Dear Parents and Carers,

Our students are settling well into their 2013 classes. In my visits to classrooms, I have been very impressed with the children’s focus and their desire to share their knowledge and do their best.

Kindergarten students are completing the Best Start assessment. This involves the kindergarten teachers assessing each student’s reading and writing, their communication skills and recognition of the sounds and letters of the English language. The teachers also look at students’ early numeracy skills in counting, number recognition and how they work with groups and patterns. The program allows teachers to assess and diagnose the starting point of a child’s education and gives students the best start to their formal education by allowing teachers to plan their lessons to cater to each child’s level of proficiency in literacy and numeracy.

I know that there were a few teary parents as they left their children last Thursday and I am sure that they appreciated the opportunity to chat to each other at the “Tea and Tissues” morning tea supplied by our P & C. On their behalf, thank you to all parents who coordinated it and provided food.

From next Monday 11 February, kindergarten children will remain at school until 2.45pm each day until mid-March, when they will then remain for the whole school day until 3.15pm.

PARENT/TEACHER INFORMATION NIGHTS
All parents are warmly invited to our Parent/Teacher Information Nights to be held on:

**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)

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

EXECUTIVE RELEASE
As a result of our total student numbers being above 505, the school has again been allocated an Executive Release position.

Rather than releasing one Assistant Principal, the position is being shared by our four Assistant Principals which allows them to have one full day each to complete a variety of school administrative tasks as well as to provide mentoring support and assistance to the staff whom they supervise.

Mrs Heather Eden is the Executive Release Teacher and she is following each Assistant Principal’s planned teaching/learning program on the day she teaches their class.

Mrs Gilchrist (KK): Mondays
Mrs Griffith (2F): Tuesdays
Mrs Lainson (3L): Friday
Mr Moran (6M): Wednesday

NEW ANAPHYLAXIS PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOLS
Late last year, the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) organised for all government schools to receive a general use adrenaline autoinjector (an EpiPen) for their first aid kit. Our
school purchased a second one in view of our two school sites.

However, this does not replace the need for parents to continue to provide the school with an adrenaline autoinjector and ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis signed and dated by their doctor when their child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis. Instead, the general use adrenaline autoinjector is intended to be used if:

- an undiagnosed student has an anaphylactic reaction at school;
- there is a misfire of the adrenaline autoinjector that has been prescribed for a student; or
- a student requires a further adrenaline autoinjector to be administered after his or her own adrenaline autoinjector has been administered.

Parents/carers of children who are anaphylactic, if you have not already done so, could you please ensure that Epipens and action plans for your child/children are given to the school as soon as possible to ensure that we have up to date information.

It is vital that we are promptly provided with this information so that we can meet all DEC requirements with regard to communicating students’ needs to all staff in addition to casual teachers when they are engaged at our school.

During the holidays, all staff members completed the two hour online e-Emergency Care training. We will be undertaking training in CPR after school on Monday 4 March and I am in the process of organising formal anaphylaxis training which is due to be completed early in Semester 2.

2012 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT AVAILABLE
During the holidays, I completed our 2012 Annual School Report (ASR) which details information relating to school programs and activities as well as our 2012 NAPLAN results.

The ASR is available from the school's website www.pennanthil-p.schools.nsw.edu.au on the Our School page.

2013 ASSEMBLIES
Please note that this year, Year 3 – 6 assemblies will take place in the school hall on Tuesday afternoons commencing at 2.00pm and K – 2 assemblies will take place on Wednesday afternoons commencing at 2.00pm.

All Recognition Assemblies will be held on the Tuesday of the last week of each term commencing at 10.00am.

WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS
This year, as in previous years, our school is providing professional experience placements for students in the Bachelor of Education in Primary Education course at UTS. The students have already spent four days in the school and will return throughout the year on different occasions to complete their practice teaching requirements culminating in their final four week block from 26 August through to 20 September.

