Term 1 Week 4

Coming events for Term 1

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<tr>
<th>Term 1 Week 4</th>
<th>Meet The Teacher This Week</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 21st</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 23rd</td>
<td>PSSA Camp Information Session, 5:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 25th</td>
<td>Meet the Teacher, 5:15-6:30pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday 26th</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM, 9:15am</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27th</td>
<td>PSSA Sport Commences, 9:30-11:30am</td>
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<td>Thursday 28th</td>
<td>Playgroup, 9:30-11:30am</td>
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<td>Friday 1st</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly, 2:00pm</td>
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Gold Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following gold merit award recipients.

Victoria 1HS Sharon 6/5P
Noora 2/1AM Alicia 6/5P
Sina 4/3Y Varsha 6/5P
Husham 4/3Y Ryan x 2 6/5W
Charminkumar 4/3Y Kayla 6/5W
Violet 5/4L Armin 6/5W
Amaya x 2 6/5P

Congratulations to our 2013 SRC Representatives, Sports Captains, Vice Captains and Library Monitors.

SRC Representatives
Sakshi KB Jordan 4/3P
Denni KP Nargis 4/3Y
Ralph KM Arvin 4/3Y
Joanna 1HS Caner 5/4L
Varsha 1L Taylor 5/4L
MJ 2/1AM Jesse 6/5P
Mayuka 2/1AM Amaya 6/5P
Jiya 2P Rishav 6/5W
Brian 2P Kayla 6/5W
Penny 4/3P

Sports Captains and Vice Captains

Macquarie Captains
Ali 6/5P Yug 6/5P
Zahera 6/5W Sanskruti 6/5W
Marsden Captains
Matthew 6/5W Michael 6/5P
Alicia 6/5P Amilia 6/5P
Cox Captains
Dylan 6/5P Sefa 6/5P
Ryan 5/4L Khushi 6/5W

BUZZ Awards

K-2
Be A Learner Keira KB
Cameron 1HS
Be Safe Chloe KB
Be Respectful Noura 2/1AM

3-6
Be Respectful Jacqueline 4/3Y
Caner 5/4L
Be Safe Mohammed 6/5W
Naomi 6/5W

Don’t forget to pack your ‘Crunch & Sip’ every day!

Week 3 – 2P & KM
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

I had much pleasure in announcing the 2013 SRC Representatives, Library Monitors and Sports Captains at a special induction assembly held last week. Congratulations to all students who have been selected for these positions. This is an opportunity for the students to demonstrate and develop leadership skills. I trust that they will wear their badges with pride and be role models for all of our students. It was wonderful to see so many parents present at the assembly and morning tea. A special thank you to Miss Young for organising the occasion.

Class Structures – Multi – Age / Composite Classes

Our teachers, specialists and executive staff spend many hours placing students in classes, endeavouring to achieve groups that are balanced emotionally, academically and socially. The classes created will promote the most harmonious and effective learning environments. All classes at our school are parallel and have students with a range of abilities and varying needs.

Composite classes are formed when there is an uneven enrolment in school years and classes need to be formed across a number of school years. This occurs in most primary schools throughout NSW. Children have always been in multi-aged classes anyway. The ages of kindergarten students range from four and nine months to six and six months, an 18 month difference! Some children enter school barely toilet trained where others are quite mature and are already reading at an advanced level. Straight age grades were never implemented because they were found to reflect good educational practice.

Straight age grades are part of our school system today simply because they reflect how educational administrators originally set up schools. This originated in the 1850’s in America and was then adopted by many countries around the world. This factory model for schooling was intended to prepare workers for the industrial society of the time. Today’s schools need to teach people how to be 21st Century learners and love learning throughout their lives. Students are explorers who are both producers and consumers of knowledge with teachers who are facilitators and provide links to the broader learning community. The good thing about composite classes (stage-based classes) is that it draws attention to individual needs and development and facilitates individualised learning. Managing composite classes (stage-based classes) requires experienced teachers.

Teachers at Parramatta North Public School are well-versed and experienced in conducting programs in composite classes (stage-based classes). Older students are not held back in composite classes (stage-based classes). A range of programs are used, in most curriculum areas, for the different groups according to their level of development. There will be some joint activities; such as in art and drama, HSIE and Science & Technology. Composite classes (stage-based classes) can provide significant benefits to both the younger and older students in the class. Older students can benefit from helping younger students in co-operative learning situations. The younger students have the opportunity of enhanced learning experiences where they are ready for it. The Department of Education and Communities states that overseas research has shown children in composite classes do no better or worse academically than their peers in straight grade class, but that, socially, their development is enhanced. They are more confident, can operate better as part of a group, are more assertive, become more independent learners and better problem-solvers. They also make friends outside of their standard age-groups.

