



# PEATS RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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27<sup>th</sup> August, 2018  
Week 6 Term 3

[www.peatsridge-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.peatsridge-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

## DIARY DATES

### TERM 3

Every Monday: Newsletter  
Every Tuesday: Scripture  
Every Wednesday: Sport

#### 28<sup>th</sup> August

Book Fair, Picnic & Parade

#### 29<sup>th</sup> August

KMHS Sports Gala Day  
Stage 3

#### 31<sup>st</sup> August

Father's Day BBQ Breakfast  
& Raffle

#### 4<sup>th</sup> September

Amazing Race Rehearsal  
@ Wyong Arthouse

#### 6<sup>th</sup> September

Amazing Race Performance  
@ Wyong Arthouse

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear students, families and friends,

For the past month as I've been driving to school, I've been admiring the stunning bush display of our national floral emblem, the wattle. This Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, is Wattle Day, the official start of our Australian spring.

Aboriginal people have a strong traditional relationship with a number of wattle species and used them for food, fuel, medicine and wooden utensils. Around



the time of Federation, the 'Wattle Club' was formed in Victoria in 1899, then 'The Wattle League' in 1909. The first celebration of **Wattle Day** was held on 1 September 1910 and given a prominent place within the Commonwealth Coat of Arms in 1912 and on the insignia of the Order of Australia. Wattle was a strong symbol of patriotism, sent overseas in letters during war times and presented to homecoming service men and women at what must have been an

emotional moment. After WWII, Wattle Day lapsed but in recognition of wattle, in 1984, Australia's national colours were proclaimed to be green and gold and following the bicentenary in 1992, National Wattle Day was declared. With the icons of many of our national holidays originating in the northern hemisphere and being seasonally opposite, Wattle Day is uniquely Australian and quite different to Anzac Day, which in recalling past wars glorifies Australian qualities of courage and mateship. Wattle Day, by contrast, looks *forward* to spring with many positive values such as optimism, bounty and abundance, reliability, colour, sunshine and new life and celebrates our nation's undoubted qualities of good humour, fairness, generosity, informality and democracy. We're going to study the interesting history of Wattle Day this week, so please bring some in to decorate our classroom. If you're interested too, please read this article by Dr Rod Panter:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Library/Publications\\_Archive/CIB/cib9596/96cib1](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/Publications_Archive/CIB/cib9596/96cib1)

### P&C BBQ and Raffle

What a great day we had manning the P&C BBQ at Bunnings on Saturday-raising \$1551.25!! A huge thank-you to our P&C President Lauren and all the volunteers who helped- Lesley and daughter Mikaylah, Leanne and son Logan (with great music), Tarryn, April, Bonnie, staff members Amii and Shane, and my mum Val, husband Yoshito and son Kaishu- ranging from 16 to 81 years of age! Thank-you also to other families and community members who popped by



### PBL VALUE OF THE WEEK



*Respect -  
Speak  
respectfully  
(or not at all!)*



for a sausage sanga. It was so successful we ran out of sauce, sausages and bread three times, generating much stress and excitement for whoever had to make the quick dash to Coles.

April did an amazing job selling raffle tickets and the lucky winners will be announced at our assembly on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> September. Raffle funds will go towards new blazers for students representing our school.

### 'Find Your Treasure' in Book Week

The Book Fair cases were delivered early Friday morning and set up in time for students to get a quick look and make their wish lists. Tomorrow, Mrs Davis will open the Book Fair in the Library from 8:30am and we'll officially celebrate Book Week with a family picnic or pie order lunch at 1:20pm followed by a Treasure Hunt and Pirate Parade in the afternoon. Please join in the fun!



This year's theme is 'Find Your Treasure' so we're asking students to come dressed up as pirates with prizes for the meanest, toughest and ugliest pirates ever and the best pirate voices.

Ahoy! Start practicing now or ye may be walking the plank: *Avast! Blimey! Yo-ho-ho! doubloon, hardtack, fathom, thar, aye, matey, pieces of eight, landlubber, league, scallywag, Davy Jones' locker, parley, Jolly Roger, swab, spyglass, grub, bounty, gallows, swashbuckling, cutlass, the collywobbles, batten down the hatches, marooned, clap in irons, heave ho and shiver me timbers! Savvy?*

I've also heard me hearties, that some special loot might be coming your way at the end of the day!

### DART Video Conferences



We participated in two terrific DART (Distance and Rural Technologies) video conferences in the Library last week. The first was presented by Botany Bay Environmental Education Centre, based on the award-winning children's book, 'Tanglewood'. Through a shared reading of the text, students explored and observed aspects of nature as described and depicted by the author and illustrator. It featured the artist, Ken Tucker, and he demonstrated artistic techniques based on nature. Our resulting artworks are very impressive and we'll show them off at the next assembly and at the Country Fair.

The finale to Science Week was the informative DART VC on 'Fantastic Frog Friday' presented by host Charlie from the The Australian Museum. Frog populations are declining around the world and we learned how to protect their habitat and identify different species. The museum's new FrogID app is remarkable for recording and identifying frogs and we're planning to register the school for FrogID Week in November. Hopefully, we'll have had more rain by then or pickings will be slim!



