Dear Parents and Carers,

Our fourth and final Kinderlinks session for 2014 took place today with the program enabling our prospective 2014 kindergarten children to develop an understanding of “Big School”, to participate in a variety of learning activities and to get to know our school environment which will contribute to their smooth transition to school next year.

I would like to thank Assistant Principal, Mrs Robyn Gilchrist, for her organisation of the program, Kinderlinks’ teachers Mrs Griffith, Mrs Hiley, Mrs Rudd and Miss Ziemas, the K – 2 staff for their assistance and support, the wonderful Year 4 and 5 students who assisted in the four classrooms, Charlotte, Sean, Charlotte, Vinuk, Connor, Tom, Cayden, Freya, Ben, Daniel, Erin, Finley, Millie, Carina, Maya and Ellie, Uniform Shop Manager Alison and her assistants Tracey, Mehala, Lynne, Wendy, Dee, Jen, Liz and Sonia, and Alison together with the other Kinder Puppies’ parents who provided morning tea this morning.

PARENT HELPERS THANK YOU MORNING TEA – WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2013 AT 11.00AM – SCHOOL HALL COLA
The staff and I are very grateful for the support and assistance which has been given to the school this year by all parents, caregivers and community members as helpers in the classroom and canteen, in sporting activities, transporting students, accepting positions of responsibility and attendance at P & C meetings, accepting positions of responsibility and attendance at P & C meetings, assisting with working bees, fundraising events and feedback through formal and informal means.

As a small token of our appreciation for the wonderful support which you have given to the students, staff and the school throughout 2013, the staff and I are hosting a morning tea on Wednesday 11 December, commencing at 11.00am under the hall COLA.

ALL parents, carers and community members are warmly invited to attend.
I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 11 December.

CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 6 DEBATING TEAM
Congratulations to the Year 6 debating team who won their fifth round debate in the Inter-School Debating Competition against North Rocks Public School last Wednesday. Charlotte, Will, Charlotte and Annabelle successfully argued that “Animals should not be kept in cages.” Well done.

SCHOOL BUDGET 2014
All principals have been advised by the Department of Education and Communities that commencing next year, schools will be charged a 19.5% on cost in relation to the employment of casual teachers employed in the school above our staffing entitlement. For our school, this will involve our Indonesian Teacher and P & C funded Learning Support Teacher as well as the payment of any casual teachers employed to cover release of teachers involved in any extra-curricular activities, for example Music, Dance and Sport.

Unfortunately, we will need to raise the annual cost for Indonesian tuition to $60.00 per student from the following activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 4 Week 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 21 Nov.</td>
<td>11.40am Year 2 to 3 transition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. 24 Nov.</td>
<td>1.00pm Working Bee on 3 – 6 site</td>
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<th>Term 4 Week 8</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 27 Nov.</td>
<td>Schools Spec. rehearsal</td>
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<td>Thurs. 28 Nov.</td>
<td>Stage 2 Art Gallery excursion</td>
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<td>Fri. 29 Nov.</td>
<td>SRC Fundraising Day - Celebrity Day</td>
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<td>Sat. 30 Nov.</td>
<td>Schools Spec. rehearsal and concert</td>
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<th>Term 4 Week 9</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 3 Dec.</td>
<td>Year 6 Fun Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 4 Dec.</td>
<td>PHHS Orientation Year 7, 2014</td>
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<td>Thurs. 5 Dec.</td>
<td>9.15am Year 2 to 3 transition visit</td>
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<td>Fri. 6 Dec.</td>
<td>Kinder Bush Christmas incursion</td>
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<th>Term 4 Week 10</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 9 Dec.</td>
<td>6.00pm Year 6 Farewell</td>
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<td>Tues. 10 Dec.</td>
<td>1.00pm Principal’s Pizza Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 11 Dec.</td>
<td>11.00am Parent Helpers’ morning tea</td>
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<tr>
<th>Term 4 Week 11</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 16 Dec.</td>
<td>End of year celebration Movie Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 17 Dec.</td>
<td>10.00am Recognition Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 18 Dec.</td>
<td>Students’ last day of attendance 2.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. 19 Dec.</td>
<td>School Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 20 Dec.</td>
<td>Staff’s last day of attendance</td>
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The Pennant
Pennant Hills Public School Newsletter
Tel: 9484 1134 Fax: 9875 2333
Email: pennanthil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.pennanthil-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Pennant Hills Pub
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Website: www.pennanthil-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
the beginning of the 2014 school year. The current cost of $45.00 per student has remained the same for a number of years.

**SCHOOL HOURS AND STUDENT ABSENCES**

Parents are reminded that our school hours are 9.15am until 3.15pm and that our playgrounds are supervised from 8.45am until 9.15am. Parents are therefore requested not to send their children to school prior to 8.45am. Children should leave the school grounds promptly after they are dismissed at 3.15pm. Please note that they are not permitted to play on the equipment after 3.15pm as there is no teacher supervision after school.

The school is required by law to keep a record of student absences and reasons for those absences in class rolls. The start of the school day is most important and it is essential that students settle down quickly to benefit from the lessons taught. I realise that on occasions, events occur beyond our control causing lateness, but I would appreciate your efforts in ensuring that your children are at school by 9.15am each day.

If possible, please make medical, dental and other appointments outside of school hours so that there is minimal disruption to your child’s learning routines.

Parents are reminded that if their child is late arriving at school, they must accompany their child to the office to complete a green coloured ‘Late Arrival’ form.

If a parent needs to collect their child/children early from school, they can send a note to the class teacher in the morning and should report to the office to sign their children out before proceeding to the classroom to collect them. In cases where parents have not provided a note earlier in the day, they are requested to report to the office where they will be given a yellow coloured ‘Early Leaver’ form to give to the class teacher(s) to assist them with roll marking.

If you know your child is going to be away for more than two days, it would be appreciated if you could ring the school office so that your child’s teacher can be informed.

With regard to absences, parents and caregivers are reminded that they should provide a letter of explanation within 7 days of when their child returns to school following an absence, otherwise the otherwise the absence is marked A for ‘unjustified’.

**PREPARING FOR 2014**

If you are travelling overseas during the holidays and you know that your child will be returning to school after Wednesday 29 January, I would appreciate it if you could write me a letter stating this, as it is required for enrolment audit purposes. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

**PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS**

Congratulations to Jonathan 1Z, Lily 6T, Luke 1H, Siân, Eliza 2G (x2), Harrison KB, Dan 4A, Neha 4/5M, Hannah 3G, Madeleine 2D, Fynn KP and Siân, Eliza 2G (x2), Harrison KB, Dan 4A, Neha 4/5M, Hannah 3G, Madeleine 2D, Fynn KP and Genevieve 1Z to whom I presented a Principal’s Award last week.

**PRINCIPAL’S WOW WORD OF THE WEEK**

| gyrate |

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: Charlotte, Amber, Alex  
6T: Cameron, Zoe, Shivani  
5/6C: Connor, Chelsea, Annabelle  
5B: Owen, Eloise, Hamish  
4/5M: Finley, Erin, Jahan  
4A: Peggy, Sam, Charlotte  
3/4I: Tahlia, Jen Jen, Hansuh  
3G: Levi, Rosie, Hannah  
3L: Lily, Tommy, Tom  
3P: William, Saniya, James  
**Book of the Week:** Mustafa 5/6C, Hamish 3L  
2 Dragons: Ethan, Wei Wei, Neel  
2 Fish: Alessio, Aiden, Sophie  
2 Geckos: Sandra, Jonathan  
1 Hippos: Yuying, Archie, Imogen  
1 Lions: Zac, Skye  
1 Tigers: Nicola, Alice  
1 Zebras: Alex, Emma  
K Bunnies: Isabella, Oliver  
K Koalas: Evelyn, Matilda  
K Puppies: Hanan, Brooke  
Environment Award: Alyssa 1T  
Computers: Aaron KB, Victoria 1H, Eliza 2G, Awi 3G, Mairead 4A, Aidan 5/6C, Nathan 6M  
**Library:** Joel 3P, Mia 5B, Zachariah 5B

**SPORT**

**PRIMARY SCHOOLS TENNIS CHALLENGE**

On Saturday 9 November our school was proudly represented by 13 children from Years 2-6 in the Primary Schools Tennis Challenge. The children played great tennis and had lots of fun. They may not have won the medals on the night but they tried their best and fought gallantly. Thanks to Daniel for
her organisation and all who participated in the two challenges.
Good luck to the Year 6 students who will be participating in the Schoolboys and Schoolgirls Junior Tennis Tournament on the 26 November. We look forward to more tennis in the new year!

Christine Tierney - Teacher Coordinator

CELEBRITY DAY
On 28 November, the SRC will be coordinating our fundraising event for Term 4. At an SRC meeting, we decided that the following worthy causes deserved our attention: the people who have been affected by the typhoon in the Philippines, the Blue Mountains community recently devastated by bushfires, as well as our World Vision sponsor child, Sadam.
On this day we would like the students to dress up as their favourite celebrity or character and to bring in a gold coin donation for the causes mentioned above. Thank you for your support.

Zoe and Charles - SRC Coordinators

THE INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

STRING GROUP
The String Ensemble committee will be meeting for the final time this year next Monday 25 November at 8.00pm at 42 Hillmont Ave, Thornleigh. ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME. We are particularly interested in welcoming any parents who would like to join our committee next year. Thank you.

Dayan - String Ensemble Coordinator

MUSIC CAMP – CALLING ALL DESIGNERS
Would you like to have your funky design worn by everyone on Music Camp 2014? Next year's camp shirt will be designed by one of the wonderful Pennant Hills PS students. The design that is chosen by the students will be made into the Music Camp 2104 t-shirt. If you would like to enter a design, here are the details:
1. Designs must be submitted on paper and placed in the band mail box in the 3-6 office by no later than Friday 29 November 2013.
2. Designs should use music ideas or symbols. (Remember Music Camp is for band, strings and choir.)
3. The Music Camp Committee will choose a shortlist of the outstanding entries. They will be announced in the Pennant on Tuesday December 3. The designs will be displayed at the 3-6 site during the week of Monday December 2 to Friday December 6. Voting forms will be made available and should be submitted through the band box in the 3-6 Office. Each student may only vote once.
4. The design that receives the most votes will be chosen for the Music Camp 2014 t-shirt.
5. The competition is open to any student in Years 2-5 this year.

Parents, please make sure you lock the Music Camp into next year's diary now – Friday 21 March through to Sunday 23 March 2014. Registration forms and other details will be available early next year.

Mark - Music Camp Committee

KINDERLINKS
I would like to thank the following parents for their invaluable assistance throughout the Kinderlinks program: Tracey, Mehala, Lynne, Wendy, Dee, Jen, Liz and Sonia.
The Uniform Shop will resume normal Tuesday trading next week now that Kinderlinks has concluded.

YEAR 2, 2014 SPORTS UNIFORM
Year 1 parents please note that orders for sports uniforms are currently being taken and will be delivered to the students’ class in readiness for 2014.

DR SHOE HOLIDAY FITTINGS
Dr Shoe will conduct a school shoe fitting session at the 3-6 site during the school holidays. The proposed date is Thursday 16 January from 9.00am – 11.00am. To express your interest and make an appointment please reply to me as soon
as possible via email. I will confirm your booking if there are sufficient numbers to go ahead.

**HOURS FOR 2014**
The last day of trading for 2013 will be Tuesday 17 December. The Uniform Shop will reopen on the following dates and times in Week 1, Term 1, 2014:

- **Tuesday 28 January, School Development Day:** 8.45am – 10.45am
- **Wednesday 29 January, Years 1-6 students return:** 8.45am – 10.45am
- **Thursday 30 January, Kindergarten students commence:** 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Hours will revert to normal the following week.

**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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<th>COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION</th>
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**THANK YOU FROM THE GOW FAMILY**
Min and James wish to express their immense appreciation to all who have supported them and their family over the past month. Also they praise God who has control over all things.

Min and James

**YEAR 6 DRINKS**
Year 6 parents are invited to end of year drinks at Dave and Janet Hoyer’s house, 42-B Victoria Rd, Pennant Hills on **Friday 13 December from 7.00pm**. BYO drinks and a plate. Please RSVP.

**GERMAN LANGUAGE GROUP 2014**
On Thursday afternoons, students from various schools in the area get together at Pennant Hills Public School to foster their German skills. They are taught by a professional language teacher who has undergone all relevant work with children checks. Students of primary school age (from Year 1) who wish to learn German are welcome to join us on a cost share basis. For further information, please contact Elke.

**BABYSITTING**
Madeleine Janin an 18 years old French student studying Medicine, Bilingual English and French, French Childcare Diploma and First Aid Diploma at UNSW, is willing to do some babysitting for you. Madeleine lives in Gordon and is available days or/and nights, week and weekends. She can help with French homework. Please contact Julia.

**BUNNINGS AT DURAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**
Come along and see Santa, Sparkles the Clown, Jolly Jesters Jumping Castle and Dancing with Janene ‘Bossy Boots’ Lawson Plus More… On Thursday 5 December from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Bookings preferred, refreshments provided, free family fun. Phone 9653 7500 or contact duralao@bunnings.com.au

**ST MATTHEWS SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**
This is a service of remembrance for families of children who have died or are missing. This Service, open to families (and friends) who have lost a child (of any age), seeks to ease that pain a little by offering a means of acknowledging and remembering a deeply loved and missed family member. On Wednesday 4 December commencing at 7.30pm. During the service those present are invited to place a flower at the front of the church, in memory of the child who has died, or is missing. If you’d like to bring your own flower, please do. Flowers will also be available. Several denominations will be represented and a crèche will be available during the service. Everyone is welcome to stay for supper following the service. St Matthew Anglican Church is located on the corner of Castle Hill Road and New Line Road, West Pennant Hills. For more enquiries please call 9479 3700.

**NORTH SYDNEY YOUTH ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS**
Being held on 4 and 11 December. For details, please feel free to contact the respective orchestra managers - Symphony: symphony@nsyo.org.au Wind Ensemble: winds@nsyo.org.au and String Orchestra & String Sinfonia: strings@nsyo.org.au You may fill in our online application form at http://www.nsyo.org.au or email: info@nsyo.org.au