Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations to members of the Stage 2 choir who formed part of the 450 voice massed choir in the Coorong Primary Proms Concert held at the Sydney Town Hall last night.

The concert was a most enjoyable one and, as always, our children were beautifully behaved throughout the long day rehearsal and the evening concert.

Our thanks to choir conductor, Ms Julie Anne Stevens, who prepared the choir over many months and accompanied the children throughout the day and night with the support and assistance of Mrs Petrunic.

**HILLS DANCE EISTEDDFOD**

Congratulations and well done to our Dance Groups who competed in the Hills Dance Eisteddfod on Sunday, with the Year 2 Dance Group being awarded 3rd place, Stage 2 an Achievement Merit Award and Stage 3 a Highly Commended Award. Many thanks to parents and carers for your support and assistance and to Dance Teachers Jacqui Lator and Arnold Sychnampanakhone, Dance Group Coordinators Simone Partridge, Anne McLaren, Milena Petrunic and Diane Maddison for their hard work to prepare the students.

**WORKING BEE THANKS**

A small, but very determined team of parents carers and children toiled for a number of hours with saws, shovels, mattocks and secateurs over the weekend to fill in the oval and remove and trim overgrown trees and shrubs, resulting in the filling of a 3 cubic metre skip bin and the enhancement of some areas of the 3 – 6 school site.

Many thanks to Christine and Laurie, Andrew, Peter, Heidi, Fiona and Neil and Mal, accompanying children and Chris, P & C Gardens and Grounds convenor, for their hard work.

**CONGRATULATIONS ZOE**

Congratulations to Zoe who was Sydney North 11 years girls’ age champion as a result of her amazing achievements at the carnival held on Monday last week.

Zoe contributed to our school being placed 1st in the Beecroft Zone schools and 6th overall.

**ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Congratulations to Year 6 students Monica, Chloe and Blaise who were successfully nominated to attend the regional debating camp at Collaroy this week which will involve them in further developing their debating skills.

Congratulations also go to talented writers Sneha and Jean, who represented our school at the recent Writer’s Camp held at Brewongle Environmental Education Centre, where they participated in a variety of writing, narrative and editing workshops.
2013 NAPLAN REPORTS
As parents of Year 3 and Year 5 students were informed late last week, the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA) identified an error in the placement of the national average markers on the Years 5 and 7 NAPLAN Student Reports for Language Conventions.

Whilst the NAPLAN data was correct, ACARA made the immediate decision to halt any further packaging and distribution of NAPLAN reports while options regarding the distribution of correct NAPLAN Student Reports were considered.

ACARA is working closely with Test Administration Authorities (TAAs) in every state and territory to ensure correct reports are distributed.

This matter may result in the delay of the distribution of student reports until possibly the week beginning Monday 14 October, although ACARA and TAAs will seek to minimise the delay.

I have, however, been able to look at the online data available for our school. Over 70% of Year 3 students achieved in the top two bands, Bands 5 and 6, in Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation with the Year 3 means for these areas being higher than the Northern Sydney Region. In excess of 50% of Year 5 students achieved in the top two bands, Bands 7 and 8, in the areas of Reading, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy, with the Year 5 mean in Grammar and Punctuation being higher than the region. Our Year 5 students’ average growth was significantly higher than the Northern Sydney Region in Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation, with Year 5 girls’ average growth in all aspects of NAPLAN being higher than the region.

As in previous years, the staff and I will be closely analysing the comprehensive data, looking at individual and whole school areas of need. Teaching strategies will be developed and programs implemented to address the needs which will form the basis of our literacy and numeracy targets for the coming year.

A complete analysis of our 2013 NAPLAN results and our literacy and numeracy targets for the 2014 school year will be published in our 2013 Annual School Report which will be completed by the beginning of next year.

TERM 4 EXCURSION/ACTIVITIES PAYMENTS
Information regarding payment for excursions and activities taking place in Term 4 will be distributed on Tuesday 8 October when your children return to school after the holidays.

Payment days are in Week 2 of Term 4, on Wednesday 16 October for Years 3 – 6 and families and on Thursday 17 October for K – 2.

The total payments for each grade are as follows:
Kindergarten: $56.50
Year 1: $49.50
Year 2: $79.50
Classes 3G, 3L & 3P: $ 93.00 (includes Moving Bodies)
Class 3l: $63.00
Year 4: $63.00
Year 5: $391.50 (includes Canberra excursion)
Year 6: $381.50 (includes Canberra excursion)

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.

RETURN OF NEW MEDICAL FORMS
A reminder that all families have been requested to complete and return copies of the two new medical forms for each of their children to enable the school to collect more detailed medical information to manage the daily and emergency health needs of students.

All students are required to have the completed forms filed with their Student Record Card as the new forms are now incorporated into the DEC’s school enrolment form.

We are very grateful to the many parents who have returned their children’s forms.

If you haven’t yet completed and returned both forms, could you please do so immediately. This will enable us to ensure that all student medical records are updated in accordance with revised DEC requirements.

PRINCIPAL’S AWARDS

PRINCIPAL’S WOW WORD OF THE WEEK
beleaguered

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.

END OF TERM THANKS AND HOLIDAY WISHES
As the term draws to a close, I would like to thank all parents and carers for the support they have given to the school this term. Your interest and assistance as helpers in class programs, the canteen, working bees, excursions and sport activities, attendance at school events,
performances, P & C and sub committees, completion of surveys and ongoing support given at home is very much appreciated and valued. I would also like to thank all members of staff for their continued dedication and commitment throughout an extremely busy and demanding term.

Our best wishes go with Mr Bryant who will be taking some well-earned long service leave from the beginning of next term until his return to school on Friday 25 October, during which time 5B will be taught by Mrs Cassandra Roberts.

I will see a number of parents at the disco on Thursday evening, but take this opportunity to wish all members of the school community a very safe, restful and enjoyable holiday.

Please note that there is NO School Development Day at the start of Term 4. I look forward to welcoming all staff and students back to school on Tuesday 8 October.

With my best wishes to all families,

Penny Willis
Principal

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**MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Merit Award Certificates were received by:
- 6M: Annaliese, Rohan, Andrew
- 6T: Sarada, Dylan, Oliver
- 5/6C: Blaise, Jacob, Chelsea, Max
- 5B: Oliver, Jean, Brandon
- 4/5M: Daniel, Jasmine, Kate, Joel
- 4A: Mairead, Cayden, Aidan
- 3/4I: Jen Jen, Angus, Jacinta
- 3G: Finn, Rosie, Grace
- 3L: Tiara, Brandon, Amanda
- 3P: Rachel, Sundar, Saniya
- 2 Dragons: Jessica, Isabella
- 2 Fish: Robbie, Cayla
- 2 Geckos: Jasmine, Brayden
- 1 Hippos: Luke, Angus
- 1 Lions: Sebastian, Matilda
- 1 Tigers: Alyssa, Sarah, Claire, Marcus
- 1 Zebras: Nandini, Krishan, Jack
- K Bunnies: Rumeth, Anita
- K Koalas: Niamh, Lara, Arjonil
- K Puppies: Angus, Caitlin

Environment Award: Lara KP

Computers: Jacob KB, Rachel 1L, Robbie 2F, Marwa 3/4I, Elizabeth 4A, Sumukhi 5/6C, Nathan 6T

Indonesian: Mischa KP, Harry 1L, Sarah 2F, Georgia 3G, Maya 4/5M, Matthew 5B, Harry 6M

Library: Udit 3G, Patrick 3G, Zoe 5/6C

Music: Tahlee 3P, Kodi 6T

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**PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION**

This term, all children in Years 3 – 6 presented a two or three minute speech on set topics in class, as part of the inaugural Pennant Hills Public School Public Speaking Competition. Each class teacher judged the speeches on a standardised scoring scale and one winner from each class was chosen to go on to represent their class in the grade final. The Year 3 final was held two weeks ago and the Years 4, 5 and 6 finals were held last Tuesday. The competition was of an extremely high standard and the teachers judging each grade had tough decisions to make.

However, in this competition, there could only be one winner for each grade and they were:
- Year 3: Sareena 3L
- Year 4: Charlotte 3/4I
- Year 5: Patrick 5/6C and Year 6: Blaise 5/6C.

Thank you to all the finalists for presenting such high quality speeches and congratulations to the winners who were presented with trophies at today's Recognition assembly. Look out for the Public Speaking Competition again in 2014.

Jenni Lainson - Public Speaking Competition Organiser

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**THE INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM**

**BAND**

The rehearsals for CB1, CB2 and Stage Band for this Thursday have been cancelled due to Mr Peter AMEB examining commitments. Rehearsals will resume on Tuesday 8 October.

