Dear Parents and Carers,

From Wednesday this week, nineteen Pennant Hills PS Stage 3 students, including members of the Northern Sydney Regional Choir, will be in full rehearsal mode in preparation for the 30th Schools Spectacular concerts to be held later this week on Friday 29 and Saturday 30 November.

Ms Stevens has been working very hard with the students in recent weeks to prepare them for their participation. We thank her, Mrs Petrunic and Mrs Griffith for their support of the children and their supervision at the rehearsals and concerts. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this year due to my attendance at my niece’s wedding interstate.

I look forward to hearing of our students’ participation and to watching the performance on television later this year.

WORKING BEE THANKS

On Sunday afternoon, a small but hard working group of parents and one student worked on the 3-6 site to move and spread mulch on the newly established garden beside Block C and to trim shrubs at the front of the Administration Block. On behalf of the school community, many thanks go to Gardens and Grounds Coordinator, Chris and to Christine, Jason, Lewis, Heidi, Steve, Mal and Zara for their efforts.

I would also like to thank my husband for spending several hours erecting the new flagpole on the K – 2 site to replace the one destroyed by vandals earlier this term.

CELEBRITY DAY

On Thursday this week 28 November, Year 3 – 6 students will have the opportunity to dress up as a celebrity and to bring a gold coin to go towards assistance for people affected by the bushfires in NSW, the typhoon in the Philippines and Sadam, our World Vision child.

In view of the Year 1 and Year 2 students participating in their special Celebrations Day on Thursday, they, together with Kindergarten, will have their Celebrity Day on Friday instead.

Our thanks to the SRC for organising Celebrity Day.

ANNUAL PRESENTATION DAY ASSEMBLY

All parents and carers are invited to attend the school’s annual Presentation Day Assembly, to be held on Friday 13 December, commencing at 10.00am in the Pennant Hills High School multi-purpose centre.

PRINCIPAL’S PIZZA LUNCH – TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER

I will be hosting the next and final Principal’s Pizza Lunch for 2013 on Tuesday 10 December. Students who have handed in their three Principal’s Awards will soon receive their invitation to attend.

In view of the number attending the lunch on 10 December, the small number of children (not from Year 6) who hand in their three certificates in their three Principal’s Awards in coming days, will be invited to the first Principal’s Pizza Lunch in Term 1 next year. Be assured that I will take great care of each child’s Principal Awards in the meantime.
PARRAMATTA MISSION CHRISTMAS HAMPER COLLECTION
Accompanying this newsletter is a letter inviting families to contribute to the Parramatta Mission Christmas hamper collection. The final date for items to be brought to school will be Monday 9 December. The hampers brighten the Christmas of many less fortunate people. Any support which you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

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, 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.
Prior to the morning tea, children and staff will be attending the Christmas services at St Mark’s Anglican Church beginning at 9.30am for Years 3 – 6 and at 10.15am for children in K – 2.
Parents and carers are very warmly invited to join us.

PREPARING FOR 2014 CLASSES
The staff and I have commenced working to form the anticipated 21 classes for next year. Obviously, our planning is dependent on up to date information, in particular with regard to student enrolments.
To ensure that I have up to date information, if you know that your current Kindergarten to Year 5 child will NOT be returning to our school next year and you haven’t yet informed me, I would very much appreciate it if you could do so in writing as soon as possible.
In addition, if you are taking holidays beyond Tuesday 28 January 2014 and you know that your child will be returning to our school after Wednesday 29 January, the first day for Year 1 to Year 6 students, I would appreciate it if you could inform me in writing, as apart from being required for enrolment audit purposes, it will assist with class formation decisions. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS

PRINCIPAL’S WOW WORD OF THE WEEK
judicious

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: Andrew, Charlotte, Izak
6T: Sarada, Bonnie, Nathan
5/6C: Chloe, Aidan
5B: Ben, Cora, Elissa
4/5M: Daniel, Ryan, Cameron
4A: Joylyn, Aidan, Richard
3/4I: Zachary, Jack, Evelyn, Tara
3G: Mallalieu, Grace, Avi
3L: Eddie, Noah, Jennifer
3P: Hannah, Zara, Mitchell

Book of the Week: Mia 5B
2 Dragons: Neel, Grace, Aiden
2 Fish: Ritsi, Jett
2 Geckos: Chiara, Devendra
1 Hippos: Angus, Daniel, Elise
1 Lions: Grace, Claudine
1 Tigers: Megan, Sasha
1 Zebras: Sam, Caitlin
K Bunnies: Josh, Maddie
K Koalas: Helen, Arrius, Matthew
K Puppies: Saurabi, Riley, Josiah

Environment Award: Maddie 2D

Indonesian: Matthew KK, Matthew 1Z, Petros 2F

THE INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

BAND
A reminder that Semester 2 Band fees are now due. Could families please finalise their accounts by the end of the week to allow our treasurer time to finalise the band accounts before the end of term.
NEW BAND COORDINATOR
As you know, we have been advertising for a Band Coordinator for several months as I am stepping down at the end of this year. The Committee has met several times in recent weeks to discuss various options and after much deliberation we plan to restructure the role. The role will be broken down into smaller sections with the hope that committee members and other band parents/caregivers will volunteer to take on one small aspect of the job. We are holding another meeting this evening at 31 Werona Street, Pennant Hills at 8.00pm to allow parents and caregivers to attend and find out which areas are yet to be filled and to consider volunteering. Looking forward to seeing as many band parents/caregivers as possible.

