Parramatta West
A NSW Public School
Quality Diversity Success

Principal's message

Parramatta West has just found yet another area in which to excel - Paper Plane flight! Up against 800 students, Vraj won the competition for the longest flight time with 11.9 seconds! I don’t know when you last flew a paper plane - but I know I can’t get one to stay in the air for more and 2 or 3 seconds! Congratulations to all the boys who participated, we had some other excellent results for accuracy from Vraj and Arvin, thank you to the parents who took their children along, and to Ms Knedl for organising our children for the event.

On Tuesday this week we will have our children performing at The Riverside Theatre in the Celebrating the Arts concert. Congratulations to our choir, stage 2 and 3 dancers and the drumming circle, which I know will be the stars of the night! I am looking forward to being a very proud principal in the audience - on nights like this I feel as though I have a very large family of children. Thank you to the teachers who put in all the extra work to get the children to performance standard - Miss Arnold, Miss Liu (Mrs Franklin), Miss Stuart and Mrs Rhodes, and all the parents for supporting their children's participation.

Book Week Parade

Thank you to all the parents who assisted their children to dress up for Book Week last week. There were some fantastic creative creations - well done. I know that the children enjoyed themselves - possibly as much as the teachers!

NAPLAN 2015

While at Parramatta West we ensure that children receive a well-rounded education, and we enjoy providing them with additional opportunities as they arise, we certainly do not neglect the basics.

This year our children excelled in their NAPLAN assessments. Parents will have received their children's individual results, and are welcome to discuss these with the teachers if they see the need - remembering that these were sat back in May, and the children have made improvements since then.

As a group, our year 5 children excelled. In all areas - reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and numeracy, our children performed well above the state levels. We know that this cohort of children did well in year 3 - although there have been some children come and some leave us - but they have continued their growth well above state levels to set a very high standard.

Our Year 3 children also performed well above state level in their spelling and their writing. Their reading level is making good improvements. Where we need to work is in the areas of punctuation and grammar, and numeracy. These areas are understandably hard for our young children who are still learning English at an academic level. We believe that as they make improvements in their reading comprehension, this will also impact on their numeracy. So much of the numeracy is actually understanding the question, rather than the ability to calculate. Parents can assist us by encouraging their children to read regularly, talking to them about their reading and the meaning of...
words, and giving them experiences that help to broaden their vocabulary.

Book Swap

Please see Mrs Sell's note below - this is a great opportunity to get some new books into your household, clear out the ones your children have finished with, and help children who have little access to books.

Student and Administration and Support Staff Recognition Week

This week we recognize our office, grounds and learning support staff. Without these wonderful people many things in our school just wouldn't happen. From ensuring that our grounds are safe and looked after, to looking after sick children, assisting children with their work in class, supporting parents and children who don’t speak English, paying the bills, copying the worksheets, accessioning books to the library, covering books, counting money, typing notes, booking buses, building cupboards and garden beds, ordering equipment... the list just goes on and on. This week the children will be finding their own ways to thank these people. Parents might like to join in.

As we move into Spring and warmer weather, please remember to label your children’s jumpers. They often come to school wearing them, and take them off during the day, leaving them all over the school. If they are labeled, we can make sure they get them back!

Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Class Awards

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Class News

Kindergarten

Last Thursday's book parade was amazing! Thank you to all the Kindergarten parents who helped make sure their children had a costume. It was an exciting day for students and teachers!

This Friday KS will be hosting the assembly, Miss Arnold and her class have been practising ready to run the assembly. Miss Arnold will let parents know which children are presenting this week. The assembly starts at 11:15 in the school hall on Friday.

Please make sure that your children are coming to school with clean uniforms and hair. The last few weeks it has been getting warmer and the children have been doing more running around in the playground. All this means that at times the school uniforms need more regular washing.

Miss Richards

Year 1 and Year 2

The Book Week parade last Thursday was a great success with lots of children participating. Well done everyone who dressed up!

Year 1 and Year 2 are enjoying reading fairy tales and their news this week is to share a fairy tale or story from their cultural.

Last week we has assessments during our Gym classes.

Year 3

What a great week we had celebrating books last week! Despite the rain we were lucky to have Merrylands Library visit us on Wednesday, followed by a fabulous Book Character Parade on Thursday.

Good luck to those Year 3 students who are performing at the Riverside Theatre tomorrow night in the Celebrating The Arts Festival. Make sure those students performing in the dance group and choir have all of your things organised for your performance. It will be a great night!

We are looking forward to our excursion to the Sydney Observatory and the Powerhouse Museum on Tuesday 15th September. Please make sure you return your permission slip as soon as possible and have made payments towards the Enrichment Program which covers the cost of the excursion and bus travel.

Have a wonderful week everyone!
Miss Stuart

Year 4 and Year 5

As part of the school enrichment program we will be attending a performance of Roald Dahl’s 'The Witches' at Riverside Theatre. Children will need to have returned their permission note and have either paid or are paying their enrichment money. Please see your child's teacher or myself if you have any questions about the excursion.

Don't forget it is imperative that your child is reading every day and that you are discussing the books being read.

Enjoy the week,
Mr Clarke
Year 6

CONGRATULATIONS to our five Year 6 boys who competed in the Young Scientist Paper Planes Challenge at Sydney University on Saturday. Miss Stuart, Miss McSpadden and I went along to watch and we were so impressed! The boys participated with spirit and competed with outstanding sportsmanship.

* Abhi, Vraj and Zahren all threw one of the top 6 distances in their heats.
* Arvin and Vraj WON the accuracy competition.
* Vraj was the WINNER of the Air Time category.

What a fabulous day! We congratulate:

Meet - 6M
Arvin - 5/6R
Abhi - 6S
Vraj - 6M
Zharen - 6S

This week we will send our second group of students along to celebrate their 40 Book Challenge success with Mrs Donaldson. They will be presented with their special bookmark and will have the opportunity to talk about their journey.

The school 'Book Swap' is on this week. Please take this opportunity to swap books that your kids have read with ones that they haven't read yet. It is for a good cause and will support young people that don't have any books to read.

Next week we will be heading to the Seymour Centre for our excursion to see '52 Storey Tree House.' All the students are looking forward to seeing this much loved book on the stage.

What a great year we are having!

Mrs Rhodes

Library News

- This is our last week to borrow - next week please return everything.
- Don't forget everyone needs a library bag so books are not damaged in your school bag.
- Overdue notices will be given out soon so if there are any issues please contact me.
- We are having a BOOK SWAP! Bring in any book you would like to donate. Any book you are willing to give away. It must be in good condition. Bring it to the library and there can be as many as you like. In week 10 we will be charging a gold coin for you to come into the library at lunchtime and choose a book. It will cost you another gold coin to choose again.

Sports News

Congratulations to our Athletes who competed at Zone Events and did their best, some in the rain! Congratulations to those who are going on to the next level and big congratulations to Chance for his Record breaking efforts.

PSSA teams had a bye last week and got in some good training for the finals battle that is about to begin. Good luck to those teams competing in the finals of our winter sports. Next term we will resume the second half of our summer competition.

Most students completed their assessment activities at Gymnastics last week, the coaches were impressed with the results. Gymnastics continues this week with revision of skills and new skills. Remember to wear the correct clothing on your day.

School sport was enjoyed by all even though we had to share areas so our PSSA teams could have an intensive practise session for the finals.

Don't forget it is FRUIT and VEG Month, we are in our second week and classes are tallying types of fruits and veg eaten by students, other classes are having tastes of different fruit and vegies and we are eagerly watching the growth of produce in our PWPS kitchen garden.

Make sure you are enjoying some outdoor action with your children so they can record their extra activities on their Premier's Sporting Challenge tally cards along with school sporting activities.

P & C News

Father's Day stall on Wednesday. Please bring you money in an envelope and a plastic bag.

COMMONWEALTH BANK SCHOOL BANKING UPDATE - Concerns have been raised regarding the 'Cosmic Light Beam Torch' reward item due to the inclusion of four button batteries that can be accessed by unscrewing the back of the torch.

Whilst this reward has been independently tested and deemed to meet relevant product standards the Commonwealth Bank have made the decision to proactively withdraw this item from the School Banking Rewards Program.

Parents/Guardians are requested to dispose of any 'Cosmic Light Beam Torches' their child may have already received as part of the Rewards Program. Students who have previously received a 'Cosmic Light Beam Torch' are welcome to redeem an alternative reward item.
2015 Young Scientist Paper Plane Challenge

Congratulations to all of the Stage 3 students (Zahren, Meet, Arvin, Abhi and Vraj) who participated in the 2015 Young Scientist Paper Plane Challenge at The Sydney University on Saturday 29th of August. They were competing against 800 students from over 100 schools across NSW who qualified for the challenge.

Two of our students, Arvin and Vraj have won The Most Accurate Throw Challenge. Their planes managed to score a direct hit at the designated target. Our students have won one of the books written by Carmel Morris, the top-selling paper plane author.

We are all proud of all of you! It was an amazing day full of excitement and fantastic activities at The Sydney University. Our students had the privilege to learn from one of the best Paper Plane Pilots Dylan Parker and James Norton, how to design and fold their planes in order to maximise air time.

Special congratulations go to Vraj from 6M who won the longest airtime challenge with the winning time of 11.9 seconds! He is the Airtime Champion in the 2015 Young Scientist Paper Plane Challenge!

Special thanks go to all the Stage 3 teachers (Miss McSpadden, Miss Stuart and Mrs Rhodes) and proud parents who came and supported their children during such an amazing and inspiring event.

All the best to all of you boys as you have proved that practice makes perfect.

And last but not least keep an eye out for an article on the Paper Plane Challenge in Monday’s or Tuesday’s Daily Telegraph Newspaper.

Mrs Knedl