PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT:
Many thanks to the very large number of parents and carers who attended Parklea Public School on Tuesday evening in order to meet the class teacher and other staff on each grade. Thank you also for supporting our school in providing feedback on class formation and class structures. Our student leaders were extremely responsible in approaching parents and carers, with their iPad in tow to gain your opinions. Your input and responses to the questions posed will guide a review process we are putting in place for next year’s enrolments.
I hope that the evening was informative and allowed you to put a name to the face for new parents to our school. I know that we cooked well over 500 sausages, thank you for being so well organised in getting your orders in. They certainly disappeared quickly!

NEW FINANCE SYSTEM - SAP:
I know that a reminder went out to the school and community last year about changes to school finance processing for 2014. There is a calendar of events and activities printed to alert parents of activities occurring throughout each term. This calendar will hopefully assist parents and carers to determine whether they wish their child/ren to participate in planned school events. This will also give plenty of notice about when payments are due. Where there is a cost attached, please realise that we can no longer take late payments, particularly where the cut-off date has been clearly stated. Our new finance system does not even let us access the activity after the cut-off date for further processing. Our school no longer pays or invoices many transactions as we send most transactions on to the Service Centre (in Sydney) for processing. This is a system...
We are safe, respectful, learners

approach – not a school approach to finance. This also means that we do not have a cheque book for those ‘one-off’ situations nor do we have small amounts of money to deal with refunds. This can be inconvenient when the exact amount of money is not sent in for an activity. I hope that you will support us with this big change.

If you are having financial difficulty, please contact the office and we will assist where we can (just ask for Rhonda).

NEW P&C EXECUTIVE 2014:

A huge thank you and well wishes to the outgoing P&C Executive for 2013. Your hard work and ongoing efforts have certainly left a very positive mark upon the school and extra resources and a better playground for all students at our school. Thank you for working so well as a team in all that has been achieved. A very small team but never-the-less, an outstanding success. On behalf of the school, the students and community…..a heartfelt, thank you.

Congratulations to our new P&C Executive for 2014. I know that we are very fortunate in having you working alongside the school to the huge benefit of the wider community.

This year’s positions go to:

President: Mr Brian Chandler
Vice President (x2): Mr Ian McFarlane
Unfilled
Secretary: Mrs Chiara Foeken
Treasurer: Mrs Tracy Tarry
Fundraising Co-ordinator: Unfilled
Assistant Fundraising Co-ordinator: Unfilled
Uniform Co-ordinator: Mrs Natalie Walker
Ast Uniform Co-ordinator: Mrs Jenny Brinsden

We still have several positions unfilled. If you are interested in holding any of the following positions on the P&C, please contact the school office.

- Vice President;
- Fundraising Co-ordinator;
- Assistant Fundraising Co-ordinator.

SCHOOL PHOTOS:

This year’s school photo will take place on Thursday 27th March. Your support in sending children to school in full summer uniform and where appropriate, sports uniform is greatly appreciated.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY (PUPIL FREE DAY) MONDAY 24th MARCH 2014:

We will be continuing our school professional learning in developing a whole school approach to Inquiry, thinking skills and integrating this into the planning of student learning units.

We have booked Lane Clark to continue with this area of school development. Lane Clark is an internationally recognised educator with outstanding ideas for teacher development.

Children will not be required to attend school on planned school development days throughout the year. This change is due to availability of the presenter and we will be trading this day for the first day back in term 2 (normally a school development day) which will be a normal school day.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS:

We have responded to parent evaluations from last year in bringing our parent/teacher interviews forward to term 1 this year. Our parent/teacher interviews are planned for the week of the 17th March. We are hoping that these interviews will provide parents and carers with earlier feedback on the progress of your child/ren. The on-line booking system utilised for interviews last year proved to be a flexible and successful method for parents to book an interview time. As a result, we will continue with the on-line booking system again this year. There will continue to be the option to ring and book an interview time if access to the Internet is an issue.

RIDGES ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL:

Best of luck to our school swimming team, heading off to compete against our local schools in the Ridges Zone Swimming Carnival next Wednesday 26th February 2014. This carnival will be held at Blacktown Swimming Centre. Successful swimmers will progress to the Sydney West Swimming Carnival to be held at the Homebush Olympic Centre at a future date.