If you did not receive an email last week regarding band events in Term 4, could you please contact me as soon as possible.

Michele – Band Coordinator

**STRING GROUP**

Would you like to join the String Ensemble in 2014? Then NOW is the time to start learning your string instrument! The String Ensemble requires just 10 weeks of private lessons prior to joining - and if you join in Term 1, 2014 then you get to come along to the PHPS Music Camp. We accept children from Years K-6. For more information on violin and cello tutors, please call or email me. Thank you.

Dayan - String Ensemble Coordinator

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**P&C REPORT**

**K – 2 PLAYGROUND WORK IN THE HOLIDAYS**

Over the last two years, the P&C has been fundraising for the renovation of the play areas. Inspections were carried out on the play equipment at both 3 – 6 and K – 2. Subsequent to that, up to $5,000.00 was spent on softfall and repairs of equipment at 3 – 6. At K – 2, a landscape architect was commissioned to draw up a design to rectify...
the erosion and drainage issues and enhance the play area. Stage one of this work is starting in the school holidays with the creation of grassed terraces to replace the dirt slope between the silver seats and the play equipment, and hopefully the construction of two new sandpits. The schedule of work is being finalised this week but it is most likely work will extend into Term 4. I know there is much anticipation and excitement in the school community for this work and we ask for your children’s and your patience while this work is completed.

P&C MEETING LAST WEEK
At last Tuesday’s P&C meeting it was agreed that the P&C would support the school by purchasing four new touchscreens for the new portable at 3 - 6 and to replace three other interactive whiteboards which are not working well. The touchscreen is the latest technology and supersedes the IWB.

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. This role is also open to a team. If you are interested in finding out more about the position, please email pandcpresident@gmail.com.

AUSSIE FARMERS DIRECT
Aussie Farmers Direct source fresh food from Australian farmers, which they deliver to your home. As part of their community service, they donate a percentage of their sales to community groups such as schools. When you register to get your groceries delivered, you can nominate our school to receive this sponsorship. Aussie Farmers Direct also donated all the eggs for the BBQ for our school fete for which we were very grateful. www.aussiefarmers.com.au
Thank you for supporting our sponsors!

Alison – P&C Secretary

Here is the roster for the rest of this week.

K-2 Site
Wed. 18 Sept.  Jenny, Rebecca
Fri. 20 Sept.  Kathryn, Penny, Sarah

3-6 Site
Wed. 18 Sept. Gail, Tracey
Fri. 20 Sept. Fiona, Jacqui, Christy

Thank you all for your help. Have a great holiday.

Carolyn - Canteen Manager

UNIFORM SHOP

YEAR 6 SPORTS SHIRTS 2014
Year 5 parents please note that there are several students who are yet to place an order for their 2014 Year 6 sports shirts. We have extended the deadline and all orders must be in by this Thursday 19 September, as the school order will be placed on the last day of Term 3.

HOURS TERM 4
The Uniform Shop will be closed Monday 7 October Labor Day Public Holiday and will reopen on Tuesday 8 October when all staff and students return to school. Hours will revert to normal the following week.

HOURS
Monday and Tuesday 8.45am – 10.45am
Thursday 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Alison – Uniform Shop Manager

COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

INDONESIAN YOUTH TO EXPERIENCE AUSSIE FAMILIES AND WORK PLACEMENTS
A group of 18 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 on 0419 353 690 or email at sylvia@tcn.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.mycause.com.au/page/thegreatpennoreno
You can find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/TheGreatPennoReno or contact the GPR committee by email at greatpennoreno@gmail.com
NORMANHURST BOYS HIGH SCHOOL - INFORMATION MORNING AMENDMENT
The information published in last week’s Pennant has been amended to the following: Friday 20 September and Tuesday 8 October 2013 from 9.30am - 11.00am for parents interested in the 2015, Year 7 intake. For more information call 9489 1077.

SAXOPHONE FOR SALE
Jupiter JAS-769 saxophone in excellent condition. Includes sax stand, music stand, case books and accessories $1,000.00. Please contact Eva.

PENNANT HILLS NETSETGO NETBALL
Pennant Hills Netball Club is running a netball skills program for 5-8 year olds in Term 4. For registration information and forms please visit our website www.pennanthills.netball.asn.au or contact Tina.