Dear Parents and Carers,

Today was the school swimming carnival which was attended by children from Year 2 through to Year 6.

On behalf of the children, I would like to thank Mrs Coventry for her overall coordination of the carnival, Mr Bryant for his assistance and all staff for their support and hard work throughout the day to ensure that the carnival ran smoothly.

Thanks also go to the many parents and carers who attended to encourage and support the children in their efforts. Congratulations to all students on their behaviour and level of participation.

In view of Year 1 – 6 students’ attendance at Pennant Hills HS’s production of Beauty and the Beast next Tuesday afternoon, ribbons will be presented to the place getters on Tuesday 12 March at the Year 3 – 6 assembly commencing at 2.00pm.

PARENT/TEACHER INFORMATION NIGHTS

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our Parent/Teacher Information sessions last week. Every session was extremely well attended, reflecting the interest which you have in your children’s education and the much valued support you give the school.

On behalf of all parents and carers who attended, I would like to thank Senior Constable Debbie, the Police Youth Liaison Officer based at Eastwood, who very kindly gave her time to speak at the Stage 3 session, reminding parents of their responsibility to ensure that their children use the Internet safely, and also thanks to Ms Sarah, P & C President, who attended each of the four sessions to talk about our wonderful P & C, the support it offers the school and the ways in which parents and carers can contribute.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank all of our teaching staff for their attendance at, organisation of and leadership of the sessions and for their preparation of handouts and overviews to provide parents and carers with information about teaching/learning programs, routines and activities for the coming year.

Please note that 5/6C’s Parent/Teacher Information session will be taking place next Monday 4 March commencing at 5.30pm.

SCHOOLS’ CLEAN UP DAY – FRIDAY 1 MARCH

This coming Friday is School’s Clean Up Day in which our school will be involved.

All children are requested to bring a plastic bag and a pair of gloves so that they can join in the cleaning
up which will take place on both school sites after lunch on Friday.

KINDERGARTEN PARENTS’ ORIENTATION PROGRAM – TUESDAYS 12, 19 AND 26 MARCH 11.30AM TO 1.00PM
Commencing Tuesday 12 March, Mrs Krivohlavy, our ESL Teacher, is running a three session Kindergarten orientation program for parents and carers from background languages 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 1.00pm. 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
The forms will be sent home with your Year 6 child on Monday 4 March. It would be appreciated if you could complete and return the form to school preferably by Friday 15 March and definitely no later than the following Friday 22 March.

BEST WISHES ZOE
Our best wishes to Zoe 6T who has qualified for the tennis area sports trials to be held at Parramatta City Tennis Courts on Tuesday 12 March.

ADVANCE NOTICE – HARMONY DAY
THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2013
We are celebrating Harmony Day on Thursday 21 March. This celebration is to recognise the cohesive and inclusive nature of our school and our nation and to promote the benefits of cultural diversity.
Students are asked to wear an item of clothing featuring the colour orange e.g. an orange t-shirt or orange ribbon. They will be participating in a variety of activities relating to Harmony Day throughout the day.
Students are also requested to make a gold coin donation to UNICEF for the “School in a Box” program. These boxes contain school supplies such as books, pencils, slates and chalk and are provided by UNICEF in times of emergency to communities in third world countries. A UNICEF representative will also visit the school to talk to our children about their work.

TREATMENT OF HEAD LICE
In recent days, we have had further reports of head lice infestation in a small number of children. Parents and carers are requested to check their children’s heads regularly and, if lice or eggs are found, to ensure that appropriate treatment is given. It is strongly recommended that girls wear long hair tied back and ensure hats are not shared.

PRINCIPAL’S W.O.W WORD OF THE WEEK

brevity

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
Congratulations to Yuying 1H, Maya 1T, Zach 5B, Kayla 5/6C, Hannah 3P, Kash 6T and Eamon 4/5M to whom I presented a Principal’s Award last week.

