

Parramatta West A NSW Public School

The West Weekly



Issue 47 - Term 1 - Week 10

27th March 2017

Principal's Message

What a wonderful celebration of Harmony Day we enjoyed last week! The children spent time thinking about what harmony means to them and to our school. Parramatta West truly is a special place, in the words of Enver, one of our year 6 school leaders.....

Good morning teachers and fellow students,

Harmony day is a celebration of our cultural diversity. A day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. Like many Australians, my grandparents came from across the seas and brought a culture that was passed down to them and now to me. Why they loved Australia was that they could continue their traditions and beliefs and take on many new ones in harmony – where everyone belongs!

This is why I am proud to call myself Australian. I hope more schools learn from Parramatta West Public School, and more countries learn from Australia – about celebrating cultural diversity.

Finally, I love that we are one, but we are many!

Facebook closed groups

This year we have many more parents enjoying the closed groups, seeing what their children get up to at school, and receiving updates on school activities, homework and links to useful resources. However, there are still some parents who have not returned the permission to publish forms, which makes it difficult for teachers to take and put up photos of the class. While some parents do not wish to have their child's picture on Facebook, even in the closed groups, and we respect that, others have just forgotten to return the note. New enrolments have signed permission (or not) on the enrolment form, but for continuing parents I'm afraid it is a new form each year. If you are unsure if you have signed it, please check with your child's teacher. Thank you.

Overseas trips

This year I seem to be spending time every week signing leave forms for children who are going overseas and missing out on valuable school time. While I really do understand the desire to travel to see family - I have family overseas as well - parents need to understand the serious impact missing school is having on their children's education. Please try to take these trips during school holiday time and minimize the time off school. So far this year our children have lost 416 days of schooling due to trips overseas.

Toddlers in the playground

As our school grows, so our playground becomes more crowded. I worry that the toddlers in the playground will end up having an accident one day, either in the morning or the afternoon. Can parents please keep a close watch on their little ones, especially when it is wet and there are lots of umbrellas and puddles around. Thank you.

Learning conversations

What will you ask your children when they come home from school today, or at some stage during the week? Do you know what book they are reading at the moment for their 40 book challenge? Find out, and then ask them what makes the beginning of the book interesting. What was the very first paragraph about? Look at it together and talk about how the author wrote the beginning of the book to make the reader want to read it. This sort of discussion will help your children's writing as well as reading comprehension.

Parrachatter

Next Monday morning from 9.00 our Parrachatter topic will be "Keeping children busy in the school holidays." Come along to share ideas, and I will have some for you as well.

Looking forward to seeing you there - E Block spare room.

Anthea Donaldson

Principal

Class Awards

KAB

KC Aashni

KH Zaid

KK Afnan

KN Ruben

KS Poojan

KT Dhyan

1F Tanisha

1H Arush

1J Alisha

1K Media

2N Shuab

MCD Rudy

2/3H Tawsul

3K Sameer

3P Kavya

3S Subhaashini

4H Zahra

4J Ethan

4S Emran

4/5M Aziza

5A Mozamel

5D Ali

6H Bilal

1M Kamyā

6J Leilani

1S Fadhilat

6R Krrish

2B Zaina

MCS Buvi

2G Siddhant

2L Ryan

Stage News

Kindergarten

Wow! It is week 10 already! Students have two more weeks of learning before they have a much-deserved holiday break.

It was fantastic to see all of our students participating in Harmony Day last Wednesday and celebrating the wonderful diversity we have at Parramatta West Public School. Head on over to our closed Facebook group to see some fantastic pictures of the day.

Crunch and Sip (Fruit Break) and healthy lunchboxes

All Kindergarten classes are now participating in Crunch and Sip daily. Crunch and Sip is a five-minute break in the morning where students eat vegetables or fresh fruit and drink water in the classroom. This gives students the chance to re-fuel with fruit or vegetables and helps to improve physical and mental performance and concentration in the classroom, as well as promoting long-term health. Students bring need to bring vegetables or fruit to school every day for the Crunch and Sip break in addition to their recess. Many children are only bringing one piece of fruit to school that they eat during Crunch and Sip, leaving them nothing for recess. Please make sure that you pack enough for both breaks.

Students also need to bring bottle of water to school to drink throughout the day to prevent dehydration. Not all classrooms are close to bubblers or have access to taps.

