Principal’s Message
Dear Parents and Carers,

The swimming carnival was fantastic and the behaviour of our students was exemplary. This is something that we as a school work on all the time and never take for granted. Each student is to be congratulated on their sportsmanship and cooperation. This wonderful day was preceded by an enormous amount of organisation by the teachers to ensure that every student was safe and had a lot of fun. Those children who attended had a great day with their friends, cheering on the swimmers and having an energetic splashy time in the novelty events.

Congratulations to Wattle House who won the very competitive (and stylish) cheering contest.

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

Julie Stockton
Acting Principal

This week I happily have to convey our appreciation to another family for their thoughtfulness. A sincere thank you from all of us to the He family for their generous donation of a school uniform this week. There is definitely something very special about the Penrith Public School community.

Recorder Group
Mrs Hayward has begun a recorder group and is teaching recorder in her room from 8.45 am to 9.10 am each Tuesday morning. Please don’t bring your child into the building before school, Mrs Hayward will meet the interested students outside on the silver seats. There are some recorders available for those who don’t have one but it would be best for students to buy and bring their own so they have one to practise on at home.
The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey
This term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.
The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.
I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.
A consent form and information for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students today. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **Friday 27 February**. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

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 or are making an appointment for an interview 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.

SRC, Library monitors Councillor Pledge & House Captain Induction
To all those students who have accepted leadership positions in our school. Thank you for being excellent role models and helpers. We are proud of you.
On Friday, 27th February, the SRC, library monitors & House Captains will be inducted and presented with their badges at the whole school assembly.

**Well done new House Captains and Vice Captains**

**Waratah**
**Captains** Shannon Hayden Wacker and Brianna Whittick
**Vice Captains** Lachlan Minor and Karitika Kashyap

**Wattle**
**Captains** Ali Beydoun and Kaylee McKenzie
**Vice Captains** Kuda Musokuwaya and Dija Rishamsulkamal

**Banksia**
**Captains** Ethan Maucort and Paige Burton
**Vice Captains** Zak Hockenhull-Glisson and Jasmine Footit
Congratulations to all our Student Council Representatives for 2015

Lorozany Pomare  K1S  Belle McHugh  3/4MB
Zackaria Siddiqi  K1S  Declan Faleafaga  3/4MB
Joshua Stanislas  1HW  Callum Roy  3/4W
Dita Blades  1HW  Isaac Rewi-Samuelu  3/4W
Eavie Doyle  1S  Angeline Chetty  3-6P
Kallum Payne  1S  Hayley Benge  3-6P
Allison Muriel  2B  Ayla Boyce  5/6C
Mason Jones Hartnig  2B  Brodie Hiron-Smith  5/6C
Lucinda Harricks  2M  Heath Rossetti  5/6E
Riley Stevens  2M  Thomas Munro  5/6E
Jasper Cohen  2P  Brigette Fletcher  5/6NW
Lynette Howard  2P  Jakob Lodge  5/6NW
Sean Tanks  3/4B  Amelie McLennan  5/6W
Vanessa Footit  3/4B  Brendan Lewis  5/6W
Charli Turner-Rhodes  3/4M
Dakota Parker  3/4M

Thank you to our new Library Monitors. We know you will do a great job.

Kaylor Anderson - Slater  Abigail Palm  Paige Podmore
Brigette Fletcher  Kiralee Anderson - Slater  Tahlia Butler
Katelyn Pouros  Benson Payyappilly  Brayden Weymss

School Photos THIS THURSDAY 26th February
Money for photographs should be returned to your child’s class teacher. Please put exact money in the envelopes as orders go directly to the photographer without being opened. After the Photograph Day you will need to contact the Photography Company directly if you have not put your order in by then

Please remember …
To support your P and C. Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month in the Special Purposes Room. The next meeting is tonight the 24th February.

School Contributions
It’s never too late to send in your Voluntary Contribution of $35. Any contribution would be gratefully received
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.

Chinese New year At school

The students in early Stage One and Stage One enjoyed hearing Mrs McGrouther tell the story of why this is the Year of the Ram. They acted out the tale for their classmates. The classes had made colourful lanterns, dragons, fans and musical instruments. Every class had a turn parading and making the most fantastic noise with drums, shakers, tambourines and lots of cheering. This assembly is part of our work on the unit ‘Celebrations’. The soon to be hatched eggs and chicks will be here soon to help us celebrate Easter. Thank you to Mrs McGrouther and all of the teachers for making such a memorable occasion for our students.

