PENRITH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Newsletter

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No.02 14  Wednesday, 5th February, 2014

PENRITH PUBLIC SCHOOL’S CORE VALUES

Learning  Environment  Cooperation  Respect

Principal’s Message

What a wonderful start to the year. The students have been working very well in their new classes.
Welcome to our Kindergarten students and their families.
Penrith is indeed fortunate to have such dedicated and caring, talented group of teachers to guide students through their primary education.
I’ve been very impressed by the settled nature of the students and the obvious pride they show in wearing the school uniform.

Students have been placed in temporary classes until week three (we are currently in week two) by which time student numbers will be confirmed. There is every possibility that there will be some changes to classes over the next two weeks.

I’m looking forward to a great school year and welcome the opportunity to meet with all members of our school community at meetings and functions throughout the year.

Student Information Sheet and Interview

So that our teachers can quickly get to know your child, a “Student Information” sheet is being sent home today for you and your child to complete and return to school. An interview time will then be arranged for you to come to the school and discuss your child, using the Student Information Sheet as a basis.

This will be a time for you to speak to the teachers about your child. You will be providing the information.

If you do not wish to have an interview at this time, simply fill in the sheet and return it to your child’s teacher.

If it is not convenient for you to attend this interview session please don’t hesitate to make another time to speak to teachers.

More information about the interview day and time will be sent home next week.
School Contributions

This year we are requesting a voluntary contribution of $35 per child to cover the cost of exercise books, photocopying paper and for teaching/learning materials. It makes a huge difference if each family can contribute $35 per child. Any contribution would be gratefully received. Please send money to school (to your child’s class teacher) in the envelope (sent home today) provided marked with name, class and amount.

Sports Information

This year at Penrith Public School, students will be involved in a wide range of sports activities including carnivals, knockout days and special sports clinics.

I would like to encourage parents and carers to be involved not only in supporting their children, but also in helping in any way to make these events successful.

Swimming Carnival – Stage 2&3

Our annual swimming carnival for Years 3-6 is on Monday, 24th February at Lawson Swimming Pool. This is a change of venue for this year, we have used Lawson pool in the past and found it to be a great venue.

This day is a part of the school curriculum and everyone in year 3-6 is expected to attend.

Those students who have indicated that they are proficient swimmers and can swim fifty metres will be contesting the competitive part of the carnival and some placegetters will be progressing to the Penrith District Carnival to represent our school.

There will also be events for all other students, these are called novelty events and are held in the shallow wading pool (max. depth is one metre). These are great fun and are under strict teacher and pool staff supervision.

Students in Year 2 who are turning eight (8) years of age this year and can successfully swim fifty metres (proof will need to be provided) are also eligible to attend.

Please contact Mr Emmingham for more information and/or if you are able to help as an official on the day.

Permission notes have been sent home. Cost is $12.50, last day for payment is Friday 21st February

Attendance

Every day of a student’s school life is unique. Missing precious time for part or whole days affects learning progress. Unless a child is sick, students should be at school every school day from 9.15am until 3.15pm. If your child needs to miss school for some reason other than illness please discuss the matter with me so that we can make some provision to avoid your child missing out on precious learning time.

Families will be contacted by the school to follow up on absences and notes. A note giving a reason for an absence must be sent to school within three (3) days of the absence. A phone message to the office explaining an absence is also acceptable.

The most effective way we can ensure success in the future for our students is by providing the best possible opportunities for learning – BE AT SCHOOL EVERY DAY!
Scripture Classes
Scripture (religious instruction) classes commence next week. The scripture class that each student attends will be the determined by the information provided by parents/carers on the student enrolment form.

“The Kiss & Ride”
The “Kiss & Ride” zone in Doonmore Street is a designated drop off and pick up area next to the school(outside the canteen). It is for passenger set down only. No parking is allowed – do not leave your car unattended.

By law you are NOT permitted to stop for more than two (2) minutes in this area.
If your child is not there waiting for you, or the Kiss and Ride zone is full you will need to drive around the block and re-enter the Kiss and Ride zone OR park your vehicle elsewhere.

Copies of the “Kiss and Ride Zone” pamphlets are available from the school office.

Leaving Early
Under no circumstances should children be taken home early from school unless there is a very legitimate reason. Every moment spent at school is a valuable part of children’s learning experience.

Children should not get into the habit of thinking that they can leave school whenever they feel like it.

Each time a child arrives late or leaves early it is recorded (as the school is legally bound to keep records of student attendance) and if the reason is not legitimate then it is indicated as an absence without reason. This information may then be passed on to the Department of Education and Training Home School Liaison Officer to follow up.

Before School
Supervision time in the playground commences at 8.45am; students should not be arriving before this time.

Ken Jackson
Principal

Canteen
Please be advised that the canteen is for food and drink purchases only and canteen staff will NOT be responsible for opening or heating food brought to school by students.

Before school – the canteen will be selling only milk and taking lunch orders
For children to be served quickly, you may pre-order frozen products on the lunch bag and they can be picked at recess or lunch without having to line up

School Hats for 2014 - Reminder
All students are required to wear our school hat or cap(with school crest). The hat ($15) and cap ($10) can be purchased from “Back to Basics” in Cox Avenue – there is also a limited supply available at the school office. Students must wear our school hat to play on the oval and to participate in excursions.
“Good Ones”

“Good Ones” (printed paper tokens) form the cornerstone of our positive behaviour program.

Every student on Green Level can earn “Good Ones.”

“Good Ones” can be earned through good behaviour, good work, good attitude or other positive behaviours.

When a student has earned five (5) “Good” Ones he/she places them in a special stage box. The student will be awarded a Bronze Certificate in exchange.

When a student has earned five (5) Bronze Certificates the student will be awarded a Silver Certificate.

When a student has earned four (4) Silver Certificates he/she will be awarded a Gold Certificate at the Gold Awards Assembly at the end of the year.

Receiving a Gold Certificate is very prestigious and a wonderful keepsake for both student and family. By ensuring that your child is at school every day gives them a better chance of receiving this award.

Stage 3 has a variation of the “Good Ones” system but the students still work toward receiving a Gold Award at the end of the year.

Respect the Past
Build for the Future

2014 Registration Days
Saturday 8 February 2014 & Saturday 15 February 2014
10.00 am — 2.00 pm
Allsopp Oval, Oxford Street, Cambridge Park

New players require original birth certificate plus photocopy

2014 Registration Fees
Included in Rego: Shorts, Socks and Game Day Polo Shirt
Under 6 and Under 7 - $150.00 (inc. $100.00 worth of raffle tickets for you to sell)
Under 8 — Under 15 - $185.00 (inc. $100.00 worth of raffle tickets for you to sell)
Under 16 and Under 17 - $205.00 (inc. $100.00 worth of raffle tickets for you to sell)
Under 19 - $250.00 (inc. $100.00 worth of raffle tickets for you to sell)
You sell the raffle tickets — You keep the money

Enquiries:
Kim Wheatley — Registrar
kimwheatley2@optusnet.com.au
0417 268 286
Annette Murphy — Secretary
annette.murphy6@bigpond.com
0467 602 040 (after 4.00 pm)
Congratulations to the
2014
SPORTS CAPTAINS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waratah</th>
<th>Banksia</th>
<th>Wattle</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Captains: Tahlia Nunn</td>
<td>Captains: Yalda Nawazi</td>
<td>Captains: Angelina Bektas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manav Kashyap</td>
<td>Clayton Benge</td>
<td>Liam Hoogenboom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Capt: Chloe Benge</td>
<td>Vice Capt: Emma Epps</td>
<td>Vice Capt: Balqis Rishamsulkamal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Roy</td>
<td>Bailey Benge</td>
<td>Sooban Sharif</td>
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Play And Chat Playgroup
Commences on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February – 9.15-11.00am
Held in “Bringa” house at the corner of Doonmore and Lethbridge St.
Contact Connect Child & Family Services 4758 9966 or just turn up.

Allergies
We have several children enrolled in our school, who have a severe allergy
(Anaphylaxis) to nuts (hazelnuts, cashew nuts, peanuts, etc), nut products and eggs.
The teachers have all been trained in managing students with allergies so they will be
speaking to the students about their hygiene and eating practices.
Please encourage your children to never share their food and to follow good hygiene
practices when eating food.
As many foods contain nuts or traces of nuts or eggs we have to be as responsible as
possible when providing lunch and snack foods to ensure that these vulnerable students
do not come into direct contact with these allergens.
Please contact your child’s teacher for further information.
Premier’s Reading Challenge – 2014

Once again, students from K-6 will have the opportunity to participate in the annual Premier’s Reading Challenge. Successful students in K-2 experience 30 picture books from the PRC reading list with their teachers. Successful students in Years 3-6 must read 15 books from their PRC reading list, plus five free-choice books, which may be books they have at home, or read in the library or classroom. Penrith Public Library also supports the Challenge and uses the same coloured identification stickers (red – K-2; green – 3-4; and purple 5-6) as the school’s collection of PRC books.

Conditions of entry are that successful students receive a certificate and have their names appear on the PRC Honour Roll. If this is a difficulty for a family, they should notify the school immediately, please. All students completing the Challenge receive a participation certificate in Term 4. Students completing their fourth year of the Challenge receive a gold certificate. Students completing their seventh year of the Challenge receive a platinum certificate.

In 2013, 258 of our students completed the Challenge, with 39 of these gold and three platinum. This year we are aiming for 100% achievement! Class teachers will discuss with students how their class will be recording their progress. This year, the PRC has released an app for Windows 8, Apple (iPhone and iPad) and Android devices. The app permits students and parents to search for PRC book titles from a mobile device, record books as they are read, and track personal reading process during the Challenge.

For more information, and full rules of the PRC, please visit: 

Mr Ian McLean,  
Teacher-librarian

Borrowing from the school library

All students from K-6 have the opportunity to borrow from the school library each week: in library lessons, before school and at lunch times. It is a great way to supplement your child’s recreational and shared reading, and helps to create good habits for the future. Please provide a cloth library bag, clearly marked with your child’s name and class, and make sure they bring it to school on library day.

Discuss with your children where library books can be stored while they are at home, as they need to be protected from spills, pets, and small brothers and sisters. Lost or damaged books mean that all borrowers are inconvenienced. (If you encounter a library book that has been damaged, please do not attempt to repair it yourself. Send it back with a note.) More books may be borrowed each week, when the previous books are returned (during library time). There is also a yellow “Returns” box, just inside the library door, for books being returned when the library is unattended.

Mr Ian McLean,  
Teacher-librarian
Helpful Hints

Homework Help

Want to help your child with their homework?
- Take an active interest in your child's homework.
- Support your child in setting aside time each day for homework.
- Provide a dedicated place for homework and study if possible.
- Assist teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested, and be aware of the amount of homework set.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework or your child's approach to homework.
- Encourage your children to read and take an interest in current events.
- Alert the school to any domestic circumstances or extra-curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or marked.

Online Safety Tips

Worried about your child’s safety online? Here are some guidelines that can help:
- Put the computer in a central area of the home, not in a bedroom
- Be reasonable and try to set reasonable expectations
- Be open with your child and encourage them to come to you if they encounter a problem online – cultivate trust and communications because no rules, laws or filtering software can replace you as their first line of defence
- Talk with your child about how they use the Internet. Make sure they understand basic safety guidelines. These include protecting privacy (including passwords), never posting personal information, never meeting people they only know online and not posting inappropriate or potentially embarrassing photos
- Try to get your kids to share their blogs or online profiles with you, but be aware that they can have multiple accounts on multiple services.
**Penrith Public School**

**Calendar**

**Important Dates**

**Clothing Pool**

Open every Wednesday
8.45am - 9.15am

**TERM 1**

**FEBRUARY**

4  Play & Chat commences – please note days this year are Tuesday & Wednesday
5  Kindergarten commence
24  Swimming Carnival – Lawson Pool (please note change of venue)
25  P & C meeting 6.30pm

**MARCH**

11  School Photographs
25  P & C meeting 6.30pm

**APRIL**

11  ANZAC Day assembly
    Last day of Term 1

**TERM 2**

28  Professional Learning day for teachers
29  First day of term 2 for all students

**MAY**

27  P & C meeting 6.30pm

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**NO DOGS ALLOWED ON SCHOOL PREMISES**

*Please be advised that dogs (including dogs on leashes) are not allowed on the school premises. This is for the safety of all our students.*

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**Staff Car Park**

*DO NOT ENTER THE STAFF CAR PARK*

IT IS FOR STAFF PARKING, SUPPORT CLASS TAXIS AND DELIVERIES ONLY

IT IS NOT TO BE USED FOR PARENT PARKING!!