



Principal's Message

It was lovely to see so many parents attending our meetings last week. I hope that you now have a greater understanding about how we teach reading at school, and how you can assist your children with this important skill. It really does form the basis of all their learning. I hope that parents will be encouraging their children to meet their reading targets this year. If children are struggling to find appropriate books, please talk to Mrs Sell or their class teacher.

These are the percentages of parents in each year group who attended the meetings:

Kindergarten	62%
Year 1	47%
Year 2	40%
Year 3	42%
Year 4	48%
Year 5	27%
Year 6	43%
MC	36%

Whooping Cough

This potentially dangerous disease is around in our area. With this newsletter is an information sheet. Please see your doctor if your child has any of the symptoms. If you have preschoolers, I encourage you to get them immunized as per the advised schedule.

Danger on the roads

The streets around our school can be extremely dangerous. As we grow this is becoming worse and worse. I received a call from the RTA last week. They have been monitoring our school and have identified many parents who simply do not follow the road rules and are endangering our children.

PLEASE THINK about what you are doing. PLEASE THINK about all the children, not just your own and your need to be somewhere in a hurry. You CANNOT double park and call your children to your car in the middle of the road. You CANNOT stop on the crossing. You CANNOT park in people's driveways or the school driveway.

What CAN you do? If you live reasonable close - WALK! The exercise is good for you and your children. If you live a bit further away, drive and park a few blocks away and walk safely to school. Once upon a time here, and still in many countries of the world, children walk long distances to school. It won't hurt them!!

Your children, and everyone else's, will be much safer if the majority of people are leaving school on foot. Let's keep the cars away.

Useful Apps

I hope by now that all parents with smart phones or tablets have downloaded the school app through tiqbiz. If you can't find it, please ask how.

There are two other apps that will give you useful information about schooling. They are: School A to Z and Learning Potential. If you look for either of these on the app store or playstore you should find them. They will give you tips and ideas that may answer some of your questions. Of course teachers and office staff are always ready to answer your questions too.

Extra activities

We have lots of exciting opportunities available at our school for your children. With this newsletter is a timetable of when all these current activities take place. There will be additional opportunities later in the year. Most activities are by audition or by teachers nominating children who have shown an interest in an area. Some groups are by invitation. There are obviously limits on numbers in any group. While a child may be disappointed not to get into a particular group, parents should remember that all children will participate in all the creative arts - dance, drama, art and music, as well as sport, science and computer studies within their class times, so will be developing their skills ready for future opportunities. Other children may not want to take part in an extra lunchtime activity, preferring instead to play in the playground.

Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Home Readers

Home Readers are out and each child has a reading book to read each night. Parents, please make sure that you sign the Reading Log each night and return to School. If it is not signed then we cannot change your child's book. Thank you for Parent Helpers who volunteered last week. Parent Helpers are essential to make the Home Reading Program possible. If you can help any morning after the assembly, please come to the Uniform shop. It would be much appreciated. Thank you.

P & C and Home Reader Volunteers

News

Kindergarten

We were very happy to see so many interested parents come to "Meet the Teacher" night and we hope that you got some of your questions answered, and learnt about how we teach reading in Kindergarten. We would like to say a big "Thank You" to the parents who have volunteered to help in the classes, we really appreciate it!

If you would like to ask specific questions about your child, you can arrange a meeting time with your classroom teacher, as morning lines or afternoon pick-ups are not the best time to discuss important matters.

This week sees all Kindergarten students begin their topic talks. A note was sent home stating what day is their day to present to the class. It is free choice this term, so that the students can get used to speaking in front of their peers.

Miss Richards

Year 1 and Year 2

Thank you to all the families that were able to attend our 'Learn about reading and meet the teacher' night last Monday. It was great to share some tips about reading with you and show you what we do at school to support your child's reading skills.

A reminder that homework is due on Thursdays each week. If there are questions about part of the homework, please don't wait until it's handed in, ask early. We're happy to help!

Congratulations to our Year 2 SRC representatives who had their induction today at our Investiture Assembly. We're sure they will be fantastic in their roles!

Have a fantastic week!

Miss Langhans

Year 3

Thank you to all parents who attending our 'Learn about Reading and Meet the Teacher' session last Wednesday. It was fantastic to see so many parents there and I hope you gained a lot from our reading session. I hope the questioning ideas will help you when discussing books with your children at home. Thank you to those parents who have already returned their Edmodo permission slips and have responded to whether or not they wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.

It was a pleasure to read students' homework this week and what a fantastic effort for our first homework challenge of the year! If your child has any questions about homework, please see your child's teacher asap so they can answer any questions for you and offer help. Remember that homework is due on Thursday!

