Dear Parents and Carers,

How fortunate we were to have such a beautiful day for our annual fete on Sunday, which was a huge success thanks to superb organisation and the assistance and support of the school and wider community. I thank everyone for their contributions and in particular would like to acknowledge the Fete Coordinator, Sue, the fete team and the P & C and wider community who provided every assistance possible.

Congratulations, thank you and well done all. Our thanks also go to class parents and staff who coordinated the various stalls and the many families, staff and wider school community, including sponsors, who assisted with donations of goods and their time to serve on the stalls, to families and staff who assisted with the massive tasks of setting up and tidying afterwards and to everyone for supporting the fete with their attendance as well as the sale and purchase of raffle tickets.

Our choirs, dance groups, Recorder and String Ensembles, bands and Pennant Hills High School bands demonstrated their many talents and provided much appreciated entertainment throughout the day. Congratulations and thank you girls and boys, conductors, teachers, tutors and coordinators.

ZONE CROSS COUNTRY TEAM – FIRST PLACE THREE YEARS IN A ROW!

Congratulations to all students who represented our school at the Beecroft Zone Cross Country Carnival held at Fagan Park last Wednesday. Their efforts and behaviour were exemplary and I am delighted to report that for the third year running, our school took 1st Place in the Beecroft Zone, an impressive achievement, of which all members of the team should be extremely proud.

The 8/9 years boys’ team comprising Ethan, Bailey, Brendan, Marten and Nick, the 10 years boys’ team comprising Ty, Aidan, Timon, James and Dan and the 11 years boys’ team comprising Nathan, Matthew, Hamish, Finley and Cameron won their age champion pennants. Congratulations boys on your outstanding efforts and achievement.

Additional congratulations go to Brendan 6th, Ellen 5th, Nick 3rd, Aidan 5th, Hamish 3rd, James 3rd, Zara 1st and Zoe 2nd, on their placings in their respective age races which have qualified them to participate in the Area Cross Country Carnival which will take place on Thursday 13 June.
On behalf of all participants, thank you to staff members Mrs Coventry and Mr Moran for their organisation and supervision of the team, Mrs Marni who did a magnificent job training the children (and will continue to do so in preparation for the Area Carnival), and to all parents and carers for their attendance, support and encouragement on the day.

CB1 PERFORMANCE AT SYDNEY EISTEDDFOD
Congratulations to members of CB1 on their brilliant performance in the Sydney Eisteddfod yesterday and their excellent behaviour throughout the excursion. Mrs Phillips and Mrs Kathy who accompanied and supervised the children were very impressed. The band took second place in Section 295 Primary School Intermediate Concert Band. Well done girls and boys. We are all very proud of you.

SAFETY AND SECURITY OF CARS
In view of theft from a car parked near the school late last week, parents and carers are reminded to lock their car at all times and to ensure that all valuables are secured out of sight.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – SATURDAY 1 JUNE 2013
This Saturday, the majority of our teaching staff will be participating in a Staff Development Day workshop from 8.45am through to 2.45pm focusing on V COP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers, Punctuation) a program which features strongly in our teaching, in particular of the writing area of English, one of our school targets for 2013. The workshop is being presented by Andrell Education. Our teachers’ participation in this professional learning on Saturday has been authorised and approved by both our School Education Director and the Regional Director for Northern Sydney Region. Teachers who attend on Saturday will not be required to attend the second School Development Day at the end of the year, Friday 20 December 2013.

KINDERGARTEN 2014 OPEN DAY – TUESDAY 4 JUNE 2013
Parents of children turning 5 before 31 July 2014 and who intend starting their children at school next year, are invited to attend our Kindergarten 2014 Open Day to be held on Tuesday 4 June commencing at 9.30am in the school hall. The morning will be an opportunity to learn more about the school. Interested parents will be provided with an information pack on the day which will include an Application to Enrol form. Please note that the child’s Birth Certificate and Immunisation Record in addition to proof of residence should be brought to the school with the enrolment form once completed. If you are unable to attend the Open Day on 4 June, please contact Mrs Cohen to request that an information pack be sent to you.

