



Principal's Message

We have arrived at the end of a busy term - thank you to all our wonderful parents and children for joining us on this adventure called education. The holidays are upon us. This morning our Parrachatter group talked about ideas for the holidays. Here is one link to follow. We will post more ideas on our Facebook sites.

https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/about-parramatta/things-to-do/events-calendar?f%5B0%5D=event_type%3A41

Uplifting Australia

Parramatta West has this wonderful group of people working with us this year to provide ideas and activities to support our community. So far parents have had some tip sheets coming home, and there will be more of these next term. After assembly on Monday afternoon year 4 students heard about the Hang Outs that will be happening next term. They were given a letter for parents, and on Tuesday they will take home an invitation to an adult member of their family to attend a hang out with them. We would love EVERY year four child to attend. There will be hang outs in term 3 for year 6 children, and in term 4 for year 2. This will happen each year, so everyone will get the opportunity to join in the fun every two years. Each hang out is different. There will also be some other activities for all children to do at home with their families. I encourage you to take part.

Asthma

I am aware that we have a number of children who have asthma puffers. The school also has trained staff who are able to support children having an asthma attack. However, if your child has SEVERE asthma, then we need to develop with your doctor a health care plan which sets out a plan for the management and care of your child. Please see the office if you would like this paperwork to take to your child's doctor to discuss. With winter approaching, the school holidays could be a good time to do this.

Questions for children

What did you do at school today? Do your children answer this question? In my experience, most don't. I wonder why not? When do they come home excited about something they have learnt? Sometimes we need to remind them what it is that they are learning, and how they are getting better at things. Maybe in the holidays there is time to look back on the past. If you have things saved that your children have done in the past - pictures, things they have written or made - get them out and look at them together. At the time these things were wonderful - they still are as a memory of what your child could do at that time, now your child may laugh at the simplicity of them, their babyish handwriting and invented spelling. It is good to remind them just how much they are learning, and then to talk about the next steps. What do you want to get better at now?

Reading targets

The school holidays is a good time to do some catching up on the 40 book target. Can your child reach 10 books by the end of the holidays?

Term 2 starts on WEDNESDAY after ANZAC Day. Teachers will be back on Monday 24th, but students return on April 26th.

Have a safe and happy holiday,

Anthea Donaldson

Principal

Class Awards

KAB Brian and Anson

KC Jacob

KH Rihanna

KK Amir

KN Brentt

KS Piani

KT Jasleen

1F Muhammad

1H Rafah

1J Prince

1K Marwa

1M Saanvi

1S Megan

2B Nancy

2G Poppy

2L Kevin

2N Angus

2P Sydra

2/3H Bhakti

3K Muna

3P Dikshita

3S Eshaan

4H Chloe

4J Jihad

4S Liam

4/5M Mohamed

5A Shiv

5D Srihaa

6H Siena

6J Abhinavi

6R Bahaa

MCD Tammy

MCT Lachlan

MCS Edric

Stage News

Kindergarten

Week 11 already! Students have nearly completed their first term of “big school” and they should be very proud of themselves. They have had to get used to many new people, new routines and a new environment and have done a fabulous job. The Kindergarten teachers are very proud of how settled and eager to learn all the students are – Well done! It is nearly time to enjoy a well-deserved rest.

Sight words and sounds checklist

This week Kindergarten teachers will be sending home lists of sight words and sounds that students need to practice over the holidays. Any word or sound that is highlighted is one that your child needs to practise.

Best Start Feedback to parents

Last week you should have received a letter providing feedback on the Best Start assessment that your child participated in at the start of the term. It contained suggestions on ways you can assist your child in certain areas. Please let your classroom teacher know if you did not receive it.

School holidays

The students have worked very hard over the last 11 weeks developing their skills in reading, writing and mathematics. It is important that they have time to rest over the holidays. It is also important that they try to read every day and have the opportunity to do some counting (even if it's counting pegs off the washing line). They also need to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. There are many fantastic parks in the Parramatta and Merrylands area that you can visit. Next term we will be learning about Australian Animals. Merrylands Central Gardens has many animals there that you can go and see for free and there are some great tracks for bikes – would be a great day out.

