Dear Parents and Carers,

Staff and I are looking forward to welcoming parents to our Parent/Teacher Information Nights to be held this week, **Wednesday 20 February 2013 commencing under the 3 – 6 COLA**

5.30pm Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)
6.30pm Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6 with exception of Class 5/6C, please see below)

**Thursday 21 February 2013 commencing in the school hall**
5.30pm Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)
6.30pm Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)

**DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO MRS COX**

Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with Class Teacher of 5/6C, Mrs Jeanette Cox and her family, following the death of her mother who passed away in the early hours of this morning. Mrs Cox will be absent from school for the rest of this week and in view of the circumstances, she will not attend Parent/Teacher Night tomorrow night. Mrs Cox will organise to meet with parents of Class 5/6C at a later date. Your understanding is greatly appreciated.

**TERM 1 ACTIVITY PAYMENTS**

Thank you to the many families who have paid their Term 1 activity payments. As you are aware, the payment covers a variety of school activities, several of which we have already paid for.

It would be appreciated if outstanding payments could be made as soon as possible.

As mentioned previously, if you are experiencing financial difficulty, please see me as soon as possible to confidentially discuss financial support.

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB**

Children and families at our school are very fortunate to be able to purchase books and other items through the Scholastic Book Club. On behalf of the school community, we thank Mrs Debbie who coordinated the K – 2 book club for the past three years and to Dr Alison who has very kindly taken over the role this year.

Our thanks go to Mrs Diane Staff who continues to coordinate the Year 3 – 6 book club, a task which she has fulfilled very efficiently over many years.

**SCRIPTURE AND ETHICS LESSONS**

On behalf of the school community, we welcome our Scripture and Stage 2 and Stage 3 Ethics teachers for the 2013 school year.
Parents are reminded that children are placed into the Scripture or Ethics groups based on the information provided by parents when they have completed enrolment forms or have subsequently updated the information.
Current Scripture groups are Anglican, Roman Catholic, Bahai, Uniting, Baptist and Hindu as well as Stage 2 and Stage 3 Ethics classes.
Children not attending Scripture or Ethics classes (i.e. non-Scripture) are supervised by a member of the teaching staff and read a book or complete an activity provided by the supervising teacher.
Please note that if at any time you wish to change your child’s Scripture, Ethics or non-Scripture group, you are required to write a letter to that effect and hand it in at either school office so that our records can be updated accordingly.

KINDERGARTEN PARENTS’ ORIENTATION PROGRAM – TUESDAYS 12, 19 AND 26 MARCH
Commencing Tuesday 12 March, Mrs Krivohlavy, our ESL Teacher, is running a three session Kindergarten orientation program for parents and carers from language backgrounds other than English and any other interested parents.

The sessions will be held in Bellthorn Cottage on the K – 2 site on Tuesdays 12, 19 and 26 March commencing at 11.30am and finishing at 11.00am.

The topics for the program include:
- getting to know your child’s teacher
- the role of the specialist teachers
- helping your child adjust to school life
- healthy school lunches
- parents/carers supporting their children with homework.

An invitation was sent home with each Kindergarten child yesterday. For further information, or if you have any questions, please contact Mrs Krivohlavy or me.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST YEAR 6 TO YEAR 7 PLACEMENT IN 2014 IN A GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL
Year 6 parents will shortly be receiving the Expression of Interest form for them to indicate the high school they would like their child to attend from 2014. Completed forms will need to be returned to the school by no later than Friday, 15 March 2013, regardless of whether your child will be attending a government school or not.

Please note that our school will be writing the name of the designated local comprehensive high school your child should attend, based on the residential address currently held in our system.
If you have moved recently and you have not updated your new details, please contact Mrs Cohen, School Administrative Manager immediately to inform her of the new details.

Next week’s Pennant delay due to the Swimming Carnival
The 3-6 Swimming Carnival is being held next Tuesday 26 February. Therefore the Pennant will be distributed to all 3-6 children the following day, Wednesday 27 February.
If you would like to read the Pennant before it is sent home, please go to our school website www.pennanthil-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Principal’s Wow Word of the Week

pertinacious

As part of their homework, children in Year 3 can look up the word and write it and its meaning in their homework book. Students in Years 4 – 6 can look up the word in their dictionary and in their homework book, 1) write the word, 2) write its meaning, 3) write a sentence which includes the word and 4) write five words which are in the same “word family” or have the same suffix or prefix. Students in Year 2 might like to look up the meaning of the word for discussion in class.