PRINCIPAL’S WOW WORD OF THE WEEK

phenomenal

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 Caleb 4A, Kate 4/5M, Vinuk 4A, Jacob 5/6C, Isabelle 2D, Cayden 4A, Cayla 2F, Heath 3L and Joel 3P to whom I presented a Principal’s Award last week.

With my very best wishes to families,

Penny Willis
Principal

MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Merit Award Certificates were received by:
6M: Izak, Anna, Jack
6T: Nathan, Jazmin, Bonnie, Sarada
5/6C: Connor, Lucas, Doreen, Chloe
5B: Ellie, Ashton, Iliya
4/5M: Neha, Ryan, Finley
4A: Jojlyn, Elliott, Ansh, Molly
3/4I: Carina, Naren, Jaconita
3G: Bailey, William, Hannah
3L: Grace, Brandon, Amanda
3P: James, James, Ariana
2 Dragons: Jessica, Lucy, Jared
2 Fish: Archie, Alejandra
2 Geckos: Devendra, Eva, Kiran
1 Hippos: Lucius, Archie, Orlanda
1 Lions: Dylan, Harry, William
1 Tigers: Nathan, Alice, Sasha
1 Zebras: Susani, Alex
K Bunnies: Aaron, Maggie, Isabella
K Koalas: Riley, Tereza
K Puppies: Oliver, Holly
Environment Award: Alyssa 1T
ESL: Julia 1H, Grace 1L
Indonesian: Finlay KK, Alyssa 1T, Matilda 2F
Library: Tara 3/4I, Dylan 6T, Nathan 6M
Music: Emma 1H, Genevieve 1Z, Sean 5B, Rhianna 3P
FETE
What a spectacular day Sunday, fete day was! Autumn provided a wonderful display of warmth and vitality, after a few worrying days of rain, which was echoed in the vibrant atmosphere of the fete. The school community united to provide an exceptional fete that has raised around $50,000.00 and further reinforced the school esprit de corps. Our fete deserves its reputation as being one of the best school fetes in the district. The major factor that consistently stands out, is the fact that the stalls are parent run – a huge feat from our fantastic parent community pulling together for our common goal. The fete is a culmination of twelve months of planning, meeting and logistical navigation. A unique blend of stalls provided those attending with a wide array of choice and admittedly in many instances, an added inch to the waistline.

The Toys, Books and Clothing stalls were rampant with customers who came from far and wide, seeking out a pre-loved item in the surroundings of our school hall. These stalls have months of work that go into cleaning and sorting the things we donate, with the final result an excellent bargain shopping experience, for which the stalls are deservedly renowned. Equally the face-painting, sand-art, plaster painting and hair spraying at the Kids Craft stall provided a creative outlet, whilst the rides were an ideal blend of spinning, gyrating, dodging and jumping activity enjoyed by all ages (not sure who enjoyed the Dodgems more – the kids or the adults!). The Hoopla/Knock-em-Down stall offered the kids a test of their skills for which they were all rewarded with lollies or prizes and the nearby Scouts and Guides stalls are always enjoyed.

The entertainment provided three hours of excellent talent and as many were quoted “was the highlight of the fete”. The young and the young at heart also enjoyed the performances by the favourite Chalky the Clown and the Reptile Show. The eagerness to enter the White Elephant was enormous (not sure who enjoyed the Dodgems more – the kids or the adults!).

The Lolly Stall was a virtual trail of sugary amazement and a more literal trail of popcorn throughout the fete. This haze was supported by a very active Drinks Stall in the shadows of the mammoth Luna Park entry to the hall. The information stall attended to hundreds of questions about the fete, but also to many questions from prospective parents keen to bring their kids to our wonderful school. Plans of playground renovation for which the fete was fundraising were eagerly looked at and overwhelmingly endorsed by the wider community. The raffle this year again contributed significantly to the amount of money raised – thanks to Louise for her coordination of this key job, and to our major sponsors W Group Estate Agents and LJ Hooker. As well as the many stalls, there was an amazing team working feverishly behind-the-scenes balancing the accounts, moving furniture, setting up tents, supplying power, purveying audio and generally fielding a myriad of requests. Not to mention the team of food cashiers and money runners and the class who collect the gold coin donation at the gates as well as making sure bins were emptied, and then that remarkable transformation that takes place each year from fete to school ground by an army of parents who stay and pack and clean up – thank you! The fete day provides many stories of comic wonderment, not the least of which is a reptile escapee, the melting snow cone and the wheelbarrow books.

