Calendar Term 1

**Uniform Shop:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2:30pm – 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:45am – 9:30am</td>
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**Dates to Remember:**

- **10th March** After school Craft Club (in Miss Beehag’s room)
- **11th March** 5 Green (Miss Beehag) Assembly
- **12th March** Rafter Cake Stall
- **13th March** Selective High School Placement Test
- **17-20th March** Parent / teacher interviews
- **20th March** Harmony Day
  - 1 Red (Miss Young) + 2 Yellow (Miss Scholes) Assembly
  - Sydney West Swimming Carnival
- **21st March** High School Applications Due
- **24th March** **Staff Development Day – Pupil free day**
- **25th March** 3 / 4 Orange (Mr Roche) Assembly
- **26th March** Stage 3 Anti-Graffiti Workshop
  - Mufti Day
- **27th March** Class Photos
- **1st April** Leadership Training Day
  - Primary PBL Lunchtime Disco
- **3rd April** K-2 Perfection Assembly
- **8th April** 3-6 Perfection Assembly
- **28th April** Online Applications for OC placements open

**Principal’s Report:**

**Class Formation and Structures Survey:**

Thank you to the many parents who took time to give input into this survey. We have sought your input to guide how we begin the year and what your thoughts are in relation to mixed ability/Stage/ composite classes should we need to place your child into one. You may remember that our school leaders walked around the school with an iPad asking you to answer several questions. These questions related to the formation of classes and holding classes.

In order to reach parents and carers who did not attend parent teacher night, we are reissuing this survey for the next week so that you can provide your thoughts.

The survey can be found by visiting this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/classform

**Article - Insights**

I will endeavour to provide parents and carers with useful articles to stretch your knowledge and skills with a variety of parenting insights. These articles come from a parenting website and are written by a parenting educator. The first article attached to this newsletter is about resilience. How do we, as parents and carers build the skills and attributes in our children to enable them to deal with the disappointments and problems encountered in their daily lives? There is always a fine line in trying to do our best not just for the well-being of children today but more importantly in setting them up to be successful in dealing with far more complex and difficult issues as our children grow into adulthood. I am hopeful that you will read and reflect on the article in order to
continue doing the extremely important work we all do in raising our children to be confident, socially well-adjusted people who enjoy a great quality of life in this wonderful community and country.

**SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY - REMINDER - MONDAY 24TH MARCH 2014:**
Just a reminder for parents and carers that we have moved our school development day to accommodate the availability of our international presenter – Lane Clark. Lane will continue developing our thinking skills for students and our whole school guided inquiry model.

School Development Day is Monday 24th March – this is a pupil free day. This change will mean that the first day back in Term 2 – **Monday 28th April will become a normal school day and all children should attend school.**

**HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENTS:**
All Year 6 students should come home with the paperwork for application to high school. This is a very administration heavy task and we seek your support in returning all completed paperwork on or before the due date. This will ensure that your preferences for placement and transition run smoothly.

Have a wonderful week

Mr Sutherland  
(School Principal)

**FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTIES:**

**PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS:**
Parent Teacher Interview notes have gone home today invited parents to attend our parent teacher interviews in Week 8.

We will be using the same online system as in 2013 to book interview times. The website is ‘School Interviews Online’ and it can be found here:  
Interview booking will be on a first come, first serve basis. This means that if you would like more choice in regards to the time of the interview, we would encourage you to book online ASAP.

If you do not have access to the internet, there is a slip at the bottom of the note that you need to return to your child’s class teacher.

**NEW WORKING WITH CHILDREN’S CHECK:**
The DEC has introduced new policies and procedures relating to any person working with children in a school setting.

This new process works in accordance with the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 and the Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013.

The Department’s revised:
**Working with Children Check Policy:**
**Working with Children Check Procedures**

These procedures outline new processes for conducting the **Working with Children Check (WWCC)** for child related-work and the **National Criminal Records Check (NCRC)** for all paid employees of the Department and contractors in the Assisted School Travel Program.

As a result of this, **ALL VOLUNTEERS** and **PARENT HELPERS** in our school are required to complete a new working with children check – declaration for volunteers and contractors form ASAP. These can be obtained from your child’s classroom teacher.

**NAPLAN 2014:**
A note has gone home today to all Year 3 & 5 students who will be sitting the NAPLAN 2014 assessment later this year. This note will provide a great overview of the expectations of the NAPLAN testing for students this year.
It also contains all the NAPLAN testing dates. The NAPLAN test dates this year will be:

- **Tuesday 13th May** (Language Conventions & Writing)
- **Wednesday 14th May** (Reading)
- **Thursday 15th May** (Numeracy)
- **Friday 16th May** (Catch up Day for all testing)

Please contact your child’s classroom teacher if you have any concerns about their participation or ability to complete the testing as soon as possible.

**CLASS FORMATION AND STRUCTURES SURVEY LINK:**
We would like to reiterate the importance of the Class Formation & Structures survey as discussed in Mr Sutherland’s principal report. We encourage as many parents to complete this survey as possible to help inform future directions and decisions here at the school.

The survey can be found by visiting this link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/classform](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/classform)

**AFTER SCHOOL CRAFT CLUB:**
Yesterday, we had a visitor to the school handing out flyers to students and displaying some of his amazing wooden craft creations. On Monday, we will be facilitating an after school craft club. This will be held in Miss Beehag’s room from 3:15pm – 5:30pm. Students will need to bring their completed forms and the appropriate money with them to Miss Beehag’s room after school if they wish to participate in this program. Depending on the success of this afternoon, we may look to host more of them into the future.

**SPORTS IN SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA:**
A huge thank you to our students and the school community for their enthusiasm towards our new ‘Schools in Sport Australia’ (SiSA) program. We are sitting around the 80% participation rate school wide which is very pleasing. We look forward to evaluating this program and obtaining feedback from the school community about this program and it’s viability. Please note that the deadline for this program has now been reached and we not be accepting any further enrolments. Here are a few snaps of our infants students participating in the program over the past few weeks:
SPORT UPDATE:

Congratulations to all our students who participated at our School Swimming Carnival at the beginning of February. Your good sportsmanship and behaviour was great to see. Ribbons from this carnival will be presented at the Primary Assembly on Tuesday, 14th March. The assembly commences at 12.30 pm.

Our school hosted the Ridges Zone Swimming Carnival on Wednesday, 26th February, at Blacktown Aquatic Centre. A huge thank you to all of the staff, (including our wonderful office staff), who were involved in making this carnival a success. Our school took at squad of 33 swimmers to the carnival. Hats off to these students who swam their best, many achieving new PBs (personal best swim times), displayed excellent sportsmanship and good manners throughout the day. Congratulations to Ryan Hurley who will now be attending the Sydney West PSSA Swimming Carnival on Thursday, 20th March at Homebush Aquatic Centre. Ryan will compete in Junior boys 50m backstroke after finishing 2nd (45.49) and is waiting to see if he will receive an invitation for the Junior Individual Medley after finishing 2nd (3:46.93) at the Zone carnival. Ryan’s time will be compared with competitors from the other zones in Sydney West and then a finalists list will be announced. On behalf of the Parklea community we wish Ryan good luck and fast swimming at this carnival.

Summer PSSA has commenced and it has been pleasing to see the level of commitment of each individual player to their particular team. The buses are departing at 8.45am. Remember to make sure you are at school in enough time to meet your sports coach, have your name marked off the roll in order to board the bus at 8.45am or you will miss the bus…

A reminder that all students need to remember to wear their hats on a Friday as it is our sport day. Students are participating in PSSA or School run Sport or the SISA program and will be outside in the sun being active but also need to be Sun Safe. Please help us by ensuring your child has their hat in their bag along with a bottle of water that can be consumed to avoid dehydration during and after physical activity. The staff thanks you in anticipation of your assistance.

Thank you!

The Sport Committee

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YEAR 3 & 4!!!

ENGLISH:

Talking and Listening - Students will be learning how to communicate during class and group tasks. We will be learning about and refining our public speaking skills in Weeks 9 and 10 of this term, as students begin preparations for our annual Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition.

Reading - We have been implementing a new reading and comprehension program called ‘Springboard into Comprehension’. This particular program was purchased at the end of 2013 and is full of exciting, interactive digital literary and factual texts to engage our Stage 2 learners. Our students are really enjoying this program and learning about and using the focus comprehension strategies. These strategies include;

- Finding the main idea
- Sequencing
- Identifying detail
- Comparing and Contrasting
- Fact and Opinion
- Cause and Effect

We have also purchased a fantastic resource called ‘into connectors’ and ‘connectors’ published by Scholastic Australia which assist our students in using the reciprocal literacy process which involves specific roles and responsibilities for each reader in a group learning situation.

