



Principal's Message

It was lovely to see so many of the Year 6 parents last week preparing to fill in their children's high school application forms. This is an exciting time, if rather nerve wracking as well. Please ask for help if you need it. I always think that the best way to find out about a school is to visit it. You can get a very good feeling about a school by watching the people as you arrive, and the reception you receive at the school office.

Schoolkids Bonus

This is an automatic payment if you receive the family tax benefit part A for a child in primary or secondary school and meet the income test. However, it is being phased out, and this July will be the final instalment. If you are eligible, and not currently receiving it, I encourage you to at least apply for this one.

International Women's Day

On March 8th we celebrate International Women's Day around the world. This year the theme is "Pledge for Parity". In a survey of 145 countries around the world, Australia is ranked 36th in the scale comparing all aspects of parity, from education, life expectancy, income parity and involvement in politics. While women in Australia are involved in tertiary education in high numbers, they do not have earning equality - they are not, in many jobs, paid the same for doing the same as men. Women are not as represented in the "top jobs" as men, and are very low down when it comes to political power. At Parramatta West we want to prepare all our students to do whatever they want in life, and not be limited by societal expectations, their own expectations, or false "glass ceilings". The world is changing, and we want them to be ready for it.

Attendance

Children with poor attendance find it very difficult to keep up with both their work and the social connections in the class. When a child is away for one day, it takes about 3 days to catch up. Primary school is the time to set routines. While children do get sick, and some more than others, if they have "recovered" by 9.30am, they probably weren't that sick, and should be brought to school. Then parents may question the sickness the next time it appears. If a child is reluctant to come to school on a particular day, there may be something troubling them. In this case, please seek help from the class teacher, Mr Ta or Mrs Donaldson. We also have school counselors at school on on Tuesdays and Fridays - Sharon Donnelly, Wednesday - Jackie Vos, who may be able to help or provide advice.

Ethics Classes

We have a teacher! This week I will again send home notes to children in years 1-6 who attend non-scripture classes. Please return them if you would like your child to attend ethics classes instead of non-scripture. Even if you sent this note back last year, I would like you to confirm your decision. We should have enough children in years 1 and 2, but would like a few more from years 3-6. At this stage we cannot offer the ethics classes to Kindergarten unless we find another teacher. We plan for the classes to start next term during scripture time. A second teacher would be helpful anyway, to support the one parent who has currently offered. The curriculum is written, and full training and support provided. If you are interested in becoming an ethics teacher, please let the office know. If you want to know more about the ethics classes, follow this link. www.primaryethics.com.au

P&C Meeting

Our annual general meeting, and March monthly meeting, is on tomorrow from 9.00am in the staff room. All parents are welcome to come along. This is a good opportunity to meet people, ask questions, and find out what is going on. I look forward to seeing lots of parents there.

Mrs Donaldson
Principal

Class Awards

KA	Fadel	KH	Muhammed
KK	Anushka	KL	Ansh
KN	Keziah	KR	Sohail
KS	Kesitaike	1F	Aarya
1G	Rhysabella	1H	Zishan
1J	Joelle	1L	Harry
1/2A	Vishishth	2B	Tirth
2H	Makani	2L	Ahad
2N	Shloka	2/3S	Cooper
3B	Isaac	3K	Manni
3/4A	Abigail	4H	Vanessa
4S	Elein	4/5C	Trinadee
5M	Benita	5/6J	Nataly
6M	Sasha	6R	Melike
MCG	Talal	MCS	Tyler
MCT	Saran		

Stage News

Kindergarten

Last week and this week in Maths we have been learning about positional language. This language is important as a mathematical concept but also to communicate with others. You could discuss with your children the following terms at home "in, out, between, over, under, near, far and next to".

Next week we will be having our "Teddy Bears Picnic". This will be when we introduce "crunch and sip" to our Kindergarten students. Crunch and sip is an opportunity to stop at 10am to take a quick break and have a healthy snack. A note was sent home about the Picnic with all the details. It should be a fun morning!

Miss Richards

Year 1 and Year 2

Wow! Can you believe we're already in week 7? This term has flown by! We love learning about different insects and arachnids. Ask us about what we're learning this week!

Next Tuesday is a special day for K-2. We're having a Teddy Bears Crunch 'n' Sip Picnic to raise money for the Children's Hospital at Westmead for Bandage Bear Day. We're asking that students bring a gold coin donation and a teddy bear to school that day. We will be having our picnic with our Crunch 'n' Sip snacks (fruit and vegetables only). Students can bring a blanket/rug to sit on as we will be outside if weather permits.