With my best wishes to all families, Penny Willis
Principal

MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Merit Award Certificates were received by:
6M: Andrew, Alex, Grace
6T: Mary, Ben, Sarada
5/6C: Connor, Henry, Millie
5B: Kathleen, Ashton, Oliver
4/5M: Octavio, James, Lisa
4A: Lizzie, Claire, Jaidon
3/4I: William, Tahila, Christine
3G: Zofia, Hannah, Levi
3L: Nidhi, Khushi, Jethro
3P: Charlie, Toby, Zara

Book of the Week: Christina 3/4I
2 Dragons: Jessica, Grace, Aiden
2 Fish: Matilda, Amin
1 Hippos: Lucius, Julia
1 Lions: Skye, Tom
1 Tigers: Nathan, Sasha
1 Zebras: Nandini, Lola, Toga
K Bunnies: Maggie, Alannah, Alex
K Koalas: Matthew, Skye, Riley
K Puppies: Joshua, Fynn, Holly

Environment Award: Angus
Computers: Nikolai KB, Anais KP, Leo 1L, Lucy 1Z, Ryan 2D, Nicola 3P, Caleb 4A, Chelsea 5/6C, Harry 6M

Indonesian: Stirling 3G, Yashmin 4A, Hamish 5B, Sneha 6T
Library: James 4/5M, Mallalieu 3G, Elliott 4A
Music: Sebastian 1L, Marten 2D, Noah 3/4I, Sumukhi 5/6C
Hopefully PSSA will commence this Friday when we play Roselea PS at Roselea. Good luck to all our teams.

Mark Bryant – PSSA Coordinator

A reminder that choir rehearsals start tomorrow. Ramsay (Stage 3) choir will rehearse on Wednesday mornings from 8.00am and Weemala (Stage 2) choir on Wednesdays during lunchtime. Thank you.

Julie Anne Stevens – Music Teacher

THE INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

BAND
Last weekend, the final information for Music Camp was emailed to families. If any family did not receive this email, could they please contact me URGENTLY as it contains important information. It is essential that all band, string and choir children have their forms and payment submitted no later than Friday 1 March as final numbers need to be confirmed with Vision Valley on Monday 4 March. A reminder that the forms should be placed in an envelope and put in the gold band box in the 3-6 office.

If any parents/caregivers have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either Hilary or me.

FETE ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM
The program will be finalised later this week and emailed to parents next week so class stall rosters can be completed. Please note that wherever possible, performing groups have been allocated times according to Stage, within an hour bracket so children can complete their performing in a block.

Michele – Band Coordinator

STRING GROUP
Please note that the String Ensemble Parents Meeting previously scheduled for 4 March has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled for Term 2. Closing date for Music Camp forms and payment is THIS Friday 1 March. Thank you.

Dayan - String Ensemble Coordinator

P&C REPORT

A QUIET ACHIEVER
The 3-6 play equipment was inspected last year and since then we have been working through the list of necessary modifications and repairs to comply with the safety report. It would not have been possible to complete the more technical jobs without the assistance, machining skills & equipment of community volunteer Peter who lives nearby and was a student at the school during World War 2. Peter has saved our school community considerable money and allowed us to get the work done quickly so the children can use the equipment. On behalf of the school community I would like to thank Peter for the time and effort he has given in supporting our school and the direct benefit this has had for our children.

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 also. Nomination forms can be collected at both the K-2 and 3-6 offices. 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 I (President) are ineligible to hold our current positions for the coming year. If you would like further information about any of these positions, please contact Di, Elke (Auditor) or me at the email below.

SCHOOL BANKING
Thank you to Felicity and Julie for volunteering to join the team of ladies who run our school banking.

K-2 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
At the end of last year, the K-2 equipment was inspected by a playground inspection company. It was found to be in quite good condition with just a small amount of work to be completed to ensure that it follows the Australian Standards for safety. As a result, the Playground Renovation committee are assisting by making the necessary repairs and taking down parts of the equipment that need repair or are below standards. We do not plan to replace the entire play equipment at the present time as this is a very costly exercise. The immediate priority is to address some more pressing landscaping issues. This last week we have engaged a
landscape architect to draw up a design for the area around the play equipment including the sloped area near the silver seats. This will fix the erosion and drainage problems as well as provide the children with a great new play area. A design will be available soon for school community consultation.

Sarah - P&C President  
pandcpresident@gmail.com

HOURS
Monday and Tuesday 8.45am – 10.45am  
Thursday 3.00pm – 4.00pm  
Order forms are available on the school website by following the link to Our School.

Alison – Uniform Shop Manager

COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

PENNANT HILLS BASC WORKING BEE – SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2013
We will be having a working bee on Sunday 3 March from 10.00am to replenish the soft fall on the equipment behind the centre. The equipment cannot currently be used for safety reasons until the soft fall is topped back up to a safe level. The centre will provide food and drinks for all who participate. With enough assistance, it should only take one to two hours as it is not a large area. Please contact Barbara if you are able to provide assistance at the working bee.

SCHOOLKIDS BONUS
You could receive the Schoolkids Bonus ($410.00 for each child in primary school (paid in two instalments of $205) or $820.00 for each child in secondary school (paid in two instalments of $410) if you have a child in primary or secondary school and you receive one of the following payments: Family Tax Benefit Part A, Youth Allowance, Disability Support Pension, ABSTUDY Living Allowance, Carer Payment, Parenting Payment, Special Benefit or Education allowances under the Veterans’ Children Education Scheme and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme.

To learn more about the Schoolkids Bonus and your eligibility for the payment, visit the website at: australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus

PENNANT HILLS HIGH SCHOOL OPEN NIGHT
Pennant Hills High School is having an open night tonight, Tuesday 26 February from 4.30pm – 7.00pm. Come and tour the school, see our new Learning Hub and other facilities. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet staff and students and enjoy hands-on activities and displays. Information regarding the Selection Test for Year 7, 2014 Academically Selected Class will be available and students can register their interest. All are welcome. Pennant Hills High School is located on Laurence St. Please contact us on 9473 5000 or visit our website www.pennanthills.schools.nsw.edu.au

Please note that this year the Open Night is replacing the Open Day from previous years.

CANTEEN
Thank you very much to our wonderful volunteers for all of the support you have shown to me over the last few weeks. We still need some help on Fridays at the 3-6 site. Even just a few hours would do!
Following is the canteen roster for this coming week.

K-2 Site  
Wed. 27 Feb. – Emi, Wendy, Julie  
Fri. 1 Mar. – Joanne, Maia, Kate  
Mon. 4 Mar. – Ranu, Rebecca, Anne

3-6 Site  
Wed. 27 Feb. – Rachael, Janet, Lara  
Fri. 1 Mar. – Kathryn, Joanne, Leonie, ONE MORE PLEASE  
Mon. 4 Mar. – Jenni, Hilary, Anne

Corinne – Relieving Canteen Manager

UNIFORM SHOP

UNIFORM SHOP COMMITTEE
There are currently several vacancies on the new Uniform Shop Committee for 2013. The committee meets only once a term to discuss the running of the Uniform Shop, so it is not an arduous job demanding a large amount of time. If you and a group of your friends are interested in nominating for a position on the committee in 2013 please contact me on the email address below. New parents are most welcome. It is a good way to become involved in the school and meet other parents.

YEAR 6 SHIRTS
Due to a problem in the printing process, the printer has advised that the Year 6 shirts will not be ready until the end of this week. I apologise for any inconvenience caused by this delay.

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.

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PENNANT HILLS HIGH SCHOOL - BEAUTY AND THE BEAST PRODUCTION
Pennant Hills High School presents Disney's Beauty and the Beast. Come and see this fantastic musical production of this timeless classic tale. The details are as follows:
Where: Pennant Hills High School, Laurence Street, Pennant Hills
When: 2, 6, 8 and 9 March commencing at 8.00pm and 3 March commencing at 2.00pm
Cost: Adults $20.00 and concession $15.00 (plus booking fee)
Contact Pennant Hills High School on 9473 5000 for more information.

BUNNINGS THORNLEIGH FREE LADIES D.I.Y. WORKSHOP EVENT
Reach your kitchen renovation potential at our free interactive D.I.Y. workshop which will teach you core skills to start your kitchen renovation. Create and take home a mini herb garden for your new kitchen. Refreshments provided. Details are as follows:
Where: Bunnings Warehouse, Phyllis Ave, Thornleigh
When: Thursday 7 March
Time: 11.00am – 1.00pm
For bookings phone 9479 9000 or contact thornleighactivitiesorganiser@bunnings.com.au

NORTHMEAD CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL – YEAR 7, 2014
Auditions for Year 7 2014 will be held on Monday 18 and Wednesday 20 March 2013. Applications can be obtained via the school website www.northmead-h.schools.nsw.edu.au or can be posted or emailed to you by contacting Mrs Stepic on 9630 4116 or june.stepic@det.nsw.edu.au

HORNSBY GREEK FESTIVAL CULTURAL FUN DAY OUT
Greek culture, music, dancing, and delicious food. Loads of entertainment including dodgem cars, camel rides and jumping castles. Come to Greenway Park, Shepherds Dr, Cherrybrook on Sunday 10 March from 11.00am – 7.00pm. Free admission.

BOYS'/GIRLS' BRIGADE
For a group nearest to you contact Garry McPhee on 0417 570 637 or visit boys.brigadeaustralia.org