Writing -This term, Years 3 and 4 will be learning about and composing Entertaining Texts. We will be using a ‘Think it’ to investigate the language features of
entertaining texts. Some of the texts we will be learning about are:
- descriptions
- narratives
- diary entries
- letters
- dreamtime stories
- comic strips

**MATHEMATICS:**
This term in Mathematics we will be learning about:
- Addition and subtraction - using mental strategies such as jump, split, compensation and bridging the decade to solve 2, 3 and 4 digit addition and subtraction problems
- 2D Space - students will manipulate, compare, sketch and name two-dimensional shapes and describe their features
- Fractions - Models, compares and represents commonly used fractions

**INTEGRATED STUDIES:**
This term in Integrated Studies we will be learning about life in Australia for our Indigenous People before European colonisation. Our inquiry question is “How do we live in Harmony?” Students will investigate how the Indigenous People lived in harmony with the land and will apply their understandings to how our school community lives in harmony.

Students will undertake the ‘Think it’ process to investigate the characteristics of a great iMovie. They will then produce a video presentation that will teach their peers about conflict resolution and living in harmony. Our students will also be appreciating and creating Indigenous artworks.

Thank you!

From the Year 3 and 4 Teachers

**EAL/D NEWS:**

**HARMONY DAY - THURSDAY, 20 MARCH (WEEK 8):**
Harmony Day allows us to celebrate the cohesive and inclusive nature of our nation and promotes the benefits of cultural diversity. It coincides with the United Nation’s International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The continuing message of Harmony Day is ‘Everyone Belongs’. Each year a theme is also promoted and this year it is ‘Together We Can’. We will be entering a Harmony Day poster competition run by the Moving Forward Together Association which is committed to creating a better understanding among all sectors of the community for ‘living in harmony’, and is based on the philosophy of a civil and decent society, catering for all people regardless of origin, culture or religion.

On the day, students will design a poster in class and class winners will be entered into the competition. Students are also encouraged to wear something orange on the day (to represent peace and harmony) and bring a gold coin donation to be donated to a children’s charity. Last year through your generosity, we were able to donate over $600 and we look forward to your continued support.

Regards,
The Multicultural Committee

**OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS:**

**RAFTER CAKE STALL:**
Next Wednesday 12th March is RAFTER’s Cake Stall. This is one of our school fundraisers and money raised from this day will be used for portable technology in our school.
Please support this day by sending in with your child cupcakes, toffees, jellies and any other special cake treats.

Prices range from 20c to $2.

We ask that all items in our cake stall be ‘Allergy Risk Free’. This means that we ask that you clearly label your cakes if they contain the following: eggs, wheat or any gluten. Please do not send in cakes that contain nuts!

If you can spare some time from 8:30am onwards with preparing the cake stall, serving or assisting with packing away, this would be greatly appreciated by our school.

Thank you for supporting this fundraiser on behalf of RAFTER and our school.

See you all there!

**KIDS REHAB WESTMEAD CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL FUNDRAISER:**

On Wednesday 5th March our school took part in a ‘mufti day’ fundraiser to raise money for ‘Kids Rehab at Westmead Children’s Hospital’. The rehab department at Westmead Children’s Hospital look after kids from a variety of disabilities including brain injury, limb deficiencies and Spina Bifida.

Our school raised $750.50. This is an outstanding amount of money raised and will contribute to the $33,000 already raised by, ‘The Children’s Hospital’ at Westmead.

Thank you to all the students and families who supported this fundraising event. It was great to see the students taking part in this worthwhile event. Students wore bandages on parts of their bodies to demonstrate their support of children who have suffered in an accident.

Thank you!

From Mrs Cardwell, Mrs Mutch & Mrs Marshall (Student Government Coordinators)
2014 HOMEWORK PLANNER:
The best homework help you can give your child is to teach them to be organised. Print out the 2014 homework and study calendar, which includes key dates and school holidays. Stick them on the fridge and above their desk.

Find out more:

MATHS A TO Z:
Brush up on some of the maths terms your child uses in the classroom. The Maths A to Z glossary provides straightforward explanations and illustrated examples.

Find out more:

GREAT BOOKS FOR TWEENS TO READ:
Favourite books from the Premier's Reading Challenge team that will inspire kids aged between nine and 13 to read read read!

Find out more:

SCIENCE ASSIGNMENT STARTERS:
Not sure where to go to help your child find out about electricity, natural disasters, the solar system or other science projects? Have a look at our project starters.