Lachlan and Mason with their talking dragons.
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

Forward with Pride since 1865

Coming soon to a wall near you. Mrs Bradley has organised to have plaques made for the 51 countries and Aboriginal language areas represented at Public School. A peace garden is being designed and planted near the display.

21st Century Learners.

5/6 NW participated in a very interesting interactive lesson last week. In their classroom via video screen was a violinist discussing the creative process and talking to them about making music. The students asked very intelligent questions. Congratulations to Mrs Neal and Mrs Walker for all the work they put into organising and testing that the technology was working before it could all happen. There will be more information coming home about these lessons shortly.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Registration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circle Of Security For Dads</td>
<td>6 sessions running from 17th Feb-24th of March 7-8:30pm</td>
<td>Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resilience Doughnut</td>
<td>Held on the 25th of March 9:30am-11:30am</td>
<td>Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilience Doughnut</td>
<td>Held on the 18th of March 12:30-2:30pm</td>
<td>Mt Victoria Venue TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilience Doughnut</td>
<td>Held on March 19th 6pm-8pm</td>
<td>Blackheath Neighbourhood Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lets talk Grandparenting</td>
<td>Held on March 19th Time TBA</td>
<td>ENRICH 14 Oak St Katoomba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take a Break</td>
<td>During school Terms 10am-12:30pm</td>
<td>Heatherbrae Cottage 6 Benang St St Lawson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lets Talk- The Strong Willed &amp; Sensitive Child</td>
<td>3 sessions - 19th &amp; 26th Feb &amp; 5th of March 9:30-12pm</td>
<td>Heatherbrae Cottage 6 Benang St St Lawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle Of Security</td>
<td>6 sessions running from 17th Feb to the 24th March 9:30am-11am</td>
<td>Blackland UC Hall 72 Old Bathurst Rd Blackland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting teen and pre-teen Daughters</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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For more information and individual flyers go to: www.gatewayfamilyservices.org.au or www.facebook.com/GatewayFS
Gateway Family services Parent Group Program is funded by DSS & NSW FACS
Gateway works collaboratively with communities from St Marys to Blackheath
Thanks to MMM for providing childcare to Daytime groups
Some information you might find interesting and useful. On our website the hyperlinks can be used to access the sites directly.

Barbara Petchenik Children’s Map Competition 2015

Competition’s theme is “My place in today’s world”. Entries can be nominated in four age groups: under 6 years, 6-8 years, 9-12 years and 13-15 years. The deadline for participation in the contest is Thursday, 2 April 2015.

For more detailed information about the competition, please visit the MSIA website http://mappingsciences.org.au.

All about apostrophes
Not knowing where to place apostrophes can haunt people for their entire lives. Here’s an easy guide to help your child understand what they mean, how to use them and get them right, now.

When older kids struggle with reading
Should you let your reluctant teen reader choose magazines over books? If your child is still struggling to read and write, and they’re heading into high school, there are ways to get them on the right page.

Primary school
Multiplication times tables
Does your child need encouragement? Explain to them that learning times tables = instant, painless recall in exams. Here’s School A to Z’s help sheet:

Sorting fact from fiction
Help your child develop their “dodgy website” antennae when doing homework. Here are ways your child can tell a good website – or any document – from a bad one.
Penrith Public School
Calendar

Important Dates
2015

TERM 1

FEBRUARY
24 Stage one and Stage two interviews
24 P & C meeting 6.30pm
25 Stage 2 Bike Safety for 3/4 M and W
26 School Photographs
27 SRC, Library monitors, House Captains Induction assembly
27 Clean up Australia at school

MARCH
4 District swimming carnival
19 Stage 2 Bike Safety for 3/4 B and MB
24 P & C meeting 6.30pm
29 Bunnings BBQ

APRIL
2 Last day of Term 1

TERM 2
20 Teachers return
21 First day of term 2 for all students
24 Anzac assemblies

MAY
1 Sesqui centenary assembly
12-14 NAPLAN
21 School photos day 2
26 P & C meeting 6.30pm

Clothing Pool
Open every Wednesday
8.45am - 9.15am

School Banking
Every Tuesday morning before school under the COLA