8 October 2013

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to Term 4 to all children, parents and staff, with a very special welcome to newly enrolled students and their families. I trust that all families had an enjoyable and restful holiday and feel the benefit of it.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKS
During the holidays, in addition to the P & C funded K – 2 playground renovation work commencing, there were a number of other improvements completed, including the replacement of carpet in 1 Lions, 1 Tigers and 2 Dragons classrooms, the 3 – 6 office foyer and the staffroom as part of the Department of Education and Communities’ Assets 2012/2013 maintenance schedule. Wire mesh was also installed at the back of the new demountable building with further work to be carried out in the next few weeks.

In addition, the school organised and paid for clover and bindii on the grassed areas of both sites to be sprayed, a section of the 3 – 6 car park to be concreted and a new air conditioner to be installed in 3G’s classroom, as well as electrical work carried out to address tripping and supply problems.

NAPLAN YEAR 3 & YEAR 5 STUDENT REPORTS
It is anticipated that the 2013 NAPLAN student reports will be delivered to schools across Australia from 8 -11 October with distribution of the reports to parents to occur in the week Monday 14 October to Friday 18 October 2013.

KOMPETISI SISWA 2013 INDONESIAN COMPETITION
Students from our school recently submitted entries for the 2013 Indonesian competition with three students being awarded prizes.

Congratulations to William who took 2nd place in the Year 3 – 4 section and to Greta who took 1st place and Doreen who took 2nd place in the Year 5 – 6 section.

A special mention was made by the judges to all Stage 3 students at our school for their excellent and creative entries.

On behalf of all students involved, I would like to thank and acknowledge Bu Lagaida for her enthusiastic encouragement of the children and her coordination of the competition at our school which involved considerable time in addition to her teaching responsibilities.

INDONESIAN WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENT
Later this term, from 22 October to 8 November, the school will be hosting a work experience student as part of the Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program 2013 – 2014. We are very grateful to Ms Geary, Class Teacher of 3G, who has offered to have the student working with her and her class.
The work experience student will be involved in cultural performances at different schools on Mondays and will attend our school from Tuesday to Friday for each week of the work placement. This will provide an opportunity for the student to learn about our educational programs and will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn from him or her.

K – 2 students will have the opportunity to attend the Indonesian cultural performance at our school on Monday 4 November from 10.00am.

DISCO THANKS
Many thanks to Miss Tierney, coordinator of the disco held late last term, the student leadership team, parents and staff for their assistance and support to ensure the disco was enjoyed by all who attended.

APPOINTMENTS WITH STAFF
All parents are reminded that if at any time they have a concern about their child or they wish to discuss their child’s progress, they are encouraged to make an appointment to meet with their child’s teacher at a mutually convenient time.

I again remind parents and carers that you are also encouraged to contact class teachers, one of the Assistant Principals or me, if appropriate, if at any time you require any information or clarification with regard to school rules, policies, programs and the like.

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS AND SCHOOL PERMISSION NOTES
On occasions, it is necessary to contact parents urgently, and further, if parents are not available, to contact emergency contacts.

To assist the school in this process, it would be very much appreciated if you could provide us with the relevant information when your contact details change and to also ensure that emergency contact details are also current.

Please also note that it is vital that your emergency contact details are always recorded on return permission slips in the case of excursions.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance in this important aspect of our duty of care.

TERM 4 EXCURSION/ACTIVITIES PAYMENTS
Information regarding payment for excursions and activities taking place in Term 4 has been distributed today.

Payment days are next week on Wednesday 16 October for Years 3 – 6 and families and on Thursday 17 October for K – 2.

If any family is experiencing financial difficulties, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss alternative payment arrangements. These can include payment by instalments, paying a contribution or requesting support from the Student Assistance Scheme. In the case of the Student Assistance Scheme, parents are requested to sign a form to satisfy Department of Education and Communities’ auditing requirements. I wish to assure you that all discussions are treated with the utmost confidence.

PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS
Congratulations to Nidhi 3P, Tiara 3L, Brandon 5B, Harry 1L, Archie 1H, Tahlia 3/4I, Anna 6M, Freya 5B, Gabriel 4/5M, Eva 2G, Sarah 3/4I, Joel 3P, Cayleigh 1Z, Grace 3L and Annaliese 6M to whom I presented a Principal’s Award at the end of last term.

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.

With my best wishes to all families,

Penny Willis
Principal

MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Merit Award Certificates were received by:
6M: Phoebe, Sam, Charlotte
6T: Jazmin, Eden, William
5/6C: Jasmine, Joshua, Mya
5B: Adam, Mia, Heath, Ashton
4A: Molly, Elliott, Lillian
3G: Teresa, Saskia, Janiru
3L: Lily, Oliver, Justin, Mitchell
3P: Sundar, Saniya, Ariana
2 Dragons: Wei Wei, James
2 Fish: Abigail, Sebastian
2 Geckos: Amelie, Ethan
1 Hippos: Orlando
1 Lions: Sairsha, William, Zac, Rachel
1 Tigers: George, Nicola
1 Zebras: Denethi, Ryan, Caitlin, Jonathan
K Bunnies: Alex, Alannah
K Koalas: Arrius, Thomas, Eddy
K Puppies: Elvin, Josiah, Hanan
Environment Award: Josh KB
Computers: Matthew KK, Toga 1Z, Sarah 2F, Isabelle 3G, Aaliyah 4A, Nicholas 5B, Annaliese 6M
Indonesian: Anjani 3L, Naren 3/4I, Eloise 5B, Brannagh 6M
SPORT

BALL GAMES CARNIVAL 2013
On the last Friday of Term 3, the school conducted its annual Ball Games Carnival on the 3-6 site. On a windy, but thankfully, fine day, just, the students enthusiastically participated in team sports displaying fine sportsmanship and skill. In a very close carnival, only four points separated the four teams at the end of the competition. Grevillea and Melaleuca shared victory on the day, with Angophora and Banksia only four points astern in equal third place. Well done to all students on their participation on the day and particular congratulations to our house captains for their assistance in setting up both on the carnival day, and also all practice sessions that were held in preparation for this event.

Jack Moran - Ball Games Carnival Coordinator

ICAS ENGLISH COMPETITION RESULTS

Congratulations to all children who participated in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools 2013 English Competition completed at our school on Wednesday 31 July.
A special congratulations to the following children on their achievements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3 Distinction</th>
<th>Teresa 3G, Stirling 3G, Claire 3L</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 4 Credit</td>
<td>Yashmin 4A, Mairead 4A, Joylyn 4A, Daniel 4A, James 4/5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 Distinction</td>
<td>Patrick 4L, Claire 5B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 Credit</td>
<td>Kate 4/5M, Zachariah 5B, Elissa 5B, Henry 5/6C, Freya 5B, Sumukhi 5/6C, Mya 5/6C, Michael formerly 5/6C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 High Distinction</td>
<td>Sian 5/6C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Distinction</td>
<td>Jean 6M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6 Credit</td>
<td>Thomas 6M, Sneha 6T, Charles 6T, Charlotte 6M, Zoe 6T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LOST PROPERTY

There are two pairs of boys swim pants and underwear left over from Swim School last term in lost property.
There are also several unnamed lunch boxes and drink bottles. If you are missing any items, please check lost property in the office. Thank you.

Cheryl Cohen - School Administrative Manager

P&C REPORT

K – 2 PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION WORK
The work on the K-2 playground is well underway as many of you will see. The steps down the dirt bank have been laid and the terracing there has begun. One sandpit is already completed with the other taking shape. Work is estimated to be completed in the next two weeks. With the safety fencing still in place restricting the area available for playing in these weeks, we especially thank the staff and also the children for their patience. After two years of fundraising through the fete, it is exciting to see the work progressing to rectify the erosion and drainage issues and enhance the play area for all the school to benefit from and enjoy.

