Meet the Teacher:
Thank you to the parents who took the opportunity to come to school this week, to meet the teachers and find out about the activities and routines associated with their child’s schooling. We trust you found it interesting and enlightening. A reminder to all parents that if you have a matter of concern regarding your child’s education or well-being; please make contact with the class teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

Teacher Vacancies:
As communicated to you last year, approval has been given for us to form a selection panel for the external posting of the Assistant Principal position at Parklea Public School. The panel will consist of Rosemary Mlinaric (convener), Lynne Milson (Staff representative), Jason Clinch (School Parents and Citizens Association representative) and Jenny Maher (panel member nominated by the Director). The advertisement closed this week and interviews will take place on Wednesday 25 February.

Approval has also been given for us to form a selection panel for a classroom teacher position at Parklea Public School. The convenor for this panel will be Fiona Gracie; Kim Henderson will be the School Parents and Citizens Association representative for this panel. The teacher representative is Kerrie Phillips. We anticipate that the publishing date will be Wednesday 4th March and the process should be concluded by Friday 27th March.
Sound System Frequency:
We have investigated and removed the component of our current sound system in the hall that was not compliant with the new regulations effective 1st January, 2015. We have placed an order for two new external speakers, a new lectern with a mic and a new amplifier. This new equipment is due to be installed Wednesday next week.

Trade-In Days:
At the end of every year, teachers in NSW have an additional two days Professional Learning after the completion of the school year. Schools have the opportunity to trade-in or exchange these days for two other days throughout the year. This exchange could consist of a Saturday or Sunday, Public holiday Monday, two after school sessions, each of 3 hours or afternoon of 6 hours. This year, our teachers have voted to trade Friday 18th December for two afternoon sessions to be held on Thursday 26th February and Thursday 12th March. Teachers will be working on the 2015-2017 Strategic Plan and the New Reporting System.

New Reporting System:
The school is investigating a new system. We currently use Sentral for our administration and roll marking and will begin using their reporting module as the platform for our reporting system. As part of this process, we would like to gain input from all stakeholders. The teachers will be participating in two afternoon planning sessions (3-6pm) to evaluate, plan and design the new reporting template. Before this meeting we would like to get feedback from parents about the strengths and weaknesses about our current template as well as some suggestions for its improvement. If you are interested in giving us feedback on our report please go to: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ppsreportcommunity

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTIES:
This year is already going fast and our school is off to a great start. Classes are now finalised and children are working hard in their new class. We have been visiting the classes over the past two weeks and it has been such a pleasure seeing how settled everyone is and that our new students are feeling welcome.

This week, our Kindergarten students went into the playground with the rest of the school and are having a great time exploring their new outdoor surroundings. It has been great seeing them finding their older brothers and sisters. The Kindergarten teachers have worked really hard with preparing their students with the playground rules and what areas are ‘out of bounds’. Well done everyone!

National Young Leaders Day:
Today, your child will be bringing home a note if they are a school leader, house or vice-captain, or a Student Government Representative at our school to attend the National Young Leaders Day on Monday 23rd March at Qantas Credit Union Arena (formerly the Sydney Entertainment Centre).

This is a great opportunity for our leaders to meet other aspiring leaders across the state and to learn from their wisdom and experience. Students will also develop their leadership skills and values, as well as gain insights that will help them to become our nation’s future leaders.

Permission notes and payment are due by Friday 13th March.

We look forward to participating in this day with your child as well as acknowledging their ability to be a capable and aspiring future leader.

Mrs Mlinaric and Mrs Gracie
(R/Principals)
Morning Routine – Safe Settled Students:
Congratulations to all the students for the sensible and orderly way in which they are coming to and leaving our morning assembly. Next week, our Kindergarten students will be joining us at assembly lines. Kindergarten parents will receive a slip explaining this change today.

Thank you to all the families with supporting our new, ‘Safe, Settled Students’ morning routine. We are finding this new system to be working effectively. It’s important that all families continue to remain in the flagpole area when the 9:00am bell has gone. This assists with the safe movement of our students and teachers in case there were to be an emergency evacuation.

Please remember to make a time to see your child’s teacher if have any concerns.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Late Arrivals/Early Leavers:
Parents are reminded that if children arrive late to school (i.e. once children have left the assembly area) they are required to come to the office for a late note.

Also, those parents needing to collect children early will need to complete an early leaver note at the office before collecting their child from the classroom.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL MUST SIGN IN AT THE FRONT OFFICE.

Thank you for your assistance!

Staff Car Park:
A friendly reminder to parents that the staff car park is not to be used to drop off or pick up children from school. Parents who are leaving or collecting children from before and after school care may only use the car park between 7:00 – 8:00am and 3:30 – 6:30pm. Parents are asked not to park in the disabled car space. Thank you for your cooperation!

Assembly Information for 2/3 Purple and 4/5 Purple
Students from 2/3 Purple and 4/5 Purple will attend Primary Assemblies every fortnight on Tuesdays (even weeks only).

Year 2 students from 2/3 Purple will attend the Infants Perfection assemblies held once a term.

ICAS 2015:
In 2015, Parklea Public School will continue to offer the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) to all students in Years 2 to 6. A note with information about this testing, payment and respective dates will be send home to students in Year 2 – 6 on Monday 23/2.

This year, we are only offering ICAS testing outside of school hours from 3:15pm – 4:15pm. More information about this optional testing will be contained in this note. For those parents looking for an additional measure to gauge their child’s academic performance in a variety of learning areas, we recommend considering participating in ICAS this year.

2015 Swimming Carnival:
What a splash! We were delighted to assist in this year’s ‘Competitors Only’ Swimming Carnival. Congratulations to all those students who participated in this event. We will continue to encourage all our confident swimmers to participate in this carnival and hopefully represent our school at the next competitive level.

Mrs Iredale and the sporting committee will be sending home notes today (20/2) to those students who have been successful in representing our school at the 2015 Ridges Swimming Carnival. Please return all parts of the permission slip to the school ASAP.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey:
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate
in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

We want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9th March and 2nd April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A note about this has already been sent home to all families. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please indicate this in writing and send a note directly to the front office ASAP.

Changes to School Exemptions:
There has been an update to the attendance policy within the Department of Education and Communities. Previously, if you were going on a family holiday during a school term, the principal would grant you an exemption from school. These exemptions would not appear as absences on your child’s school report.

The new policy stipulates that family holidays are no longer an accepted category for exemption from school attendance. Family holidays will now be recorded as ‘Leave’ and will appear as days absent from school on your child’s end of semester report.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the office.

Kind regards,
Mr Fisk & Mrs Cardwell
(R/Deputy Principals)

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN EARLY STAGE 1?
Welcome to Kindergarten 2015!

Morning Drop Off: We’d like to welcome the Kindergarten parents of Parklea and congratulate you on assisting with the smooth start the students have had this year. In regards to Kindergarten routines, please ensure your child is sitting in their designated class line in the morning, say goodbye to your child and move away from the lines.

Kindergarten students are also learning about playing inside the school boundaries and not going ‘out of bounds’. Waiting outside the Kindergarten classrooms in the morning time is ‘out of bounds’, please wait with your child at a spot under the COLA or near our lines.

Stationary List: Thank you for bringing in your child’s school stationary promptly. Teachers have begun using this stationary daily and we encourage anyone who hasn’t brought in any items to please send it to their class teacher as soon as possible.
**Playground:** In Week 4, Kindergarten began, playing in all areas of the school playground. Teachers on duty will help kindergarten students to ensure a smooth transition into the whole school playground. Students are learning the Parklea school rules of how to be a safe, respectful, learner in their class and are applying these in all aspects of their schooling.

**English Speaking and Listening:** Students will be participating in News this term. Each week, they will have a topic to talk about and need to include information to describe what, where, when, who and why. Students are encouraged to speak clearly, have an audible voice and to make eye contact with their audience.

**Reading:** Students have been learning 5 sight words each week and at least 2 alphabet sounds. We have been reading books and working on text directionality, reading from left to right and pointing to each word that is being read. Students are currently exploring the different ways to understand texts using a number of strategies such as; visual cues, re-enactments, oral retell and summarising. We also encourage a ‘love of reading’ both at home and school. Home readers will begin Monday week 5 and are changed each Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**Writing:** Students have been participating in joint construction activities of simple sentences based on our texts about ‘Coming to School’ and ‘New Beginnings’. We are focusing on letter formation, correct pencil grip, finger spacing, sounding out unknown words whilst including a capital letter and a full stop.

**Mathematics**
This term in Mathematics, we will be learning about Whole Number, Addition and Subtraction, 2D and 3D Space, Time, Length and Patterns and Algebra. We encourage students to count forwards and backwards daily from any given number, give the number before and after and identify numerals to 20. Students are involved in a program called ‘Count Me In Too’ (CMIT). This is an ability based program that groups children in Number. Students play game type activities to strengthen their mathematical skills in a number of aspects.

**Integrated Studies**
The current topic being explored as part of our inquiry unit is, “This is Me”. This unit provides opportunities to explore students’ lives and special characteristics, highlighting beliefs and moral codes. It provides opportunities for students to compare themselves with others in their class and with people from different places, countries and times. At the end of this unit students will contribute a page about themselves in a whole class iMovie. We will then have opportunities to get to know other students within Kindergarten when we celebrate our learning by sharing the iMovie created by each class.

**Sport**
Kindergarten Sport day is on Wednesday. Students wear their sports uniform including their school hat. This program provides students with opportunities to develop fundamental movement skills whilst playing with and sharing equipment.

We are looking forward to a busy, but fun Term 1 in Kindergarten.

Kind regards,
Miss Akmens & the Kindergarten Team

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**EAL/D News:**

**CHINESE NEW YEAR**
Thursday 19 February:
Chinese New Year is a spring festival which continues for 15 days. People wear red clothes, give children ‘lucky’ money in red envelopes and set off fireworks to drive away evil spirits. Red symbolizes fire which Chinese people believe drives away bad luck. Family members gather at each other’s homes for celebratory meals. This year it is the Year of the Goat.

VIETNAMESE NEW YEAR:
On Thursday 19 February it is also the Vietnamese New Year, known as Tet (or Tet Nguyen Dan which means the first morning of the first day of the new period). People prepare for Tet by cooking special holiday foods and cleaning the house. Other traditions include ancestral worshipping, family reunions, wishing New Year greetings and giving lucky money to children and old people. During the Tet holiday, Vietnamese people visit their relatives and temples, forgetting about troubles of the past year and hoping for a better upcoming year.

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY:
Saturday 21 February is International Mother Language Day which aims to promote linguistic diversity (language differences) and multilingual education. It also aims to raise awareness of language and cultural traditions based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue (talk).

Regards,
Mrs Temby, Mrs Pena & Mrs Hagar
(EAL/D Teachers)

SCHOOL NEWS:

Scripture for 2015:
Scripture classes at Parklea are held each Wednesday and will begin in week 5.

Scripture classes are offered for the following faiths:
- Protestant
- Catholic
- Islamic
- Hindu
- Sikh

Students from Years 1 to 6 will continue to attend the scripture class that they were enrolled in last year. Enrolment information has been used to place our new Kindergarten students into scripture classes for 2015. Those students who do not participate in religious education are required to attend a non-scripture class instead. During this time they are supervised by a teacher and participate in independent, private study.

Should you wish to make any changes to your child’s scripture class enrolment, please notify either Mrs Terry or Mrs Bugeja in writing.

Thank you.
Mrs Bugeja & Mrs Terry
(Scripture Coordinators)

Student Government Representatives 2015:

“The leadership instinct you are born with is the backbone. You develop the funny bone and the wishbone that go with it.”
Elaine Agather

Congratulations to the elected students who will be representing their class as a Student Government Representative for the school year. We know you are going to be ‘GREAT’ leaders for your class. We also look forward to working with you and gaining a deeper insight into the leadership qualities you can bring to your role as a Student Government Representative.

There will be an induction assembly on Tuesday 3rd March at 12:30pm to present our Student Government representatives with their badges. A note will be coming home today with your child.
We are safe, respectful, learners

Regards,
Mrs Dhillon, Mrs Warren & Mrs Gibb
(Student Government Coordinators)

Class | Representatives
--- | ---
2 Yellow | Erin Taj
2 Red | Sharlise Brody
2 Blue | Noah Jasmine
2 Green | Shiv Natalie
2/3 Purple | Annabelle Connor
3 Blue | Rileigh Girisshh
3 Green | Isabella Larim
3 Red | Seth Faith
4 Blue | Harley Chloe
4 Green | Thomas Arlene
4 Red | Sarah Kynan
4/5 Purple | Lucy Dev
5 Blue | Ameesha Tiffany
5 Green | Chloe Baily
5 Red | Cadence Manuja
6 Blue | Jayda Elaine
6 Green | Dhruv Abi
6 Red | Liam Alicia

Please remember that we have many students in our school with allergies. Therefore, please avoid any food with traces of nuts and clearly label your cakes if they contain the following: eggs, wheat or any gluten.

We look forward to selling an array of toffees, cakes, jellies, slices and other sweet treats next week.

