Principal's Message

I hope that you are helping your child to choose a book character to dress up as for our book parade - it is on next week! While you are thinking about books, why not go to this website: memfox.com and then click the for parents tab. It will take you to her “Ten read-aloud commandments.” I encourage you to try to do as many of them as possible!

The new canteen is open for business! "Kids snack shack" opened today, run by our very own Renee Addoug, who won the tender fairly from a big field. She has invested her time and money into ensuring that the food she produces for our children is nutritious and good to eat!

Congratulations to the PULSE Choir, led by Ms Grammat, who performed last week at The Opera House. I attended the concert and was impressed by the quality of the singing. Mrs Rhodes, who choreographed the best dance item of the night with her senior Dance Off Troup, also represented Parramatta West. Congratulations all.

Zone athletics

This Thursday our team will be competing in the field events, and next Monday the track events. Mr Budden and Ms McSpadden will be taking them. We have some hard working athletes who will make us proud. Thank you to the teachers for their support.

Kindergarten 2016 Information Night

This is on this Wednesday from 6.00pm in the kindergarten rooms in E block. There will be childcare available, but we do need to know numbers. Please let anyone in your neighbourhood know if they have not yet enrolled. Then the transition program starts next Friday.

Road Safety

We now have a policeman who is regularly patrolling our school. He has four schools that he is responsible for, so we can expect him at least once a week. I know that there are parents who have already been booked for illegal parking and driving around the school. Don't be the next one. More importantly though, is the need to keep our children safe. Please do not call children across the road between traffic, do not perform U-turns, do not double park .... If you need to park a short distance away and walk to school to collect your children, you will all be safe, and you will become healthier through a bit of extra exercise! Please also discuss with your children safe behavior around the roads - holding on to balls rather than playing with them as they walk is very important. There was a situation last week when a ball rolled under a car, and a child went under to retrieve it. The car was not moving, but this was potentially an extremely dangerous situation. Thank you.

Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Class Awards

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Library News

- Bookclub is due back to school by Tuesday 25th August. Please use the order form in the brochure.
- When overdue notices are given out please do not hesitate to inform me if there is an issue. They are usually a reminder that the child has a book that needs to be returned.
- Next Monday at 2-15pm you are welcome to join our Parent workshop. We will be discussing the struggling readers.
- Thank you everyone who supported the book fair. We made $700 commission which will be spent on more library books.
- Don’t forget to send in your photos - I have some but I would love more to cover the foyer. Photos of children reading - What a joy!

Mrs Sell
Class News

Kindergarten

This Thursday Kindergarten will be running a cake stall to raise money for the Year 6 graduation. It would be great if you can help us by providing some small baked goods to sell at recess and lunch. A note went home last Friday providing details of what would be appropriate to bring. If you are bringing something, please drop it into the Kindergarten classrooms before school on Thursday.

This Friday KA will be hosting the assembly. Mrs Armour will be practicing with those students who are talking at the assembly. Parents are welcome to attend, the assembly starts at 11:15 on Friday.

Miss Richards

Year 1 and Year 2

The Year 2 students had a wonderful day last week on their excursion to Centennial Parklands. The weather was perfect and is was a very interesting and informative day.

Tomorrow is Year 1’s excursion to Centennial Parklands. Please make sure your child is at school on time with their fruit break, recess, lunch and a water bottle in a plastic bag or small back pack. School uniform and their school hat is a must.

Parents, I hope you are thinking of some good costumes for the book parade next week!

Year 3

It's hard to believe that we are already half-way through Term 3! We have lots of exciting events coming up in this half of the term. As the days are getting warmer, students are starting to peel off their jumpers during the day. Please make sure everything is labelled clearly with their name and class so jumpers, lunch boxes, drink bottles, hats, etc. can make their way back to you!

Congratulations to those students who will be representing Parramatta West at the Zone Athletics Carnivals. Make sure you have returned your permission slip and are prepared for the carnivals. Good luck!

Book Week is in Week 7. Today your child will bring home a note about our Book Week excursion to Merrylands Library. This is a free excursion and students will be walking to and from Merrylands Library on Tuesday 25th August. On Thursday 27th August we will be holding a Book Character Parade at school - who will you come dressed as?

Have a fantastic week!
Miss Stuart

Year 4 and Year 5

I would like to wish all the children who will be participating in the zone athletics carnival the best of luck. A reminder that the field events will be held this Thursday and permission / bus money will need to be returned to attend.

Well done to all the students who have read a book and posted a comment on the reading blog in the past week. There were also a lot of students posting samples of their work on to their class learning blogs. If you haven't had a chance, ask your child to log on and show you their learning blogs.

Enjoy the week,
Mr Clarke

Year 6

With Book Week approaching it is time to start thinking about book character costumes. The students in Year 6 have been celebrating books throughout the year and are looking forward to getting dressed up as their favourite book character. Miss McSpadden, Miss Stuart and myself can't wait either.

A reminder that we have 2 excursions planned for next week's Book Week celebrations. We will be heading to Merrylands Library for a closer look at this year's prize winning books and we will also be catching the bus into the Seymour Centre to see Andy Griffith's play '52 Storey Tree House.' What an exciting week for our students.