Please be advised that we have students attending our school who have low immune systems making them susceptible to infections. If your child is sick with a contagious infection, please do not send him/her to school. Please refer to the link below for further information.


Child Safety Around The School

I ask that parents dropping their children off at school in the morning and picking them up in the afternoon to exercise extreme care in driving and parking, and to obey the road rules. Parking in no stopping zones is dangerous as it obstructs vision of both other motorists and of students and others crossing the road. The school community would be devastated if there was an injury to one of our children. We all have a part to play in ensuring our children are safe.

Penalties In School Zones (insert from the NSW Transport Roads and Maritime Services) Fine and demerit point offences in school zones include:
- Speeding – fine and demerit points.
- Approach children’s crossing too quickly to stop safely – fine and demerit points.
- Double parking – fine and demerit points.
- Stopping on or near a children’s crossing – fine and demerit points.
- Use a hand-held mobile phone while driving – fine and demerit points.

School zone penalties apply to offences committed in school zones during posted school hours.

A reminder to parents to notify the school about your child’s health

We welcome information from parents about your child's health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.

We have a few students who are allergic to nuts and one student who is highly allergic, which could be life threatening. Please Do Not put Peanut Butter or Nutella on your child’s sandwiches or send nuts to school.

Meet The Teacher Evening
Meet the Teacher Night will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, February 19. Meet the Teacher Night is a great opportunity to meet with your child’s classroom teacher and find out about specific information relevant to their class. Please note, that the opportunity to have an individual interview with your child’s teacher will be later in the term.

Please meet in the hall at 5:15pm where you will have an opportunity to be introduced to our staff members. This will be followed by a classroom visit to meet your child’s class teacher. There will be two sessions in each classroom, to enable parents to visit more than one class. They will be held at 5:30pm and repeated at 6:00pm, finishing at 6:30pm. We look forward to seeing all parents at these important information-sharing sessions. Teachers will be available to supervise all school age students attending PNPS while you attend the meetings with your child’s class teacher. Please remember, this is not a parent/teacher interview. Interviews will occur at the end of Term 1.

Farewell to Mr Kearney who has been a welcome addition to our staff as he completed a 12 week block. Mr Kearney is returning to university to complete is studies. We wish him all the best and thank him for his contribution to student learning at PNPS.

Mrs Kathryn Methven
Principal

Last Tuesday students in 3 -6 had the great thrill of an assembly with Greater Western Sydney (GWS) Giants AFL player Shaun Edwards. Shaun gave the students an insight into how he has become an elite sportsperson and the importance of healthy eating, dedication and teamwork. Students were given the opportunity to ask questions and a few lucky ones won prizes for correctly answering some quiz questions. Shaun gave the school an autographed GWS football, and spent time giving students autographs at the end of the assembly.

Mr Wheatley

Student Safety – Vehicles on School Grounds
Parents are asked not to drive onto school grounds at any time during the day. This applies to dropping off your child in the morning and picking up in the afternoon. The safety of all our students is the responsibility of the whole school community.

Email Distribution of Newsletter
You have the option of having our school newsletter emailed to you instead of having a hard copy handed to your child. You can nominate as many email addresses as you like.

Please send an email to the following address pnpnewsletter@gmail.com and list these details:
• Write your family name
• Write your student/s name/s and class/es
• List any email addresses you wish to include for newsletter distribution: work, home etc.

If you have any questions please see Miss Young.

Absence from School
If your child has been absent from school due to sickness etc, please write a note to your child’s class teacher stating the date and reason for the absence. It is a Department requirement that all absences from school are explained.

School Photos
School photos will be taken on Wednesday, February 27. Your child has received an envelope from the School Photographer. Please complete the order form and insert the correct money. Change cannot be given. All envelopes must be returned to your child’s class teacher by February 27. Correct summer uniform must be worn for school photographs.

Communication at School
The school newsletter is sent home via the youngest child of every family each fortnight. It is an important means of communication from the school. Please ensure that your child gives you the newsletter every second Monday. Notes detailing excursions and other information are regularly sent home. Please check with your child regarding notes that may have been issued that day.