The students are:
- Kirsten – with Mrs Rudd, Mrs Haselden and Kinder Bunnies
- Elise - with Mrs Phillips and 1 Lions
- Annie – with Miss Ziems and 1Z
- Murray – with Mrs McLaren and 2 Dragons
- Katherine – with Mrs Griffith and 2 Fish
- Erin – with Ms Geary and 3G
- Rhianna – with Mrs Lainson and 3L
- Amanda – with Mrs Cox and 5/6C

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY
Parents and carers are reminded of our school Anti-Bullying Policy which details students’, staff and parents’ responsibilities in relation to bullying incidents as well as strategies and procedures.

If students are being bullied or they witness bullying, they are requested to inform a teacher or me immediately. If children report bullying to their parents, parents are requested to inform the school and NOT to approach or contact other parents or students in relation to alleged incidents, but to let the school follow the procedures as outlined in the school's anti-bullying policy.

The policy is available on the school's website in the Our School section – School Policies. Our students are regularly reminded of the reporting requirements as well as strategies to use if they are being bullied or witness it.

I would very much appreciate your support in reinforcing to your children the need to report incidents immediately to the school.

SCHOOL HOURS AND STUDENT ABSENCES
Parents are reminded that our school hours are 9.15am until 3.15pm and that our playgrounds are supervised from 8.45am until 9.15am. Parents are therefore requested not to send their children to school prior to 8.45am. Children should leave the school grounds promptly after they are dismissed at 3.15pm. Please note that they are not permitted to play on the equipment after 3.15pm as there is no teacher supervision after school.

The school is required by law to keep a record of student absences and reasons for those absences in class rolls. The start of the school day is most important and it is essential that students settle down quickly to benefit from the lessons taught. I realise that on occasions, events occur beyond our control causing lateness, but I would appreciate your efforts in ensuring that your children are at school by 9.15am each day.

If possible, please make medical, dental and other appointments outside of school hours so that there is minimal disruption to your child’s learning routines.

Parents are reminded that if their child is late arriving at school, the parent and child must report to the office to complete a green “Late Arrival Form”.

If a parent needs to collect their child/children early from school, they can send a note to the class
teacher in the morning and should report to the office to sign their children out before proceeding to the classroom to collect them. In cases where parents have not provided a note earlier in the day, they are requested to report to the office where they will be given a yellow coloured Early Leaver form to give to the class teacher(s) to assist them with roll marking.

If you know your child is going to be away for more than two days, it would be appreciated if you could ring the school office so that your child’s teacher can be informed.

With regard to absences, parents and caregivers are reminded that they should provide a letter of explanation within 7 days of when their child returns to school following an absence, otherwise the absence is marked A for “unjustified”.

PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS

Congratulations to Megan, Luke, Emma, Jack, Charlotte and Lily to whom I presented a Principal’s Award in the last week of the 2012 school year.

With my best wishes to all families,

Penny Willis
Principal

MUSIC

CHOIR 2013

Welcome back to 2013. The choir was successful in all of our auditions so we have a busy year ahead. We have two choirs; Weemala for Years 3 and 4 and Ramsay for Years 5 and 6.

I am keen to get the choirs organised as soon as possible and have already listened to a few classes for their preliminary sing. I will be holding individual auditions on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. The audition process is quite simple; students who have indicated that they are interested in being in the choir will come to me and sing “Advance Australia Fair” to an accompaniment track and another very short example of their singing on their own. This can be a piece of their choice or something from last year’s repertoire. It doesn't need to be very long at all, and if they cannot think of anything else, “Happy Birthday” is a good standby. Listening to the children individually gives me the opportunity to see how they are going and provides me with information regarding choir balance and voice placement.

After I have heard all the children, I will be making offers for a place in the choir. If your child is very interested in being in the choir but has not had an audition by the end of this week, please let me know and I will audition them on Monday next week.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Julie Anne Stevens – Music Teacher

THE INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

BAND

Welcome back everyone! Two emails were sent last week, one detailing rehearsals and the other concerning Music Camp. If you did not receive these emails, please contact me as soon as possible as they contain important information.

Our wonderful Music Camp Coordinator Hilary, will be stepping down from the role after five years of brilliantly organising our Music Camp. We need an enthusiastic person to take her place, ideally someone who can spend some time with her over the next few weeks to learn the ropes. If any parent/caregiver would consider taking this on, Hilary and I would love to hear from you.

Rehearsals for CB1 and CB2 commence this Thursday. CB3 will have their first rehearsal with Ms Fluke on Wednesday 20 February commencing at 8.15am.

The Band program is open to all students from Years 3 to 6. If your child is interested in joining, we would welcome enquiries, either by email or phone.

The first Band meeting for the year will take place on Monday 18 February commencing at 7.30pm at 31 Werona Street, Pennant Hills. All band parents/caregivers are warmly invited to attend.

Thank you.

Michele – Band Coordinator

STRING GROUP

The String Ensemble is now taking new enrolments in Years K-6. If your child has been playing the violin or cello for at least six months, they are eligible to join. Please contact me for further details. Please note that new enrolments MUST be processed prior to attending rehearsals.

Fees for Term 1 are $65.00 for all students. To claim your Early Bird Discount of $5.00, please pay BEFORE Friday 22 February. Festival students will need to pay an additional $30.00 this term. Invoices will be issued next week.

Parents - it is critical that I have your updated email and phone details. ALL ensemble correspondence this year regarding rehearsals, performances and cancellations will be done by email. Thank you.

Dayan - String Ensemble Coordinator

P&C REPORT

Welcome back to 2013. I trust you are all well rested and ready for the challenges that a new year offers us.
CANTEEN
As you would already be aware, we have said goodbye to our long serving Canteen Manager, Michelle as she has left to pursue her dream of working in the food industry. On behalf of all the children she has made lunches for, and all the parents she has saved from the last minute panic that comes with no fresh bread in the house, I would like to thank her for her work and dedication to the Canteen and wish her much success and happiness in her future career.

The P&C will be advertising for a new manager shortly. Until we appoint a permanent manager, we are very grateful to have Corinne step into the role. Ably supported by the canteen volunteers, Corinne opened the canteen for business as usual yesterday.

BAYER GRANT
At the end of 2012 we applied for a grant from Bayer Australia to assist us in purchasing a new BBQ. I am pleased to say that we have been successful in obtaining a grant for $500.00. A new BBQ will be an asset to our fete, sporting occasions and all other social events where we need a BBQ facility. I would like to thank Bradley for facilitating the grant process and Bayer Australia for kindly donating this money to our school.

TEA AND TISSUES
The first day of Kindy is always a special day for parents and their children. We are pleased to be able to help facilitate the transition to school for parents at this time with our “Tea and Tissues” morning tea. It was lovely that so many parents attended and we thank Rebecca and her team of helpers who organised the event.

NEXT MEETING
Our first meeting for the year is tonight Tuesday 5 February commencing at 7.30pm in the library. This is a great first meeting for people to attend as it gives you a good overview of what is happening in the school for the year. Everyone is very welcome.

Sarah - P&C President
pandcpresident@gmail.com

FETE 2013
“Come and be part of a team planning our fete for 2013”
Our Fabulous Fun-Filled Family Fete is locked in for Sunday 26 May 2013. We are looking for people to come along, share ideas and be involved in planning for our fete for 2013. This is the P &C’s main fundraising event for the school. Traditionally we have raised between $40,000.00 and $50,000.00 all of which goes into providing new equipment and resources for our children. Over the years, items such as air conditioners for each class room, the Covered Outdoor Learning Areas (COLA) and electronic interactive whiteboards have been funded by our fete.

This first meeting is very important for making big decisions such as what our raffle prizes will be and new ideas for stalls. There are already a few new ideas floating around. Some of the stalls for our fete will need new coordinators to help with the organisation of rosters and planning. This is a team job to be shared by each class.

Most importantly at this first meeting, we will be allocating a stall to each class!

Please come along to our first meeting to be part of choosing a particular stall that you and your class would like to be involved with. These are the list of stalls that we had from 2012:
- Kids Fun Corner
- Hoopla/Knock’em Down
- Café Belthorn
- Cakes Stall and The Lolly Shop
- Asian/Indian/Sri Lankan Foods
- 2nd Hand Books, Clothes and Toys
- White Elephant
- Hot Chips
- World Cup Challenge
- Ride Tickets
- Silent Auction
- Drinks and Snow Cones
- Greek and Aussie BBQ
- Tombola
- Plant Stall

Our first meeting is on Monday 11 February 2013 commencing at 7.30pm in the library. We hope to see you there.