Weekly sight words

KAB – can, see, me, come

KC – of, was, on

KH – the, this, that, then

KK – do, it, see, me

KN – with, me, then, that

KS – that, was, then, of

KT – that, was, at, he

Have a great week,

Mrs Armour

Year 1

We had such a fabulous time on our excursion on Friday. We were so impressed with how our students upheld the schools expectations and still had a great learning journey.

Home readers

Home readers will be continuing to be collected this week. Please ensure they are sent to school so they can be redistributed next term with their updated reading levels. Try and continue to read throughout the holidays, by borrowing from your local library.

Maths

Students will be bringing home their second maths post-test by the end of term. Please take the time to review this with your child and discuss with them what areas they found easy and areas to work on for the future.

This week's maths topic:

- Writing subtraction stories
- Understanding comparison stories

Topic Talks

What wonderful topic talks we had last week! This week is a Dinosaur Information Report. Choose a dinosaur to share an information report about. Don't forget to include its habitat, appearance, and diet. You may want to present your report on a poster or even on PowerPoint.

School Holidays

School holidays start this weekend. Please have a safe and relaxing holiday. Students resume on Wednesday 26th April.

Thanks for a fantastic term!

Miss McSpadden

Year 2

Hasn't time flown! It is already week 11 and our Year 2 classes are definitely still hard at work. It is pleasing to see the progress students are making, and the developing conversations they are having with their classmates and teachers about their learning. I encourage all parents to talk with their child daily about what they are learning, what was challenging, what was new or what excited them at school.

Our excursion to The Australian Museum is this Friday 7th April. Full school uniform must be worn. Please pack fruit break, recess, lunch, a throw away drink bottle and a hat, in a plastic bag. Ensure to write their name and class clearly on the outside of the plastic bag. We will be leaving straight at 9am, so please be at school by 8:40am so we have time for the toilet and to mark the roll.

There will not be homework given out this week, however we encourage everyone to spend time completing Manga High and Literacy Planet activities. Remember to keep reading during the holidays and write the books down, ready to fill in your reading logs when you return next term.

This week's Learning focus

- **English** &n bsp;

Grammar- Action verbs. An action verb tells what the noun is doing. E.g. Marie walked to school.

Walked tells us what Marie was doing. Other action verbs include jump, smile, read, learn.

Spelling- "fr" words e.g. from, fright, free, frog, freeze.

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

Reading: comprehension. Ask your child to tell you the key message or idea in the book they are reading.

Topic talks- We will not be having formal topic talks this week.

- **Other**

Creative and performing arts (CAPA): dance

Science: Up, down and all around

PDHPE: Fitness, fundamental movement skills and child protection

- **Maths**

Finishing off:

Addition concepts and strategies

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

For next term:

Subtraction concepts and strategies

- To be able to write and solve subtraction number sentences
- To be able to solve problems by writing subtraction number sentences

The Year 2 teachers wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Mrs Batac

Year 3 and Year 4

Here we are at the end of a brilliant term of learning! I encourage you to have conversations with your child about their learning over the holidays. What was something interesting they discovered this term? Was there something that they found really tricky to begin with but with practise they have improved? Get your child to teach you something they have learnt this term – it could be a strategy to solve a maths problem or a particular way to write a section of a story (e.g. dialogue between two characters). Over the holidays it is also a good idea to restock the pencil cases, making sure that your child has plenty of lead pencils, an eraser, sharpener, coloured pencils and highlighters.

Next term Year 4 students will be given an information pack about the Opportunity Class applications for a placement in 2018. Opportunity Classes are for gifted and talented students in Years 5 and 6, and there are a number of these OC classes at other schools in Sydney and NSW. More information will be provided next term, however you may like to take note of these dates:

- Wednesday 26th April, 2017 – Online applications open
- Friday 12th May, 2017 – Online applications close
- Wednesday 26th July, 2017 – Opportunity Class Placement Test

Reading target update:

It's great to see our students embracing their reading challenge again this year, with many students on track to achieve their target of 40 books by the end of the year. Keep up the reading over the holidays – go to the local library in Parramatta or Merrylands and continue to borrow lots of great books. Get your child to write down the details of each book and they can then add this to their reading target once they return to school next term.

