Dear Parents and Carers,

At the P & C meeting held last Tuesday night, Mr David accepted nomination for the position of President of the school's P & C Association for the ensuing year and in addition, Mr Greg accepted nomination for the position of Vice President.

On behalf of the school community I congratulate David and Greg on their election to these important positions and I thank them for their willingness to accept the responsibilities entailed.

I look forward to working with David and Greg and all members of the P & C for the benefit of all children, families and staff in our school.

SCHOOL DISCO

Many thanks to Miss Tierney and our Year 6 leaders for their organisation and running of last Thursday night’s disco sessions which were well attended and greatly enjoyed by the children. Our thanks also go to the parent helpers and many members of staff who attended and assisted in the supervision of the children.

RECOGNITION ASSEMBLY

Thank you to the many parents and carers who attended our Term 1 Recognition Assembly today. Congratulations to all students who received an award, to CB1 and Stage Band who played superbly, our school leaders who very capably led the assembly and to Ms Stevens and Miss Siratkov who coordinated the assembly and organised the awards, ensuring the assembly's smooth running.

TERM 2 ACTIVITIES PAYMENT DAYS

Payment days for activities covering excursions and incursions planned for Term 2 will be on Wednesday 8 May for Years 3 – 6 and families and Thursday 9 May for K – 2.

Kindergarten: $62.00
Year 1: $86.00
Year 2: $86.00
Year 3: $85.00
Year 4: $85.00
Year 5: $71.00
Year 6: $71.00

Information detailing the activities and cost of each one will be sent home with your child at the beginning of next term. If any family is experiencing financial difficulty with regard to term activity payments, I encourage them to contact me as soon as possible to discuss financial support. All discussions are treated with the utmost confidentiality.

ANZAC DAY

Our school will be holding a short Anzac Day service on Thursday this week, 11 April 2013, commencing at 10.45am under the K – 2 COLA.
It would be appreciated if children could bring flowers to school that morning. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL
A reminder that if you would like your child to participate in the P & C organised Mother’s Day stall to be held on Tuesday 7 May, that permission notes should be returned to your child’s class teacher together with the $5.00 cost no later than Thursday this week, 11 April 2013.

TERM 2 SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS
At the beginning of next term, staff will be participating in TWO School Development Days on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 April. Staff will be involved in professional learning on both days working on the National Curriculum English syllabus, led by facilitators Jenni Lainson and Robyn Gilchrist. In addition, we will be working on scope and continuums as well as being addressed by an educator from Westmead Children’s Hospital on haemophilia. Time has also been provided in Monday’s timetable for stage planning for the term. We look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Wednesday 1 May.

MOTHER’S DAY AFTERNOON TEA
On Friday 10 May 2013, staff will be hosting Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea under the hall COLA commencing at 3.30pm. An invitation to every mother and family is accompanying this newsletter. I have also uploaded the invitation to the school’s website on the Notes page in the “Our school” section.

To assist with catering, it would be appreciated if you could indicate your attendance and return the $6.00 per family payment as soon as possible but no later than Friday 3 May, the end of the first week of Term 2.

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN
Our school will once again be involved in the Woolworths Earn and Learn program which is running from 8 April through to 9 June. Woolworths Earn and Learn points can be collected from the checkout cashier with one point being earned for every $10.00 spent. The point sheet can then either be placed in the collection box at your local Woolworths store or in the collection boxes which are in both school office foyers. As for last year, the school can use points earned to secure mathematics and English resources, science and sport equipment, art and craft materials.

PRINCIPAL’S WOW WORD OF THE WEEK

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 Grace 1L, Monica 6M, James 2D and Claire 3L to whom I presented a Principal’s Award last week.

END OF TERM WISHES
As the term draws to an end, I congratulate all children on their efforts and achievements this term. I also take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for the support which they have given to their children’s education this term and for their many contributions to the school as members of the P & C and its committees, working in the canteen, assisting with working bees, as class helpers and attendance at and support given to a variety of other school activities throughout the term. The staff and I very much appreciate and value the partnership we have in working together to ensure that we can provide every possible opportunity and support for all of our children to enhance their learning.

My sincere thanks also go to every member of staff for their dedication and commitment throughout a very busy and demanding first term.

With my very best wishes to all children, parents, carers and staff for a safe, relaxing holiday.

Penny Willis
Principal

MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Merit Award Certificates were received by:

- 6M: Rachel, Brannagh, Anna
- 6T: Carissa, Lily
- 5/6C: Anastasia, Evrim, Jacob
- 5B: Eloise, Sean
- 4/5M: Ellen, Neha, Daniel, Cameron
- 4A: Cayden, Ansh, Mairead
- 3/4I: Jen Jen, Naren, Greer
- 3G: Brendan, Bailey, Patrick
- 3L: Trinity, Tiara, Tom
- 3P: Hannah, Ariana, James
- 2 Dragons: Abbey, Neel, Jared
- 2 Fish: Liam, Robbie, Alessio
- 2 Geckos: Vincent, Liam, Jonathan, Maggie
- 1 Hippos: Angus, Daniel
- 1 Lions: Jacob, Jordan, Kira
- 1 Tigers: Jaiden, Toby
- 1 Zebras: Cailltin, Jack
- K Bunnies: Jade, Silas, Anita
- K Koalas: Thomas, Olivia
- K Puppies: Hanan, Owen, Brooke

Environment Award: Ethan 2D

Computers: Helen KB, Susani 1Z, James 2G
Indonesian: Oliver KB, Jonathan 1Z, Sebastian 2D
**SPORT**

**PSSA SCOREBOARD**
Last week we played Roselea PS.
Oztag Boys won 12-10  Oztag Girls won 15-9
Softball Boys won 10-1  Softball Girls lost 3-9

This Friday, the venue and details for PSSA has changed. **We now play Beecroft PS at Pennant Hills Park.**

Mark Bryant - PSSA Coordinator

**MUSIC**

**COPA**
The COPA evening this year will be held next term on Wednesday 12 June, 2013. It will be held in the Multi Purpose Centre at Pennant Hills High School. All of the arts groups, bands, choirs, ensembles and dance will be performing.
As with other years, there will be opportunity for some students to perform items as soloists or in small groups. Auditions will take place early in Week 2 of Term 2 starting 6 May, so start thinking and practising your item now.
I am looking for some parents to help me organise this event. If you are interested in helping, please let me know.

Julie Anne Stevens – Music Teacher

**NEW PRESIDENT**
At last week’s P&C meeting, David was nominated for and accepted the position of P&C President. He brings enthusiasm and a wealth of experience from his professional life to the role. Greg was elected into the Vice President role.

**MOTHERS DAY STALL**
A reminder that the permission note together with payment of $5.00 for the Mother’s Day stall is due by this Thursday 11 April. The gifts have been purchased and there are lots of fantastic gifts for the children to choose for their special mum or carer when they go “shopping”. The stall will be run on Tuesday 7 May.

**FETE NEWS**
Raffle booklets will be distributed later this week and the early bird draw will be held after the holidays on Friday 3 May. We will also be looking for volunteers to sell raffle tickets in local shopping centres leading up to the fete. This was very successful last year and also lots of fun, so please get involved if you are able. More details to follow.

**BUNNINGS BARBECUE**
The annual Bunnings BBQ is being organised at Bunnings Thornleigh on Saturday 4 May. We need volunteers from every class, just for an hour. No previous experience is needed. If you cannot come to the fete, helping with the Bunnings BBQ or selling raffle tickets are great ways to contribute to the success of the fete. Please contact me if you can help.

**URGENT - MUSIC CAMP COORDINATOR**
We urgently need a music camp coordinator or team of organisers to coordinate the Music Camp for next year, 2014. If you are interested or would like to know more information, please contact Michele or Hilary as soon as possible. If there is no coordinator, the Music Camp will not be able to be held as it has at Vision Valley for the past several years.

I hope you all have a great break for the school holidays. Look forward to seeing everyone in Term 2. The May P&C meeting will be held in Week 2 on Tuesday 7 May.

Alison – P&C Secretary

**UNIFORM SHOP**

**WINTER UNIFORM**
All students are required to wear the winter uniform in Terms 2 and 3. In readiness for next term, winter stock is currently available for purchase. Orders can be placed for winter uniforms and the items will be delivered to your child’s class, or alternatively you may attend the shop during opening hours.

