PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

It’s hard to believe it’s the last newsletter of the year! It has been a terrific year for our school. I have had such pleasure watching our young people grow a bit taller and experience another year of primary school.

Congratulations to students who were recognised for their efforts and achievements yesterday during the Presentation Assemblies. It has been lovely to see so many parents here at school helping to celebrate.

I will miss seeing the smiles of our 2014 Year Six students and hope they enjoy Year 7 and everything that high school has to offer them.

Reports
Your child’s end of year school report will be coming home on Thursday. Teachers have spent a great deal of time assessing your child’s learning and have written reports that will help families see what their child can do and what they can work on next to improve.

As you know we don’t rank students against each other however, we do measure them against outcomes that are expected to be reached at the end of each year.

At our school we use a 5 point scale. Basic, Limited, Sound, High and Outstanding. If your child receives a ‘Sound’ result, for an area such as English, that means they are achieving at the expected level - which is great. So basically all children learning at the expected rate should be receiving ‘Sound’ on their report. If your child is higher or lower the comment should give you more information.

If you have any questions about the report or have any concerns about your child’s progress please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher.

Changes for 2015?
Next year we will welcome some new families and of course say farewell to some families as well. If your child will be absent during the first few days of 2015 or if your family is leaving the school please complete the slip at the back of the newsletter.

This will help us organise our class numbers and teachers easily which means the start of the school year can be smooth for students. Thank you to families who have already informed us of any changes.

School Uniform
As you are replenishing your child’s uniforms for the new school year can I remind families to purchase black shoes (with black laces) as in the Uniform Policy. If you are looking for velcro shoes, it’s best to buy them early (before the back to school promotions) as they sell out very quickly.
We are discouraging fluro laces in 2015. The uniform is a smart looking one when worn correctly and we would like to encourage all students to be wearing full school uniform every day. If you require any assistance with this please feel free to contact the office.

**Parent Helpers**

Our parent helper morning tea was last week and it was lovely. If you were unable to make the morning tea, please know that your help is appreciated even if you were only at school on a few occasions. It has been proven time and time again that when families are involved in their child’s education and are supportive of the school, children tend to be happier at school and learn more, so it’s lovely for us and lovely for them too!

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank our teachers for their wonderful work in 2014 and to acknowledge their skills and efforts in an increasingly challenging time in education. Every day teachers make a difference as they inspire and engage students to learn and succeed. There are many challenges and rewards in engaging and supporting students. Teachers today require a combination of valued skills, including quality teaching, management, collaboration, insight, creativity and understanding.

I want to thank and pay tribute to the amazing teachers in our school – and the wonderful staff who support them in their work. I extend my respect and appreciation to you all.

I am looking forward to an exciting and successful year ahead, and to continuing our work to improve the learning and life outcomes for every student in our care.

I wish all of our staff, students and families a wonderful Christmas, a very happy New Year and a restful and enjoyable vacation.

Kerrie Davis
Principal

**THANK YOU TO SOUTHLANDS SHOPPING CENTRE**

The school would like to thank our local businesses for supporting us with the 2014 Community Rewards Prize.

We received a cheque for $462.69 for the community fundraising that took place this year and we extend our thanks to Raine & Horne and The Management Centre of Southlands Shopping Centre for their support.

**EXEMPTIONS FOR STUDENT ABSENCES**

Beginning 2015 students who are on family holidays during the school terms are no longer eligible for an exemption to cover the absences. The absences will be marked as leave and not exempt. It is preferable that holidays be taken during school vacation breaks to maintain consistency of your child’s learning at school.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Last Wednesday, 3 December, was the International Day of People with Disabilities. The Penrith South Public School calendar of events could not fit anything onto that day due to the many activities we already had planned.

This Wednesday, December 10, 2014 students from the Support Unit will be visiting mainstream classrooms to join in a fun activity in the middle session. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness and foster friendships between students.

Thankyou teachers and students K-6 for hosting this event.
Support Unit AP
SHARE THE JOY – TOYS ‘N TUCKER

Thank you to all the families who contributed so generously to this year’s Toys ‘n Tucker collection. A great variety of toys have been donated and these will delight many children on Christmas Day.

Anglicare will make up hampers from the food items we have collected. Thank you for joining us in “Sharing the Joy.”

Merry Christmas to you and your family,
Liz Johnson
Teacher Organiser

SUPERVISORS AWARDS

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<th>PLATINUM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kai Reid</td>
<td>Charlee Brunner</td>
<td>Chad Arancon</td>
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<td>Amelia Sutton</td>
<td>Syenna Thomas</td>
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<td>Alyra Williams</td>
<td>Madison Paris</td>
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<td>Skylah Riawai-Couch</td>
<td>Chelsea Sutton</td>
<td>Jesse Warner</td>
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<td>William Brackenhofer</td>
<td>Samuel Brett</td>
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<td>Mia Brown</td>
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<td>Joshua Papsdorf</td>
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<td>Year 1</td>
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<td>Taylor Grady</td>
<td>Amy Sciberras-Lewis</td>
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<td>Indianna Hemmett</td>
<td>Rayden Sheldrick</td>
<td>Mico Mo</td>
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<td>Millie Banham-Smith</td>
<td>Snehin Talusani</td>
<td>Emily Randell</td>
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<td>Isabelle Papsdorf</td>
<td>Reece McGuire</td>
<td>Laya Mathew</td>
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<td>Dylan Ryan</td>
<td>Riley Soutter</td>
<td>Leanne Seng</td>
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<td>Emily Duggan</td>
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<td>Daniel Small</td>
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<td>Taila Ward</td>
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<td>Tamana Atmar</td>
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2015 CAPTAINS AND COUNCILLORS

We would like to congratulate the following students who were elected Captains and Councillors for 2015 and wish them well in their responsibilities to the school.

Girls Captain        Jordan Pilcher

Boys Captain – Jesse Warner

Councillors:
Zachary Shrimpton
Joshua Papsdorf
Sara Baburi
Emily Grima

Congratulations to the families and the students and all the best for Christmas.

Greg Waddell
Stage 3 Assistant Principal

SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN

Book your children into one of our fun-filled camp next school holidays. Your children will be kept busy and active while learning new skills and making new friends. You’ll have peace of mind knowing your children are safe and well looked after.

For details, visit Sport and Recreation website www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps/

FOR THE LOVE OF SCIENCE

Science is a method of engaging with, and trying to understand, the world. Professor Tim Flannery says if a child is interested in pursuing science, encourage them to develop persistence and humility – the idea that they won’t always be right.


PLEASURES OF FREE PLAY

Allowing free time for children to play on their own, making up games and activities, can help kids to be comfortable in their own company, teach them how to cope with boredom and, importantly, foster their imagination.

**Helmet and safety on wheels**

Your child must wear a helmet when riding a bike in any public place – it’s the law

Your child’s helmet must comply with the Australian and New Zealand Standards. It must be securely fitted and fastened on their head.

Check that your child wears a bicycle helmet whenever playing or riding on wheels – bikes, foot scooters, rollerskates, skateboards or rollerblades. The helmet should be firmly buckled so it fits without wobbling or slipping to the sides. It must protect the forehead.

Although children quickly learn to pedal, steer and brake, they are not ready to cycle near traffic or on the road.

Children under 12 and adult riders accompanying and supervising them may ride on the footpath, unless there are signs specifically prohibiting cycling.

**IMPORTANT ROAD SAFETY REMINDER FOR PARENTS AND CARERS THESE HOLIDAYS**

As the school holidays approach, it is important to remember when walking near roads, on footpaths, near driveways and in car parks always:

- **hold your child’s hand.** Until they are at least 8 years old children need to hold an adult's hand. Until they at least 10, children should be closely supervised by an adult and hold hands when crossing the road.

- **talk to your child about road safety.** Talk about how to be safe when near roads. Be a good role model.

- **point out road safety dangers and differences** in new environments. This is especially important when on holidays in different surroundings. Roads, footpaths and pedestrian may look different in holiday areas.

The best way to keep your child safe on or near the road is to hold their hand.

Talk with your child daily about road safety.

Remind other adults and carers about this too.

You can find out more at Transport for NSW.

Have a safe holiday break!
SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2015

For the School Term dates for 2015 please go to the NSW Department of Education and Communities website: NSW Government Schools Term Dates.

Please Note: School Development Days (pupil free days) occur at the beginning of Terms 1, 2 and 3 and the last two days of the school year. Check with your school, as schools may vary some of these dates.

PENRITH CITY LIBRARY
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The summer reading club: Adventure will run from Monday 15 December 2014 to Saturday 31 January 2015. There will also be a mime and magic show on Wednesday 14 January 2015; an African Drumming Workshop at St Clair Library on Saturday 17 January 2015 and a Wacky Science club.

For more dates, times and events please get your tickets from Monday 15 December 2014. Tickets sell quickly so be quick to avoid disappointment. Workshops are supervised by professional performers and library staff. All accompanying adults can attend our workshops for free. Family shows are $5 per person and every adult and child attending must have a ticket.

Please see the community noticeboard for more events. Contact Barjinder on 4732 7890 or bkaur@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au to book your place.

TERM 4, 2014 CALENDAR

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td>10 December</td>
<td>11 December</td>
<td>12 December Year 6 Farewell Dinner at Penrith Golf Club 6.15pm for 6.30pm Start – Finish 9.00pm</td>
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<td>NEWSLETTER</td>
<td>Christmas Concert 9.30am in the hall</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>Reports go home</td>
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Year 1 – 6 students resume school on Wednesday January 28, 2015
SMOKE-FREE WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Smoking is prohibited on all school premises and in administrative areas. This Act has been in place since July 1988. The Act also requires certain outdoor areas to be smoke-free including within 10 metres from children’s playgrounds, public swimming pool complexes, public transport stops and stations, spectator areas of sports grounds and within 4 metres from an entrance used by pedestrians to get into or out of a building. Pedestrian’s access points may include areas such as school gates and entrances where there is limited opportunity for people to avoid second hand tobacco smoke.

P&C MESSAGE

Our Christmas raffle will now be drawn on Friday December 12, 2014 during the morning assembly under the cola in front of the hall. Unfortunately we were unable to hold it on the schedule day due to the Presentation Assembly being held on Monday December 8, 2014.

The P&C Committee and members are having a small Christmas party in Room 24 at 9.00am Monday December 15, 2014. Please join us if you can, everyone is welcome.

We have been able to fulfill the teacher’s wish list due to your fabulous support with our Christmas raffle. We are planning to present these items to Ms Davis at the Christmas gathering on Monday December 15, 2014.

We would like to wish all of our beautiful students and their families the very best for the festive season and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2015.

With thanks
P&C Committee

SCHOOL UPDATE

If you know your child will be absent during the first few days of the 2015 school year, please complete the details below. This information will assist the school for next year.

Name of your child:_______________________

Scholastic Year in 2015: _______

Reason: ______________________________________________________________________________

Leaving the school or date returning: _______________________________________

Parent signature:____________________
Dear PENRITH SOUTH OSHClub Parents,

We have been informed of an upcoming Pupil Free Day and are hopeful that this will run, however, this is dependent on numbers.

WHEN / WHAT / HOW:

Date: Thursday 18\textsuperscript{th} and Friday 19\textsuperscript{th} December 2014.

Please book prior to Friday 12\textsuperscript{th} December 2014.

Times: 7.00am to 6:00pm

Cost: $13.56 - $45.00 per child (Not including 50\% tax rebate)

How to book: Please log in to your account online at www.oshclub.com.au and book in under the aftercare bookings tab.

What happens: Loads of fun for all ages including art/craft, games, sports, drama, board games and fun with friends.

What to bring: Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Also wear/provide appropriate clothing including hats.

Please note: we require a minimum of 15 children to run the day, parents will be notified by end of business Friday 12\textsuperscript{th} December 2014 if the day will proceed.

Further Important Information for this Day:

Once you have booked there are no refunds for cancellations.

- A $10 late booking fee applies for any casual attendances on the day.
- All regular Before and After Care bookings have been removed.

If you have an account query, need help logging into your account or no longer wish to receive email please contact your account manager Maria on the information below

Thank you,

Maria Manolidis | Account Manager
Suite 405, 46 Kippax Street, Surry Hills. NSW. 2010
P: 02 8355 5300
F: 02 8355 5301
E: maria@oshclub.com.au
W: www.oshclub.com.au

CHILD CARE REBATE (CCR)

Most families are eligible for the 50\% rebate of all out of pocket expenses for attending OSHClub programs. Many families are getting half their fees back as an Immediate discount when they ask for their rebate to be applied to their account. Please note the CCR is not means tested.

Changes to the CCR payment method can be made online at www.humanservices.gov.au or alternatively call 13 61 50, give your Customer Reference Number (CRN), enter your PIN (if you have one) then say ‘Child Care Rebate Options’ and follow the prompts.

Ask for your Child Care Rebate to be paid ‘directly’ to OSHClub On your behalf as a fee reduction.