Finally please make sure you are sending your child to school with a healthy lunch box. Sugary snacks like cookies and chocolate are not good for their overall health or for helping their learning. Below is a link that gives some wonderful ideas for a healthy and nutritious lunch box

<https://www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au/parents-carers/healthy-eating-and-drinking/lunch-box-ideas/what-to-put-in-the-lunch-box.aspx>

Sight words

Focus words for this week:

KAB – little, can, what, do

KC – with, see, then, that

KH – look, can, see, me

KK – look, at, this, is, with

KN – play, am, like

KS – girl, boy, with, it

KT –in, like, then, said

Mrs Armour

Year 1

It was so lovely celebrating Harmony Day last week and seeing students wearing their traditional cultural dress and orange. It is such a great reminder of how everyone should be treated with respect and tolerance.

Year 1 Excursion

This Friday is our excursion to the Australian Museum. Students are required to bring their recess and lunch in a small bag. We will be leaving strictly at 9am, so please ensure our child arrives to school on time.

Facebook

We love that we are able to regularly share photos of our learning with you all. As we have a Year 1 page it is important to be mindful that your child may not be featured in every event. As teachers, we do our best to share photos with you frequently, but our main focus is on providing enriching learning experiences in the classroom and sharing these experiences with you as often as possible. Be sure to regularly check out our closed year 1 Facebook group for more learning links, tips, ideas and examples of our teaching and learning.

Home readers

Home readers will be collected this week. They will be redistributed next term. If you are able to help in the home reading room next term, they are always looking for volunteers to give up their time for this excellent program. Please try to keep reading at home, even without these readers.

Learning:

Maths Focus for this week:

- Making numbers in different ways
- Using the subtraction sign

This week's topic talks are on their dinosaur models. Students are asked to design and make a dinosaur out of recycled materials such as empty cereal boxes, milk bottles, lids etc. They will then tell the class how you made it and what you used.

Looking forward to a great week!

Miss McSpadden

Year 2

It was wonderful to see so many students representing their country and culture at last week's Harmony Day celebrations. The message of "We all belong" was truly alive in a sea of orange and cultural clothes. Year 2 students discussed what harmony means to them and worked on activities that strengthened our understanding and acceptance of each other's differences.

Our excursion to The Australian Museum, on Friday 7th April is fast approaching! Payments have now closed.

We can't wait to see some dinosaur fossils and bones.

The Year 2 teachers were amazed by the creativity and effort that went into our student's topic talks last week. It was fabulous hearing about the process of making their recycled dinosaur, how they had changed their plan from the previous week and the fun they had. Thank you parents for helping your child. They really enjoyed it!

This week's Learning focus

- **English**

Grammar- antonyms (opposites). E.g. hot/cold, big/little, long/short. Have a look on our closed Year 2 Facebook group for learning links. There is a You Tube clip and a game.

Spelling- "dr" words e.g. drop, drive, drink, draw.

Writing: informative texts and the dinosaur 'Albertosaurus'. Continuing our author study "Nick Bland."

Reading: comprehension. Ask your child to tell you about the book they are reading.

Topic talks- Narrative Themes: Choose your favourite storybook and share its key messages with the class. For example, is there a lesson the author is trying to teach readers? What are the main ideas or themes in the story, e.g. friendship, courage, love? An example could be "Finding Dory", a story of someone who never gives up and has a positive attitude.

Other

- **Creative and performing arts (CAPA):** dance

Science: Up, down and all around

PDHPE: Fitness, fundamental movement skills and child protection

- **Maths**

Numbers and place value beyond 100

- To be able to count by tens
- To be able to order numbers from smallest to largest or largest to smallest

Addition concepts and strategies

- To be able to add numbers in any order
- write a number sentence to show their understanding

Have a great week everyone.

Mrs Batac

Year 3 and Year 4

It's hard to believe we are almost at the end of Term 1! It has been impressive how all Year 3 and 4 students

have settled into their new classes this term and are already making gains with their learning.

Last Wednesday was a brilliant celebration of our school community and its diversity. Congratulations to Arif and Jiya who spoke so confidently and shared their thoughts on what harmony means to them. There are some photos on our Facebook pages of how our students celebrated Harmony Day, I encourage you to have a look!

Reading target update:

This week we will be collecting data from our students to find out where they are up to with their reading challenge. We will let you know next week where we are up to as a grade next week.

- Ask your child where they are up to with their reading challenge.
- In writing we are working on 'Sizzling Starts'. Ask your child if the book they are reading at the moment has a sizzling start and how that 'hooks' them in as a reader.

Maths focus areas for this week:

Go to our Facebook pages for learning links!

