continuing to pay your enrichment installments.

How many books has your child read towards their 40 book reading target? They should have read approximately 15-20 by now.

Mrs Rhodes

Library News

• Why not join the local Library?
Holroyd Library is in Merrylands to join you need- your Medicare card as a form of identification
You can borrow books, magazines, CD's, DVD's, Blue Rays, Sheet Music, kits, Multilingual books, Naplan books and Wii games to name a few.

• Bookclub is due back to school by Tuesday the 5th of May

• Next Monday we will be talking about rhyme in stories. You will be most welcome to join us Monday at 2.15 Parents of Kindergarten and Year 1

Sports News

Last week was a little disappointing with the rain and we were not able to participate in as much sport and activity as we usually enjoy! Congratulations to all those students and teachers who were flexible and found time and space to get out and be active in between showers.

Our back-up day for cross country is Tuesday, weather permitting. The back-up day for Tuesday will be Thursday, so let's cross our fingers. Remember to check Mrs Harris' reminder posters for what you need to bring and wear so you are prepared.

Make sure you have your P.S.S.A. permission notes to your coaches and you are ready for training weather permitting.

This week is 'Heart Week' : 3-9 May Heart Week provides a great opportunity to shine the spotlight on heart health issues in Australia and raise awareness of the work the Heart Foundation is doing to lead the fight against heart disease. Last year we had a great time participating in 'Jump Rope For Heart', and this year in Heart Week we're encouraging everyone to 'Move More, Sit Less!' You can do this by simply walking or riding to school, swapping social media for social activity and restricting screen will help stop this trend. Active kids have improved concentration, better self-confidence and stronger muscles and bones. So encourage them to play in the backyard, dance to music, ride a bike or get involved in vigorous activities like running, swimming or playing sports like soccer, netball or basketball after school or on the weekend.

Parent reminder: P.W.P.S students bring a large range of delicious fruit and vegetables for 'Crunch n Sip' (Fruit Break) and they are enjoying this healthy food. However, some students are finding large, whole pieces of fruit too difficult to eat or get through in our 5 minute break. This lovely food is being wasted as it is not appealing later in the day. Please cut your child's fruit/vegetables into portions so it is not wasted. Thank you.

Parents does your child have a mobile phone? Do they walk themselves to school or around the neighbourhood alone? Check out the 'Help Me' App that has been developed by the 'Daniel Morcombe” foundation aimed at keeping our kids safe when out and about. A great way to not only help keep kids safe, but assist people of all ages, from 7 to 97, covering all kinds of personal emergency situations!

Stewart House

The Stewart House School Clothing appeal is on again.

Clean, unwanted clothing can be sent to school in a plastic bag and will be collected for this worthwhile appeal.

The last day for donating will be Friday 29th May 2015.