Mr Sutherland
(School Principal)
We are safe, respectful, learners

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTIES:

CLASSES FOR 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>2 Blue</td>
<td>3 Blue</td>
<td>4 Blue</td>
<td>5 Blue</td>
<td>6 Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrs Altmann</td>
<td>Miss Carter</td>
<td>Miss Marshall</td>
<td>Miss Watson</td>
<td>Miss Phillips</td>
<td>Miss McGugan</td>
<td>Miss McAskill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>1 Green</td>
<td>2 Green</td>
<td>3 Green</td>
<td>4 Green</td>
<td>5 Green</td>
<td>6 Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miss Finney</td>
<td>Miss Noonan</td>
<td>Miss Bultman</td>
<td>Miss Phillips</td>
<td>Miss Pyc</td>
<td>Miss Rennie</td>
<td>Miss Nicholls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>1 Orange</td>
<td>2 Orange</td>
<td>3 Orange</td>
<td>4 Orange</td>
<td>5 Orange</td>
<td>6 Orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miss Ogle</td>
<td>Miss Anton</td>
<td>Miss Anne</td>
<td>Miss Matters</td>
<td>Miss O'Neil</td>
<td>Miss Mitchell</td>
<td>Miss Nicholls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Above is the current class structure for our school in 2014. By now, your child will be with their permanent classroom teacher for 2014. We encourage you to make contact with your child’s classroom teacher if you have any concerns or to simply make contact, say hi or even offer your assistance.

This year, we are excited to form our new enrichment classes; part of our schools commitment to catering for the diverse needs of learners working above their expected grade level in the key learning areas. Enrichment is a form of differentiation. Enrichment usually involves:

- staying with a theme, subject or skill and developing it in depth;
- ‘rounding out’ the basic curriculum subjects with a wider context;
- relating learning to new areas;
- and/or providing pupils with experiences outside the ‘regular’ curriculum (breadth).

More information about our enrichment classes will be shared into our future newsletters so stay tuned.

PARKING IN THOMPSON CRESCENT:

We are asking all parents to be more vigilant with parking around our school during drop off and pick up times. Recently, we have had several issues where parents are parking across people’s driveways and blocking them in. We have also had cars stop in the middle of the road and blocking oncoming traffic on Glenwood Park Drive. In both these incidences, the school has received many complaints from the parent community.

If in the event you notice any drivers in and around our school being unsafe, we would encourage you to record the cars number plate and ring Quakers Hill Police Station to make an official report (Phone: 02 9678 8999). We are all responsible for the safety of students in and around our school.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA:

Thank you to all the families who have paid for our new ‘Sport in Schools Australia’ program. This program was trialled late in 2013 and we have received great feedback from the school community. As a result, we have decided to offer this program as an alternative to PSSA sport and standard School Sport.

Please note: If your child is not involved in either PSSA sport or ‘Sport in Schools Australia’, they will be participating in an alternative school sport program as per usual.

Sports in Schools Australia started today where the majority of the school participated at no cost. Next week will be the last week non-paying students can participate in this program. Again – if you wish your child to continue to participate in this program, you will need to make the correct payment by the closing date (stipulated on the permission note). Additional notes can be obtained in the office.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING:

Thank you to all the parents and carers for attending our Parent Information Evening for 2014. This evening was a great way to communicate some important information relating to your child. Hopefully you have used this evening as an opportunity to make contact with your child’s classroom teacher. Don’t forget that we have Parent Teacher Interviews later this term in the week of the 17th March. More information will be coming home in the near future.

Kind regards,

Mrs Mlinaric, Mrs Gracie & Mr Fisk (Deputy Principals)
WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND OUR SCHOOL:

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE/DIALECT (EAL/D):
We had a wonderful response to our EAL/D Parent Information Morning Tea. Thank you to all those who attended; we hope you found it informative and useful.
Formal EAL/D lessons have already begun for Kindy and our newly arrived students. For students in other grades EAL/D will commence in the next week. If you have any questions during the year regarding the EAL/D program or your child’s progress in English, the EAL/D specialist teachers are available to talk to you.

