



### Principal's Message

I hope that families enjoyed the long weekend and were able to get out and about with the children in the sunshine. Next Sunday we are encouraging families with children in years 1 and 2 to go to Holroyd Gardens from 2.00pm to meet up and play with each other. The idea is that parents can also meet other parents, including the parents of their children's school friends, whom they may not know. All children in years 1 and 2 will receive an invitation with the details. It is a great park for playing in with lots of equipment and a bike track.

Do you sometimes have questions about parenting? Children don't come with instruction books, and just when we think we know what to do, something else happens to set us doubting ourselves again. The world is also changing rapidly, and we know that we need to prepare our children to cope with things that we didn't have to know about or worry about when we were children.

The kidsmatter website may be a useful source of information for you. I encourage you to have a look, even if right now everything is going smoothly, you may find ideas that will be useful when you need them in the future. There are tips on emotional development, resilience, play, and managing behavior, resolving conflict, cultural diversity, school refusal, body image, bullying and lots more. Have a look and see what you can find. [www.kidsmatter.edu.au](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au) Click on the families tab.

Have you been to our website recently? It is much more up to date now, and there are some lovely photos from Harmony Day there. We also have the main points of the newsletters there in Arabic and Farsi for you under the parents tab.

### P & C Meeting

Next Tuesday will be our last P&C meeting for this term. It is a week early (normally we meet on the second Tuesday of the month, but this time it falls in the school holidays). I encourage you to come along if you have a bit of time to spare, there is always interesting news to share with you.

### Learning Conversations

When was the last time that you talked to your children about their learning? I don't mean saying well done if they received an award or got full marks in a spelling test, I mean actually talked about their learning. The more children discuss the ideas that they are learning about, explain their thinking to someone else,

the better they will actually learn. This takes practice - from both parents and children. Try asking them things like, "What are you reading at the moment? Can you tell me what you like about the book? Why?" "What are you doing in maths at the moment? Are there any tricky bits? Can you explain what you are doing to me?" "What interesting things are you doing in science?" "Have you learnt something today that you didn't know before?"

Anthea Donaldson  
Principal

### Easter Ceremony

On Thursday 24th March, Parramatta West was rewarded with a special Easter Club Celebration.

They showcased the beautiful Easter murals they have been working on each Tuesday at lunch time with Mrs Knedl, Miss Jennens and Mrs Batac.

They then read about the meaning of Easter and how many people in Australia celebrate this Christian celebration.

The ceremony concluded with a whole school singing of "Here comes Peter Cotton Tail." (More photos on the last page).



## Stage News

### Kindergarten

I hope that everyone had a relaxing long weekend with your children. It has been such a busy first term for our Kindergarten students. The students have made huge improvements both in the classroom and on the playground! They are really learning to play with each other and be responsible for themselves.

The students are very enthusiastic about learning to read and the skills needed to help them with their reading. Please practise reading every night with your children. Ask them about what happened in the books, discuss the pictures and find the words that they already know. Most of all - read for enjoyment!

In mathematics this week and last week we have been discussing the questions of "which amount is bigger?", "what is one more than?" and "how many more are there?". These are questions you could ask your children in everyday situations, such as when you go to the supermarket or when you are cooking dinner. Keep the conversations happening!!

Enjoy the short week!  
Miss Richards

### Year 1 and Year 2

We hope everyone had a safe and happy long weekend. Only two weeks to go until school holidays! Homework is due on Friday this week.

Did you know that some year 2 students are nearly halfway to meeting their reading target of 40 books? Wow! Keep on reading!

Our Year 2 students (and 1/2A) had a fabulous learning experience at our Mini Beast incursion. We are sure that our Year 1 classes will have an amazing experience on Wednesday too!

Next Thursday it is 'Crazy hair Day'. More information will come soon but start planning your crazy hair ideas now. It's going to be a fun day!

Have a wonderful Week 10!  
Miss Langhans

### Year 3

I hope all of our families had a relaxing time over the Easter long weekend. We are looking forward to the last two weeks of Term 1!

This week's homework challenge asks your child to reflect on this term and their learning. It is important for our students to think about their successes as well as what has challenged them. By thinking about this, students are able to take charge of their learning and it helps them to understand themselves as a learner. I encourage you to talk to your children about their

successes in learning this term, as well as asking them about what they think they need to work on, and how they are going to get there.

Don't forget to ask your child how many books they have read so far! It is particularly impressive to see how our Year 3 students have embraced the reading challenge and are well on their way towards their 40 book target.

Have a fantastic week everyone!  
Miss Stuart

### Year 4 & Year 5

I hope that everyone had a great long weekend and are recharged for the last two weeks of term 1.

A note went home today about the University NSW competitions for mathematics, English, writing, spelling and science. Parents / caregivers who would like their child to participate in these competitions will need to return the note and the money for the entrance fee.

"Many hands make light work", we are always looking for parent volunteers to assist in class. If you have some spare time and would like to assist in term 2, please your child's teacher or myself.

Have a great week!  
Mr Clarke

### Year 6

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Easter long weekend. A reminder that this term is an 11 - week term so there are 2 weeks left at school before the break.

We are extremely proud of the students in 6M, 6R and 5/6J so far this year. They have studied hard in class time, shown initiative throughout the term and applied their learning in a range of settings. We are also impressed with the amount of students using Edmodo to strengthen their studies.

This week on Edmodo all students are required to complete an 'End of Term Reflection' with regards to their learning. It is of vital importance that students reflect on their learning and themselves as learning. Please support your child as they complete this reflection by encouraging detail and reflective thought.

Next Monday 4th April, all year 6 students will take part in a Growth Mindset Mini Conference in the school library from 9am - 2pm. This conference will be led by Mrs Donaldson and the Year 6 teachers. All students will need their own clipboard for the day.

Mathematics Focus Area

- Applying various mental mathematics properties
- Understanding multiplication properties and the relationship between the operations.

### Year 6 cont.....

As we come to the end of the term, how is your child going towards their 40 book challenge? Ideally for students to be successful they should be around the 10 book mark. Many students have surpassed this already, however some children are still under 5. Please support your child with this personal challenge. Reading is the key to literacy success!

Mrs Rhodes

### FREE Kid's Gardening Classes for 2016 at our Flower Power Garden Centres



Kids will appreciate the interactive workshop where they get to Plant, Explore and Learn about gardening. They will be taken on a tour of the nursery where they will marvel at the colour and variety of species, imitate a day in the garden by planting their own seedling and discover why autumn is the perfect time for planting.

The classes are free and will run weekdays at 11am from Monday 11 April to Friday 22 April at all Flower Power Garden Centres. Your local Garden Centre is located at Prospect - <http://www.flowerpower.com.au/stores/prospect/> .

### Easter Raffle Winners

1st prize	John (parent)
2nd prize	Zoe 1J
3rd prize	Chernor KN

Thank you to everyone for supporting this fundraiser.

P & C.

### Easter Ceremony photos

