Principal's message

Welcome back to all our returning families - and welcome to Parramatta West all our new ones! It is lovely to see you again and to see the children ready for another year of learning excitement. The teachers are developing lots of interesting plans to cater for the needs of our children and it will be another busy and full year.

We are still enrolling new children and welcoming returning families. Once all our kindergarten children have started tomorrow and we are more settled with our numbers, we will know how many classes we can form, and will be able to put children into their new classes. This will happen as soon as possible, but please be patient, as we do not want to create them and then change them later if at all possible. We had more children move out of the area over the holidays than expected.

This year we welcome some new teachers to our "family". Ray Edwards, Deslie Jameson, Jackie Kay, Marie Bou-Haroun, Amanda Tanceski.

I would also like to tell you about our extended family - the new babies that arrived over the holidays. Mrs Armour had a little girl - Emily, and Ms Grammat a boy - Samuel. They are all doing well, and will visit us later on.

Meet the Teacher nights

These will be held in week 4 - more details will follow shortly. This year we are changing the format to focus on providing parents with more information on different topics as the year goes on. The first topic will be reading - which is of course at the core of all learning at school.

NAPLAN

Mrs Sell will be running a parent information session on NAPLAN on Monday 8th February from 2pm in the library.

The NAPLAN assessments occur during week 3 of term 2 for all children in years 3 and 5. While they are important, they are only a small part of our assessment process at Parramatta West. It is helpful if parents understand the requirements so that you and your children do not stress too much about them. The most valuable thing that parents can do to assist their children is to encourage daily reading for longer periods of time.

Uniform Shop

The mums are working hard to cater for all our new enrolments. While some sizes have run out, they are expecting more this week. Parents may put in an order any time and you will be informed when they have arrived.

Opening hours for February are attached to this newsletter.

Please make sure that you LABEL EVERYTHING! Especially lunch boxes, drink bottles, hats and jumpers. Those labels need to be checked regularly, as they do wash off in time.

This year I will be working for 4 days per week. On Thursdays I will be looking after my Grand daughter, assisting my daughter as she returns to work herself. Mr Ta will be acting principal in my absence, and Mrs Rhodes will be DP.

If parents have any questions at any time, please ask a teacher, the office or Mr Ta, Mrs Rhodes or myself. Small problems are best resolved when they are small, rather than waiting until they become big issues. Why not come along to the first Parents and Citizens’ (P&C) meeting next Tuesday - 9th Feb - from 9.00am.

Let's have a wonderful year together!
Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Library News

Yes we are borrowing this week so please have a library bag ready.

We will be having a quick book fair in Week 4 so start saving your pocket money.

Any books overdue are still overdue so please return them or pay for them.

Bookclub is due by 9th February 2016.

Mrs Sell
Governor General Australia Day Address

Parramatta West was lucky enough to have 8 students attend the official Australia Day Governor General's address at Admiralty House. At this event they had a tour of Admiralty House, had morning tea and met both the Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove. These students were asked earlier in the year to submit a video message discussing their hopes and dreams for Australia's future, which they also discussed with the Governor General on the day. Segments of these speeches were then played on the ABC. They had such a great day and enjoyed meeting Governor General with members of their family.

Taekwondo Classes

Want your child to learn to defend themselves? Could your child do with a self-confidence boost so they can avoid the bullies at school? We work with our students on a physical and cognitive level to get results. Classes run for a 1hr period. In this time students will undertake a variety of form techniques, stretches, punching and kicking techniques. Classes are conducted in a pleasant and positive atmosphere catering for children through to adults. Family's welcome.

Monday & Thursdays: Parramatta West Public School
Corner Franklin & Young St Parramatta
Time 5:30pm - 6.30pm or 6:45pm - 7:45pm

For more details, contact Sa-Beom-Nim Michael on 0409 928 534 Email info@powerwithpurpose.com.au
* 5th Dan WTF Australian Tae Kwon Do Academy Certified.
* 5th Dan WTF Korean Kukkiwon Certified.
* Certificate IV in Fitness. *Senior First Aid Certified.
* Diploma of Counselling

Visit our website www.powerwithpurpose.com.au

Northmead Creative & Performing Arts H.S.

Application are available at our school's office for Year 6 students wishing to apply for the Higher Ability Selection Test for the Gifted and Talented Academic Program at Northmead High School. Test date is Thursday 24th March 2016.