PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Welcome back as we commence 2013. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday with family and friends.

I extend a warm welcome to the new students and families who have joined our school community and look forward to working with you in ensuring your time with us is both memorable and rewarding.

On behalf of school staff, I welcome Mrs Kate Ford to the position of Assistant Principal Stage 1. I also welcome Ms Cathy McAuliffe to the position of classroom teacher.

Mrs Blair is currently relieving Assistant Principal at Comleroy Road Public for this term and Mrs Grice will be teaching in Mrs Blair’s absence.

We have retained 8 classes for 2013 with the following distribution of students and teachers:

KW – Miss Walker
K/1C – Mrs Chard
1R – Mrs Rogers
2F – Mrs Ford (AP Stage 1)

3B – Ms Grice (Mrs Blair)
4M – Ms McAuliffe
5T – Mrs Tuck
5/6 – Mr Clark (AP Stage 2/3)

Mrs Russell – Reading Recovery, Learning Assistance
Miss Slawski – Library, Creative Arts

UNIFORMS

Last year saw the introduction of our new school shirts, which have proven to be a positive change to our overall school uniform.

While walking around the school on the first day back I was very impressed to see the vast majority of students wearing the new shirt and cricket-style hat.

I thank the school community for supporting not only this change but for also ensuring that your children are dressed in full school uniform (hat inclusive).

I must stress that the previous plain yellow polo shirt is no longer considered part of our school uniform neither are any form of baseball cap. Parents are strongly urged to purchase the appropriate shirt and hat to not only comply with sun-safe standards but to ensure that our school is represented in a uniform that is consistent across all grades.
SCHOOL DEPARTURE

I wish to inform parents of the following protocols which have been established to maximise student supervision, accountability and child protection requirements for school departure.

These protocols are only for those students who are collected by parents:

- Students are to be collected from the assembly area under the COLA, at the end of the school day.
- Students who catch buses are to line up in the appropriate area and wait for the teacher on duty.
- Students who attend after-school care are not to leave the school grounds under any circumstance without the supervising teacher’s permission.
- Students whose parents are not present on school dismissal are required to sit on the seating at the rear of the administration building or under the COLA – no students are to wait on the seating along the side of the administration building.
- Parents are requested to enter the school to collect your child.
- Parents are requested to inform the school of any changes to routine so that students/staff can be informed. This will avoid confusion and anxiety on the student’s behalf.

I thank you in anticipation of your cooperation, as it is important to ensure adequate supervision without compromising teacher’s duty of care.

MEET-THE TEACHER

On Wednesday 27th February, staff will be hosting a meet-the-teacher afternoon. This will be a great opportunity for parents to be informed of school and individual teacher expectations.

The session will commence at 5.00pm in the hall with introductions and general information; followed by teacher presentations in their rooms.

We look forward to meeting with you and sharing information to assist you and your children in their learning.
YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD
Cassidy Strickland recently received the Hawkesbury Australia Day Young Citizen of The Year Award for her outstanding commitment to community support. Congratulations Cassidy, not only for proving to be such a worthy recipient of this award but for also being the youngest person to receive such public recognition.

Well done!

Mike Watson
Principal

ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The swimming carnival will be held at Richmond Pool today Monday 4th February at 6pm. Competitors who have nominated for races and returned their entry forms should be at the pool at 5.45pm to ensure a prompt start. Cost involved is pool entry only.

All entries have been received and were finalised in 2012, no late entries will be accepted.

PLEASE NOTE: This carnival is for competitors only. There will NOT be any novelty events

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Research shows that reading for fun has a direct and positive impact on reading fluency, vocabulary development and establishing the reading habit.

Issue 1 of the Scholastic Book Club will go home this week. There is a wide and varied selection of books available for purchase with great savings. Ordering from the Book Club earns our school valuable free resources.

When placing an order please ensure that the Student's Name and Class are on each order form and if you have paid by credit card on-line that you have included your receipt number on the order forms.

Orders and payment are due by Tuesday 19th February 2013
STUDENT BANKING

The Commonwealth bank has a school banking program which aims to teach children the benefits of saving. It encourages your children to make weekly deposits into their Dollarmite accounts through the school.

The students will receive a token each time they make a deposit at school. Once they have collected 10 tokens they can swap them for rewards (current reward items for terms 1 & 2 include a wallet, a handball, a money box and a knuckles game).

The Commonwealth Bank pays the school a commission on each deposit - this commission is then used to provide resources for all students.

Information packs will be sent home with stage 1 & 2 students this week. This pack includes details on how to open a Dollarmite account and it also has the new 2013 rewards sheet for all students.

Information packs for stage 3 students have been ordered and will be sent home when available.

Student banking will be each Tuesday during the school terms, starting tomorrow 5\textsuperscript{th} February 2013.

LAST DAYS FOR PAYMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Payment Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19\textsuperscript{th} February</td>
<td>Book Club orders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 1\textsuperscript{st} March</td>
<td>Kindergarten – Class requirements</td>
<td>$55 per student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 1\textsuperscript{st} March</td>
<td>Year 1 – Class requirements</td>
<td>$55 per student ($60 with Homework Folder)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 1\textsuperscript{st} March</td>
<td>Year 2-6 – Class requirements</td>
<td>$55 per student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5\textsuperscript{th} March</td>
<td>Life Education</td>
<td>$10 per student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} March</td>
<td>Sport Permission Note</td>
<td>$2 per student</td>
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FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 4th February - Kindergarten first full day of attendance
Tuesday 5th February - Student banking

The school office is open from 8.30am until 3.00pm.
Uniform purchases 8.30am to 2.45pm

COMMUNITY NEWS

Parenting Ideas – by Michael Grose

Help kids face their fears

Navigating fear is part of growing up. It’s important to remember that fear decreases (and sometimes disappears) with positive experiences.

All kids experience fear at some stage.

Many fears are normal and developmental, such as fear of separation, fear of the dark and fear of new situations.

Other fears – such as fear of the dentist, fear of new social situations and fear of dogs – are more individual. They are often learned, or occur due to a bad experience.

Author Gisela Preuschoff, in her book Raising Girls, describes a recent longitudinal study that showed how girls are more fearful than boys. The physical signs of fear, including increased heart rate and enlarged pupils, are greater in girls than boys. As androgens (male hormones) have a calming effect, boys show less fear.

Jerome Kagan, Professor of Psychology at Harvard University, believes that excessive fear in girls is related to overprotective but well-intentioned caring they receive from parents and carers.

It’s been noted that many parents allow boys to take more physical risks than girls, and have different views of danger for each gender.

Fear is okay

Navigating fear is part of growing up. Fear plays an important role. It makes us cautious and causes us to prepare for a new or risky situation. The preparation may be physical (“I’ll walk on the other side of the street to avoid that mean dog.”) or psychological (“I’ll be brave when I visit the dentist!”)
Sometimes normal, healthy fears are confused with anxiety. Fear is unhealthy if it overpowers kids, dominating their thinking and behaviour, or if it paralyses and prevents them from participating in everyday life. Fear is normal if it makes them wary but is not overwhelming.

Fears need to be faced

It’s important to remember that fear decreases (and sometimes disappears) with positive experiences. Walk past a scary dog without being bitten often enough and you’ll learn that it’s not so scary after all! Give enough talks at school and kids will wonder what all the fuss was about.

Scaffolding is one way to help kids beat their fears. That is, if they are fearful of going into a new situation on their own, go with them for a short time, then find an excuse to leave once they have settled. Alternatively, leave them to spend just a short time in an unknown situation at first. Increase the time as kids get used to the situation. Scaffolding beats avoidance and helps overcome fear.

Validate your child’s fears but let them know you have faith that they will be able to face them. Point out that they have conquered fear before – when they rode a bike for the first time, gave a talk, slept on their own with the light off for the first time – and they can do so again.

**PITT TOWN PIRATES SOCCER 2013**

We welcome children turning 5 this year, then all ages! 12-16 yr old girls are encouraged to register for our GIRLS ONLY Competition – new this year!

Register and pay online at:


ALL PLAYERS must attend registration for a new photo

Registration dates:
Sunday 3rd February 12noon – 2pm
Sunday 10th February 12noon – 2pm
Wednesday 13th February 7pm – 9pm
at Pitt Town and District Sports Club

Any enquiries please contact
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