PENRITH PUBLIC SCHOOL
Forward with Pride since 1865

Newsletter

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PENRITH PUBLIC SCHOOL'S CORE VALUES
Learning  Environment  Cooperation  Respect

As the year draws to a close I need to thank many people without whose support this school almost certainly wouldn’t function; Thank you to the students and parents who are the focal point of the school, to the very professional, dedicated and caring teachers, executive and support staff, and to Mrs Brown, Mrs Saliba, Mrs Tumeth-Clark, Mrs Brisco and Mrs Olson who work above and beyond the call of duty every day – the contribution of all these people to school-life at Penrith Public School is immeasurable, it’s what makes this school unique and a great place to educate your children.

This is the final newsletter for 2014 and my last as Principal. As yet there is no news as to my replacement. More than likely it will be filled temporarily by one of our executive until the position is advertised in term one next year.

Thank you to the parents/carers, the wonderful students and my exceptionally talented staff it has been a privilege to have worked with you and it has created memories that I will treasure for life.

Have a happy and safe Christmas and holiday period.

Ken Jackson  Principal

Presentation Day

Congratulations to all award winners at the Presentation Day assembly. Thank you to all the parents, caregivers, family members and friends who made this event very special and memorable for their children. Thank you to Mr Ward and Mrs Saliba for their outstanding organisation of this important event.

Goodbye Mr Marc Lewis

Mr Lewis will be leaving us at the end of the year to take up a promotion position as Assistant Principal at a new school.

Mr Lewis has been a wonderful staff member, his enthusiasm, professionalism and knowledge will be sadly missed by the entire Penrith Public School community.

We will also miss his dedication and commitment to the students in his care.

On behalf of the Penrith Public School community, Mr Lewis, thank you for everything.
Year 6 Farewell Tonight - Tuesday 16th December
5.30pm – 8.30pm
Year 6 arrive at 5.30pm to take photographs.
Year 6 parents arrive back at the hall at 7.30pm for Graduation celebrations.
All children must be picked up by 8.30.

Congratulations Ben Robertson – Australian Athletics Champion
Congratulations to Ben Robertson for placing first in shotput and second in discus in the AWD T/FOI category at the National Athletics carnival in Tasmania.
An outstanding achievement Ben. We are very proud of you.

2015 Organisation
If you know already that your child will be leaving Penrith Public School at the end of this year and will NOT be returning in 2015 could you please notify the school office (Year 6 students excepted).
If you know already that your Christmas holidays will extend past the start of school next year (Wednesday 28th January) could you please write a note to the school office stating the anticipated date of return to school in 2015.

Farewell Year 6
Another year passes and we see another group of fine young people ending their primary education and moving on to high school. With these students go also their parents who have been involved with Penrith Public School in varying capacities, some for the last seven years. To these people we say thank you for your help and support that has assisted our school to prepare your children for the future.
I wish each student commencing high school next year every success for the future.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
A big thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Raffle.
Have a safe and happy holiday.
P&C Committee
2014 Honour Board

Captains for 2015

Emma Epps
Kaitlyn Fleming

2014 Councillors

Chloe Benge
Anthea Faleafaga
Sooban Sharif
Balqis Rishamsulkamat
Cooper Agius
Josephine Daguman
Tayla Northey
Ngapia Harawira

2014 Dux

Holly Epps

2014 Quiet Achiever

Chloe Hunt

2014 Citizenship

Robert Brown

2014 Sports Champion

Angelina Bektas

2014 Creative Arts Award

Thalan Cowlishaw

2014 SRC Award

Libby Okello
One of my favourite sayings is an ancient Chinese proverb:

“If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees but if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people.”

Good morning to our special guests, Janelle Lodge, President of the Penrith Public School P & C Association, Mrs Sandy Berry, Mrs Brenda Donovan, ladies and gentlemen and students of Penrith Public School.

I would like to thank the parents, carers and family members who have joined us and helped to make today’s assembly a memorable occasion.

This, my tenth and final year as Principal of Penrith Public School has been particularly rewarding and I must thank the entire Penrith Public School community for their continued commitment to their children’s learning and to our school.

2014 has been a very busy and highly productive year at Penrith Public School. Notably, Pedlar’s Fair, Grandparents day, the school athletics carnival and Harmony Day were standouts, with more than 70% of parents and carers in attendance at each event.

Today I’m not going to give you a rundown of the school’s and individuals achievements in 2014, if you read the weekly newsletter then you will already have a good knowledge of what’s happened this year. I’m going to be a bit indulgent and speak to you about public education and Penrith Public School in particular.

I have always been involved in public education, from when I attended Kindergarten in a tiny one teacher school in the Riverina, to my primay education at Narrandera and Leeton, to my secondary education at Leeton and Northmead High Schools. My family didn’t have a lot and I wasn’t the brightest student in the school but I was the first person in my family to attend university. The one thing my parents always insisted upon was that I attend school every day and work hard.

Each morning as I put out the crossing flags I often tell people that it took five years of university to be able to do this.

Public Education has afforded me an exceptional working life, as it has my wife and two sons. Public education is an extraordinary base from which to launch your career be it at university or some other learning institution or environment. Research tells us that public education is the best preparation for tertiary education.

Penrith Public School is almost 150 years old and it has an enviable reputation as a great place to educate your child.

Other schools’ marvel at our students’ exemplary attitude and behaviour when they are out in the public eye. In many ways the learning, behaviour and attitudes formed by our students cannot be measured but they are very self-evident.

It’s important I believe to acknowledge the work our staff has done in this area and the role you as parents have as the primary educators and most influential person in the lives of your child. Ours is a diverse community with students coming to school from a range of backgrounds and circumstances. It is just as important that there be participation in our school of children and families of varied backgrounds, of substantial means and little means, and of different faiths and of no faith.

We as a community are richer for this diversity – not necessarily in dollar terms but certainly richer in terms of human potential. The fact that our school draws from a range of backgrounds offers an advantage to all those children and families who are an integral part of our school.
Every child brings resources with them into our school – varieties of talents, experiences, culture, family circumstances and expectations, resilience, and a sense of fun. Some students arrive at school extremely well resourced, and some, not so, but each child who leaves our school has had an equal opportunity to have the basis of an excellent education. As a public school that draws from the entire community our school mirrors the varied social fabric of the broader community. Through our dedicated and enthusiastic staff and a supportive Parents and Citizens Association we as a public school community have the capacity to prepare our children to be fully functioning members of society, well-prepared for the challenges of a working life.

I say this every year but it is so important, Penrith Public School students are equal to or better than students from anywhere in Australia, our results prove this. The key to continuing this academic trend is to value your child’s education, help them believe in themselves and always have high realistic expectations. Having your children attend school every day is the key to their continued success.

Good schools are a reflection of its community. The sad loss of Jane Dennis recently cast a pall over the school community and it is a tribute to the professionalism of the staff and the thoughtfulness and understanding of the students, parents and community members that we were able to carry on through that difficult period.

We are extremely lucky to have some of the best staff that I have ever worked with. They are dedicated, hardworking and all here for the same reason ….. to see that the students they teach receive the best education they can possibly give them.

This year we see the departure of families from Penrith Public School as the final family member graduates from Year 6. The passing of an era. Many of these families have been very active in the school and now it is the turn of others to take on those roles. Year 6 and their family’s we thank you for your support over the past years and we wish you the best in the next exciting part of your life.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the parents/carers, members of the P & C Association, the Breakfast Club and volunteers for the contributions that you have made to the education of Penrith Public School students during the Year 2014. The significant progress of our school is due in part to the hard work of parent committees and the generosity of our school community. For that we thank you!

To the outstanding students of Penrith Public School thank you for being exceptional and wonderful ambassadors for Penrith Public School.

To the wonderful students and my exceptionally talented staff it has been a privilege to have worked with you and it has created memories that I will treasure for life.

To all present at this assembly today, please have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year period.

As always Penrith Public School students “Go Forward with Pride”- once again confirming that Penrith Public School is a great place to learn.

Michael Jordan once said:

I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.
Vacation Care Centres

Penrith City Council will be running Vacation Care Centres during the summer vacation, venues are:
Emu Plains, Emu Village OOSH 47354511
Glenmore Pk, Glenmore Pk OOSH 4733 5097
Cranebrook – Grays Lane OOSH 4729 1736
South Penrith, Tandar OOSH 4732 4162
St Clair, Kindana OOSH 9834 4076
Werrington, Yoorami OOSH 47316929

Canteen News

There will be **NO lunch orders** on Wednesday, 17th December (last day of term). The canteen will be open for snack foods and the purchase of lolly bags ($1).
Below are some suggestions for stocking fillers for Christmas

2015 Stationery Requirements for Year 5 & 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 x Lead pencils</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 x blue biro</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x red biro</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x 30cm Ruler</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 x glue stick</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 x A4 lined homework book</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 x pkt coloured pencils</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 x Sharpener – barrel type</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 x Eraser</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x Pencil case</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x box of tissues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x scissors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>library bag</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School hat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional pkt of wind up crayons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>textas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dictionary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35 school contribution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*** Put your name on everything</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2015 Stationery Requirements for Year 3 & 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 x Lead pencils HB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x 30cm Ruler (wood or firm plastic – no metal)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 x glue sticks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x pkt coloured pencils</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x Sharpener – barrel type</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1x Eraser</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x Pencil case</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 x boxes of tissues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x pkt of textas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x pkt Wet Ones</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School hat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library bag</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scissors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plastic refillable water bottle for desk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35 school contribution</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>*** Put your name on everything</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

2015 Stationery Requirements for Year K - 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Year 1 and 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 x glue sticks</td>
<td>1 x Pkt coloured pencils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x Box of tissues</td>
<td>2 x glue sticks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x pkt Wet Ones</td>
<td>2 x writing pencils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 x writing pencils</td>
<td>1 x pkt of wind up crayons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint shirt</td>
<td>1 x box of tissues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School hat</td>
<td>1 x pkt Wet Ones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library bag</td>
<td>Paint shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35 school contribution</td>
<td>library bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15 – “Sounds Easy” books, scrapbooks, workbooks &amp; reading folders</td>
<td>School hat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*** Put your name on everything</td>
<td>$35 school contribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15 fee for clubs activities, scrapbook, reading folders &amp; writing books</td>
<td>$10 fee for clubs activities, scrapbook, reading folders &amp; writing books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*** Put your name on everything</td>
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Please remember that every child must have a school hat for 2015 and if you are purchasing shoes, then black is our school uniform.
**Penrith Public School**

**Calendar**

## Important Dates

### 2014

#### DECEMBER

16 Reports go home  
   Year 6 Farewell  
17 Last day of school for students  
   Canteen lolly day - canteen closed for lunch orders  
18 Professional development day for teachers  
19 Professional development day for teachers  

#### 2015

#### JANUARY

27 Teachers return  
28 Year 1 - Year 6 students return  
   Kindergarten Best Start interviews commence

#### FEBRUARY

4 Kindergarten students commence classes

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**Please return your completed survey by tomorrow, Wednesday, 17th December**

A copy of this newsletter is also available on the school website along with other school related information  

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**SCHOOL FINISHES FOR ALL STUDENTS ON WEDNESDAY, 17th DECEMBER**

School resumes for students in Year One to Year Six on  
Wednesday 28th January  
Kindergarten start on Wednesday 4th February