



Principal's Message

Welcome to Term 2! I hope that you have all looked at the calendar sent home last week, and put it somewhere safe. There will be additions though, so make sure that you keep reading the newsletter and checking up on Facebook - both the open site and the closed groups - to stay in touch.

Talking sticks

Last week on the staff development day our teachers had a full day of professional learning from Uplifting Australia. Part of this was learning about "Family Circles", and we all made our own talking sticks. The children have now made one too, and will be learning how to use them at school. They will then bring them home, and will teach you! There will be homework for all families to do using their talking sticks. There will be further activities coming home later in the term and next term.

Open Classrooms

Have you received your child's invitation to their classroom? If not, you are invited anyway! The 3-6 classes will be open from 2.05 and the K-2 from 2.30. There will be some questions for you to discuss with your child as they share their classroom and work with you. We understand that some of you will not be able to attend, so we will be sending home the questions for your children to share with you at home. I encourage you to spend a few minutes talking to them about their learning.

Facebook

Do you check out our Facebook pages regularly? Are you in one of the closed groups? Now the P and C has a group too! More and more parents are joining, which is great, because we are using these pages to communicate with you in ways that are not possible through the newsletter. When a teacher posts something to do with homework or learning, this will relate to all the classes in the year group as they all are following similar programs and have the same homework topics. Please don't think that it relates only to the class of the teacher who posts it. The closed groups are not about individual children's learning - for this parents need to communicate privately with the class teacher. If you want to discuss your child's learning with the teacher, please ask for an appointment.

Cross Country Carnival

Last Friday was a perfect day for our annual cross country carnival, and the children as usual were beautifully behaved - in fact if anything better than in the past! I am always impressed by two things at the carnival - the obviously enthusiastic runners who train and work hard at their running and as a result impress with their skill - and secondly the children who just don't give up, but keep plodding on and finish the race in their own time. It is a long way if you are not into running! I was also pleased to see so many parents attending the carnival this year

supporting the children. Thank you, I know that they appreciated it.

Mothers' Day

Yes, this annual day when we celebrate the wonderful job that mothers do is fast approaching. Thank you to the P and C who are running their stall this Friday, and who will also have items for sale next week for those who forget on Friday. We will be having our annual Make Mum's Day, and will give you invitations when we have finalized the details. As we grow we need to keep rethinking our organisation of such days, but we certainly won't stop having them.

School uniform

Winter tends to be a time when some of our children seem to have more difficulty with wearing the school uniform. The uniform shop does have trousers for the girls, and boys can wear long pants or track pants. If girls continue to wear the dresses through winter, please wear dark blue, black or white stockings. Coloured leggings are not part of the school uniform and look very untidy. Children should also wear the school jumpers or jackets, not other coloured ones. I am also noticing an increase in children wearing non school hats in the playground. We have a school hat which should be worn all year round in the playground. Please make sure your child has one, and that it, as well as everything else they wear, is labelled clearly with their name. Thank you.

NAPLAN

Next week all children in years 3 and 5 will be sitting the NAPLAN tests on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There are some children who have special needs or who are new arrivals to Australia who will be exempt. Parents are also entitled to withdraw their children if they choose to do so. The children have received practice time in class, and the tests are based on the school curriculum that they have all been studying, so it should not be a stressful time. Please make sure that your children have a good night's sleep before the tests - as they should be every night anyway - a good breakfast and arrive at school on time. We find that the NAPLAN tests do not surprise us, teachers know how well children are likely to do in the tests. Some children will struggle, and others will do well, but parents must remember that this is only one set of tests at one time of the year, not the only indicator or a permanent indicator of your child's success at school. There is so much more that they learn, and so many more skills and abilities that are not, and never can be, assessed in a paper and pencil test.

I look forward to seeing lots of you tomorrow at our open classrooms, and hearing from those of you who discuss the questions at home.

Anthea Donaldson

Principal

Stage News

Kindergarten

Welcome to term 2! We have a busy time ahead of us. This term Kindergarten students will be learning about Australian Animals – what they look like, where they live, what they eat and how they behave. As part of their learning the students will be going on an excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park in week 6. A separate note will be sent home with further information about this. It will be a fantastic opportunity for students to see some of the amazing creatures we have here in Australia!

In mathematics students are currently learning about addition – joining two groups together to find a total. Lots of this learning is using real objects (counters, dominoes, pencils) rather than just writing sums, as children need to understand the value of objects rather than just memorising facts.

You might also hear your child talk about friends of ten (numbers that add to ten e.g. $5+5$, $6+4$) and doubles (the same number added together $6+6$, $4+4$). You can reinforce this learning at home by getting them to add things together and counting them.

This Tuesday we have open classrooms from 2:30 until 2:55pm. We hope to see many of you there. It is an opportunity to talk with your child about their learning and for them to share their work with you. It is not a time where teachers will be able to discuss individual students with parents. If you have something that you need to discuss with your child's teacher please make an appointment with them at another time.

Have a wonderful week!

Mrs Armour

Year 1

Welcome back to another exciting term! We have many exciting things coming up this term.

Term 2 Learning Links:

Learning links will be continued to be posted on our Year 1 closed group on Facebook this term. These links apply to all of the classes, as students will be learning about the same things at the similar time. Use the link below to join:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1425486457477238/>

Students will be engaging in an author study of Pamela Allen, a history unit about the past and a science unit investigating motion and an art unit looking closely at various famous artists.

Maths focus for this week:

* Ways to make 7, 8 & 9 (using Subtraction).

* Ways to make 10 (using Subtraction).

Topic Talks:

Topic talks will start again this week. This week's topic is Holidays. Students are to prepare and present a recount about a memorable experience you had in your Term 1 break.

Uniforms:

As many of you will have purchased new uniforms and lunch boxes over the break, please ensure they are labelled with your child's name and class. Sport uniform will still be required to be worn on Tuesdays in preparation for sport lessons.

Coming up...

This week all parents and carers are invited to visit the classroom and engage in a conversation with their children about their learning. Year 1 classes are open from 2:30pm-2:55pm. We are looking forward to seeing lots of you there! The Mother's Day Stall will also take place this Friday run by the P&C.

Have a great week.

Miss McSpadden

Year 2

Welcome back to term 2. We hope you had a safe and happy holiday. We enjoyed hearing about the exciting things that our students and their families got up to. It was also great to hear about families taking time to relax and spend time together.

Please check if your child's homework book is full or needs replacing and send in a new scrapbook. Homework goes home today (and every Monday) and is due back at school on Thursdays. Look out for some new spelling activities this term. We are continuing to encourage our students to practise their words in ways that are meaningful to them. Use the spelling activity grid to help your child develop their spelling skills with fun, hands-on activities. It is important to know how to use a word and know what it means. Encourage your child to use Manga High and Literacy planet, as they are linked to the learning we are doing in class.

This Friday we will be having a Mother's Day stall. Gifts ranging in price from \$1 to \$10 will be available for students to buy, for that special lady in their life. Please send some money in a zip lock bag or small purse so that your child can be a part of this fun activity.

We will be continuing to have our rotating "Class of the week" posts on Facebook. Please be mindful that there are 5 year 2 classes to get through. Teachers will post a collection of photos taken over the term, during their week. Any learning links posted by a teacher are for all classes, as we follow a similar class program.

This week's Learning focus

- **English**

Grammar- time connectives: words or phrases which are used to tell a reader WHEN something is happening. Eg. First, next, lastly, finally etc.

Word family

Suffix or Pre-fix

-ight

dis-

Eg. bright, light, fight and might

Eg. disown, discuss, disease and disagree

Spelling- this term we will be focusing on word families (single sounds put together make a new sound) and affixes (the beginning or end part added to a word).

Writing: In term 2, we will be learning about:

Imaginative

Informative

Poetry

Fairy tales

Narratives

Recounts

Procedures

Explanations

Descriptions

Introduction to poetry

Alliteration, similes, metaphors, Repeated words, Personification, Onomatopoeia, Rhyme

Different poetry styles

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

Topic talks- Holiday Recount: Tell the class about something you did during the school holidays. You can use pictures or a PowerPoint presentation to support your news.

- **Other**

Creative and performing arts (CAPA): Visual arts

Science: Push and pull

PDHPE: Fitness, fundamental movement skills and Friendly Schools Plus program

- **Maths**

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

Keep smiling and have a lovely week.

