PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families and hope that you enjoy your time as part of our school community.

On Monday we welcomed 72 new kindergarten students to their very first day of ‘big school’. They have settled in very well and are already making friends and learning new routines. We now have 4 Kindergarten classes and our team of Kindy teachers are pleased with how settled the group are, which is a credit to the families and teachers involved in the transition process last year.

We also have a number of other new students to welcome; Mathew, Aleah, Rebekah, Kiah, Khushboo, Matilda, Mathew, Rhys, Colby, Kyan, Sandra, Gemma, Gemah, Chayne, Jean and Charles. I hope you make friends quickly and feel happy, safe and ready to learn.

I must congratulate all our children for getting settled into routines very quickly. The teachers have been impressed with the excellent start the students have made.

Staff Members
I would like to introduce two new staff members who are joining our outstanding teaching team for 2015 -Mrs Gabrielle McKane K.4 and Mr Paul Jones 3/4.6.

Miss Danielle Cropley has had a name change after her exciting wedding day during the holidays. She is now called Mrs Olford and is teaching students in class 1.11.

I am so happy to announce Miss Belinda Smith and Miss Cassie Muller have gained permanent positions here at our school. These two teachers were successful in a lengthy interview process amongst a highly competitive field of teachers.

As our school is growing we have needed to organise a new classroom during the Christmas holidays. Room 6 which was a double room has now been divided into two classrooms (Room 5 and Room 6). Our new room looks terrific and will have a brand new interactive white board installed over the next week or so.

Penrith South Official Facebook Page
We are very pleased to announce that our school now has an official Facebook page! A note with detailed information will be coming home this week. This official page will complement our newsletter, website and PSPS parents Facebook
page. Hopefully you will all have easy access to a wealth of information and answers to questions at your fingertips.

To ‘Like’ us we can be found at - Penrith South Public School in the search bar on Facebook.

Meet the Teacher:
Parents will have a chance to ‘Meet the Teacher’ next week and see your child’s classroom. We have spread the afternoons across the week to help families with more than one child at the school. There will be a note coming home with information today or tomorrow.

We will also hold Parent Teacher Interviews during the last week of the term so you can have a more detailed talk with the class teacher about your child and his/her learning.

New School Vision
This year we begin working under our new school vision which is as follows:

Together we will provide a quality 21st century education developing confident and creative individuals who strive to achieve their personal best. Our dedicated teaching team will lead all students to take ownership of their learning and become active, independent citizens engaging in learning as a life long journey.

To develop a school vision takes a lot of time and conversation to ensure we capture what is important for our students at this time. As you can see, we are preparing your children for a successful future and aim to equip them with the skills and knowledge they will need once they leave primary school and beyond. It takes a whole school community to achieve this vision and we are looking forward to working together with staff, families and students to do the best we can for our Penrith South children.

Twilight Swimming Carnival
Our carnival will be held at Penrith Pool on Monday, 16th February. Children who can confidently swim 50 metres and who turn 8 or older this year are able to compete. We are looking forward to a terrific evening.

Captains and Councillors
We will have a badging ceremony on Thursday 12th February for our school leaders for 2015. This is a prestigious occasion where we recognise our leaders and explain their responsibilities for the year. Congratulations to each of these future leaders.

Attendance:
Regular school attendance is vitally important for students. There is research that clearly shows that students who have higher attendance rates learn more at school. We all want our children to learn as much as possible so they are ready for their future. Great school attendance also helps children build strong friendships as they get to play together every day.

Our school and regional target for attendance is 94% which means no more than one day off in 10 school days, more than that will have your child fall below the expected rate. Of course, sickness may mean that a student has several days off in a row but once they are well again, they should be at school every day for the rest of the term.

School exemptions used to be granted for family holidays however in 2015, this is no longer a valid reason for school exemptions so I strongly encourage you to take family holidays during the school holiday periods.

If you have an issue with attendance or would like some advice or support with this area please don’t hesitate to make an appointment to speak with your child’s teacher. We are happy to work together to keep everyone’s attendance as high as possible.

Kerrie Davis
Principal
### Important Dates to Remember 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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| 2    | 2 February  
Kindergarten start School  
2015 Twilight Swimming Carnival Note sent home | 3 February  
9 February  
School scripture starts In school  
Stage 1: Meet the Teacher 4pm | 4 February  
10 February  
11 February  
**Event Form** for Twilight Swimming Carnival last day for return to PIP  
NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED  
Early Stage 1: Meet the Teacher 4pm  
K-6 AFL Clinic – bring joggers | 5 February  
12 February  
Stage 2: Meet the Teacher 4pm  
Stage 3: Meet the Teacher 5pm | 6 February  
13 February  
Book Club last payment due back today into PIP  
PSSA Summer Starts |
| 3    | 16 February  
**Twilight Swimming Carnival**  
7pm – 9pm  
P&C Meeting and Clothing Pool, Room 24 | 17 February  
18 February  
**Newsletter** | 19 February  
20 February  
**Newsletter** | 20 February  |
| 4    | 23 February  
24 February  
25 February  
K-2 Assembly 10.30am – 11.00am in the hall | 26 February  | 27 February | 20 March |
| 5    | 2 March  
3 March  
4 March  
**Newsletter** | 5 March  
6 March | | |
| 6    | 9 March  
10 March  
11 March  
13 March  
K-2 Assembly 10.30am to 11am in the hall | 12 March  
14 March  
**Newsletter** | 15 March  
16 March  
17 March  
18 March  
19 March  
20 March  
21 March  
22 March  
23 March  
24 March  
25 March  
26 March  
27 March  
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21 March  
22 March  
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24 March  
25 March  
26 March  
27 March  
K-2 Assembly 10.30am to 11.00am in the hall | 20 March  |
| 7    | 16 March  
17 March  
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| 8    | 23 March  
24 March  
25 March  
26 March  
27 March  
K-2 Assembly 10.30am to 11.00am in the hall | 26 March  
27 March  | 28 March  | 29 March  |
| 9    | 30 March  
31 March  
1 April  
**Newsletter** | 2 April  
3 April  
**Good Friday** | 4 April  | 5 April |
| 10   |  |  |  |  |  |
BOOK CLUB

At the beginning of each term, every student will receive brochures from the Scholastic Book Club. These brochures will be distributed to students this week.

The distribution is as follows:

- Wombat and Busy Bee to Kindergarten and the Support Classes
- Wombat and Lucky to Years 1 and 2.
- Lucky and Arrow to Years 3 and 4.
- Arrow and Star to Years 5 and 6.
- All students receive the Extra brochures or any other specials brochure.

Spare supplies of these brochures are available in the Front Office.

Book Club is a fabulous and affordable way to encourage reading as well as shop for birthdays and Christmas. Our school benefits by accruing points which are used to purchase resources for the library and classrooms.

When the order is filled by Scholastic, items are given directly to students to take home. Alternatively, if the order is a surprise or parents would rather collect the item, we ask that you please indicate this clearly on the order form and advise a contact number. We will then call you when the order is available at the Front Office for collection.

For all of this to run smoothly we ask that:

- order forms must be completed neatly with full name of student (no initials) and class. In the case of surprise gifts this would be the parents name, leaving class blank and a daytime contact phone number.
- payment by cash must be the exact amount and cheques made payable to Scholastic Australia.
- for online and credit card payments please complete the payment section on the order form. Please note the online payment is made directly to Scholastic and not the school’s online payment.
- order forms, together with the exact payment to be placed in an envelope with the student’s name and class to be put in PIP (paying in point) in the Front Office by the due date.

Orders must be returned by the due date. Late orders cannot be accepted due to processing deadlines. Book Club for this term is due back by Friday February 13th, 2015.

Book Club Organiser

PSSA TRIALS

Parents, of Years 3 to 6 will note on the calendar that PSSA trials will be held at school this Thursday February 5th and Friday February 6th. Please send these students only in sport uniform for both days.

Thank you
Rachel Brett
Sport Organiser
YEAR 6 STUDENTS

Parent of Year 6 students

Urgent!

When filling out enrolment applications for High School for 2016 into Year 7 for your child, PLEASE check that Penrith South Public School has your correct address as this will impact on your child’s High School application.

Greg Waddell
Stage 3 AP

P&C NEWS

Welcome back to the new school year. We wish all our students a wonderful year for 2015!

The first P&C meeting will be held on Monday February 16, 2015 at 9.15am in room 24. We would like to discuss fundraising goals for the year and how they will take place.

Please remember you do not have to be a P&C member to attend the meetings.

Clothing Pool – This will be held on Monday February 16, 2015 between 8.45am to 9.15am in room 24. If wish to purchase any used school uniform members of the P&C will be there to help and we would also ask if you would like to donate any clothing, please take it to the front office. Thank you to those parents who have donated much needed uniform to our families.

Election Date – The NSW State Election will be held on Saturday March 28, 2015. The P&C are holding a BBQ on this day and are looking for any volunteers to help on the day even if you can just spare an hour we would appreciate your assistance. Times will be advised. The cooking process usually starts at 8.00am and finish is around 4.00pm.

Uniform Committee – The P&C is currently organising a new school uniform committee and a letter with more information will be sent home shortly.

Agenda for the meeting:

- Clothing pool prices
- Uniform committee
- Fundraising – approval for funding for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day
- Stationery order
- Election day BBQ

Thank you
P&C Committee
HEAD LICE

Please ensure that you check your child’s hair thoroughly on a regular basis, especially coming into the colder months. We have had cases of head lice reported at school and in the district. It is only by parents being vigilant in the checking of their child’s hair that we can control this problem and we ask for your co-operation in this matter.

Head Lice Spread and Treatment Tips

It’s that time of the year again, when head lice are once again on the prowl.

Head Lice Spread:
- Regularly check your children’s hair.
- Teach older children to check their own hair.
- Tie back and braid long hair.
- Keep a fine tooth head lice comb in the bathroom.

Just remember, there is no single solution to stop head lice infestations, only persistence.

Head Lice Treatment:
Conditioner stuns head lice! The stunning effect seems to last about 20 minutes. After this time most lice are active again.

Conditioner also makes it hard for the lice to grip the hair shafts. Lice hold onto hairs with their six claws, and when they are alive, they are usually not removed by the typical plastic fine tooth comb. If the hair is wet, or, better still, coated with conditioner, lice seem unable to hold on as strongly as on dry hair. Conditioner may also suffocate lice. Use conditioner on hair to increase the rate of detection. Applying conditioner to dry hair is best, but it will work on wet hair also.

White hair conditioner has been recommended to be used for treatment.

- Apply conditioner to dry hair aiming to cover each hair from root to tip with a layer of conditioner.
- Detangle the hair using an ordinary comb.
- Immediately comb the hair with a fine tooth comb (preferably with cylindrical metal teeth – NOT FLAT TEETH). Plastic nit combs are good for removing adult head lice but not necessarily the eggs.
- Wipe the conditioner off the fine tooth comb onto a tissue and look for lice and eggs.
- Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least 5 times.

For more information on head lice treatment visit:
We sometimes have difficulty in contacting parents/caregivers in an emergency. If you have changed any of your contact details, please complete the notice below and return it to the school in order that we can update our records. Thank you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change of Contact Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student’s Name: ___________________________ Class: ___________________________</td>
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<td>Home address: ________________________________________________________________</td>
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<tr>
<th>PARENT/CAREGIVER 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name: __________________________________________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home phone no: ___________________________ Work no: ___________________________</td>
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<td>Home phone no: ___________________________ Work no: ___________________________</td>
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<td>Mobile no: ___________________________</td>
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Two Emergency Contacts
Other than parent/caregiver

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<tr>
<th>EMERGENCY CONTACT 1:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: __________________________________________</td>
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<td>Relationship to student: ___________________________</td>
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<td>Home phone no: ___________________________ Work no: ___________________________</td>
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_________________________________          _____/_____/_____
Signature of Parent/Caregiver      Date

Office Use Only:
Records amended by: ___________________________      _____/_____/_____