Dear Parents and Carers,

The K – 2 school site has been a hive of activity in view of the playground renovation work and in particular this morning, when children had the added complication of having to assemble on the grassed area as a result of the asphalt being pressure cleaned following a break-in and vandalism at the weekend. The excitement continued with the delivery of the tree trunk for the new sandpit at the same time as morning assembly.

I commend the children and staff on their flexibility and resilience, and thank them and parents for their understanding and patience.

TRIVIA NIGHT THANKS
Congratulations and well done to the Trivia Night Committee comprising Kathy and Stuart, Rachel and George, Hilary and Rod, Tim, Richard and former PHPS parent Brett, for their organisation and conduct of the evening and their very clever and talented delivery of activities and videos which provided great entertainment, not to mention amusement to all who attended. The evening included a number of tributes to Mr Moran who is retiring at the end of this year.

FESTIVAL OF CHORAL MUSIC
Congratulations to Ramsay Choir students involved in last night’s Festival of Choral Music Arygle Concert held at the Sydney Opera House. Our students formed part of the 700 voice massed choir which contributed to a very enjoyable program of choral and band music.

On behalf of all students involved, thank you to Choir Conductor, Ms Stevens, for all her work preparing the children for the performance and for her organisation of the day and also to Mrs Griffith who assisted with the supervision of the students throughout the day rehearsal and evening performance.

Sixteen of our senior students will now be very busy preparing for their participation in the 30th Schools Spectacular which takes place on Friday 29 and Saturday 30 November.

NATIONAL BANDANNA DAY – FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER
This week, bandannas and pens costing $4.00 and $3.00 respectively are being sold to support CanTeen, an organisation which relies on public donations, bequests and fundraising activities to be able to continue to provide peer support programs, counselling and information resources at no charge to young people living with cancer.

Students will be able to wear their bandanna at school this coming Friday 18 October.

Thank you for your support of this very worthy organisation.
APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY TO SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOLS IN 2015
A letter was sent home yesterday to parents of current Year 5 students regarding the application process for Year 7 entry to selective high schools in 2015.
If you would like your child to go to a selective high school in Year 7 in 2015, you will need to apply soon.
All applications should preferably be made online through an Internet connection. A limited number of application packages will be provided through the school shortly for those parents who do not have Internet access.
The website where you will find all the necessary information, including the list of selective high schools and the application portal is:
www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement
All students applying for Year 7 selective high school entry will be required to take the Selective High School Placement Test on the morning of Thursday 13 March 2014. The test will be held in a test centre to be advised individually to all applicants in March 2014. Parents are responsible for transporting their own children to and from the test centres.

NAPLAN STUDENT REPORTS
NAPLAN reports have now been sent home with Year 3 and Year 5 students. If your child has not given you their report, please contact the school.

SATURDAY SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY LANGUAGES
Opportunity exists for Year 7 students to enrol in Year 7 2014 at the Saturday School of Community Languages which provides opportunity for high school students to study their background language to Higher School Certificate level when that language is not available at their day school.
There are 14 Saturday School centres in the Sydney metropolitan area.
Information about courses offered at the Saturday School of Community Languages, as well as application for enrolment, is available at www.sscs.schools.nsw.edu.au
Enrolment forms must be signed and forwarded by the student’s 2014 secondary school principal. Applications forwarded by primary schools will not be accepted.

PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS
Congratulations to Robbie 2F, Jessica 3G, Trinity 3L, Harry 1L, Zach 5B, Cayden 4A, Jessica 2D, Mitchell 3L, Amanda 3L, Ariana 3P, Nicola 1T, Rumeth KB, Josh KB, Wei Wei 2D and Anthea 3/4I to whom I presented a Principal's Award last week.

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.

STAFF NEWS AND INFORMATION
Last Friday, we welcomed back Mrs Coventry from long service leave. Our thanks to Mrs Cassie Roberts and Mrs Dionne Bock who taught 4/5M during Mrs Coventry's absence.
As a result of increased enrolments, I have received approval from the Department of Education and Communities' Staffing Unit to form a Merit Selection panel and complete a requisition for the external posting of the Deputy Principal Primary K-6 position at Pennant Hills Public School. In addition, as a result of Mr Moran’s retirement at the end of this year, I have also been given approval to form an additional selection panel to complete the requisition for the Assistant Principal position. Each panel will comprise of me as convenor, with representation from the P & C as well as a staff member trained in Merit Selection procedures.
I hope to have the process which involves preparation of the advertisements, reading of applications and interviews for both positions, fully completed by mid-December. I will obviously keep you informed.