A reminder that every day your child must have a hat and a drink bottle, this is particularly important on Fridays when the children play sport. Students are unable to play at lunch / recess or during sport if they do not have a hat. Please encourage your child to be organised and have these essential items every day, especially on sport day!

Have a wonderful week!

Miss Stuart

Year 4 and Year 5

I would like to thank all the parents and caregivers who came to Meet The Teacher / Reading meeting last Wednesday. The videos shown will be uploaded on to a school website soon. Most routines including sport, library, homework and interest groups are now established. If you have questions about school please contact your child's teacher or myself to clarify things.

Finally, have you been discussing the formative maths assessments that are sent with your child? These are a great way to stay informed of the topics being covered and how your child is performing.

Have a great week!

Mr Clarke

Year 6

What a wonderful afternoon we had celebrating our new school leaders, many of whom are our Year 6 students. We know that will uphold the values we hold important at Parramatta West PS. Our 10 school leaders will be attending the GRIP Leadership Conference on Monday 7th March to learn more about leadership.

The year 6 teachers have been very impressed with the standard of the homework in the very first week. The children have been challenging themselves to mix their own knowledge with research and present their work with pride. Inside the front or back cover of their homework book is a feedback sheet. This will inform you if their homework was complete and the amount of effort demonstrated. On "Feedback Fridays" we will be asking the children to self reflect on their homework and to think about what is motivating them to complete the tasks. Is an adult, such as a parent or teacher motivating them, or are they motivated to complete the work themselves? We want our students to be intrinsically motivated - be proud of their work, complete it without reminders and to think about how their work connects to other areas of learning.

It is at this time of the year that Year 6 students and parents need to make decisions about HIGH SCHOOL. We will be holding an information session on:

Wednesday March 2nd at 6.30pm in the school library.

The aim of this session is to guide parents on how to fill out the

Year 6 cont

'High School Expression of Interest Form,' and discuss high school options. Please put this date in your diary.

Have you seen our Year 6 notice board in F Block? We will use this board to keep students updated on important dates, share great work and highlight impressive students! Please have a look next time you walk by.

Don't forget to ask your child how many books they have read towards their reading target of 40 books! They need our support and yours to get there!

Mrs Rhodes

Library News

Thank you to everyone who supported the bookfair. Each book sold helps us buy more books for the Library.

Don't forget that all children need a library bag to borrow. A plastic bag is not enough and a proper library bag is more reliable.

Class Awards

KA	Adhiraj	KH	Andrej
KK	Mobin	KL	Abdulrahman
KN	Frida	KR	Kaan
KS	Ryan	1F	Sereen
1G	Ecrin	1H	Shulamit
1J	Hetvi	1L	Ahmad
1/2A	Arif	2B	Makadee
2H	Damion	2L	Yousef
2N	Rahil	2/3S	Hajin
3B	Rishtya	3K	Priyam
4/4A	Nadije	4H	Teleah
4S	Sabowoon	4/5C	Omar
5M	Chinson	5/6J	Sean
6M	Daniel	6R	Nairmeen
MCT	Vinayak		

Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School

OPEN DAY Tuesday 8th March 2016

Year 6 students entering Year 7, 2017 & Year 5 students (Year 7, 2018)

Student Morning session 9.15am - 1.00pm

Evening session 5.00pm - 7.00pm - School tour and open house.

7.00pm - 8.00pm - Formal presentation in the hall.

Enrolments for Years 8-12, welcome.

AUDITIONS FOR YEARS 7 to 12, 2017

Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School has a long tradition as a centre of excellence in the Creative and Performing Arts. An exciting opportunity is available for talented students to audition for placement in our outstanding CAPA programs.

Students in the specialised streams are afforded a wide range of opportunities to excel in their chosen field with extensive co-curricular programs and a whole school approach to fostering our gifted students' talents.

Auditions will be held for Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Arts on Monday 14th to Friday 18th March 2016. The cost of auditions is \$50.00.

Applications close and forms need to be submitted to NCAPAHS by Monday 7th March 2016.

For application forms, please contact Mrs Stepic on 9630 4116. Forms can also be obtained via our school website.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Year 7 Scholarships

- " Creative and Performing Arts
- " Academic
- " Sporting

GIFTED & TALENTED ACADEMIC PLACEMENT TEST FOR 2017

Date: Thursday 24th March 2016 at 9.00am

Cost: \$65.00 payable to Front Office by Wednesday 16th March.

Principal: Narelle Vazquez

www.northmead-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

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