- 29% of Year 3 students (33 students) are on track to read 40 books by the end of the year.
- 30% of Year 4 students (25 students) are on track to read 40 books by the end of the year.

Maths focus areas for this week:

Go to our Facebook pages for learning links!

- **Year 3** – Adding tens and ones to 2 and 3-digit numbers, using a range of strategies, including a hundreds chart and diagrams

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

- **Year 4** – Year 4 are finishing up their addition unit, focusing on revision of strategies and addition concepts

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

We would like to wish all of our families a safe and relaxing holiday. We are looking forward to hearing about the adventures you get up to over the break. Keep up the reading – we can't wait to hear about the adventures that the different take you on too!

Miss Stuart

Year 5 and Year 6

We have had such a busy and learning-packed term. Both the students and teachers are looking forward to well earned break. I encourage you to speak with your children about their learning this term and how much they have improved with hard work, perseverance and reflection of their own learning. This holiday would be a great time for them to continue on with their reading challenge. The challenge is to have read 40 novels by the end of the year. This means that they should have read at least 10 books if not more. Talk to them about what genre they enjoy and why? Don't forget you can always access wonderful books at your local library.

As the term does come to an end, some students have had to be reminded about keeping up the school's expectations of "respect, responsible and safe". These are conversations that we continue to have so that everyone in our school community is feeling comfortable and in the best learning environment possible. Please talk about these expectations at home as well.

Literacy

Last week we finished up our author study of Anthony Browne where we had been examining many of his books and the recurring themes and characters. The students really enjoyed the visual literacy, deeper messages and symbolism shown throughout. Ask them what their favourite Anthony Browne book was. We also had our last lessons with Ms Buckman, who has helped us refine our narrative writing skills.

Maths

Year 5: Students have been learning to add and subtract fractions. A challenging topic that will need a lot of practice.

Year 6: We are finishing off the topic of Mental Maths, where the students are surprising themselves with how many new strategies they have learnt for multiplying and dividing larger numbers. We have learnt about 'factorising' and how this knowledge helps us with mental maths. Another topic that needs a strong 'times tables' knowledge. The final assessment for the term will be coming home this week.

I hope that you all have lots of time to relax these holidays, so everyone returns fresh and ready for another busy term!

Miss Richards

Library News

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

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

Easter Raffle tickets and money need to be returned by Wednesday this week. Prizes will be drawn on Thursday. Good luck everyone.

PWPS Debating Squad's Gala Day

On Tuesday 28th of March, Parramatta West's debating squad drove to Rosehill Public School for their first debates of the year. Dhvani, Mia, Abhinav and Robert competed against Rosehill Public School as the affirmative team on the topic Violence on Television Should be Banned, while Keira, Jamahl, Benita and Buse were competing against Parramatta Public School as the negative team on the topic Movies are More Enjoyable Than Books. The adjudicators were four year 10 and year 11 students from James Ruse Agricultural High School.

After the introductions, Parramatta Wests Team 1 were up. They were amazing. Buse started off the debate with a kick, she was splendid. Jamahl followed with some great facts and Keira finished with great rebuttals.

After we had our recess we watched two other teams compete, then it was Team 2's turn against Rosehill. Dhwani has an awesome start, Abhinav made some amazing points and Mia finished off with some convincing rebuttals.

Even though both teams lost, we lost with pride and learnt a lot from the adjudicator's feedback. We had a wonderful day and enjoyed it!

You can check out some photos of the day on the school's Facebook page.

By Dhwani & Mia

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to make a mezze plate.

A mezze plate is a great snack or starter and perfect for sharing.

It is ideal hands-on food for kids, and junior chefs can help prepare it too.



Options are limited only by imagination. Just remember to include plenty of veg! Our plate, pictured above, includes:

- Baba ghanoush and Middle Eastern bean dip (or try hummus and tzatziki).
- Dolmades (vine leaves stuffed with rice and herbs).
- Olives.
- Cucumber and carrot sticks (capsicum sticks, green beans and baby corn work well too).
- Flat bread cut into wedges.
- Tabbouleh.

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

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

Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District



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

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