Sue – Fete Coordinator

GARDENS AND GROUNDS HAPPENINGS
A new pop up sprinkler system was installed in January to water the 3-6 oval more effectively. The rain has helped settle the new system in and topped up the tanks as well.

The Kindergarten veggie patches were set up for 2013 by Debbie (staff), Jamie and Kim, Jenni and Greg and Angela and their children. Dan and Jenny and their children contributed in many and varied ways to maintaining the school grounds and equipment over the holidays. Thank you to all these families for their help in getting the new year off to a smooth and productive start.

Chris - Gardens and Grounds Coordinator

Sadly, one large scribbly gum fell in the Bicentennial Garden during the recent storms. On the brighter side, the red flowering gums at both sites are providing a colourful welcome back to students and staff.

Chris - Gardens and Grounds Coordinator
Thank you to our wonderful canteen volunteers for your support and a special welcome to our new volunteers. Canteen is a lovely way to meet other parents.

We still have a few vacancies at both sites, notably the 5th Mondays at K-2 and the 5th Wednesdays at the 3-6 site.

Following is the canteen roster for this week. Thank you everyone for your help. If you are unable to make your canteen day, could you please organise a swap with another volunteer from your roster sheet.

**K-2 Site**
Wed. 6 Feb. – Mel, Alison
Fri. 8 Feb. – Ros, Madeline, Elizabeth
Mon. 11 Feb. – Jenni, Alison

**3-6 Site**
Wed. 6 Feb. – Michelle, Fiona, Mel
Fri. 8 Feb. – Linda, Meg, Georgie, Ros
Mon. 11 Feb. – Deborah, Tracey, Nicola

Corinne – Relieving Canteen Manager

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

The Uniform Shop is run by a sub-committee of the P&C. The aim of the Uniform Shop Committee is to provide good quality uniforms at a reasonable price to our school community. Any profit made by the Uniform Shop is donated back to the P&C to reinvest into school projects. We ask you to support and patronise the Uniform Shop whenever possible. If you are interested in joining the Uniform Shop Committee, please contact me on the email address below.

**ORDERING**
To place an order during the year, you may attend the Uniform Shop during opening hours, or alternatively complete an order form and enclose payment of cash, cheque or credit card. The order form can be handed in to either the K-2 or 3-6 offices, and is forwarded to the Uniform Shop. The filled order will then be delivered to your child’s class.

**DR SHOE**
Dr Shoe will be attending the Uniform Shop this term on Thursday 14 February and 28 March from 3.00pm – 3.45pm. 15% of all sales are donated to the P&C.

**HOURS**
Monday and Tuesday 8.45am – 10.45am
Thursday 3.00pm – 4.00pm

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**COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION**

**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 provided and crèche available for children. Only $2.00 per week. Contact co-ordinator Patricia Rajaratnam on 0422 649 964 or patricia.raja@yahoo.com.au 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.

**PENNANT HILLS HIGH SCHOOL OPEN NIGHT**
Pennant Hills High School is having an open night on Tuesday 26 February from 4.00pm – 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.pennanths-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

**PENNANT HILLS WAR MEMORIAL CHILDREN’S CENTRE**
Pennant Hills War Memorial Children’s Centre has a couple of preschool vacancies for this year. If you, or someone you know is interested in enrolling your child, please contact Margo or Elizabeth at phwmcc@iinet.com.au or phone 9484 1133.

**Come & Try Girl Guides at Pennant Hills**
Join us for great fun, friendship, challenges and outdoors adventures! Guides, for girls aged 10 years plus, meet on Mondays 5.30pm to 7.30pm. Pre-Junior (Gumnut) Guides for girls aged 5-7 years, meet on Wednesdays 4.15pm to 5.15pm. Visit for a free 2 week trial.
For enquiries please contact Fiona Tucker 0438 284 592 or 9875 5425.