Mrs Batac

Year 3 and Year 4

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable holiday. This term will be another exciting one, we have lots of great programs planned ready for another successful term of learning.

Congratulations to all of our students who ran in the Cross Country carnival last Friday. It was great to see everyone trying their best. An extra congratulations goes to those students who placed in their races.

Tomorrow afternoon we would like to welcome you into our classrooms for a short visit. Your children are looking forward to showing you their work and discussing it with you. Our classrooms will be open at 2:05pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Year 3 - NAPLAN

Next week, Year 3 students will be sitting their NAPLAN assessments on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Everything we do on a daily basis prepares students for these tests, which show a snapshot of their learning within a whole year. Please make sure your child isn't too worried about these tests and encourage them to try their best. All students will need at least 2 lead pencils, an eraser and a sharpener. Please make sure students are on time for school next week so that we can start the tests on time.

Year 4 - Opportunity Class Applications for Year 5 in 2018

Year 4 students will have received a note 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.

If you would like your child to apply for an Opportunity Class, applications are now open online, via this link: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>

Applications close on Friday 12th May. Please also return the note to school, if your child is applying. If you would like more information on the Opportunity Classes, please see the Office.

The Year 3 and 4 teachers are looking forward to seeing you during our classroom visits tomorrow afternoon.

Miss Stuart

Year 5 and Year 6

Welcome back and I hope you had a safe and fun holidays. We have already learnt so much it is hard to believe it is only the beginning of Term 2! This term we will begin a new author study of Glenda Millard. She is an Australian author who uses beautiful figurative language to tell her stories. I am sure the students will enjoy analysing the themes and styles she uses in her books. This term each class will also be doing a novel study. Students will select their own novel in the genre of Fantasy, acceptance or humour.

Well done to all those students who participated in the cross country on Friday. All students represented themselves bravely, no matter how quickly they completed the course. In next week's assembly we will congratulate those students who placed in the top three for their age groups.

Open classroom tomorrow at 2:05 - 2:30

We do hope that some parents can come and visit your children during the open classroom times. I know that many of you work but if you can make it, your children would appreciate it. Otherwise we will send home the

learning questions so you can ask them at home.

Next week we have our Year 5 students sitting NAPLAN on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. It is not something that they need to stress about or stay up late studying. The teachers have been helping them prepare so that they know what to expect and it is only a 'snapshot' of their learning.

Have a wonderful week and you may want to remind your children to bring a little bit of money for the mother's day stall being held on Friday.

Miss Richards

Library News

Bookclub is due to me by Tuesday 9th of May. Please use the Order form with the catalogue.

Dear Parents

As part of our 130th Celebrations (which are approaching in 2018) we would like to celebrate the multicultural community that makes Parramatta West Public School. Therefore it is proposed that we put together a cookbook to showcase all the wonderful foods that are found from families around our world.

We (the cookbook committee) would like to ask you to contribute a recipe to our cookbook. we will be collecting recipes from families and staff this year, collating a cookbook with the aim to releasing the book early in 2018. we would love for you and your family to help us by adding your favourite recipe to our school publication.

Please send all recipes to janet.sell@det.nsw.edu.au

Please try to use the template given as we will try to include as many recipes as possible.

Multicultural Book recipe

Name of Contributor:

Name of recipe:

Country of Origin/Region:

Ingredients:

Method:

Tips/ Serving Suggestions:

Interesting Information: Is your recipe an everyday meal, a family favourite or a celebration dish?

Any questions don't hesitate to ask,

Mrs Sell

ICAS Tests

University of NSW competitions have now closed and NO further payments (including on-line payments) can be

processed. Paper have been ordered today for all competitions

P & C News

Thank you everyone for supporting the Easter Raffle ticket Fundraiser.

1st Prize Akshunya 3P 2nd Prize Chloe 3P 3rd Prize Krisha KN

We raised \$1,100 which was a very good result. These funds will be contributed to school for air conditioners units and other needs.

P & C Mother's Day stall is on Friday 5th May. Please send some money to school on this day to purchase a gift.

P & C Meeting on Tuesday 2nd May at 9.00am in the spare room in E Block. A discussion about changing the sports t shirt will be done at this meeting.

Uniform Shop - Winter uniforms are available including long sleeve t shirts. All profit from the sales of uniforms goes back to the school.



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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