**TERM 2, WEEK 1 TRADING HOURS**
The Uniform Shop will be open on the following days in Week 1 of Term 2.
Monday 29 April - Staff Development Day 1
8.45am – 10.45am
Tuesday 30 April - Staff Development Day 2
8.45am – 10.45am
Thursday 2 May 3.00pm – 4.00pm

**SECOND HAND UNIFORMS**
If you have any uniforms in good condition that you no longer require, please consider donating them to the Second Hand Clothing Pool at the Uniform Shop.

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

**WINTER UNIFORM**
Due to an unexplained delay with two suppliers, winter ties, headbands, scrunchies and size 4-6 tights will not be available until Week 1 of Term 2. As soon as the stock arrives, all outstanding orders will be delivered to classes. I apologise for any inconvenience caused by this delay.
**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**

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**BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

**PENNANT HILLS AFTER SCHOOL CARE – END OF TERM PARTY: DISCO**

On the last day of school, Friday 12 April, After School Care will be having a party day with a disco in the hall between 3.45pm – 5.45pm.

Professional disco children entertainers are coming in with disco equipment for the afternoon, such as disco lights, music, karaoke, smoke machine, balloon twisting, face painting and even a bubble machine! The entertainers will also be running dancing activities and party games.

Casuals are very welcome. Please contact BASC on 9481 8696 if you would like your child to attend.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION**

**ENGLISH CLASSES AT ST MARK’S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

Learn or practise English in a friendly and relaxed group at English for Life classes. Mondays 9.30am to noon, during term time, commencing Tuesday 29 April 2013 at St Mark’s Anglican Church Pennant Hills, corner Rosemount Avenue and Warne Street, Pennant Hills. Morning tea is provided and a crèche is available for children.

Cost of $2.00 per week. Contact Patricia Rajaratnam on 0422 649 964 or send an email to patricia.raja@yahoo.com.au.

To register or for more information visit www.stmarks.com.au.

**TRAINING TO TUTOR SMALL GROUPS IN ENGLISH**

Are you interested in developing skills to enable you to help someone with their English? Meadowbank TAFE is offering a free five week training session to give you skills for tutoring small groups or individuals in English.

The classes will begin on Tuesday 14 May from 10.00am – 1.00pm. They will run for five consecutive Tuesdays at Meadowbank TAFE.

For more information, please email susan.mills2@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 9942 3572.

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**MISSION AUSTRALIA**

Develop your skills for future employment – information seminar. A program aimed to improve the job readiness of targeted single and teenage parents who receive parenting payments.

Held at Hornsby Hub, 1 Coronation Street, Hornsby on 1 May at 10.00am. To register and for more information, please contact Elizabeth Moody on 9476 0146 between 9.30am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday.

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**STS FOUNDATION – STUDENT EXCHANGE**

STS Student Exchange is a not-for-profit student organisation, with over fifty years of experience and a global network of twenty two offices.

The organisation is registered with the Department of Education of Western Australia and a funding member of CASEO (Council of Australian Student Exchange Organisations).

STS has placed many students from all around the world with Australian host families over the last twenty five years. We have a number of exchange students who are arriving in July 2013 and are very keen to become part of an Australian family.

STS are seeking Australian families who are busy, friendly, interested in other cultures and willing to welcome an STS exchange student into their family. The host family will be needed to provide room and board and treat their student as a member of their own family.

Exchange students have their own spending money and medical insurance.

Call us on 1800 263 964 or email us at stsf@people.net.au or visit the website at www.sts-education.com.au.

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**THORNLEIGH INFLATABLE SOCCER, RUGBY UNION & NETBALL CLINICS - THURSDAY 18TH APRIL**

**Venue:** Oakleigh Park, Giblett St Thornleigh

**Time:** 9.00am – 3.00pm

**Age:** 5-13 year olds

**Cost:** $50.00 per child

The Rugby Union Clinic Includes: passing skills and drills, attacking and defensive play, positional play, backline moves, tackling technique session on tackle bags, rucks & mauls and fun games of touch football and OzTag.

The Soccer Clinic Includes: passing skills and drills, kicking technique session, attacking and defensive play, positional play, fun games of soccer inside the inflatable soccer field and a mini world cup tournament.

The Netball Clinic Includes: passing, footwork, goal shooting and movement drills, positional play, attacking and defensive play and fun games of netball.

**Bookings:** Email your child’s name, age, club, school, parents name and contact number to soccerclinics@live.com.au/netballclinics@live.com.au/rugbyclinics@live.com.au or call Greg on 0448 619 543.