



Issue 1- Term 1 - Week 2

February 3, 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! Welcome back to all families. I hope you enjoyed some rest and relaxation during the school holiday break. Last weekend, was very special for all Australians celebrating Australia Day, with Monday provided as a public holiday. I hope everyone enjoyed their Australia Day long weekend.

If you have had the opportunity to drop your child off or pick them up you will have noticed that the long awaited build has commenced. At this stage the site compound is being established with the actual building works to commencing in the next few weeks. At this stage we are expecting a minimum build time of 52 weeks. The loss of school oval space has and will have an impact over at least the next twelve months. We have put into place a number of strategies and will continue to monitor the play space to see if further changes are required. As the student population continues to grow you will have also seen the establishment of additional demountable buildings on the lower oval space. These rooms will accommodate our year six students for the 2020 school year, and include toilets for both male and female students.

CORONAVIRUS

Many parents have contacted me over the past week, understandably expressing their concerns. The Department of Education (DoE) has sought advice from NSW Health and has issued all DoE schools their directive. Please be assured that Parramatta West Public School will continue to apply appropriate cautions as advised by the DoE. However, as parents, you remain responsible for your children. The most common symptom is fever. Other symptoms include cough, sore throat and shortness of breath. Anyone who exhibits these symptoms should be isolated immediately from other people and seek medical attention. The school's website and main Facebook page are being utilised by the DoE to provide up to date information relating to the Coronavirus. Please check these regularly for any further updates.

WELCOME

I warmly welcome all new families and returning families. we hope that you enjoy a long and happy association with our school. Our school sets high expectations of our students. They are the very centre of our structured learning environment, which offers exceptional opportunities through state of the art facilities, outstanding teachers and parent participation. Our school is focused on the personal success and wellbeing of every student, enabling them to grow into responsible, respectful and successful young people.

I would like to welcome back our teaching, administration and support staff. They are looking forward to another rewarding year working at Parramatta West Public School. This year we are expecting approximately 950 students in 41 classes, inclusive of our three multi-categorical classes.

For those new to Parramatta West, it will be a year of real expectation as you get to experience first hand, the exceptional educational programs that our school has to offer.

As the year begins may I take this opportunity to remind both parents and students of the expectations that we have of all our members of the Parramatta West School Community. We are first and foremost a school interested in developing each and every one of our students so that they can go on to live productive lives in the 21st Century. Therefore we require all of our students to come into Parramatta West with attitudes that are positive and conducive to achievement.

Students who have the right attitude can be clearly identified;

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- They wear their uniform with pride,
- They are prepared for each day,
- They are attentive and willing to contribute to class learning—they do not distract the learning of others and they seek to be involved in the broader life of the school.
- They are in fact SAFE, RESPECTFUL, and RESPONSIBLE LEARNERS.

At times, parents may need to contact the school to address a concern that may have arisen while their child has been at school. To ensure that all issues and or concerns are managed effectively, parents are encouraged to make contact with their child's class teacher in the first instance.

Following that, parents may contact the office and ask to speak with the Grade Coordinator. Parents may also contact the Deputy Principals, or myself should they feel that the issue is critical or that it has not been managed effectively. Each of these staff members as well as your child's teacher is available to assist and support you throughout the year. I encourage all parents to follow this process to enable staff to manage your concerns efficiently.

CLASS FORMATIONS

This year we have formed classes from day one of the 2020 school year. Children in Years K – 6 have been placed in what we anticipate to be our 2020 classes. As yet, we are waiting for the return of many students from holidays to confirm our numbers and classes. We are not anticipating the need for any significant changes.

I would like to explain the way in which we form classes at PWPS. Parents may not be aware of the hours and hours that are put into planning the best class structures to create the most positive learning environment for all children for the year. The process begins towards the end of the previous year and involves further refinements right up until the day the classes are formed. A great many factors are taken into consideration and include the following:

Department requirements in relation to class sizes – the Department of Education has mandated the size of classes from K – 6. The formula is designed such that on average across NSW, no class need exceed a

certain number in each grade. The principal is also advised to form classes in the best interests of all children. In order for this to occur, composite classes may need to be formed and in some cases the number may be exceeded. Classes are allocated to a school based on the following formula:

- Kindergarten: 20 students per class
- Year 1: 22 students per class
- Year 2: 24 students per class
- Years 3- 6: 30 students per class

When forming composite/ multi age classes the school takes into account the 'Stages of Learning' and attempts to form these classes (composition of two grades in the same class) within these stages. However, once again this is not always possible. In these cases, teachers are supported in planning effective programs to cater for students in different stages.