The canteen is now open. Students a reminded to order their lunch rather than buying snacks during their lunch break. There are still a number of students who do not have a healthy lunch each day.

Do you know how many novels your child has read so far this year? It is really important to keep asking this question. Many students have either reached their 40 book target already or are almost there. Keep pushing your children to reach this goal and strive to build reading stamina!

Mrs Rhodes
Sports News

Lovely warm weather last week let us enjoy another great week of sport. Wednesday saw 3-6 students compete in our final athletics event, the high jump. Mr Roux, Mr Ta and Mr Clarke took students to the field to compete. The competition was just getting serious when a little wind and a down pour halted the event. Mr Budden finalised the competition on Friday morning, congratulations to all who competed. Notes went home on Friday for our top athletes who have gained a position to represent Parramatta West in the next level of competition at the zone carnival. Parents please read the notes carefully, note the dates and return the signed permission slips immediately. Should your child be unable to attend please let Mr Budden know immediately so another student can have the opportunity.

We had home games for PSSA and all teams put up a great fight with individuals achieving personal bests. Well done Parramatta West. Keep up that sportsmanship and team spirit. It is a close competition in all areas and I hear we have a good chance of having teams in the finals. Keep training hard and playing well.

K-2 students have enjoyed sessions of games, working with equipment to develop throwing, catching, batting and kicking skills. They have also enjoyed a workout in our new play area in the lower playground, where they have negotiated beams, benches, platforms, stepping stones, walking paths/trails, sandpits, trenches, forts and corrals.

Our whole school gymnastics program has continued with students learning and revising rotation skills of rolling, twisting and tumbling. These skills build on the foundation skills of body awareness, balance, landings and take offs where students use 'the pencil', 'motor bike' and other body formations.

Don't forget our 'Fruit and Veggie Month' focus is starting soon. This is to highlight healthy eating habits and create awareness of the health benefits of eating fruit and vegetables. Our new canteen has many fruit and veggie items on its sale list, so think healthy as you order lunches and buy recess snacks. Use this time to introduce new fruits and vegetables to the family menu, you'll be surprised at the development your child's tastes. Year 4 had fun last week in their 'Week of Tastes' activities where they tasted unfamiliar and new flavours that had new and favourite textures. Year 4 were wowed by Gavin the Beekeeper and his assistant Leila as they learnt about bees and how honey is made and harvested. They tasted three different honeys where the flavour and texture was very different. Kindergarten is enjoying their sessions of cooking each week as they cook and taste new and favourite foods. Encourage your child to be adventurous and healthy in their eating.

Science Club excursion

On Wednesday 12th August, Mrs Batac and Mrs Knedl took the Stage 2 and Stage 3 Science Club students to the Science Festival held at the Australian Museum. It was such a great experience. We were able to learn more about the dinosaurs, Australian animals, insects, rocks and minerals. We also attended an interactive show based on the Pacific Islands. Here we learnt about culture, music, traditions and history. As it is the Year of The Light, we were lucky enough to be shown how to weave our own bracelets, using a special ribbon with dichroic qualities. We learnt that the dichroic material selectively passes light of a small range of colours, while reflecting other colours. As you can see from the photos, the students worked very hard and made some beautiful bracelets.
Science Club News

NSW Crystal Growing Competition 2015

Mrs Batac and Mrs Knedl would like to extend their congratulations to all Stage 3 Science Club students who proudly represented Parramatta West Public School in the NSW Crystal Growing competition that was conducted by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI).

We would like to congratulate all the students, for the effort, engagement and passion put towards the process of making alum crystals. All the crystals were judged for their clarity and shape.

We are exceptionally proud to announce that three teams have qualified for the finals (Robert and Jerico from 5M, James and Daniel from 5C, and Purva and Harrison form 6S) in the 4-6 Class Division.

Special mention goes to Purva and Harrison as their crystal was highly commended by the team of RACI scientist for its clarity and shape.

We are very proud of all of you and thank you so much for your dedication, passion and enthusiasm that you have displayed in our Science Club. We wish you all great scientific endeavours in your future!

The winners will be announced in the RACI September's Newsletter official website. For more information follow the link: http://www.raci.org.au/branches/nsw-branch

‘Reading Eggspress’ Changes

Dear Parents and Students

As you may have noticed there have been changes to how the program looks visually but it is essentially the same only easier to navigate. Comprehension for young children who are already into Reading Eggspress has been modified to suit the younger age group.

And for all parents, this is a reminder about the Reading Eggs program which school fees have covered. The school is able to access this program for the students at a very special price. It is a worthwhile resource to encourage your child to participate in on a regular basis. Remember to visit all aspects of the program. Many users only use one or two sections.

In Reading Eggspress there is a fun ‘apartment and shopping mall’ section in the floating island where students can use their tokens to buy for and furnish their virtual apartment. Creating an online world is a big motivator for students and is also a part of students’ understanding of how computers work.

Their online library has over 2,000 books.

If you have any questions please refer them to the office who will pass them on to me. I have assisted a number of parents thus far and am happy to assist more.

Pia Yallouris
Reading Eggs Co-ordinator