Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations to all students who participated in the school swimming carnival last Tuesday, in particular the following students who broke records. Emily – 12 years girls’ freestyle, Open 100 metres freestyle, Senior Girls’ Breast Stroke, Butterfly and Backstroke;
Zoe – 11 years girls’ freestyle and butterfly and Angophora House Senior Girls Relay Team.
Congratulations to all twenty four of our students who represented our school so well at the zone carnival yesterday and in particular to Emily 6T, Lily 3G, James 5B and Zoe 6T whose efforts and achievements qualified them to represent the school at the area carnival to be held on Monday 18 March. Our Senior Girls’ relay came third and just missed out on attending the area carnival.
Thanks again go to Mrs Coventry and Mr Bryant for their coordination and supervision of the school carnival and zone team and to all parents and carers who assisted with transport and provided much support and encouragement.
A spread sheet listing of our school swimming carnival results will be sent home next week with the newsletter. Please note that Swimming Carnival ribbons will be presented at the Year 3 – 6 assembly to be held on Tuesday 12 March commencing at 2.00pm in the school hall.

CONGRATULATIONS WILL AND BRANNAGH
Congratulations to Will 6T and Brannagh 6M who qualified for the area basketball trials which are being held at Thornleigh today.

SCHOOLS’ CLEAN UP DAY
Our school’s participation in Schools’ Clean Up Day on Friday did not take place due to the constant rain throughout the day.
Instead, students in Years 3 – 6 spent some time after lunch yesterday tidying the 3 – 6 site and K - 2 students will tidy their site once the grounds dry out.

KINDERGARTEN PARENTS’ ORIENTATION PROGRAM – TUESDAYS 12, 19 AND 26 MARCH 9.30am to 11.00am
Next Tuesday 12 March, Mrs Krivohlavy, our ESL Teacher, will commence the first of three Kindergarten orientation sessions for parents and carers from language backgrounds other than English and any other interested parents, in Bellthorn Cottage starting at 9.30am and finishing at 11.00am.
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
Forms were sent home with your Year 6 child yesterday. 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.

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN AND COLES VOUCHERS
Thank you to all families who last year sent in dockets and vouchers for Woolworths Earn and Learn and Coles which provided the school with thousands of points to “spend” on a variety of resources. Twenty boxes of maths and sports equipment were delivered to the school last week which will be shared across the school K – 6. In addition, a worm farm was included which will be placed on the 3 – 6 site.

KINDERGARTEN FINISHING TIME – 3.15PM
As kindergarten parents have already been advised, beginning Monday 11 March 2013, their children will be remaining at school until 3.15pm each day for the remainder of the school year.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK POLICY PROCEDURES
In keeping with Working with Children Check procedures, all parents, carers and community members working in our school are required to complete declarations applicable to their role in the school and to provide 100 point ID proof.
Parents, carers and community members assisting in the school in a voluntary capacity with activities such as reading, sport, accompanying class excursions or assisting with Music Camp as day helpers, are required to complete DEC Appendix 4 in addition to the provision of 100 points ID proof.
People working in the school in a paid capacity or who accompany children on overnight camps are required to complete the DEC Appendix 3 declaration forms and provide 100 points ID proof which is certified by the school before I fax it to the DEC’s Employment Screening Unit.
Copies of all paperwork are filed securely in the school.
In June 2012, legislation for a new Working with Children Check was passed in Parliament and the start date will be advised shortly. Until the commencement date of the new check, current procedures continue.

In summary, the new check will:
- provide a portable and renewable Working With Children Check clearance that lasts for five years;
- have the same check for everyone whether a paid worker, a volunteer, a self-employed person, an adult living in a carer’s home, or a prospective adoptive parent;
- bar all high-risk applicants from working with children;
- continuously monitor each cleared person for serious criminal activity or disciplinary matters in the workplace; and
- access full criminal histories rather than a subset of relevant records.
I will inform the school community as soon as I am made aware of the start date for the new procedures.

PHPS BICYCLE SAFETY GUIDELINES AND AGREEMENT AND RIDING OF SCOOTERS
Parents of students wishing to ride their bicycle to and from school are required to read the school's bicycle safety guidelines and sign the rider agreement before their children commence riding their bikes to and from school.
A hard copy of the school's bicycle policy, prepared in consultation with the DEC's Road Safety consultant, and associated documents are available from the school office, or alternatively from the Pennant Hills Public School's website www.pennanthil-p.schools.nsw.edu.au in the Our School section on the School Policies page. The lower section of the bicycle rider permission note should be signed by the parent/carer and returned to me for secure filing.
In view of the amount of pedestrian traffic surrounding both school sites, students are requested NOT to ride their bikes on the footpaths.
In addition, parents and carers are also requested to closely supervise children riding scooters on the footpaths as there have been a number of near misses in recent weeks.

BEECROFT ZONE PSSA WEBSITE
I have placed a link to the Beecroft Zone PSSA website on our Pennant Hills Public School website which can be accessed by going to the Curriculum and activities section, clicking on the Sports and physical activity page and then clicking on the link.
The zone website provides a variety of information and will be updated regularly.

NORTHERN SYDNEY REGION STUDENT SERVICE PARENT FORUM
An invitation is extended to all parents of students accessing Northern Sydney Region Student Services Programs to attend an information sharing meeting with other parents and regional representatives.
At this forum we welcome Liz McDonald, District Guidance Officer, Department of Education and Communities. Liz will be speaking about “Cyber Safety” and will provide us with strategies to
support our children when they are accessing the internet at home.

Date: Friday 5 April 2013
Time: 10.00am to 12.00 noon
Venue: Lindfield East Public School Hall
90 Tryon Road, East Lindfield

It would be appreciated if you would reply to Leanne Mulligan on 9987 3900 or Leanne.mulligan@det.nsw.edu.au by Tuesday 2 April 2013 to assist with catering. If there are any specific questions you would like addressed, please include them at your time of reply.

For further information, please contact Kate McCosker - Student Welfare Consultant, 9987 3919 or kate.mccosker@det.nsw.edu.au

NAPLAN 2013

2013 NAPLAN tests will take place this year on Tuesday 14 May (Language Conventions and Writing), Wednesday 15 May (Reading) and Thursday 16 May (Numeracy) with the “catch-up” day scheduled for Friday 17 May for students who miss a test or are absent.

On Tuesday 2 April I will be providing a NAPLAN information session for interested parents commencing at 6.45pm in the school library.

PRINCIPAL’S WOW WORD OF THE WEEK

inclement

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 Aidan 4A, Kodi 6T, James 4/5M, Sumukhi 5/6C, Adam 5B, Charlotte 6M, Nathan 6M and Zara 3P, 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: Jean, Rohan, Joshua
6T: Caitlin, Sneha, Jack
5/6C: Mya, Joshua, Siân
5B: Freya, Brandon, Hamish
4/5M: Jasmine, Jahan, Max
4A: Sam, Peggy, Yashmin
3/4I: Arizona, Andrew, Anthea, Christina
3G: Georgia, Janiru, Levi

3L: Tommy, Eddie, Amanda
3P: William, Mitchell, Hannah
2 Dragons: Esther, Jimmy
2 Fish: Cayla, Nathaniel
2 Geckos: Caleb, Annabelle, James
1 Hippos: Imogen, Orlando
1 Lions: James, Kalea
1 Tigers: Claire, Finnian
1 Zebras: Jack, Susani, Cayleigh
K Bunnnies: Rumeth, Josh
K Koalas: Beatrice, Matilda, James
K Puppies: Elvin, Caitlin

Environment Award: Christina 3/4I


Indonesian: Aidan KB, Emma 1H, Alejandra 2F, Miles 3P, Jessica 3/4I, Patrick 5/6C, Charlotte 6M

Library: Zachary 3/4I, Jonathan 4A

SPORT

PSSA SCOREBOARD

Last week PSSA was cancelled due to the closure of the grounds.

This Friday we play Dural PS at Greenway Park. Good Luck to all our teams.

Mark Bryant - PSSA Coordinator

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 note will be sent home next week. 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

THE INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

BAND

CB3 are settling in very well and Ms Catherine is very impressed with their progress.

We have over one hundred and fifty children registered for Music Camp this year. It is shaping up to be our best camp ever!

You should all have your final information by now. If any families have any questions or concerns,
please do not hesitate to contact either Hilary or me.

Michele – Band Coordinator

PHOTOS
Over the years, many of you would have taken some great photos of P&C events. As we will be upgrading our website in the near future it would be great to include a photo history. I am also conscious that we are heading towards the school’s centenary. Thinking about the future, it would make things easy for the organisers if there was a photographic record of past events and people, with names attached. If you have any photos you would like to share, please pass them onto me in any form that is convenient to you. If you have any thoughts about this please send me an email.

AGM
We look forward to seeing you at the AGM and general meeting tonight commencing at 7.30pm in the library. Please remember to fill out a nomination form and pass it to the front office or bring it along tonight if you would like to be a part of a committee or if you would like to take on the role of Treasurer or President.

FAREWELL
Thank you for your support over the last three years. Di and I have been pleased to serve the school community and are proud of the contributions the P&C has been able to make to the school over this time.

Sarah - P&C President
pandcpresident@gmail.com

WORKING BEE SUNDAY 17 MARCH STARTING AT 12 NOON
The level of softfall under the K-2 playground equipment needs topping up. Please come along on Sunday 17 March and help spread the new softfall. Bring wheel barrows, rakes and shovels, if you have them. Come for an hour or the whole afternoon. Whatever time you can spare will be greatly appreciated.
A sausage sizzle and drinks will be provided from 12 noon so come and enjoy time with other school families.

Chris - Convenor Gardens and Grounds Committee

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 please meet at the staff car park at 12.50pm.

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

3-6 Site
Wed. 6 Feb. – Michelle, Fiona, Mel
Fri. 8 Feb. – Linda, Georgie, Ros, Jacqui
Mon. 11 Feb. – ONE MORE WOULD HELP, Tracey, Nicola

Corinne – Relieving Canteen Manager

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

CANTEEN MANAGER POSITION

Expressions of interest are invited for the position of Canteen Manager at Pennant Hills Public School.

The Manager is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Canteen, leading a team of enthusiastic volunteer parent helpers and is supported by the P&C Canteen Committee.

Applications close Friday 22 March. For a duty statement and more information, please contact Sarah at pandcpresident@gmail.com

UNIFORM SHOP

COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION