Principal’s Report:

As this is the first newsletter for Term 2, I’d like to welcome everyone back and commend the children and staff for their focus on settling all children back into regular routines.

By now, many parents will know that we have a new permanent member of staff who has been appointed to 1 Blue. Miss Svarc spent time over the holiday break ensuring that she transitioned the learning for the children with Ms Carter who is now on maternity leave.

We are also in the process of interviewing for a new permanent Deputy Principal to replace Mrs Denham. This will be completed over the next month. We also have an unused demountable being removed with the next few weeks so there will be cranes and workmen at the back of the school at some stage.

NAPLAN Testing will occur next week. Best wishes to Year 3 and Year 5 students who will be undertaking the Literacy and Numeracy components. We are also trialing the Science tests across Year 6, best wishes to the Year 6 students involved. A busy week ahead.

We will also be hosting 15 New Zealand Principals at Parklea PS next Tuesday and Wednesday. These Principals are on a professional learning exchange, sharing and extending on common areas of school improvement. The visit to Parklea PS will focus on the Guided Inquiry used in all classrooms from Kindergarten to Year 6 and also our writing process. Visitors will be attending classes not involved in NAPLAN during the morning session then continue to see other classes involved in NAPLAN after testing is complete.

Many thanks for your support with the new changes being implemented for finance and student management. The majority of parents and carers have been fantastic in completing the new
information forms. I do understand that the forms ask for a lot of detail and do take time to complete. I can ensure you that the information provided on these forms is treated with a high level of confidentiality. These forms and the information contained in them are recorded into the school system and the Department of Education and Communities then uses the information to determine school funding. The higher the level of education reported on these forms in our school community, the lower the level of disadvantage and equity funding arriving at our school. Every school in NSW will eventually utilise this system to calculate government funding to schools. This new procedure will hopefully be more equitable for all schools in terms of government funding.

Best wishes for a healthy and productive term of learning.

Cheers
Mr Sutherland
(School Principal)

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTIES:

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!!
Ben from 6 Blue made it into the NSW State Team for Tennis! Congratulations Ben! We look forward to hearing your epic story next week when you return to school.

CHANGES WITH REPORTING:
As per last terms final newsletter, you are reminded that teachers are preparing to enter the Semester 1 reporting period. With the implementation of the new English Syllabus, there will be some noticeable changes to the way teachers will be reporting in this area.

We will no longer be reporting on the individual strands within the English syllabus (i.e. Reading, Writing and Talking & Listening). Instead, teachers will be providing an overall grade and application level in English. There will still be a comment box that will unpack areas of strengths and weaknesses related to your child’s learning in English. All DEC schools will be realigning their existing reporting with this new change.

NAPLAN TESTING:
National Testing for students in Years 3 and 5 will be held in all schools across Australia, in Numeracy and Literacy next week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We would like to wish all of our students the very best. We recommend that you ensure your children sleep well each evening leading up to the testing days and that they have healthy breakfasts.

OC TESTING:
Opportunity class placement provides intellectual stimulation and an educationally enriched environment for academically gifted and talented children in Years 5 and 6 who would otherwise be isolated from a suitable peer group.

Students who are placed attend the opportunity class full-time in Years 5 and 6 at the primary school with an opportunity class. It is a two-year placement program. There is no provision to apply for Year 6 placement. Offers for opportunity class placement will be made on the basis of the Opportunity Class Placement Test, school assessment, and where necessary, other evidence of academic merit.

OC Applications close on the 16th May.

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY:
Happy Mothers’ Day for this Sunday to all our mums and we hope you have a great day. A huge thank you to our P&C and all the volunteers who ran our Mothers’ Day stall.

Have a lovely weekend!
Mr Fisk, Mrs Gracie & Mrs Mlinaric
(Deputy Principals)

FROM OUR PRIMARY (3-6) DEPARTMENT:

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR WEEK 3:

Dear Parents and Caregivers,
Due to NAPLAN testing for our Year 3 and Year 5 students next week, our fortnightly Primary Assembly will be held in our school hall on Tuesday 13th May at 2:00pm. Please note that this change is only for next week and from Week 5 onwards, we will continue to have assembly at 12:30pm.

Kind regards,
Mrs Ogie
(on behalf of the Primary Department)
EALD NEWS:

CULTURAL INFUSION INCURSION:
Thank you everyone for your support of this exciting incursion. We had four wonderful groups presenting throughout the day last Monday starting with Years 5 and 6 enjoying the Rhythm of Africa drumming, then Years 3 and 4 were entertained by Walangari, who is an international Aboriginal artist who has performed on Play School. He is also the great grandson of Albert Namatjira, the famous Aboriginal artist. After recess, Years 1 and 2 experienced the colour and sounds of northern China with the Lion Dance, scarf dance, Chinese harp music and Kung Fu. Kindergarten ‘Bollywooded’ during the afternoon and learnt lots of dance moves.

Congratulations to our class winners of the Hot Dog lunch, K/1 Purple and 1 Green. And our runners up who will receive an ice cream are 1 Yellow, 4 Blue, 5 Blue and 5 Red. These will be held during eating time on Wednesday, 21 May (Week 4).

A Reflection by Lily, Ebony, Rose, Ranudi, Simra and Shelina 4/5 Purple
Yow and Philip started the incursion with a lively drumming performance by playing their African drums. They encouraged students to dance to music and the teachers even got persuaded to join in. What a laugh we all had! They gave useful information about the drums and what they use it for. They also showed us how they communicated with their tribe using their drums. They even let students and student teachers play their drums. It was a very memorable incursion.

A Reflection by Daniel 3/4 Orange
Yesterday I went to the Cultural infusion and saw an Aboriginal man named Walangari. I was amazed at what he did with Years 3 and 4. Walangari played the didgeridoo and I loved how good he was because he could play tapping sticks at the same time he was playing the didgeridoo. Then he got some people to get up and do the emu dance and I got to play a beat to help keep the rhythm of the dance. I was so astonished that I even bowed after using the clapping sticks. Walangari taught us some symbols of his land and how to say hello and goodbye in his language.

Then he told us that you can make music with a kangaroo skin and he painted his face with three white lines that meant the people in his family or tribe. It was great watching him play the didgeridoo.

A Reflection by Faith 2/3 Purple
On Monday we had a Chinese incursion in our hall to show us Chinese culture. My favourite thing was when the Chinese dragon came out and it was so funny when it shook its body in front of Miss Scholes’ face. I kept on laughing and laughing! After that a lady did a dance with round hankies and she wore a really pretty dress. Next there was a Chinese lady who played some music using a harp which sounded cool. I loved it. Finally there was Kung Fu. I went up on stage and I did some lessons. It was the best day of my life.

A Reflection by Lucas 1 Yellow
On Monday Kindergarten went to the hall. We learnt how to do the meat ball and spaghetti. We had a good time. Then we went to the classroom. My favourite was the spaghetti.

NATIONAL SORRY DAY AND RECONCILIATION WEEK:
Traditionally, we celebrate Sorry Day during Term 2 Week 5. This year we have incorporated this day into our Discover-a-thon which has an Aboriginal perspectives theme which supports the units of work we have been doing during Integrated Studies in Term 1. Students are asked to wear something black, red and yellow for the Discover-a-thon to represent the colours of the Aboriginal flag.

Thank you for your support!
Mrs Temby & Mrs Pena
(EALD Specialist Teachers) on behalf of the Multicultural Committee
THANK YOU FROM OUR MOTHER'S DAY STALL:

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that helped out on the Mother's Day stall. We had a record number of 23!! A big thanks also to all who made a donation and to the kids who made a purchase - we raised $2700. The 'Wrapping Station' was a huge success and we have already received excellent feedback from students and parents as well as Staff. We are planning on doing this for Father's Day also. It was lovely to see such a great group of people coming together for the kids.

Lisa Barrett
(Stall Coordinator)

FROM THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

STUDENT GOVERNMENT'S JELLY BEAN GUESSING COMPETITION:

In Weeks 3 and 4, the Student Government will be running a Jelly Bean Guessing Competition to raise money for various Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) projects taking place throughout the year at our school.

The Jelly Bean Guessing Competition will consist of two jelly bean jars; one for K-2 students and another jar for 3-6 students. Students will need to guess how many jellybeans are in the jar.

The cost of the competition is; 20c for 1 guess, 50c for 3 guesses and $1 for 5 guesses.

The Student Government Representatives will be running this competition each morning from 8:30am and again at recess in weeks 3 and 4.

We encourage all students to, ‘take the challenge’.

STEWART HOUSE ENVELOPES:

Your child would have brought home a Stewart House Donation envelope at the end of last term. These are due back early this term to the front office. Stewart House does a great job of helping families in need, giving students from NSW Public Schools a place to go when they or their parents need some respite. For some students, it is the first time they have seen the sea. Stewart House relies on fundraising by Public Schools to keep going and is the one charity we support here every year at Parklea Public School. We urge you to place a gold coin or two in the envelope to help keep this invaluable resource available for us to use in times of need.

Thank you for your support!

The Student Government Team

OTHER NEWS:

TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?

As the cold weather hits, so do the winter bugs. It's often hard to know whether to send your child to school or let them stay home to recover, especially when that means an adult cancelling work. For safety's sake, if your child seems unwell you should always keep them home from school and seek medical advice.

School A to Z and the NSW Health have created an at-a-glance chart to help answer your questions about common childhood illness and how long sick kids need to miss school. Find it by typing this link into your web browser

bit.ly/1hytn2E

MENTAL MATHS STRATEGIES:

We teach children a range of different strategies to add and subtract numbers. By showing them several methods for solving maths questions, we're helping them to look for patterns. All this builds a good sense of “number” which means they understand the relationships between different numbers and why different ways to add and subtract work well. The goal is that your child will understand many ways to approach a maths problem and will be able to choose a way that makes the most sense to them. School A to Z has a lot of resources, including help sheets on mental maths strategies, here: bit.ly/JkiUsY