- **Year 3** – We have come to an end of our unit on Whole Number and Place Value and we are currently assessing our students. Students will bring a post-test home towards the end of the week, which will show both their strengths in this topic and areas to work on. We are beginning our new topic on addition this week, beginning with mental maths strategies and adding tens to a two or three-digit number.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/576767419169276/>

- **Year 4** – Using models and diagrams to add 3-digit numbers; adding whole numbers; adding three or more numbers

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1718622788411033/>

Have a fantastic week everyone!

Miss Stuart

Year 5 and Year 6

Last week we had such a wonderful celebration of Harmony Day. Thank you for your support of this fabulous day. It was so lovely to see all the beautiful cultural clothes or the students representing harmony in the colour orange.

Fruit Break

Please remind or provide your children with fruit break, as there are many students who are not bringing anything during this time.

Tell them from me survey

The students are currently participating in the TLFM survey during class time. It is important feedback for our school.

Reading challenge

As we are in the last few weeks of Term 1, please ask your child how their reading challenge is going. They should be up to at least 10 novels by now!

We are enjoying more parents joining the closed year groups. It is a great place for us to share some learning, ask some questions and join in with other parents.

If you haven't joined yet, please click on your year below.

Year 5: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1726807364254755/>

Year 6: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1793131167574809/>

Maths

Year 5: Addition strategies is the focus this week. we are learning about different ways to add.

Year 6: An assessment task will be coming home this week. Please talk to your child about their learning in maths. We are continuing to learn about mental addition properties.

Year six

Please ensure that everyone's High school application forms are returned. There are still a few students who have not returned them.

Have a great week

Miss Richards

Library News

Bookclub has been ordered and should be in sometime this week.

There is no borrowing this week so please return your books if you have finished reading them.

There is no library next week so books can still be returned next week.

Leave your library bags at school so they are ready for the new term.

We will be borrowing from week 1.

Mrs Sell

ICAS Tests

University of NSW competitions known as ICAS will be conducted at our school again. Year 2 student may enter for Science, English and Maths. Year 3 - 6 may enter Science, Writing, English and Maths.

All money need to be returned by Friday 28th April, 2017.

P & C News

The P & C will be selling Easter Raffle tickets each morning from 8.30am - 8.55am in the upper playground. Tickets are \$1-00.

Cancer Council NSW Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to know the serves you need.

Eat It To Beat It helps families to eat enough serves of fruit and vegetables. We all need a different number of serves per day, depending on age.

| How many serves a day? | Veg | Fruit |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Adults | 5+ | 2+ |
| 16-18 (Boys) | 7 1/2 | 2 |
| 12-15 (Boys) | 5 1/2 | 2 |
| 12-15 (Girls) | 5 | 2 |
| 9-11 | 5 | 2 |
| 4-8 | 4 1/2 | 1 1/2 |
| 2-3 | 2 1/2 | 1 |

A serve of fruit = 150g of fresh fruit or one medium or two small pieces, or one cup chopped fruit.
A serve of veg = 75g of veg or 1/2 cup cooked veg/legumes or 1/2 medium potato or one cup of salad.

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at [facebook.com/eatittobeatit](https://www.facebook.com/eatittobeatit)

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Western Sydney Local Health District Live Life Well @ School Program.

NSW Health Western Sydney Local Health District

Eat It To Beat It

LIFT OFF! Friendly Parenting Tips

Tip #4

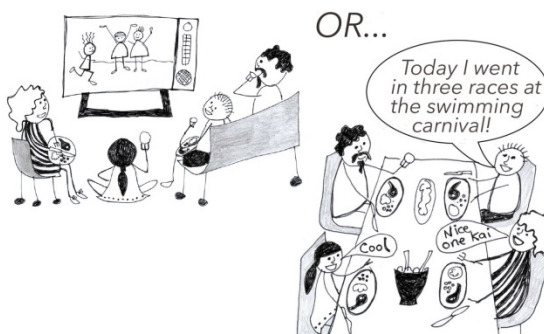
Encourage meaningful conversations.

Why is this good for your child?

It builds trust and encourages them to be open with us.

Try this...

Sit down and eat together as a family. Over dinner talk about what you have achieved in your day e.g. something you are proud of.



Volunteering Workshop A Pathway to Your Future

Free workshop, Child Minding and Afternoon Tea provided

What is volunteering? Why volunteer?
What kinds of volunteering are there?
How can volunteering help me?
Learn the answers to this and more!

Thursday 30th March 2017
12noon to 3pm
In the Library

REGISTER AT THE OFFICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL INDU: 9568 0280



Parramatta West Public School
Cnr Auburn & Young Sts Parramatta, NSW, 2150
P: 02 9635 9347
F: 02 9687 1151
E: parramattw-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
[Unsubscribe](#)