



PEATS RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

1231 Peats Ridge Road Peats Ridge 2250
Ph: 4373 1149 Fax: 4373 1076
Email: peatsridge-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

24th July, 2018
Week 1 Term 3

www.peatsridge-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

DIARY DATES

TERM 3

Every Monday: Newsletter
Every Tuesday: Scripture
Every Friday: Sport

24 July

Kids in the Kitchen
CCC Bookmobile

25 July

Mariners visit

26 July

Kids in the Kitchen

27 July

Assembly
Pie Day

30 July

School Photos

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear students and families,

Welcome to Term 3! I hope everyone had a lovely break, enjoyed some lazy, late sleep-in, jimmy-jam mornings then headed outside to relish the beautiful, crisp winter weather.

Week 10 was certainly busy with lots of visitors and enquiries (happy to report, three were regarding new enrolments). Our wonderful CWA ladies held a special meeting in the hall, the assets manager, security guard, cleaning supervisor and signage contractor all popped by in preparation for the Share Our Space holiday program, the School Counsellor, Ms Leah Varley, spent a day with us and Mr Jamie Cartner, Kariong Mountain HS' Head Teacher Science, spoke with Stage 3 to outline the transition program this term. The pace doesn't look like dropping off anytime soon as we have loads of wonderful things coming up...

P&C Meeting



It was raised at the last P&C meeting that other than the *Diary Dates* column in the newsletter, parents aren't aware of what's coming up or when and that it would certainly help with P&C event planning to publish a school calendar. The best way to do this is something the staff have been

deliberating for over a year. I update our staff *Peats Planner* every Sunday night and know only too well how frequently dates and times for events change, get postponed or even cancelled. A term calendar stuck on the fridge would soon be obsolete and create problems. We've decided the most manageable and reliable method is to have an online calendar on our school website and we hope to trial it soon. We welcome any feedback!

Mrs Davis explained our Kindy Transition program in detail and three upcoming fundraisers were organised: a BBQ for the combined small schools Interrelate evening on Tuesday 31st July, the canteen menu for our annual combined NAIDOC celebrations on Friday 3rd Aug and Bunnings BBQ on Sat 25th Aug. All helping hands welcome!

Thanks again Lauren, for the delicious end-of-term canteen cupcakes and Milo.

Auditor's Report

In place of our usual professional learning session Tuesday afternoon Week 10, staff listened to the Auditor, Mr Tony Smith, present his final report. It's recommended that large schools be audited annually,



PBL VALUE OF THE WEEK

Excellence -
*Be ready to learn
with all your
equipment*

and small schools every two years. We hadn't been audited in five years and knew that some areas needed work, even after quite a few weekend sessions and late nights. Our goal is to become a lighthouse school of best practice. It's taking considerable time, energy and resources at the moment to get new policies and processes in place but we're already reaping the rewards.

Out of the ten modules assessed, three were flagged for improvement:

Student Attendance- staff must follow up all cases of unexplained partial day absences (we have a significant number of late arrivals most mornings), each term the school community needs to be informed of the importance of school attendance requirements on the website and in newsletters and staff need a formal process to monitor and analyse attendance patterns.

Work, Health and Safety- staff must have risk management plans in place to address allergens in the workplace (in addition to specific ones identified for students)

Assets and Equipment- a stocktake of all equipment has not been completed and some purchases have not been recorded on the equipment register since transition to the new SAP finance system.

The Director, Ros McCallan-Jamieson, is meeting with me in Week 2 to review the steps we are taking to update and improve the school's financial and administrative operations. Our next audit should be much easier!

Welcome to Team Peats, Mrs Riley!

Poor Mrs Riley, our relieving School Administration Manager (SAM), carried the brunt of the audit workload and we are indebted to her dedication and professionalism for how organised and efficient we've become. The strongroom, sick bay, staffroom and office have never looked so good and *everything* now has a label. On the last Wednesday of term, I convened a panel for the SAM position with Mrs Karen McDonald (SAM at Central Mangrove PS) and Mr Neil Hocking (community representative from Rural Fire Service). We congratulate Mrs Jessica Riley on being the successful applicant and look forward to working together to make Peats the best little school in the state! Karen and Neil greatly appreciated their thank-you basket of school oranges, lemons and eggs and a zucchini and capsicum care of Makayla and Bianca's mum, Marika (Tony the auditor loved his too).

Boral Partnership



When I arrived early the morning before the audit began, I was surprised to find a stranger in a hi-vis vest leaving our grounds carrying a canister. The man introduced himself as Ken, a long-time Boral employee in charge of dust monitoring on our site and more interestingly, Don Stuve's son-in-law. Having just finished compiling the school photo albums ready for the refurbished foyer, I knew that Don was Peats Principal from 1974~83 and I was pleased to hear that he's in good health and still living on the coast. Ken also mentioned that Boral had a new Quarry Manager, Mr Geoff Stephens, and two days later, Mr Randall and I had the pleasure of meeting him. Boral has always been a strong supporter of the school, laying the blue metal and road base for our turning circle and paths, and last year, donating \$1000 on behalf of the school towards the Mangrove Mountain Memorial Club's footgolf fundraising day. After seeing a few potholes, Geoff kindly offered to grade and resurface our road and paths and said just to ring if there's anything else where they may be of assistance. What a lovely neighbour!

'Share Our Space' Grant

As part of the Community Use of School Facilities Policy, School Infrastructure NSW is rolling out the Share Our Space program to open school playgrounds, ovals and sports courts for general use over school holiday periods. This is an excellent opportunity to provide the local community with more access to play areas and green space that would otherwise be closed over breaks. Luckily for us, Peats was evaluated as suitable to take part and beginning with the recent winter holiday, a full-time security guard and cleaner visited our school daily to safeguard against theft and vandalism. Although only a few families took advantage of the offer, we hope it will catch on as it's sad to see our school facilities remaining dormant and deserted for weeks on end and students will benefit from a \$5000 bursary. Please consider using our beautiful school grounds in

the holidays when you next want to walk the dog, kick a few goals, shoot a few hoops, ride trikes, bikes and scooters, get the kids to let off steam on the play equipment or practice a few golf putts.

Spelling Bee Nail-biter!

As usual, our annual Spelling Bee didn't lack excitement.

After three rounds, the Stage 2 competition wound up with two boys on top: congratulations Beau and Ollie!



But it was the Stage 3 competition that had everyone on the edge of their seats, with a battle royale culminating in an 18 round spell-off between Jayda and Savannah. Even when students were dismissed on the Break 2 bell, everyone begged to stay and watch till the victor was decided. Some of the trickier words were: velodrome, moustache, cormorant, vengeance, luminescence, littoral, tourmaline, liaison, prodigious, tinnitus, crinoline and protuberance. I have to confess, as the announcer (and Scrabble/crossword lover), even I had put a few words into the too hard basket (try putting tumulus, lycanthrope, annelid or conurbation in a sentence)! Jayda finally came out on top to progress to the regional finals with Brooke but Savannah will definitely be the one to watch next year. We wish our four finalists all the best as they study their word lists. At least they won't have to travel far as we have offered our hall as a venue, in Week 7 or 8 this term.

You're All Super Heroes!



We enjoyed perfect weather for our Walkathon fundraiser on the last day of last term. No doubt everyone slept like logs that night! Check our next newsletter for the final wrap up to see who was our top fundraiser and marathon walker.

We even managed to squeeze in an evacuation drill in the last week of term and all students are to be commended on their sensible behaviour walking to, and waiting inside, the hall.

Staff Development Day: 'Caring for Country'

For our Staff Development Day yesterday, staff from the four mountain schools and Jilliby PS travelled to Gibberagong Environmental Education centre at Mougamarra Nature Reserve for a *Caring for Country* field outing. Our lovely cleaner Donna also came along. It was a wonderful team building opportunity and staff cultural competencies were strengthened. I recommend visiting this beautiful nature reserve: <https://gibberagongeeec.nsw.edu.au/aboutus/>



Pre-school → Kindy Transition for 2019



Our articles in the Community News are generating a lot of interest and Mrs Davis will start visiting our neighbouring preschools this term. The Kinder Start program for our prospective kindergarten students begins in Week 4 on Monday 13th Aug 9am~12. Many of our upcoming special school events will also be open to preschool visitors and at any time, we welcome new families to pop in for a look and a personal tour. A flyer is available at the office to pass on to any prospective families you may know.

'Interrelate' for Years 3~6

Next Tuesday evening, we're hosting *Interrelate* in our hall for all mountain school students Years 3~6. Even students who have already been told about 'the birds and the bees' can greatly benefit from the highly trained and skilled educators who have



been teaching sexuality and relationship education to young people and their parents for over 90 years. *Interrelate* has a reputation for non-discriminatory and open teaching on sensitive issues including sexuality, gender identity, bullying awareness and respectful relationships. Stage 2/3 students will learn about body parts and their functions, reproduction, pregnancy and birth. Following, Stage 3 students (and Stage 2 students with parental permission) will develop their understanding of physical developments at puberty, and learn strategies for managing these changes. We're organising a BBQ beforehand and I highly recommend participation by our older students.

To read more detailed descriptions of each program, please visit:

<https://www.interrelate.org.au/programs-services/schools>

Mountain Schools' NAIDOC Celebration

The Freeman Mob is keen to help us host the Mountain Schools' NAIDOC celebrations again next Friday. The canteen will be open and it's the largest annual fundraiser for our P&C. Get your orders in early! As the date also coincides with the School Leaders' *Jeans for Genes* fundraiser, students are invited to wear jeans (for a gold coin donation) paired with a red, yellow or black top.



'The Amazing Race'

Jayda and Brooke attended their second drama workshop today with the rest of the students in lead roles from all six small schools. The Japanese fans and plastic swords have arrived along with the Hawaiian skirts, leis, and garlands. Dance rehearsals have begun and music, backdrops and props are being finalised. Tickets go on sale next week at 10am on 1st Aug, \$15 for the Art House matinee and \$20 for the evening performance. Get in early to avoid disappointment!

Students will soon start preparing a speech as part of the Premier's Public Speaking Competition and our two finalists will represent Peats at Warnervale PS in Week 4.

Don't forget to look fabulous in your full school uniform for photo day next Monday!

Ms Austin Principal (rel)

...and in case you were wondering...

Lycanthrope- werewolf



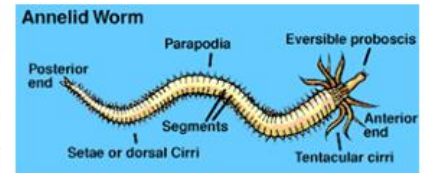
Tumulus- a barrow, ancient burial mound



Annelid- segmented worm



Conurbation-extended urban area



Check out our trolley bag fundraiser! Orders due back at school by this Wednesday, 25th July.

TROLLEY BAGS FUNDRAISING

NO MORE PLASTIC BAGS
All major supermarket chains are phasing out the single use plastic bags. So there has never been a better time to find a reusable system that works for you.

TROLLEY BAGS ARE A SYSTEM OF 4 BAGS THAT CAN HELP YOU PACK YOUR SHOPPING IN HALF THE TIME AT THE SUPERMARKET CHECKOUT.

- 4 different sized bags connected with Velcro
- Remain open and upright inside trolley for packing
- Easily separate to be removed from trolley
- Machine Washable

sales@evobrand.com.au 02 9666 1014

STUDENT ORDER FORM

School Name: _____		
Student Name: _____		
Student Class: _____		

OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
 1 x TROLLEY BAGS ORIGINAL	 1 x TROLLEY BAGS BUNDLE ORIGINAL + COOL BAG	 1 x TROLLEY BAGS EXPRESS
\$30	\$40	\$30
ORDER QTY: _____	ORDER QTY: _____	ORDER QTY: _____
TOTAL OF EACH OPTION: _____	TOTAL OF EACH OPTION: _____	TOTAL OF EACH OPTION: _____
TOTAL OF ORDER: _____		

Please hand this back to your school with all monies collected by due date.

Come on the adventure of a lifetime as teams of two embark on an adventure that will take them to 18 destinations around the world, covering nearly 50 thousand kilometres!

THE AMAZING RACE SMALL SCHOOLS

Who will have the right combination of strategy, strength, skill, and teamwork to win the ultimate prize?

Get ready to set off on The Amazing Race Small Schools.

Thursday 6th September

2:30pm Matinee Performance - \$15

6:00pm Main Performance - \$20

THE ART HOUSE

19-21 Margaret St, Wyong NSW 2259

Book at the box office or www.thearthousewyong.com.au