Don't forget to return your library books each week on the designated class day. Year 2 students need to make sure they're borrowing books for their target reading challenge.

Have a great week everyone!

Miss Langhans

Year 3

It has been a pleasure seeing the initiative Year 3 students are taking with their homework each week. Homework challenges promote creativity and students have been receiving feedback each week on their homework. Ask your child what they need to do to improve their homework. If they have any questions about homework, make sure they ask their teacher before Thursday so they can complete their homework successfully at home.

Most students have already completed reading at 1-2 books as part of the reading challenge which is great to see. All children should be reading for 15-20 minutes each night as part of their homework. Make sure you ask your child questions about what they are reading and where they are up to!

Thank you to those parents who have already paid their Enrichment money, or have made payments towards this. You have the year to pay it off but it is best to start now! If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher.

Have a wonderful week! Miss Stuart

Year 4 and Year 5

Have you been looking for opportunities to talk to your child about their learning? Three great topics that can help these conversations are the weekly homework tasks, the '40 Book Reading Challenge', and the maths pre & post assessment tasks. Spending a few minutes each day talking about the learning which is occurring at school and this will help to consolidate the new skills, knowledge and understanding being developed.

This year students have access to Manga High to support their learning in maths. Please make sure your child has a copy of their user name and password at home so that can gain access.

Have a great week!

Mr Clarke

Year 6

Thank you to the parents who attended our 'High School Information Evening.' A reminder to parents that those forms **MUST** be returned by MARCH 18th. If you have any questions regarding the forms please don't hesitate to ask any of the year 6 teachers.

The High School Selective Test date is Thursday March 10th and parents should have received notification of the venue and time. Parents must make their own travel arrangements to the venue for this examination. The students will **NOT** be marked as absent on this day. Good luck!

This week students will receive information about the Year 5 and 6 Camp to 'The Great Aussie Bush Camp' in Tea Gardens, a 3 hour drive north of Sydney. There will be a limited amount of places (70) so it is important to place a deposit or the full amount as soon as possible if you would like your child to attend. Notes will be sent home with the children on Tuesday. The cost of the camp is \$300 and this can be paid in instalments over the course of the year. The dates are Wednesday October 12th - Friday October 14th.

Our 10 school leaders will be attending the 'Grip Leadership Conference' today at the States Sports Centre. We know that will represent our school well.

How many books has your child read now? Please ask them? We are proud to see our reader's challenging themselves in order to increase their reading stamina.

Mrs Rhodes

School Photos

School photos are being taken on 21st and 22nd March.

Your child will be told closer to the date which day their class will be.

Information for parents of a child with a disability

Most of the time, you know you are doing a good job with parenting. But there are times when things get a little tricky. Like when your toddler won't eat her dinner. Or your six year old won't share his toys. If only someone could give you some ideas to make those times easier! If this sounds like you, then a Stepping Stones Triple P seminar may be right for you.

As part of the Stepping Stones Triple P Project, Holroyd School invites all parents of children with a disability aged 2 to 12 to attend the following FREE parenting seminar series:

Seminar 1: Positive Parenting for Children with a Disability
Monday the 4th of April 2016, 9:30am-11:30am.

Seminar 2: Helping your Child reach their Potential
Monday the 2nd of May 2016, 9:30am-11:30am.

Seminar 3: Changing Problem Behaviour into Positive Behaviour
Monday the 16th of May 2016, 9:30am-11:30am.

Where: Holroyd School, Willara Avenue Merrylands.

RSVP: As these programs are being funded as part of a research project please contact Jay Dahl the Holroyd School Counsellor, who will register your interest with the research team.

Phone: 02 9637 1219
NSW Stepping Stones Triple P Research Team
(Positive Parenting Program)

Parramatta City Library

This Friday 11 March the following libraries will be closed :

Constitution Hill Library

Dundas Library

Ermington Library

Granville Library

Guildford Library

Parramatta Library, 1-3 Fitzwilliam Street, Parramatta will be OPEN on this Friday from 9.30 to 8pm.

Zone Swimming Carnival

Last Tuesday six students from Parramatta West attended the Zone Swimming Carnival at Parramatta Pool. At the carnival the students competed in their individual events with pride and great sportsmanship. It was wonderful to see the boys and girls congratulating each other after their events no matter the result. We are proud to take students to these special events as they represent what it means to be a PWPS student!

One the day, Kayla came third in the 12yrs 50m freestyle and 50m breaststroke. She will be competing in the regional carnival on the 24th March at Sydney Olympic Park. We wish her all the best and congratulate her on this wonderful achievement. Well done to Brock, Jai, Kayla, Crystal, Kaiden and Ajila for a wonderful day out.