The school website is another important means of communication. Please check the website for important dates, current information and permission notes.

Our website address is www.parramattn-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Smart Foods to Boost Learning
Mother Nature is full of foods that help us think and feel better. What do you give your child to help them think more clearly, and enhance concentration and memory? Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/smart-foods-to-boost-learning

P & C Meeting – Annual General Meeting
Monday, February 25, 9:15am – School Staffroom
Please note that this is the Annual General Meeting and the Executive Committee will be elected to run the P & C for 2013.
The 2012 P & C had a successful year raising considerable funds to benefit our children. We invite you to join us on Monday, 25th February, as this will be an excellent opportunity to see how you can become involved in your child’s education. Morning Tea will be served.

Selda Ozdemir
P & C President

School Uniforms
Our school continues to have a strong focus on uniform in 2013. Nothing generates greater pride than a school where all students wear the designated school uniform. We, as a school, have expectations of what the children will wear each day. Please ensure that your children are wearing the appropriate uniform.

Summer Uniform Boys
Grey school shirt
Grey shorts
Grey Socks
Blue school hat
Summer Uniform Girls
School dress
White socks
Blue school hat
Sports Uniform
Gold sports shirt
Blue shorts or skirt
White socks
Blue school hat

N.B. Black leather shoes are preferred school shoes.
A blue school jumper or jacket should be worn if the weather is inclement. No other colourful jackets should be worn.
All students should wear a blue school hat.
School hats can be purchased from the office area.

2013 Homework Planner
Kids and families run more smoothly when there’s a plan. The 2012 homework and study calendar includes key dates and school holidays. You can print it out month by month, or by the whole year.

Doing well in class
Our expert panel shares tips about how parents can help their younger and older kids reach their full potential at school and motivate them for learning. Watch the video.Find our more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/getting-off-to-a-good-start/good-start-chapter-one

Eight ways to get your kids organised
Are you ready for morning madness, late assignments, yesterday’s half-eaten lunch sweating in the schoolbag? Just like adults, children cope much better if they can manage their time and their environment wisely.

Accident Insurance
To insure your child against any medical costs of accidents arising at school you are strongly advised to take out private health insurance or check if your school is covered for school accident insurance available via your school’s P&C Association. Parents are reminded that the department does not provide accident or medical insurance for students enrolled in government schools. The only cover provided by the state government is through the Supplementary Sporting Injuries Benefits Scheme, which covers all students permanently injured or killed while participating in authorised school sporting or athletic activities. The scheme does not cover dental injuries, reimbursement of medical expenses, legal expenses or costs. For more information call 02 4321 5392 or go to http://www.sportinginjuries.nsw.gov.au

Telephone Interpreter Service
If you need an interpreter to assist you to contact your principal, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on telephone number 13 1450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The interpreter will call the principal and will stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

Payments at School
All payments for excursions need to be given to your child’s classroom teacher as they are recorded in the class folder. The correct money and permission note should be sent to school in a sealed envelope. These will be collected from students during morning class time. Please do not hand payments to teachers after school, as they cannot be recorded in the folder at that time. Please ensure that only Australian coins are used.

School Bags
A good quality school bag is an important piece of equipment for all students. We now have generous, durable backpacks in our school colours that have numerous compartments ready to hold all essential items and delicious lunches! Our school backpacks that will endure many years of travel to and from school, are available at the school office for $30. A fabulous investment!
You are invited!

To the First Parramatta Blue Light Disco

In association with the Police Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC) Parramatta, and Rotary Daybreak we are hosting a non-alcoholic event for seven to twelve year olds on Saturday 16 March from 5.30pm-9pm. Under sevens are welcome with full parental supervision. A $10 charge per head will cover DJ costs, entertainment and security. We will have BBQ style foods and fun fluorescent drinks available for a small cost.

Stewart House Bags

Stewart House Clothing Appeal bags will be collected on 8th March. If you have any clothes that you or your children are not using anymore please put them in the Stewart House bags received today and return them to school by this date.

Boot Camp at PNPS

Outdoor training sessions for adults are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays commencing at 6pm. Please meet under the COLA at 6.00pm. For more information regarding costs and session times, please contact Tim on 0409 301 839 or email on parramatta@bootcampsaustralia.com

There will be a special discounted rate if your child attends Parramatta North Public School.