Michele – Band 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 this 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 3 December. The designs will be displayed at the 3-6 site during the week of Monday 2 December to Friday 6 December. 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

P&C REPORT

LAST P&C MEETING FOR THE YEAR
Please join us for our final meeting for the year next Tuesday 3 December. Our last meeting is the best meeting to attend as we share a beautiful supper with the school staff. This is a good way to say thank you to the staff for their work with our children. Supper begins at 7.00pm in the school hall. Even if you have never attended a meeting, we would love to see you in support of our great teachers.

PENNANT HILLS LOCAL BUSINESS VOUCHER BOOK
The Pennant Hills business voucher book is in the last stages of compilation. This booklet will be full of lots of great vouchers to spend in Pennant Hills and will be ready to be purchased for Christmas. More information next week.

SCHOOL BANKING – LAST DAY THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER
The last day for school banking is this Thursday, 28 November. This is also the last day for Linda as she moves on to high school for next year. Linda started the school banking program and has coordinated it from its inception. We thank Linda Farr for all the years of service to the school community and P&C in this role – we really appreciate it.

Alison – P&C Secretary

The canteen will not be open in Week 11. The last day will be Friday 13 December.

Here is the roster for this week.

K-2 Site
Wed. 27 Nov.  Wendy, Julie
Fri. 29 Nov.  Rebecca, Fiona
Mon. 2 Dec.  Ranu, Rebecca, Anne

3-6 Site
Wed. 27 Nov.  Rachael, Lara, Gail
Fri. 29 Nov.  Kirsten, Emma, Heidi
Mon. 2 Dec.  Hilary, Anne.

Thank you all for your help.

Carolyn - Canteen Manager

UNIFORM SHOP

YEAR 2, 2014 SPORTS UNIFORM
Year 1 parents please note that orders for sports uniforms are due by Monday 2 December. All orders will be delivered to the students’ class in readiness for 2014.

MUSIC FOLIOS
Orders for Music Folios for the Band Program 2014 close on Monday 9 December. Music Folios will be distributed to your child with their instrument and band folder in Term 1, 2014.

DR SHOE
Dr Shoe will be attending the Uniform Shop this Thursday 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.

**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.

**BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

**FULL DAY CARE ON UPCOMING SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS**
BASC will be trialling opening on the upcoming School Development Days (pupil free days) for full day care from 7.15am – 6.00pm.

The dates for these trials are: Thursday 19 December 2013; Friday 20 December 2013 and Tuesday 28 January 2014.

December bookings close on Friday 6 December 2013 and January bookings close on Friday 11 January 2014. No changes to bookings can be made after the close dates.

For more information and/or a program for the above dates, please contact the centre on 9481 8696, email pennanthillsbas@bigpond.com or drop in to the centre.

**COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION**

**GERMAN LANGUAGE GROUP 2014**
On Thursday afternoon, 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 working 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.

**WORLD CHALLENGE FUNDRAISING**
Patrick a former PHPS student is participating in the World Challenge trip to Borneo and Malaysia later this year with other students from PHHS. They will be visiting a remote village and helping to repair a Community Centre as a part of the trip. To help fund this venture, Patrick is selling First Aid kits which would make great Christmas presents and stocking fillers. They are handbag packs $5.00, personal kits $12.50, car kits $20.00, family kits $30.00, first aid books for $10.00 and $20.00 and personal medical folders (great for elderly people to have in an emergency) $15.00.

Order forms are available from Patrick. Please call him or Gail.

**LEARN MUSIC ON KEYBOARD IN 2014 AT PHPS**
45 minute lessons in small groups. Instrument not required initially, music material provided. Competitive rates and limited vacancies. For enrolments and more information, please call VIP Music on 9411 3122 Monday - Fridays between 9.00 - 5.00pm.

**SCOUT CHRISTMAS TREES**
West Pennant Hills Scout Group will be selling live Christmas Trees on 7, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22 December 2013 from 8.00am - 4.00pm at Mount Wilberforce Park, corner Castle Hill Road and Church Street, West Pennant Hills.

**BUNNINGS AT THORNLEIGH**
Christmas is just around the corner. Bunnings Thornleigh will be hosting a FREE Christmas Family Night on Thursday 5 December from 6.00pm – 8.00pm. Activities include carols sung by a local school choir, Christmas craft, “live” reindeer, games, lucky door prizes, sausage sizzle plus a visit from Santa. Bookings are essential. For more information please contact Thornleigh@bunnings.com.au or call 9479 9000.