Principal’s Awards

With my best wishes to all families,

Penny Willis
Principal

Merit Award Recipients

Merit Award Certificates were received by:

6M: Charlotte, Phoebe, Shannon
6T: Kodi, Will, Rebecca
5/6C: Jack, Patrick, Chelsea
5B: Claire, Matthew, Zach
4/5M: Charlotte, Sachin, Megan
4A: Evie, Aidan, Lily
3/4I: Brendan, Thomas, Sarah
3G: Sophia, Sofie, Finn
3L: Heath, Marcus, Sareena
3P: Jason, Miles, Rachel
2 Dragons: Madeline, Tallulah, Ryan
2 Fish: Shreya, Jett
2 Geckos: Charlotte, Devendra
1 Hippos: Yuying, Archie, Charlotte
1 Lions: Matilda, Dylan
1 Zebras: Caitlin, Sam, Emma
K Bunnies: Nicolai, Ruby
K Koalas: Niamh, Arjonil, Finlay
K Puppies: Anais, Oliver
Computers: Thomas 3L, Carina 3/4I, Adam 5B, William 6T
Indonesian: Harry KK, Sebastian 1L, Kiran 2G
Library: Andrew 3/4I, Adam 5B, Heath 5B
Sports People of the Week:
Stage 2: Jen Jen 3/4I
Stage 3: Hamish 5B

STEWART HOUSE

Pennant Hills Public School is again supporting the Stewart House School Clothing Appeal. Bags were sent home today. Please return all bags to either office as soon as possible but no later than Tuesday 5 March. Thank you.

Cheryl Cohen – School Administrative Manager

THE INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

BAND
Our CB3s have their first rehearsal tomorrow at 8.15am. We wish our newest band members a very big welcome.

A reminder that Music Camp forms and payment are required by Friday 1 March. If any family would like further information, please contact either Hilary or me.

Last week I had confirmation that the Yamaha Festival will take place between 14 and 30 June. Dates and times will be forwarded to families once I have received the program.

Michele – Band Coordinator

P&C REPORT

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE
We have had a successful week of lobbying, bringing to the attention of the public and most importantly Hornsby Council, the serious problems associated with the proposed development on Trebor Rd/Fisher Ave. Alison delivered nearly 200 letters to Hornsby Council collected from parents. Andrew and I had a meeting with the Hon. Greg Smith who is supportive of our concerns and will write to Hornsby Council to express his opposition to the development in its current form. Mr Smith opposed this development three years ago, when it was first proposed. Wendy, Andrew, Penny and I met with Bernadette Azizi, a Hornsby Councillor, on Thursday morning. Bernadette was very generous with her time and spent an hour watching and photographing the traffic and listening to our concerns. She was then able to obtain an extension of time for the community to make submissions to Hornsby Council. We have until 28 February. If you have not had a chance to send in a letter, please take the time to do so. If you would like more information about the issue or a copy of a letter you could send, please contact Alison or me.

The roads around the school are already often gridlocked. We can only imagine the traffic chaos and danger to our children with four or five storey apartment blocks being built with no changes being made to the road system.

AGM – POSITIONS VACANT
The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the P & C will be held on Tuesday 5 March, followed by the General Meeting. At the AGM, all positions on the Executive Committee and the Sub-Committees are declared vacant and nominations are needed to fill these positions.

The Executive Committee consists of the office bearers, being President, two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary and up to six other members. Nominations are invited for these roles. In addition to the Executive Committee, there are Sub-Committees being: Fundraising, Finance, Canteen, Uniform Shop, Parents and Social and Gardens & Grounds. Nominations are invited for these roles. The nomination forms can be collected at the front office on both sites.

This year we have a particular need for a President, Treasurer and Auditor. Following P&C Federation rules that no person shall serve more than three consecutive years in the same office, Di (Treasurer) and me (President) are ineligible to hold our current positions for the coming year. If you would like further information about these positions, please contact Di, Elke (auditor) or me.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY
At this time of year, we update the School Directory. All details from last year will be automatically rolled over. If you have changed your contact details and would like them recorded in this year’s directory, please either email me or fill out a form and send it to the office. Forms can be obtained from K-2 and 3-6 offices. If you are new to the school, you must fill out a form to give permission to have your details published. The directory will be published following the AGM. All information needs to be received by 12 March.

SCHOOL BANKING
School banking will recommence on Thursday 28 February. We still need one more volunteer to help collect the money from the K-2 site in the morning. Please consider taking it on to ensure that our school banking program can continue to operate smoothly.

Sarah - P&C President
pandcpresident@gmail.com

CANTEN

While we have had a fantastic response from many volunteers this year, we could still do with one more person on most Fridays at the 3-6 site. Even a few hours would be of great assistance. If you are unable to make your canteen day, could you please organise a swap with another volunteer. Can the
volunteers at the K-2 site please meet me in the staff car park at 12.50pm. Following is the canteen roster for this week.

**K-2 Site**
- Wed. 20 Feb. – Jenny, Rebecca
- Fri. 22 Feb. – Celine, Leanne, Rikky
- Mon. 25 Feb. – Nara, Liz, Jennifer

**3-6 Site**
- Wed. 20 Feb. – Gail, Jill, Tracey
- Fri. 22 Feb. – Karen, Sue, Mehala, **ONE PLACE AVAILABLE**
- Mon. 25 Feb. – Kate, Michelle, Ranu

Many thanks to all our volunteers.

Corinne – Relieving Canteen Manager

---

**UNIFORM SHOP**

I would like to thank Tracey for her work in the Uniform shop during the first two weeks this term. With Tracey’s assistance, the wait time was minimal for our school families during this busy period.

**DR SHOE**
Dr Shoe will next be attending the Uniform Shop on Thursday 28 March from 3.00pm – 3.45pm. 15% of all sales are donated to the P&C. Alternatively, Dr Shoe can be contacted directly on 0414 912 838 to arrange a home fitting.

Alison – Uniform Shop Manager

---

**COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION**

**PRAYER GROUP AT PHPS**
We had a wonderful prayer meeting last week in Bellthorn Cottage. Thank you to everyone who attended. The next meeting will be held on Friday 15 March at Min’s home. Please contact pray4phps@gmail.com for more information.

**KIDS PLUS**
Kids Plus is an after school kids club held on Fridays during term time for years 3-6. It runs from 3.30-5.30pm at St Mark’s Church Pennant Hills. Come and join us as we have fun learning about the Bible, eating, playing games and making stuff. A small weekly cost of $3.00 is involved. For more information please call St Mark’s office on 9980 8012 or email jesusloveskids@gmail.com

---

**SUPA CLUB**

SUPA Club (Scripture Union Primary Age) is a non-denominational lunchtime kids club led by Jenny Flower. We eat together, play games, make things and learn more about God and what’s in the Bible. We meet at the silver seats on Friday lunchtimes. Please join us commencing this Friday 22 February 2013.

I give permission for my son/daughter

……………………………………………………………..Class …………

to attend SUPA Club on Friday lunchtimes at Pennant Hills Public School. I understand that attendance is entirely voluntary and that my child/children may elect not to come at any time.

……………………………………………………………..………………
( Parent/Carer’s signature) Date

---

**ENGLISH CLASSES AT ST MARK’S**
Learn or practise English in a friendly and relaxed group at English for Life classes. Mondays 9.30am to noon, during term time, at St Mark’s Anglican Church Pennant Hills, corner Rosemount Ave and Warne St. Morning tea is provided and a crèche is available for children.

The cost is $2.00 per week. Contact coordinator Patricia Rajaratnam at patricia.raja@yahoo.com.au or 0422 649 964. To register or for more information, visit www.stmarks.com.au

---

**SEMINAR FOR PARENTS – PARENTING ANXIOUS CHILDREN**
Thursday 14 March 2013 from 11.30am to 1.30pm for parents of children aged 4 – 10 years at Hillview Community Health Centre, 1334 Pacific Highway Turramurra. Cost $10.00. To confirm your place, ring Hornsby Child and Family Mental Health Service (CAMHS) on 9477 9190.

---

**ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL OPEN NIGHT**
Open Day for prospective Year 7 students in 2014 will be held on Tuesday 5 March 2013 from 6.30pm. For more information please phone 9477 3508 or visit the website at www.asquithboysh.schools.nsw.edu.au

ABHS is offering places in 2014 for a Year 7 Enrichment Class. The placement test will be held on Saturday 9 March 2013. Applications close Thursday 28 February. Please contact the school for further information and application forms.