



Principal's Message

I hope that all mothers had a wonderful day yesterday, and that your children did their best to make you feel special. Being a mother is an enormous privilege, a task that we take on with no qualifications, training or job description other than that it is 24 hours a day 7 days a week! It is, however, the most rewarding job in the world (teaching comes second!). Nurturing developing humans is what makes all life meaningful. Unfortunately, those developing humans don't always appreciate you and all that you do, but hopefully yesterday they did!

A BIG Thank you to the P&C parents who ran the mother's day stall - I know that the children appreciate it.

As parents, and I am including fathers too now, we have enormous responsibilities. These take time, but it is your job to make the time, and if you do, the rewards are greater. A small example - one of the most powerful predictors of a child's reading frequency for children aged 6-17 is how often a child is read books aloud. For children aged 6-11, it includes reading books for fun, parental involvement in encouraging reading, and how early they started reading books aloud. All this information comes from intensive research, which also says that children love being read to because it is a special time with parents. However, Australian statistics say that only 57% of children aged 0-5 are read to at home 5-7 days a week, and children aged 6-8 only 41% are read to.

At Parramatta West we have a reading challenge - how is your child going? Do you know? When was the last time you read to your child - in any language? All parents can share this, and you can read to more than one child at once.

We all know that as children read more, it improves their educational success in all areas, as well as being enjoyable in itself. So if you really want to have a positive impact on your child's learning, it is really quite simple - READ!

Stage 2 Park Get together

Next Sunday at 2.00pm we invite all children with a parent to meet at Holroyd gardens near the play area and bike track. There will be someone there with a school banner so that you know who to meet up with. The idea is for children to meet up and play, introduce their parents to the parents of their friends, and for everyone to have fun. You might take along some snacks and have a picnic too.

This is an idea from the Community Action Team, we hope that you enjoy it.

The following Sunday, May 22nd, will be stage 3 children; May 29th will be back to Kindergarten, and June 5th Stage 1.

NAPLAN

These tests are on this week for years 3 and 5 students. While our children have been given some practice tests this term so that they understand the format, the tests are designed to assess what the children have been learning as part of the Australian curriculum, which is what we teach all year. They are tests at a single point in time. Some children tend to perform well in tests; others get stressed and perform less than we know they are capable of performing. Parents can help by ensuring that they do not pass their anxieties onto the children. Make sure that they have a good night's sleep, sensible breakfast and arrive at school on time. The tests will take place each morning first thing, and then the rest of the day will progress as normal.

Children in composite classes, 2/3, 3/4 and 4/5 will sit the tests in their normal classes, with the other children removed and taught normal lessons elsewhere during the tests.

Class Changes

Next Monday we will be reforming some of the classes to reduce the numbers in those that are overly full. Parents of children changing class will receive a letter before the end of the week. Please do not stress your children about this, especially if they are in year 3 or 5. We will not discuss it with them until after NAPLAN.

Parent Life Skills session

Last week we had 33 parents who enjoyed the session and learnt a bit more about the program that their children are enjoying. The speaker has told me that she could run another session the same, or different, later this term. I will discuss this with the Community Action Team (meeting on Monday afternoon this week) and the P&C to see what you would like.

Parent Maths Meetings

Last term at our meet the teacher night we also gave you some additional information about reading. This term we are hosting meetings about maths across the school. We will also be holding these meetings in different languages (Arabic, Farsi and Cantonese). I encourage parents to attend, either their class meeting or one held in their home language.

Parent Maths Meetings cont

Meetings will be held on Monday 16th from 6pm for K - 2 and on Wednesday 18th for 3 - 6.

Class Parent Meeting

This Wednesday we will be hosting a meeting in the staffroom at 9.00am about the idea of starting class parents. We would like to discuss with interested parents the possibilities, benefits and organization. If you are interested, please come along and we will see what it might look like. You are not committing yourself to anything if you come along - we just want your ideas.

Have a great week, don't forget to read!

Anthea Donaldson
Principal

Stage News

Kindergarten

Well the day has finally arrived! Our first school excursion to the farm is tomorrow! All the students and teachers are very excited to go and see all the animals that we have been talking about in class.

Please remember the following things for your children:

- Be on time, the buses will be leaving straight after the bell at 9am
- A plastic bag or small tote bag - not a school bag
- Recess and lunch in plastic throw away zip lock bags - not lunch boxes
- Disposable Water bottle
- Hat and jumper

It will be a fabulous day, if you have any questions, please ask your child's teacher.

Miss Richards

Year 1 and Year 2

Next Monday we are having a parent meeting about maths. Everyone is welcome to attend. Times and room organisation information to come!

Don't forget to return your library books each week, especially if you are participating in the 40 book challenge! Keep on reading! Have a great week,

Miss Langhans

Year 3

As you are well aware, NAPLAN testing will occur this week. Over the past few weeks we have been exposing the children to practise tests so that they are familiar with the format of the test and are able to monitor their work within the time limits given. The assessments cover literacy and numeracy skills, which we teach all year through our class programs. Please remember that these tests show a single week in a whole school year, and we are proud of the work and the effort our students show us every day at school as they tackle challenging problems to improve their learning in all areas. Although this week can be stressful for some, please help your children by making sure they get a good night's sleep each night, eat a healthy breakfast, are prepared with the correct equipment and arrive at school on time.

The NAPLAN assessments will take place as follows:

Tuesday - Language Conventions (40 mins) and Writing (40 mins)

Wednesday - Reading (45 mins)

Thursday - Numeracy (45 mins)

There will be no homework this week. Students must still be reading each night. How many books has your child read so far? Have a conversation with your child about what they are reading and about their progress towards their reading target.

Next week we will be holding another Parent Meeting to discuss maths in the classroom and at home. This will be a follow-up to our reading session last term. This meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th May - put this date in your diary!

Have a terrific week everyone!

Miss Stuart

Year 4 and Year 5

I remind parents and caregivers whose child is in Year 4 that the applications for Year 5 'Opportunity Class' in 2017 are now open. There is an information booklet available from Mr Clarke for parents.

All applications will need to be made online, and parents / caregivers will need access to the internet, a printer and their own email address (not the student's). Applications are to be completed online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement.

Applications close for the 2016 Year 5 Opportunity Class close on the Friday 13th May, 2016.

This week students in Years 3 and 5 will be sitting the NAPLAN assessment. It is important that your child is well rested and prepared for these assessments. It is also important that children arrive at school by 8.55am as the NAPLAN assessment will be held in the morning.

Enjoy the week,

Mr Clarke

Year 6

As you know, Edmodo is the online tool we use for communicating, learning and reflecting upon the work done at school. It is extremely important that all Year 6 students have access to Edmodo in order to stay on top of their studies and be aware of learning and events that are coming up. We will be inviting parents to join Edmodo and share in the everyday learning of our Year 6 students. It will give parents an insight into the topics we are studying and the tools that we post in order to assist with their learning.

Have you discussed your child's reading target at home? We can see that the children are working hard to achieve their goals. Students should have read between 15-20 novels by now to be on target.

Today notes will come home for the Parramatta High School Enrichment Day open for 30 students in Year 5 and 30 students in Year 6. Students do not need to be attending PHS to participate in this event. The aim of the program is to allow students to experience high school life and make the transition more successfully. The first 30 students to return their notes will attend.

Mathematics Focus Area

- Dividing with 1 and 0
- Understanding divisibility factors

I encourage all parents to attend the 'Mathematics Meetings' scheduled for next Wednesday to gain more insight into how we teach mathematics at PWPS and how you can assist at home.

Year 6 Reading Target Results

Successfully Achieved 40 Novels = 3 students

Mrs Rhodes

Library News

Due to our new computer system being rolled out this week. There will be no library available on Tuesday and Wednesday. I apologise for this but the new system looks great and is very user friendly.

Bookclub is due on Tuesday

It would be great if you could join us for the Parent Reading Workshops - Monday 2.15 in the Library

Mrs Sell

Bright Sparks Homework

Homework Club begins in Week 3 on 10th May 2016. It will always begin in Week 3 of each term till the end of the year, unless otherwise advised.

Co-ordinator
Miss Yallouris.

Learning Management and Business Reform (LMBR) - Update

Our School is in the process of going through some major systems changes known as Learning Management & Business Reforms (LMBR). I will be leading our school through this change and will continue to keep you informed as the changes occur.

What is LMBR?

"The LMBR program is delivering modern integrated IT systems to better support the many aspects of teaching and learning in NSW Public Schools. The new systems will transform the way we work to provide flexibility, efficiency and sustainability across the Department. It is not just about technology, but about changing the way we work as a school and as a school community as a whole. The LMBR program was conceived in 2006 in response to the challenges faced by schools, TAFE NSW and Department of Education Corporate, which were relying on a large number of ageing IT systems. These increasingly unsupported systems were becoming costly and inefficient to maintain and could not meet the needs of a changing educational landscape for our students, staff and the broader school community.

Developing an integrated IT platform to overcome these challenges grew to encompass a broader long-term vision with students at its core. Modernising school systems across NSW allows for:

- a consistent way for all schools to manage financial and student data
- portability of wellbeing and learning data so each student's information follows them when they change schools
- improved collaboration between teachers, students and parents and carers around a student's learning continuum." (NSW Department of Education | LMBR – Supporting learning | Introduction to Deployment Guide Group 3)

Why do you need to know about the changes:

As with all change, LMBR will have an impact on us all. The first impact will be the way we handle fees. As the changes come into place, there will be a period of time where payment of any type will cease. This means we will be contacting those parents who still have outstanding enrichment fees to remind them to pay before the changeover. Once the changes occur, parents will soon be able to access a Parent Online Payment (POP) system and there will be very minimal cash handling.

Mr Ta
Deputy Principal

Morning and Afternoon Traffic

I have had several complaints from our school community regarding the behaviour of some parents when dropping off and picking up their children. I have been doing some observations myself on most afternoons and have witness very unsafe behaviour. I urge parents who are doing the wrong thing to stop and think about the safety of all children in our community. We have the luxury of lots of street parking that other schools. We need to work together for the sake of all our children.



ATSI Reconciliation Day

Last Tuesday our group of ATSI students attended Reconciliation Day at Prospect Hill in Pemulwuy. These students were lucky enough to learn the history and significance of Prospect Hill where they participated in a traditional smoking ceremony. They were taught some language spoken by the Darug people and were able to taste native foods such as emu, crocodile and kangaroo.



Native Garden

After a busy Saturday morning working bee, the Native Garden is taking shape! Native plants have been planted, weeds removed, a 'yarning circle' created, and the path cleared so that the students at Parramatta West Public School can use this garden as a learning space and find out more about plants which are native to our area. The next steps for the redevelopment of the Native Garden is the installation of a native bee house, a bird house, and signs explaining how the native plants are used in Aboriginal culture.

A huge thank you to the students, parents and staff who volunteered their time on Saturday at the working bee – without you, this would not have been possible.?

Stephanie Giles
Relieving Assistant Principal - Special Education





Class Awards

KA	Arinjay	KH	Sarim
KK	Pavan	KL	Sania
KN	Aarav	KR	Drashti
KS	Kim	1F	Ahmed
1G	Nishtha	1H	Yussif
1J	Joelle	1L	Anirud
1/2A	Gilbert	2B	Elanur
2H	Asma	2L	Sumaya
2N	Sajaad	2/3S	Aysha
3B	Yasmyn	3K	Zain
3/4A	Ravneet	4H	Rebekah
4S	Srihaa	4/5C	Awesta
5M	Morteza	5/6J	William
6M	Sally	6R	Jeriko
MCT	Mustafa	MCG	Rui
MCS	Damon		