Find out more:

How to Make Your Teacher Angry

Written by 5 Green

To make our teacher angry,
Is considered to be bad,
So follow this tasty menu
To send the teacher mad!

Entrée

A plate of stolen stickers,
Served with passing notes in class,
Steamed excessive dobbing
On a bed of being off task.

Main Meal

Piping hot catapulted rubbers
Drizzled with chairs left out,
Roasted M Rated language
With a generous amount of shout!

Dessert

Candy coated interruption
And exquisite excuses of lying,
Running on the concrete
In a sauce of cyber-bullying.
# Why Your Child Can’t Skip Their 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>James</th>
<th>Travis</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>reads 20 minutes per night, 5 times per week</td>
<td>reads only 4 minutes per night ...or not at all</td>
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<td><strong>In one week:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>100 minutes of reading</td>
<td>20 minutes of reading</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>In one month:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>400 minutes of reading</td>
<td>80 minutes of reading</td>
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<td><strong>In one school year (9 months):</strong></td>
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<td>3600 minutes of reading</td>
<td>720 minutes of reading</td>
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<td><strong>By the end of sixth grade:</strong></td>
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<td>21,600 minutes of reading</td>
<td>4320 minutes of reading</td>
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Which student would you expect to read better?  
Which student would you expect to know more?  
Which student would you expect to write better?  
Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?  
Which student would you expect to be more successful in school and life?  
How do you think each student will feel about himself as a learner?
Resiliency Robbers

All parents have the best of intentions when raising kids. Wanting what is best for kids can cause parents to make decisions that are not always in their (children’s) long-term best interests

If you buy the line that the promotion of resilience is in the best interests of kids then check out the following common parenting mistakes that reduce children’s resilience.

**Robber # 1:**
**Fight all their battles for them**
Nothing wrong with going into bat when kids struggle or meet with difficulty inside or outside school but make sure this is the last resort, not the first option.

▲ **Resilience notion # 1:** Give kids the opportunity to develop their own resourcefulness.

**Robber # 2:**
**Make their problem, your problem**
Sometimes parents can take too much responsibility for issues that are really up to children to work out or decide. Here’s a clue if you are wondering what I am talking about: a jumper is something a mother puts on her son when she is cold!

▲ **Resilience notion # 2:** Make their problem, their problem.

**Robber # 3:**
**Give kids too much voice**
In this era of giving children a voice it is easy to go overboard and allow too much of a say in what happens to them. Kids often take the easy option to avoid hard or unpleasant situations.

▲ **Resilience notion # 3:** Make decisions for kids and expect them to adjust and cope.

**Robber # 4:**
**Put unrealistic or relentless pressure on kids to perform**
Expectations about success and achievement are important. Too low and kids will meet them. Too high and kids can give up. Too much and kids can experience anxiety.

▲ **Resilience notion # 4:** Keep expectations in line with children’s abilities and don’t put excessive pressure on them.

**Robber # 5:**
**Let kids give in too easily**
Resilient learners link success with effort. They don’t give up because they don’t like a teacher or when confronted with multi-step or more complex activities. Similarly they don’t bail out of a sporting term half way through the season because the team is not winning or they are not enjoying it.

▲ **Resilience notion # 5:** Encourage kids to complete what they have started even if the results aren’t perfect.

**Robber # 6:**
**Neglect to develop independence**
Don’t wait until they are teenagers to develop the skills of independent living. Start early and promote a broad skill set so that they can look after themselves if you are not around.

▲ **Resilience notion # 6:** Don’t routinely do for kids what they can do for themselves.

**Robber # 7:**
**Rescue kids from challenging or stretch situations**
There are many times kids are put in situations that are outside their comfort zones for a time. For instance, giving a talk, singing at the school concert or going on school camp may be challenges for some kids. They are all situations that kids usually cope with so show your confidence in them and skill them up rather than opt for avoidance.

▲ **Resilience notion # 7:** Overcoming challenges enables kids to grow and improve.

Sometimes the manageable hardships that children experience such as a friend moving away, not being invited to a party or completing a difficult school project are fabulous learning opportunities.

They help kids to stretch and grow. Dealing with them effectively also teaches kids that they are capable of coping when they meet some of life’s curve balls.

And that is a huge lesson to learn at any age.

View this article online: http://www.gihs.sa.edu.au/__files/f/9336/Insights_Resiliency_Robbers%20(3).pdf