HARMONY DAY - THIS YEAR’S THEME: ‘TOGETHER WE CAN’
Just some advanced notice regarding Harmony Day. We will be celebrating our cultural diversity and embracing the message of living in peace and harmony on Thursday 20th March (Week 8). Students are encouraged to wear something orange (the sign of peace and harmony) and bring a gold coin donation to be donated to a children’s charity (to be advised). We will also be doing some harmony related activities during the day.

SOME DATES OF CELEBRATION FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS:
February 21st – International Mother Language Day: this day aims to promote linguistic (language) diversity and multicultural education, and raise awareness of the language and cultural traditions based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue (discussion). This day was launched by UNESCO in 1999. As we have 49 languages (including English) spoken by our students and/or their parents this is an important day to celebrate.
March 3rd - Hina Matsuri (Festival of the Dolls – Japan): This festival celebrating girls’ health, growth and happiness is more than 1,000 years old. Ceremonial dolls representing people of the ancient Japanese court are displayed and are believed to protect people from misfortune. Nowadays, girls hold tea parties with their friends on this day.

March 4th – Shrove/Pancake Tuesday (a Christian celebration): This day is the day for seeking repentance and forgiveness in preparation for Lent. It is also known as Pancake Day. The 4 basic ingredients of a pancake symbolise significant aspects of Easter: eggs – creation; flour – staff of life; salt – wholesomeness; milk – purity. Pancakes are believed to bring good luck as they are made using herbs and other ingredients associated with prosperity.
March 5th – Ash Wednesday: the first day of Lent. In many churches ashes made from palms used in the previous year’s Palm Sunday services are used to make the sign of the cross on the foreheads of parishioners.
March 7th – World Day of Prayer: a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer.

Mrs Temby and Mrs Pena
(EAL/D Specialist Teachers)

STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:
Parklea’s Student Government Representatives (SGRs) consist of students from Years 2-6. SGRs work on specific school projects throughout the school year. Students are nominated in Term 1 and Term 3 each year. There is also a ‘Shadow Representative’ for each class who takes the place of the SGR if he/she is away and is unable to attend a meeting.
SGRs attend a Leader’s Training Day. A letter outlining this day will be sent home with your child shortly. This day consists of a whole day spent in the hall or AV room, participating in leadership skills and communication games to build the leader’s capacity to be involved citizens of our school community. The Student Government is structured into ‘Cabinet Meetings’ where all elected representatives meet and ‘Ministries’ where representatives meet in small groups to organise school community projects.
Classes have chosen their representatives for Student Government for Semester One. Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th February where students will be provided with their Student Government contract. This outlines their responsibilities as a
representative of our school. Please take the time to discuss this with your child and have them sign it by Monday 24th February. On Tuesday 25th February, we will be holding our Student Leadership Induction Assembly in the school hall from 12:15pm. Students chosen for SGR will receive their badges. A note went home with nominated students on Friday 14th February. Please join us for this important occasion.

Alicia Cardwell, Kerrie Marshall and Kate Mutch
(Student Government Coordinators)

OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS:

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR SCHOOL:

While it can be hard for busy parents, staying in contact with the school is important. Communication is one of the key parts of the relationship between the school and home.

Watch this video to find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/communicating-with-your-school

WHAT IS KIK AND WHY IS IT POPULAR?

Kik is a free texting app popular with younger teens who generally have a limited texting plan or use an iPod Touch. Find out more about Kik messenger: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/technology-az/-/technology_glossary/7w0F/5353/Kik+messenger


SCHOOL WEEKS:

Q: Why does the school use "week 6" instead of dates?
A: We find it useful for planning each term.
Here are the actual dates for this term for most of NSW.

TERM 1

| Week 3 | 10/2 |
| Week 4 | 17/2 |
| Week 5 | 24/2 |
| Week 6 | 3/3 |
| Week 7 | 10/3 |
| Week 8 | 17/3 |
| Week 9 | 24/3 |
| Week 10 | 31/3 |
| Week 11 | 7/4 |

HELPING WITH HOMEWORK:

How much should you help your child with homework? When your child makes a mistake, should you fix it? Teachers talk about how parents can help kids take responsibility for their homework and avoid Thursday night meltdowns. Find out more:


BACK TO SCHOOL:

Homework, hot weather and class sizes – here are some answers to frequently asked questions about going to a NSW public school. Find out more: