PENRITH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Newsletter

High Street, Penrith NSW 2750 Ph: 02 4721 2158 Fax: 02 4721 3466
Email: penrith-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.penrith-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

No.05 14 Tuesday, 25th February, 2014

PENRITH PUBLIC SCHOOL’S CORE VALUES

Learning   Environment   Cooperation   Respect

Principal’s Message

School Photographs

Photograph day is Tuesday, 11th March. Please return envelopes with correct money to your child’s class teacher.

Family photographs envelopes are available on request from the school office.

Student Information Sheet and Interview

Please arrange an interview time to come to the school and discuss your child, using the Student Information Sheet as a basis. The teacher will bring the sheet to the interview.

Interview day for Stage 3 (Year 5&6) is Wednesday 26th February 3.30pm – 6.00pm
Monday 24th February is the last day for organising an interview
Kindergarten interviews will be in Week 8 1.30-5.30pm

Please contact the office to arrange a time

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.

SRC, Library monitors & House Captain Induction

On Friday, 7th March, the SRC, library monitors & House Captains will be inducted, with a badge-pinning ceremony at the whole school assembly. Invitations have been sent home to the families of the elected students.
Clean Up Australia

Clean Up Australia Day is here again and the theme this year is “Put yourself in the picture and Clean-Up Australia.” We are participating in this event by joining in the Schools Clean Up Day on Friday, 28th February (weather permitting) by making our school, rubbish free.

Going Home Arrangements

Please make sure your child is very clear about how he or she is going home and with whom.

Inside the school building

The safety of our students is paramount; therefore I would ask all parents and carers if they could avoid coming into the school building before and after school. With so many people in the corridor of the main building, it is impossible for us to know which people have legitimate business with our school.

So unless you have business at the school office I would ask that you drop or meet your children on the asphalt area outside the building.

All students have been asked to not enter the building before school.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in our students’ safety.

School Contributions

Thank you to all those families who have paid their school fees, it is most appreciated

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 provided marked with name, class and amount.

Swimming Carnival – Stage 2&3

Our first carnival for the year was held yesterday. Fortunately the weather was beautiful and we had a great day. The students were constantly commended for their outstanding behaviour and manners. Well done Penrith Public School students, you have made us very proud.

Thank you to Mr Emmingham, staff, parents and carer helpers who made the day a success.

A disappointing aspect was the number of students who did not attend the swimming carnival. There were at least thirty students who, with their parent’s permission, chose to stay at school or did not come to school at all. The annual swimming carnival is a part of the school calendar of events and every student is expected to attend.

This is a fun day with an enormous amount of organisation by the teachers to ensure that every student is safe and has a lot of fun. Those children who attended will attest to having a great day with their friends, cheering on the competitive swimmers and having a wonderful time in the novelty events.
**Canteen News**
Parent volunteers are needed to assist in the canteen, serving and making lunches. If you can spare some time during the week, 9.30am – 1.45pm, please leave your name and contact details at the school office and a member of the Penrith PS P&C Association will contact you.

![Canteen News Image](image)

**Breakfast Club**
Parent volunteers are needed to help at Breakfast Club between 8.45am and 9.20am.

**Please see Mrs Bradley in the Rainbow Cottage if you can help.**

**Stranger Danger**

Just a reminder that we must be extremely vigilant with our children at all times. Please sit your children down and talk to them about:

- never talk to strangers
- never accept lifts from people you don’t know
- never accept gifts from strangers
- never open the door at home to strangers
- try to walk in groups

Work out a strategy for your children to follow if they ever feel uncomfortable when out walking. Please advise the school if you have any concerns regarding strangers and your children.

**Student work online**

Here are some recent and interesting digital slideshows created by, or for, students at Penrith Public School. They require Flash and an Internet browser to view online. I hope you enjoy viewing them.

- **“Robbie Rules: My first day at school”** (2013’s Stage 3 & Stage 2 students, created for a 2014 Early Stage 1 audience): [http://photopeach.com/album/7vohrn](http://photopeach.com/album/7vohrn)
- **“Gorilla’s new suit”** by Class 1/2IW (2013): [http://photopeach.com/album/yg5paf](http://photopeach.com/album/yg5paf)
- **“Penrith PS mural”** (preserving our historic mural from 1998): [http://photopeach.com/album/mcj05a](http://photopeach.com/album/mcj05a)

Mr Ian McLean Teacher-Librarian
BUNNINGS BBQ
(Castlereagh Road store)
Saturday, 29th March 2014
8.00am – 4pm

If you can help serve or cook (even for an hour) we would love your assistance.
Please leave your details at the school office (47212158) and someone from the P&C will contact you.
All money raised goes to help students at Penrith Public School.

Nepean Creative & Performing Arts High School

Are you interested in Dance, Drama, Music or the Visual Arts?
then
Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School may be the school for you

Talented students with a strong interest in Dance, Circus, Drama, Music, or Visual Arts are encouraged to apply for audition

Local, in area, students wanting to be part of the selective Creative and Performing Arts Program must also audition or present a portfolio of work

To be part of the 2015 Year 7 cohort of Creative and Performing Arts students, check the website for an Audition Application at www.nepean-h.schools.nsw.edu.au under the CAPA Tab - Auditions

For further information contact the school on
4728 7203 or 4728 7200

Closing date for applications for Years 7 2015
Monday 7th April 2014

Auditions will be held in May
Raising a Reader

Top Tips:
1. Read aloud with your child every day from the day they were born
2. Give your child crayons, paints, pens and paper to scribble, draw and write
3. Use your child’s pictures to encourage reading and writing
4. Take books wherever you go
5. Join a library
6. Keep it positive and fun

Head Lice

Over the past couple of weeks a few cases of head lice have been reported. Letters have gone home informing families of students in classes affected and requesting checking and treatment of each student’s hair.

Head lice are found in the cleanest and even the recently treated hair. As you can imagine, this is very frustrating for families who have just treated the problem. The best way to make sure we don’t get head lice spreading through our school is for all families to check weekly and treat quickly.

Please check your child’s hair every Friday and, if necessary, treat over the weekend so that every Monday we know every head of hair is free of head lice.

If we all cooperate then we can outsmart the head lice
Helping children to be organised

The ability to organise space, time and possessions is an important but often underestimated success skill.

Some children are naturally well-organised. A place for everything and everything in its place is their mantra even from a young age. These neatniks can be a little compulsive but order and personal organisation lead to greater personal effectiveness and efficiency.

Many children need assistance with organisation. It just doesn’t come naturally. Give them a complex project and they flounder as they can’t naturally break it into neat chunks and manageable pieces. Give them a number of tasks to do and they will leave one out. Ask them to arrange a series of files and they will struggle unless you create a system to follow.

Organisational skills can be learned. Processes and procedures once practised can be part of a set of personal skills that stay for life.

There are four categories of personal organisation skills. By understanding each category you can work out your own ways of developing children’s organisational skills:

1. **Chunking**: Breaking complex tasks into small, manageable steps. For instance, week-long school projects can be broken down into a series of smaller tasks that can be completed daily.

2. **Goal-setting**: Helping children set small and large goals is one tangible way of increasing their effectiveness. E.G. “I want to learn to spell 200 new words from my list by Friday.”

3. **Making plans**: Working out steps required to help achieve goals and objectives requires children to look ahead. “I will learn five words a day. I’ll get Mum to hear me each night.” “I’ll put $1 aside each week. I’ve got to buy my brother a birthday present. Now that will be difficult but if I...”

4. **Managing time**: Time planning tools such as lists and diaries can help children keep schedules, hand work in on time and help prevent children overestimating what they can achieve.

Children’s homework can provide headaches for parents. Encourage children to get organised by thinking ahead and planning their homework around their extra-curricular activities. A weekly planner or diary will help older students get organised. Assisting children to become organised is perhaps the best way parents can help at home.

**Try This...**

**PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE**

To promote organisational skills in your children try the following four strategies:

1. Use lists for forgetful kids. For instance, ask them to list the five things they need to do in the morning before going to school.

2. Have a monthly family calendar for important activities and events. Encourage children to place important activities on it and check it regularly.

3. Before children begin homework ask them to estimate how long it will take and then check their estimates. Encourage children to work efficiently and quickly rather than spend long periods of time doing tasks.

4. Encourage children to set goals on a regular basis. E.G. “How many books will you read this week?” “How much will you save this week?”

**Action Plan**

**First Step...**

**Next Step....**

**What’s your child like?**

**Is your child well-organised?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOES HE</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>YES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Need to be constantly reminded about simple things?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoy order and feel uncomfortable with too much clutter and mess?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easily break big tasks into small jobs and enjoy doing multi-step tasks?</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish his own routines and function well</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCORE**

10. An organisational type. Can be a little scary for mere mortals.

6-8: Works fairly well even around clutter.

0-4: Probably needs help with the basics.

**Quote**

“We can no more afford to spend major time on minor things than we can spend minor time on major things.” Jim Rohn

www.parentingideas.com.au
The Penrith Public School Newsletter is sent home with the youngest member of each family

Counsellor’s Corner

If your child would benefit from building self-confidence and self-esteem in a fun environment while also developing their social skills, this group program may be worth considering.

Leanne Goldsmith
School Counsellor
Penrith Public School
Calendar

### Important Dates

**2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TERM 1</strong></th>
<th><strong>FEBRUARY</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Stage 1 (Year 1&amp;2) interviews – 3.30pm – 6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P &amp; C meeting 6.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Stage 3 (Year 5&amp;6) interviews – 3.30pm – 6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>“Clean Up Australia”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>MARCH</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>APRIL</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TERM 2</strong></th>
<th><strong>APRIL</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Professional Learning day for teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>First day of term 2 for all students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>MAY</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Clothing Pool**
Open every Wednesday
8.45am - 9.15am

**School Banking**
Every Tuesday morning before school under the COLA