There is much work that happens before fete day of course and special thanks also needs to go to the amazing team of letterbox droppers who walked the whole area and put a whopping 5000 flyers in letterboxes. Also to Andrew who was responsible for putting up all the fete banners we saw everywhere we went.

The fete could not succeed without the help and cooperation of the school staff - Christine Tierney, Jeanette Cox and Amy Ziems for their fete committee liaising role and support, the teaching staff to provide their classrooms. Mr Cox who along with the Gardens and Ground committee made sure our school looked top notch, the lovely hardworking office administrative staff who helped in the counting room, and last but by no means least, Mrs Willis who worked tirelessly in many areas. Without your support the fete could not have happened and the parents thank you for that.

Sue, Fete Coordinator, has, with the many pillars of support within the Fete Committee, delivered an
exceptional 2013 fete. On behalf of us all Sue, we thank you and your family for all the many hours of work you have put in to coordinating a magnificent fete. The fete relies heavily on the generosity of the school community and on behalf of the P&C and school, thank you. Stand up the PHPS community and take a bow – another spectacular fete! And the funds all go back into school projects to benefit all our children.

THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SPONSOR
A big thank you to the major sponsor of the raffle, W Group Estate Agents, who provided the voucher of $1,500.00 worth of Apple products. W Group Estate Agents are a local family based real estate business with children at the school.

K – 2 LANDSCAPING PLANS
The fete this year raised money for some much needed landscaping at the K – 2 site to assist with the drainage and erosion issues and also to renovate and rejuvenate the sand pit and the play area around the play equipment. The preliminary plans are on the P&C website – go to www.phps-pandc.org and click on the link to the landscaping plans under “General Information”. Alternatively I will be at the K – 2 playground at drop off and pickup times for you to view the coloured plans, which were at the Information stall at the fete. If you would like to give feedback about the plans, you only have until the end of this week so please put it in writing to pandcpresident@gmail.com by 2 June 2013.

NEXT P&C MEETING
The next P&C meeting is on Tuesday 4 June. Put it in your diary and come along at 7.30pm in the library. Meetings finish at 9.30pm. We welcome any interested parents to come and have input.

Alison – P&C Secretary

COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

MURRAY FARM PS CRACKER CARNIVAL 2013
On Saturday 1 June gold coin donations are kindly accepted. Gates open at 2.00pm fireworks from 7.45pm concluding at 8.00pm. There will be rides for all ages, jumping castle, games, prizes, cake stall, tombola, gift baskets, white elephant stall, international food, burgers and sausages from the BBQ. Rides are $5.00 per ride or $30.00 for an all day ride bracelet. Murray Farm Public School is located at Tracey Ave, Carlingford.

CHESS FOR STUDENTS
Our goal is to use the game of chess as a tool, to increase higher level thinking skills, advance math and reading skills, and build self-confidence. It does so by teaching focusing, visualisation, thinking ahead, weighing options, analysing concretely, thinking abstractly, planning and juggling multiple considerations simultaneously. Chess coaching will be held at the Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai PCYC on Monday afternoons from 6.00pm to 8.00pm and Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 1.00pm at a cost of $15.00 per session for primary school students and $20.00 per session for high school students. Please contact Hornsby Ku-Ring-Gai PCYC on 9477 2310 or visit hornsby@pcycnsw.org.au for more information.

MARIAN STREET THEATRE PRESENTS DANNY IN THE TOYBOX
From 11 May to 13 July. Costs: child $18.00, adult $22.00, family of four $68.00 and group bookings of fifteen or more $15.00 each. To book please call 1300 306 776 (booking fees apply) or visit www.mca.tix.com.au

CANTEEN

Here are the rosters for this week.

K-2 Site
Wed. 29 May  Alison, Natalia
Fri. 31 May  Rebecca, Fiona
Mon. 3 June  Ranu, Rebecca, Anne

3-6 Site
Wed. 29 May  Wendy, Jeannie
Fri. 1 May  Kirsten, Emma, Heidi
Mon. 3 June  Jenni, Hilary, Anne

Carolyn - Canteen Manager