FETE COORDINATOR
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. We are still looking for a fete coordinator. This role is absolutely vital but very, very well supported by past fete coordinators and a team of experienced and enthusiastic stall holders.
If you are interested in finding out more about the position, please email pandcpresident@gmail.com. This role is also open to a team.

Alison – P&C Secretary

ELECTRICIAN NEEDED
A power point in the oval irrigation system needs replacing. If you are a "sparkie" who can help, please contact me.
With the Hornsby Council clean up next week, please keep your eye out for a bird cage on a stand which could be part of the plant stall for next year's fete. Some people are thinking ahead!

Chris - Gardens and Grounds Committee
TRIVIA NIGHT BACK TO THE 80’s - IT’S NEARLY HERE SO DON’T MISS OUT
It is on this Saturday 12 October arriving at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start at Thornleigh West Public School. If you have not booked yet, please fill in the booking form and contact Rachael. If there is anyone who is attending who may have an RSA certificate and is willing to be the contact, please call me.

Tim - Trivia Committee Coordinator

CANTEEN

I am currently working on some changes to the menu, to include more homemade options as well as summer fruits and salads. This should be finalised by the end of this month, and an updated menu and price list will be sent home as soon as possible. In the meantime please check the prices of food your child is ordering, as substitutions will be made if there is not enough money in the bag.

The current menu can be viewed on the school website. If you have any suggestions for the summer menu please contact me.

Here is the roster for this week. Please remember to try and arrange a swap if you are unable to make your shift, or let me know as soon as possible.

K-2 Site
Wed. 9 Oct. Lisa, Jeannie
Fri. 11 Oct. Ros, Elizabeth
Mon. 14 Oct. Alison, Katie

3-6 Site
Wed. 9 Oct. Gail, Stella, Jing
Fri. 11 Oct. Meg, Ros, **NEED ONE MORE PLEASE**
Mon. 14 Oct. Tracey, Nicola

Thank you all for your help.

Carolyn - Canteen Manager

COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

INDONESIAN YOUTH TO EXPERIENCE AUSSIE FAMILIES AND WORK PLACEMENTS
A group of eighteen young Indonesians – potential future leaders of Indonesia, will visit Sydney from mid-October to mid-December 2013 to experience Australia’s culture and way of life. They will spend three weeks in homestay, work placements and a range of cultural performance activities as part of the Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP). The homestays in Sydney will run for three weeks from 19 October to 10 November 2013. Each family is paid a subsidy of $690.00 (per exchange), additional to the Indonesians receiving a basic living allowance.

To express interest in providing a homestay or work placement, please contact AIYEP Local Coordinator, Sylvia Sidharta via email at sylvia@tcn.com.au or phone 0419 353 690.

ENGLISH FOR LIFE 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, starting 14 October 2013 at St Mark’s Anglican Church Pennant Hills cnr Rosemount Ave & 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

NWPS FAMILY FUN DAY
On Sunday 27 October from 11.00am-3.30pm at Dartford Road, Thornleigh. Great entertainment, big thrill rides, fabulous food and drinks, side show alley, stretch Hummer joy rides and more. Pre-purchase unlimited ride tickets online and save $10.00. All welcome. For more information please visit www.normanhurstwestpandc.com.au

THE GREAT PENNO RENO
Pennant Hills High School is holding another “Great Penno Reno” on the weekend of 26 and 27 October. Last year was a huge success with over 300 parents, carers, staff and students helping to beautify the grounds and surrounding facilities whilst having lots of fun in the process. If you are keen to support your local high school, you are very welcome to attend or you can support the project by contributing to our fundraising efforts by making a donation which will be used to purchase plants etc. To donate online please go to http://www.mycase.com.au/page/thegreatpennoreno or you can find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/TheGreatPennoReno or contact the GPR committee by email at greatpennoreno@gmail.com