High School Selective Testing:
Selective High School Placement Tests will be held on Thursday the 12th of March 2015. For Year 6 students who wish to apply to sit the Selective High School test, you must apply online. The following are some key dates for you to be aware of:
- **Thursday 26 February 2015** - Test Centre advice
- **Thursday 12 March 2015** - Selective High School Placement Test
- **Early July 2015** - Outcome advice

The following link can be used for further information regarding this process: [http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/schoolsweb/learning/k_6assessments/ss/ss_apppackage.pdf](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/schoolsweb/learning/k_6assessments/ss/ss_apppackage.pdf)

Go to the Application link at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement) and read the instructions carefully. You will register to receive a password and then log in to complete the application and submit it. You will receive a printout of your application with your child’s student number. You must quote this number whenever you make enquiries about your application. If you find you have made a mistake, email the unit to change any information. Do not apply twice for the same student.

Riley Cake Stall:
On Wednesday 25th February, Riley will be hosting their CAKE STALL for our students. At our cake stall this term, we will be raising funds for musical instruments in our school.

Just a friendly reminder...when there is a ‘sports house’ cake stall, we ask that students bring in something to sell at the cake stall if they are in that ‘sports house’. So, Riley students, it’s your turn!!!

Also, we encourage students from ‘other’ sports houses to contribute to our cake stalls. Students get house points for each ‘special treat’ they bring for the cake stall.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR P&C:

Market Day Postponed:
The Parklea Public School Market Day is postponed and is to be run in Term 2. The new date for the Market Day is to be advised.

Thank you.

Judith Durham
(2015 P&C Fundraising Coordinator)
Parklea Public School Reporting Survey
(for Parents/Carers with students at Parklea Public School)
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ppsreportcommunity
ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL/D)

PARENT INFORMATION MORNING TEA

We are holding an information session and morning tea especially for parents who come from non-English speaking backgrounds. Please come along and find out about schooling in NSW and meet the specialist teachers who may support your children in English.

Toddlers welcome. We hope to see you there.

WHERE: SCHOOL STAFFROOM

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY at 9.15am

For catering purposes, could you please return the note below to Mrs Temby, Mrs Pena or Mrs Hagar.

Please return this slip directly to Mrs Temby, Mrs Pena or Mrs Hagar

I/We __________________________ (name/s) would like to attend the Information Morning Tea on Wednesday 25 February, 2015 at 9.15am in the school staffroom.

My child's name is __________________

Class: __________
**Sustainability Education at Parklea Public School 2015**

Sustainability, one of three key cross-curricula priorities of the Australian Curriculum enabled Parklea’s learning community to broaden what was the delineation of Environmental Education, of an extra-curricula focus. It also encapsulated the essence of the descriptor of ACARA which states “Sustainability education is futures-oriented, focusing on protecting environments and creating a more ecologically and socially just world through informed action.” Parklea Public School continues to be recognised as best practise in delivering a cross-curricula approach to Sustainability Education for students, staff and beyond the school gate.

Management of Sustainability Education consists of the following areas:

- Curriculum
- Management of resources – water, air, energy, waste
- Management of school grounds
- Sustainability

**How can families help? Swap it!!**

**IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM**
- Clean Up Schools Day 27 February
- Wrapper Free Wednesday re-launch TBA
- Crunch n Sip Program launch TBA (replacing fruit break)
- Environment Leaders Training workshop TBA

We encourage students to **reduce** the amount of packaging brought into the school by **swapping** to **WASTE FREE LUNCHBOXES**

**Swap SCREEN TIME for GREEN TIME**

**FRESH PRODUCE STALL COMING SOON**
Please support our ongoing commitment to environmental education initiatives @ Parklea when our Environment Leaders provide fresh vegetables and herbs from the schools garden for families
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Below is a note sent to us from Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School regarding their Gifted and Talented Academic Program in 2016. If you are interested in enquiring about this program or applying for your child in 2016, please read the information below and contact the high school.

Kind Regards,
Year 6 Teachers
February 2015

Dear Parent/Caregiver

Over the past several years Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School has been implementing a Gifted and Talented Academic Program, the entry to which has become extremely competitive.

Selection into this academic program is based on an entrance examination. This year, for the 2016 placement, we will be conducting a Higher Ability Selection Test (HAST). Please note that this program is for selection to the academic program, rather than the Creative and Performing Arts stream. However, the two streams are not necessarily mutually exclusive. The cost to parents for this examination is $65.00 payable on application (non-refundable).

Testing will occur on Thursday 26th March 2015 from 9.00am to 12.00pm at Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School in the school hall. There will be four (3) tests which will include:

- Reading Comprehension 45 minutes
- Mathematical Reasoning 40 minutes
- Abstract Reasoning 30 minutes

There will be a short break between tests 2 and 3.

Candidates who arrive late for the first test will be admitted only at the discretion of the supervisor, and additional time will not be allowed.

Parents who are interested in applying for a placement in this class should in the first instance contact the school for further details and ask to speak to Michelle Vallejo or the Principal, Narelle Vazquez or the Head Teacher, Gifted and Talented, Katarina Parry.

Yours faithfully
K Parry
Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator
Wednesday 4th March

Go Crazy With Fluro Clothes & Accessories !!!

Infants - 5.00 to 6.00pm $4
Primary - 6.30 to 8.00pm $5
DISCO ONLY

Tickets on sale Mon 2nd Tues 3rd & Wed 4th from 8.30am near the flag poles.

Glow Product for sale on the night.

Thank you for your support!

Please contact Lisa on 0414 464 873 if you can help mark names off or sell glow products on the night.
Dear Business owners,

At present in the cold of winter and during the heat of summer, the children at Parklea Public School are, on many occasions, unable to utilise the schools hall as there is no adequate heating or cooling.

How can you and your business help?

Parklea Public School, along with the support of our school’s P&C association, is currently seeking sponsors from the local community to enable the school to purchase air conditioning for the school hall.

The school is offering four (4) levels of sponsorship from Bronze at $100 through to Platinum sponsorship at $1000 or more.

What can the school offer you in return?

Sponsorship provides advertising to your business through our extensive family/community network in the following ways up until 30th June 2015.

Bronze sponsorship $100
- 1 small business logo (size half business card) in our school’s eNewsletters;
- Your business logo appears in the bronze sponsor section of the school website;
- Bronze Certificate of Appreciation to display for your business.

Silver sponsorship $250
- 1 business card size ad in our schools eNewsletters;
- Your business logo appears in the silver sponsor section of the school website;
- Flyer distribution once a semester;
- Silver Certificate of Appreciation to display for your business.

Gold sponsorship $500
- A6/quarter page ad in our school’s eNewsletters;
- Your business logo appears in the gold sponsor section of the school website;
- Flyer distribution once a term
- Gold Certificate of Appreciation to display for your business.

Platinum sponsorship $1000+
- A5/half page ad in our school’s eNewsletters;
- Your business logo appears in the platinum sponsor section of the school website;
- Flyer distribution twice a term;
- Platinum Certificate of Appreciation to display for your business;
- Exclusive invitation for advertising at school functions (e.g. Performance nights, discos, carols, etc.)

Note: Your sponsorship level and entitlements will be determined by the financial contribution you provide to the school.

How do you become a sponsor?

Businesses that would like to sponsor our school are encouraged to send an EOI email addressed to Mr Scott Fisk (R/Deputy Principal) via our school’s email address as shown below:

parklea-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Due to the setup of our school’s new finance system, donations can only be made by cheque written to Parklea Public School. (Please be sure the cheque is clearly identifiable with your business name).

We thank you in advance for your consideration and look forward to building a stronger community together.

For further information please contact;

Scott Fisk, R/Deputy Principal

Parklea Public School needs your help!
Now is your chance to support the community that supports you.
Become a sponsor today!
Thank you to all our **Bronze Sponsors** for their continued support!!!

Become a **Bronze Sponsor** and your business logo could be here!!!

Become a **Bronze Sponsor** and your business logo could be here!!!

Become a **Bronze Sponsor** and your business logo could be here!!!

Become a **Bronze Sponsor** and your business logo could be here!!!

Become a **Bronze Sponsor** and your business logo could be here!!!
Thank you to all our **Silver Sponsors** for their continued support!!!

Become a **Silver Sponsor** and your business card could appear here!!!

Become a **Silver Sponsor** and your business card could appear here!!!

Become a **Silver Sponsor** and your business card could appear here!!!

Become a **Silver Sponsor** and your business card could appear here!!!
Become a Gold Sponsor and your business could advertise here!!!

Become a Gold Sponsor and your business could advertise here!!!

Become a Gold Sponsor and your business could advertise here!!!

Become a Gold Sponsor and your business could advertise here!!!
Do you want to be in control of your Super? We can show you how!

City Mutual Group... The SMSF experts.

Contact Greg on: PH: 1300 723 599

Become a Platinum Sponsor and your business could advertise here!!!