With my best wishes to all families,

Penny Willis
Principal

MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Merit Award Certificates were received by:
6M: Nathan, Charlotte, Sam
6T: Will, Charles, Rebecca
5/6C: Kayla, Max, Henry
5B: Ellie, Hamish, Adam
4A: Aaliyah, Cayden, Elijah
3/4I: Tara, Hansuh, Charlotte
3G: Georgia, Stirling, Emma
3L: Nick, Khushi, Heath
3P: Luci, Jaylen, Ishan
2 Dragons: Jacob, Claire, Jimmy
2 Fish: Abigail, Nathaniel
2 Gecko: Eva
1 Hippo: Jaime
1 Lions: Jordan, Matt
1 Tigers: Toby, Maya
K Bunnies: Zac, Anita
K Koalas: Tom, Sienna
K Puppies: Jasmine, Fynn
Indonesian: Matilda KK, Nicola 1T, Karina 2G
Music: Mitchell 3L, Tara 3P
THE INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

BAND
An invitation is extended to all Year 2 to Year 5 families to attend the Music Program Orientation Evening being held on Thursday 24 October from 6.30pm - 7.45pm at the 3-6 site. The evening will provide children with the opportunity to hear CB1 and the String Ensemble and to try the various instruments available to play in both the Band program and the String Ensemble. For further details regarding the evening, please contact Michele for Band or contact Dayan for String Ensemble.

After 4 years as Band Coordinator I will be standing down at the end of this year. This is primarily due to my daughter starting at Newtown in 2014 as well as my own work commitments. The Band Committee would ideally like to secure my replacement before the end of this term. The role is a fantastically rewarding one and involves working as part of a team with other committed parents/caregivers. Whilst it has historically been filled by one person, going forward it could certainly be shared between two people. If you think you might be interested and would like more information please email me.

A reminder that Semester 1 band payments are now overdue. Could families who have not paid please do so by the end of this week. If this is problematic for any reason please do not hesitate to contact our Treasurer, Sunalini. Thank you.

Michele – Band Coordinator

P&C REPORT

K - 2 PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION WORK
The play area construction is entering its final exciting phase this week. The terrace and sandpit construction has been completed. The finishing touches such as turfing are scheduled to be done this week. One of the finishing touches of course, is filling the sandpits with sand. This will need your help! Please look out for a further notice with details on how you can be part of the process.

FETE COORDINATING TEAM
There have been a couple of parents who have expressed interest in being part of a team to coordinate the fete. If you are keen to help coordinate, but have not put up your hand as you do not want to do it by yourself, please email pandcpresident@gmail.com. The coordinating team will be very, very well supported – by past fete coordinators and a team of experienced and enthusiastic stall holders.

Without the annual P&C school fete, we would not be able to support the school in areas of Reading Recovery, Learning Support, the purchasing of technology, or playground work.

W GROUP ESTATE AGENTS SPONSORSHIP
W Group in Pennant Hills is a local family based real estate business with children at the school. They have sponsorship with the P&C whereby if you sell your house with them or refer someone to them, on settlement of the sale W Group will donate $500.00 to the P&C. Visit them at Shop 15/5 Hillcrest Rd.

Alison – P&C Secretary

TRIVIA NIGHT 2013 - BACK TO THE 80'S
On behalf of the Trivia Committee, thank you all for your attendance, participation and enthusiasm on Saturday night. We hope that you all enjoyed it as much as we did.

Congratulations to all our winners, particularly “The Young Doctors” who cleaned up as the winners and best decorated table. Congratulations also to our own Penny Willis who won the best dressed female and no-one else could have won the best dressed male other than our man of the night Jack Moran.

If you have any ideas or feedback for the next Trivia Night, please email them to tim.nelson@cba.com.au.

Just remember that we are all “addicted to Jack...”

Tim - Trivia Night Coordinator

CANTEEN

Anzac biscuits are available daily and are made on the premises. These cost 60c each and can now be included in lunch orders.

Twista Bolognese is also now made in the canteen. The ingredients are: pasta, lean mince, tinned tomatoes, onion, garlic, carrot, mushroom, zucchini and cheese. The price remains at $3.70.

In light of the current hot weather, I am trialling an assortment of frozen fruit. These include; banana pops (bananas rolled in yogurt and milo on a paddle pop stick) for 50c each, melon traffic lights (balls of watermelon, rockmelon and honeydew melon on a paddle pop stick) for 60c each and frozen pineapple rings for 30c each. Frozen grapes (bag of 10) and orange segments (bag of 3) are still available for 50c each.

Here is the roster for this week.

K-2 Site
Wed. 16 Oct. Jenny, Rebecca
Fri. 18 Oct. Kathryn, Penny, Sarah
Mon. 21 Oct. Nicola, Evelyn, Fredou

3-6 Site
Wed. 16 Oct. Gail, Tracey
YEAR 6 SIGNATURE BEARS AND BALLS
Year 6 parents please note that orders for the signature bears and balls are due this Friday 18 October.

DR SHOE
This term Dr Shoe will be attending the Uniform Shop on Thursday’s 31 October and 28 November 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.

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

COMMUNITY SEMINAR OF UNDERSTANDING FERTILITY
Interested parents are invited to attend this seminar led by Angela Ferguson and Marilyn Young to be held at St Mark’s Church, corner Rosemount and Warne Streets Pennant Hills, on Saturday 26 October 2013 from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Cost is $5.00 with afternoon tea provided. For more information, visit www.stmarks.com.au. Bookings are required by Thursday 24 October. Tel: 9980 8012 or email office@stmarks.com.au.

PARENTING ANXIOUS CHILDREN
On Thursday 14 November from 11.30am to 1.30pm, Hornsby Child and Family Mental Health Service (CMHCS) will be running a seminar for parents of children aged 4-10 years discussing the nature of anxiety and the different ways it may present in children, risk factors and potential implications for parents and children, as well as identification of practical strategies & resources to assist.

Where: Hillview Community Health Centre, 1334 Pacific Highway Turramurra. Entry via Boyd Ave. Please allow enough time for parking and arrive ten minutes before the registered start time. Please note that this is a parent/carer event only and that there is no provision for pre-schoolers.

The cost of the seminar is $10.00 but there will be no charge for concession card holders.

Registration is essential as groups fill quickly. To confirm your place, please call CAMHS on 9477 9190. Participants will be asked to complete feedback forms. The service reserves the right to postpone or cancel seminars in the case of insufficient registrations.

ENGLISH FOR LIFE CLASSES AT ST MARK’S
Learn or practise English in a friendly and relaxed group at English for Life classes. On Mondays 9.30am to noon, during term time, starting 14 October, 2013 at St Mark’s Anglican Church Pennant Hills, Corner Rosemount Avenue & Warne Street. Morning tea provided and crèche available for children. Cost is $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. Alternatively, visit www.stmarks.com.au

FORGECREW AT ST MARKS PENNANT HILLS
On Friday nights from 7.00pm-9.30pm for Year 6 - Year 12. Contact adam.scott@stmarks.com.au

BUNNINGS DURAL SPECIAL EVENT
Bunnings at Dural invite you to a free event on Saturday 19 October from 11.00am - 2.00pm to meet our special guest “Dirt Girl”. Come along and cuddle the baby animals at our Animal Farm, make a mini scarecrow or wooden boat and learn about composting, worm farms and recycling materials. Plant up a seedling to take home and start your very own Dirt Girl World.

Remember to wear you wellingtons and old clothes “cause you’re gonna get grubby!” Bookings recommended call 9653 7500 or duralao@bunnings.com.au

THE GREAT PENNO RENO
Remember the “Great Penno Reno” at Pennant Hills High School is on the weekend of 26 and 27 October. You can offer financial support through http://www.mycase.com.au/page/thegreatpennorenoro or contact the GPR committee by email at greatpennorenoro@gmail.com

THE CHELTENHAM RECREATION CLUB - A PINK DAY OUT
On Sunday 3 November at Cheltenham Recreation Club, 60-74 The Crescent, Cheltenham from 10.00am-2.00pm.

Join us for a day of fun food and fantastic company for a great cause. Activities include: laser tag, tennis, face painting, BBQ, cake stall and much more. Tickets available now $5.00 children and pensioners, $10.00 adults and $30.00 family. Contact Jodie Talbot on 0438 231 269 or email at jodietalbot@ovi.com