Dear Parents and Carers,

WORKING BEE

Many thanks to the small but hard working group of parents and community members led by P&C Gardens and Grounds Committee member Chris, who on Sunday spread soft fall under the K–2 play equipment to provide a very soft cushion base, and also spread mulch on various gardens surrounding the hall and the vegetable patches. On behalf of our school community, thank you Chris, Christine and Laurie, Jason, Grant, James, Heidi and Tim, David and Dan.

WELCOME AFTERNOON TEA

Thank you to the P&C, and in particular Alison and family, for their organisation and hosting of Sunday afternoon’s Welcome Afternoon Tea which provided a wonderful opportunity for parents, children and staff to get to know each other better. The children had a great time, made all the more exciting thanks to Thornleigh Bunnings providing face painter Lindsay, who used her creative talent to paint tigers, dragons and butterflies on children’s faces.

BRINGING AND DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHDAY CAKES AND TREATS

As parents would be aware, I have included regular reminders about the importance of the school being informed of children’s health plans including those relating to anaphylaxis, allergies and asthma. This is extremely important for the relevant children’s safety and to assist me to ensure that canteen, teaching and office staff are aware of children’s needs and treatment if required.

Parents, if your child is prescribed an Epipen, it would be appreciated if you could please check on its expiry date to ensure that it is still current and provide the school with a replacement if it has expired.

A number of our students are allergic to nuts and it is for that reason that we ask that no nut products be brought to school.

With regard to birthday cakes and other treats, to assist us to keep every child safe, I am requesting that cakes and treats be given directly to the relevant class teacher who will distribute them at an appropriate time during the day and will also ensure that any child who is allergic to nuts, eggs or other substances is not exposed.

Parents, if your child is prescribed an Epipen, it would be appreciated if you could please check on its expiry date to ensure that it is still current and provide the school with a replacement if it has expired.

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Parents must inform the school if their child has a food allergy or intolerance.

Parents are asked to only bring non-perishable, packaged foods for their child’s $3.00 Snack Time. You can bring them in on a Wednesday or Friday. It is important that you check the “allergy safe” list located inside the school before packing anything to ensure your child is safe to eat.

Parents are also asked to respect the dietary needs of others in the school by not bringing any food that contains nuts, peanuts, sesame, eggs, dairy or fish products into the school. Regular三次

Please make Mrs McKimm under the COLA on the K–2 site.

THANK YOU CUMBERLAND STATE FOREST

World Forestry Day is celebrated around the world on the 21 March. This day commemorates the contribution and value of forests and forestry to the community. NSW State forests provide timber, employment, habitat, clean air and water and great places to visit.
As part of World Forestry Day on 21 March, our local Cumberland State Forest has very kindly donated 40 mixed native seedlings to our school. Visit Cumberland State Forest and explore their interactive Forest Visitor Centre to learn more about sustainable forest management in NSW. Cumberland State Forest is located at 95 Castle Hill Road, West Pennant Hills. You may like to visit their website at www.forestrycorporation.com.au

UPDATING ADDRESS AND EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS
It would be appreciated if you could please advise Mrs Cohen, our School Administrative Manager, as soon as possible of any changes to details relating to your address, telephone contact numbers or those of emergency contacts. This information is vital so that we can contact you in case of any emergency.

CONGRATULATIONS ROHAN, WILLIAM AND HENRY
Congratulations to Rohan who has been selected to participate in Zone Soccer trials and also William and Henry who will be participating in Zone AFL trials next week.

AREA SWIMMING CARNIVAL SUCCESS
Congratulations to Emily, Lily, James and Zoe who represented our school and the Beecroft PSSA zone at the area swimming carnival yesterday. They all did extremely well with Zoe taking 2nd place in the 11 years 50 metre butterfly, thus qualifying her for participation in the State Carnival on Wednesday 3 April. We wish her all the very best.

BEST START ASSESSMENT REPORTS
Parents of Kindergarten students will receive their child’s Best Start assessment report today. Please remember that the assessment was conducted in the first two weeks of school. Your children have progressed considerably since then as you will find when you meet with your child’s class teacher for the formal parent/teacher interview.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST YEAR 6 TO YEAR 7 PLACEMENT IN 2014 IN A GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL
A reminder that completed Year 6 to Year 7 Expression of Interest forms must be returned to school by this Friday 22 March.

PRINCIPAL’S WOW WORD OF THE WEEK

habitual

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 PIZZA LUNCH

STAFF NEWS
Our best wishes go with Mrs Jan Hiley, Class Teacher of Kindergarten Puppies, who is taking well earned long service leave from this Thursday 21 March through to Monday 8 April inclusive, to prepare for and attend her daughter’s wedding. A warm welcome back to Mrs Debbie Jeffery who will be teaching Kinder Puppies until Mrs Hiley’s return to school on Tuesday 9 April 2013.

MUSIC CAMP
This Friday evening 22 March, 150 students will be heading to Vision Valley for the school’s annual Music Camp. The camp will provide a wonderful opportunity for musical and choral skill development as well as lots of fun and social interaction, culminating in the concert which will commence at 1.30pm on Sunday afternoon.

Huge thanks go to all involved in the organisation of the camp and to parents, conductors, tutors and teaching staff who will be very heavily involved throughout the weekend supervising and teaching the students.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Vision Valley on Sunday afternoon.

With my best wishes to all families,

Penny Willis
Principal

MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Merit Award Certificates were received by:
6M: Amber, Alyssa, Nathan
6T: Nathan, William, Stephanie
5/6C: Sebastian, Doreen, Henry
5B: Adam, Elissa, Sean
4/5M: Greta, Ryan, Erin
4A: Richard, Elliott, Annalise
3/4I: Robert, Charlotte, Marwa
3G: Stirling, Saskia, Matthew
3L: Anjani, Abby, Nick
3P: Sundar, James, Luci
2 Dragons: Joel, Jade
2 Fish: Petros, Archie, Tiana
2 Geckos: Kiran, Sandra
1 Hippos: Luke, Matthew, Luci
1 Lions: William, Zara
1 Tigers: Maya, Marcus
1 Zebras: Denethi, Alex, Krishan
K Bunnies: Jacob, Zac, Isabella
K Koalas: Aidan, Harrison, Helen
K Puppies: Max, Rhiannon
Environment Award: Lachlan 3P, Lucy Clark 2D
**Computers:** Oliver Homan KB, Elise 1H, Elke 2G, Tom 3L, Charlotte 4A, Freya 5B, Olivia 6T
**ESL:** Kash 6T, Anna 6M
**Indonesian:** Zaia KP, Tim 1T, Shreya 2F, Eden 3L, Charlotte 4/5M, Caleb 4A, Jack 5/6C
**Library:** Sneha 6T, Abby 3L, Georgia 3G
**Music:** Jai 1Z, Jacinta 1L, Nathaniel 2F, Zoe 5/6C

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**SPORT**

**PSSA SCOREBOARD**

Last week we played Cherrybrook PS.
- Ohtag Boys drew 3-3
- Ohtag Girls lost 7-11
- Softball Boys lost 5-10
- Softball Girls lost 0-14

This Friday we play West Pennant Hills PS at Pennant Hills Park.

**Mark Bryant - PSSA Coordinator**

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**DISCO**

**THE DISCO IS COMING**

The Term 1 school disco will be held on Thursday 4 April. Be sure to write it in your diary! The sessions will be:
- K-2 5.00pm-6.00pm and 3-6 6.45pm-8.00pm.

A permission note was sent home last week. If you did not receive a note, please obtain a new one from the school website, “Our School” section, “Notes” page, and return it together with $5.00.

Remember to book your tables at the Pennant Hills Bowling Club so that you can dine while the children are dancing.

The number to call for bookings is 9484 2433. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

**Christine Tierney - Year 6 Fundraising Coordinator**

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**HARMONY DAY**

**HARMONY DAY – THURSDAY 21 MARCH**

We are celebrating Harmony Day this Thursday 21 March. This celebration is to recognize the cohesive and inclusive nature of our school and our nation, and to promote the benefits of cultural diversity. The students are asked to wear an item of clothing featuring the colour orange (e.g. an orange t-shirt or orange ribbon or socks) and they will take part in a variety of class activities relating to Harmony Day. Children are reminded to bring a gold coin donation which will be given to UNICEF to support the “Schools in a Box” program.

**Angela Krivohlavy and Lynne Lagaida – Harmony Day Coordinators**

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**THE INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM**

**MUSIC CAMP**

Last Friday, two emails were sent regarding Music Camp, one titled “Registration and Car Park Arrangements”, the other “Final Information”. If you did not receive both of these emails, could you please contact me urgently.

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**MUSIC CAMP COORDINATOR**

This year is Hilary’s last Music Camp as Coordinator after five fantastic camps. At this stage, we still do not have a replacement for her for next year’s camp. Unfortunately if we are not able to fill this role in the next month, this will be our last Music Camp.

If you are interested and would like to know more information regarding this role, please contact Hilary or me as soon as possible.

Please find below the fete entertainment program. Further details regarding this will be emailed closer to the fete date.

**2013 FETE ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Year 2 Dance Performance Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:05</td>
<td>Festival String Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:20</td>
<td>Recorder Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:25</td>
<td>Trebor Singers (All Year 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:35</td>
<td>String Ensemble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:50</td>
<td>Stage 2 Dance Performance Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:55</td>
<td>CB3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10</td>
<td>Boys’ Dance Performance Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15</td>
<td>Weemala Choir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:25</td>
<td>CB2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40</td>
<td>Stage 3 Performance Dance Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45</td>
<td>Greycliffe Choir (Combined Choir)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:55</td>
<td>Stage Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15</td>
<td>Ramsay Choir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>CB1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:50</td>
<td>Set up time for High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Pennant Hills High School Bands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Michele – Band Coordinator**

**STRING GROUP**

Please note there will be NO String Group rehearsals on Monday 25 March following the Music Camp intensives.

**Dayan - String Ensemble Coordinator**

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**P&C REPORT**

**WELCOME AFTERNOON TEA**

Many parents, children and teachers attended the Welcome Afternoon Tea on Sunday afternoon. We were blessed with glorious weather and a sumptuous afternoon tea spread. Thank you to all who contributed. Thank you also to Mrs Willis and the teachers who gave up their Sunday afternoon to attend. I know parents and children always enjoy chatting with them. A special thank you to Simone and Bunnings Thornleigh who sent along the wonderfully talented, and patient, Lindsay to paint the faces of the children. The face painting, along with the balloons and the newly spread softfall under the play equipment, meant the children had a ball and were happy and exhausted at the end of the afternoon. I am sure all who went enjoyed getting to know others at the school.

**MOTHER’S DAY STALL**

We have a mum ready to coordinate the Mother’s Day stall. We need more volunteers to assist. Many hands make light work and it is more fun to work with a team. This is a terrific job, does not take a lot of time and
really brings delight to the children and mothers/carers on that special day. If you are interested in helping, please email or phone me.

**EASTER BUNNY HELPERS NEEDED**
The Easter Bunny needs some assistance. If you are able to help with a secret mission, please come to the library on Monday 25 March at 7.30pm. Supper will be provided. Please call Di for more details.

Alison – P&C Secretary

**K-2 WORKING BEE**
Many thanks to those families who took time out from their busy weekends to spread a fresh, deep layer of softfall under the K-2 play equipment at a very productive working bee last Sunday afternoon. In between spreading twenty cubic metres of softfall and renewing the mulch around the kinder veggie patches, parents and children enjoyed a barbeque lunch together in the dappled sunshine. A good time was had by all.
The Term 2 working bee will be held on Sunday 19 May, the week before the fete.

Chris – Gardens and Grounds committee

**CANTEEN**
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. It is easy work and no experience is needed. We show you everything. 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. Many thanks to all our volunteers.

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

**3-6 Site**
Wed. 20 Mar. – Gail, Jill, Tracey
Fri. 22 Mar. – Karen, Sue, Mehala, NEED TWO MORE PLEASE
Mon. 25 Mar. – Kate, Michelle, Ranu

Corinne – Relieving Canteen Manager

**UNIFORM SHOP**

**CLEARANCE SALE**
Sloppy Joes have been reduced to $15.00 All stock must go. Available sizes are: 4, 8, 10 and 16.

Alison – Uniform Shop Manager