Friendships – Teachers know if 'best' friends can work productively in the same class or not. Some friendships are best suited to the playground only. There is no guarantee that students will have their closest friends in their class.

Class dynamics - generally classes are 'parallel.' This means they include a range of abilities, allowing children to have 'models' amongst their peers ensuring a balance within the class. It is also important that the individual needs of children are taken into account. These needs include 'learning needs' (learning difficulties, gifts and talents, ESL), behaviour, emotional needs, special needs such as diagnosed disabilities.

Teacher qualities - the teachers at PWPS are all qualified professionals. Teachers have the right to their own continuing professional development through experience on a range of classes. On occasions, teachers are selected for their particular suitability for a group of children or their desire to move from teaching one stage to another.

Although a few children may be initially unhappy about their class placement, experience has shown that children settle very quickly into their new classes. Parents are encouraged to support the school's decision regarding class placement and support their child by assuring them that they have been well-placed for a happy, rewarding and successful year at school.

The Executive Structure for 2020 is:

- Principal: Teunis Ploeg
- Deputy Principals: Kim Rhodes and Alex Langhans

Grade Coordinators:

- Kindergarten: Renee Hearn
- Year 1/2: Morrie Mourad
- Year 3/4: Kirsten McSpadden
- Year 5/6: Deslie Jameson

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION AND COMMUNICATION

This year we will continue with a fortnightly distribution of the full newsletter, the newsletter will be distributed on even weeks during each term.

We will continue updating the school's website. We hope that parents use the website as a source of current information.

As many of you are aware Parramatta West Public School has a Facebook page, with a number of group pages attached which forms part of the school's communication strategy. We will continue to utilise this as a communication form during 2020. We are also in the process of reinvestigating some of the app type instant notification systems available and will keep you informed of the progress in this area.

MEET THE TEACHER INFORMATION EVENING

These annual meet the teacher sessions are a great opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher. Class teachers will outline their plans for the class in 2020 and provide you with important information about class routines and activities planned for your child's class / grade during the year.

We strongly encourage you to attend these meetings as we recognise the importance of a positive partnership between home and school, which is paramount in gaining maximum educational progress for your children.

Wednesday 19 February 5.00pm - 7.30pm (Further details will be provided soon)

NEW YEAR CELEBRATION - LUNA NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year is the Chinese festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional Chinese calendar. The festival is usually referred to as the Spring Festival in mainland China, and is one of several Lunar New Years in Asia. Observances traditionally take place from the evening preceding the first day of the year to the Lantern Festival, held on the 15th day of the year. The first day of Chinese New Year begins on the new moon that appears between 21 January and 20 February. In 2020, the first day of the Chinese New Year will initiate the Year of the Rat.


Teunis Ploeg

Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL REPORT

PWPS Wellbeing Matrix

The PWPS wellbeing Matrix is a framework designed to support whole school practices and enhance learning outcomes for our students. The Matrix allows a common language to be shared between teachers and students with regards to behaviour and expectations. The core expectations of being Safe, Respectful and Responsible are used in classrooms and playgrounds. Our students are explicitly taught what these expectations look like in all aspects of school life, in a positive and supporting way.

 PARRAMATTA WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL PBL MATRIX	
At Parramatta West Public School we demonstrate our core values of being safe, responsible and respectful learners in all settings.	
ALL AREAS	
SAFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use equipment appropriately • Move sensibly and safely around the school • Be in the right place at the right time • Maintain personal space
RESPONSIBLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared and organised • Look after equipment and learning spaces • Wear school uniform • Follow playground procedures
RESPECTFUL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak appropriately with peers and adults • Listen and follow instructions • Play fairly and follow the rules
LEARNING TIPS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persist with challenging tasks • Take risks with learning • Use feedback to improve • Work collaboratively with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be resilient • Take ownership of learning • Display a positive attitude to learning • Ask questions to help problem solve
PLAYGROUND TIPS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit down for eating until dismissed by duty teacher • Line up for field at ramp • Returning from the field – line up at sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are not to return to class for forgotten items during play time • Students with no hat are to be seated

PWPS MERIT SYSTEM

In 2019, Parramatta West Public School introduced a new merit system as an integral part of the student wellbeing program and to reflect a growing and transient school population. This will be our second year implementing the new scheme.

The PWPS Merit Award System is a tiered system over the span of **one year**. The tiered system is where certificates are traded for the next level of award.

Our new award system is designed to provide individual students with positive recognition of effort, achievement and progress. Students accumulate merit awards as recognition for demonstration of the school's expectations of being Safe, Responsible and Respectful learners.

Students earn merit award certificates from their teachers in response to positive behaviour, participation, effort and achievement in all areas of school life. Students will have one year to earn class merit awards, Bronze Awards, Silver Awards and Gold Awards. The Gold Award will also come with the invitation to have morning tea with the school Principal.

Parents and carers can support their children through encouragement to strive for their personal best and assisting with the collection and storage of awards over the year. We look forward to a positive year with the students of Parramatta West Public School.



A. Langhans and K Rhodes

Deputy Principals

LIBRARY REPORT - MRS SELL

Welcome back!

We are looking forward to a great year of borrowing and reading.

We will be borrowing with all grades except kindergarten this week so have your bags ready to go.

I would prefer your bag to be a bag that will last the year and labelled please.



CALENDAR

Parramatta West Public School - Term 1 2020 						
Term One	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT SUN
	27	28	29	30	21	1/2
1	AUSTRALIA DAY HOLIDAY	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	Students Return			
						
2	Kindergarten 2020 Start	4	5	6	7	8/9
3	10	11 P & C Meeting	12	13	14	15/16
4	17	18 House Captain Voting	19 MEET THE TEACHER Evening	20	21	22/23
5	24 Investiture Assembly	25	26	27	28	29/1
6	2 K-2 Assembly Starts	3 Zone Swimming	4 High School Information Night 3-6 Assembly Starts	5 Stage 3 Author Visit	6	7/8
7	9	10	11 Start Smart Sessions ES1/S1	12 Start Smart Sessions S1	13 Start Smart Sessions S2	14/15
8	16	17 Buddy Session	18	19	20 National Day of Action Against Bullying Harmony Day	21/22
9	23	24 Buddy Session	25 Maths Olympiad #1	26 SCHOOL PHOTOS	27	28/29
10	30	31 Buddy Session	1 April Parent Check In	2 Parent Check In	3	4/5
11	6 School Photo Portrait Catch Up	7 Hat Parade	8	9 ANZAC Service	10 GOOD FRIDAY	11/12

School Holidays: Friday 10 April to Monday 27 April
Students return TUESDAY 28 APRIL



Welcome to the new school year. We will be holding our first P & C meeting next week on Tuesday 11 Feb at 2pm. The P & C is open to everyone and we are excited to meet new families for 2020!

The link below is for our P & C Facebook page. It is run by the P & C.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/733284090176004/>

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.



DISCLAIMER

We sincerely thank our advertisers for their support of our school. While Parramatta West Public School is selective in the advertisements it runs, parents are advised to use their own discretion in supporting these services.

The simplest way

... to cook with kids.

Providing lots of opportunities for kids to be involved in the kitchen is a great way to raise healthy eaters, teach them life skills and boost their development.



Young kids can:

- Wash fruit and vegies
- Tear foods like lettuce or bread
- Use scissors to trim vegies
- Add premeasured ingredients
- Stir and sprinkle

Older kids can:

- Use measuring cups, spoons and scales
- Use equipment like salad spinners, and blenders under supervision
- Prep easy to chop foods with kid's knives
- Be in charge of preparing simple recipes

healthylunchbox.com.au