<https://www.frogid.net.au/>

### Central Coast Awards of Appreciation

Last Tuesday afternoon, the Central Coast Awards of Appreciation were presented by the Regional Directors at Terrigal HS. This year, we honoured parents Mr Paul Gatt and P&C President, Mrs Lauren Taylor for their ongoing commitment to improving our school. Our multi-talented General Assistant, Mr Chris Pugh also received an award and I received one from the Central Coast Council of P&Cs. For such a small school, we were certainly well-represented!

### Kariong Mountains HS Science Expo Day

Last Wednesday, Stage 3 students from Kariong, Somersby, Kulnura, Central Mangrove and Peats Ridge PS visited Kariong Mountains HS for the popular Science Expo day and evening. In rotating groups, students made rainbows using prisms, DNA helixes using lollies, chocolate and strawberry caviar (just like celebrity chef Heston



Blumenthal), simulated earthquakes, created electrical circuits, calculated the age of fish by studying scales under a microscope and had a hair-raising experience with the metal Van-de-Graaff static electricity ball! A feature of the activities was the teaching by senior science students from Year 11 Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth and Environmental Science. As usual these students impressed everyone with their confidence and knowledge of the sciences being presented. AK loved catching up with her old bff Angel and lots of older siblings said hello.

Name	Rating /10	Plus	Minus	Interesting
AK	2000+	Hair-raising static electricity ball	Fish scales stink!	Making the little 'caviar' balls in Chemistry
Briony	10	Making lolly DNA	I didn't like the taste of the different flavoured 'caviars'	Which buildings are weak and collapse in earthquakes
Savannah	10	Making lolly DNA	The robotics guy- I didn't understand it because he used a lot of big, scientific words	How prisms can make rainbows
Hayley	8~9	Making lolly DNA- it looked cool and real	The electronic activities because we did most of them when Year 11 Physics visited Peats last year	How the seasonal food supply affects the scales of wild fish
Bianca	7	Mr Cartner's room, especially the metal static electricity ball	The taste of the 'caviar' balls	That we can make shadows dance
Makayla	8~9	My hair going crazy when I touched the static electricity ball	Gross fish!	How the electric charge is released as you touch the ground
Brooke	9.5	The last activity- the robot on cardboard	The fish scale activity because it was first and cut short	Our trillions of DNA cells!
Jayda	8	Everything!! They were all really good.	The 'caviar' tasted weird	Surviving earthquakes. Science is awesome!!

Brooke, Jayda, AK, Bianca, Makayla, Savannah, Briony and Hayley were wonderful assistants, helping to create our 'Amazzzzing Bees' display for the Science Expo evening, open to the general public. Our honey tasting table was very popular, along with trying on a bee keeper's outfit. Great interest was shown in our honey labels, artworks and bee hotels and photos of our cooking lessons, observations, experiments and bee keeper incursion. I had a lovely chat with Lauren Monachino, her husband and two cute daughters- an ex-peats student from 1996. Another highlight was seeing so many Class of 2017 Year 6 students now in the selective Science classes in Years 7 exhibit their **Young Scientist Award** projects, including Harry, Jade and Isabelle. We're so proud of you!

Stage 3 will visit KMHS again this Wednesday for the **Sports Gala Day**, another important part of the Year 6 Transition Program.

### NAPLAN Readiness Testing

This week, Mr Randall will be conducting NAPLAN readiness tests with Years 3 and 5 to make sure our Chromebook computers are set up and ready for the transition to NAPLAN online in 2019. There has been quite a lot of media interest and controversy around NAPLAN recently and this site is worth visiting if you have any concerns:

<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/FAQs>

### Special Religious Education Info

This year, procedures have been revised to strengthen accountability and provide clarity for parents, approved providers and schools. In order to streamline information flowing to parents and caregivers, pamphlets will be handed out in SRE lessons soon. Three pamphlets are available: Christian SRE, All Faiths SRE and Primary Ethics. Please see Mrs Riley in the office if you'd like more information.

### Zone Athletics Carnival & Father's Day Breakfast

Unfortunately, these two annual events clash this year.





From 7:30am this Friday, all dads, uncles, grandfathers etc are welcome to join us for our annual Father's Day breakfast. With Mr Randall running the zone carnival, Mr Pugh, will be manning the BBQ for the last time and cooking delicious bacon and egg rolls. It's Chris' last day at Peats as the demands of two schools and TAFE studies have become too great, so please pop by for a delicious breakfast and to say goodbye. Greg Jacklin, the part-time GA at Kulnura PS is coming to us highly recommended and will fill the position until the end of the year.

The following students qualified for the Brisbane Water Zone Athletics Carnival and will represent Peats at Mingara this Friday:

Abbey - 100m

Bianca - 800m and senior girls' relay

Angel-Katlyn - 100m, long jump, shot put

Brooke - senior girls' relay and Hayley- senior girls' relay

Jayda -100m, 200m, long jump, discus and senior girls' relay

Junior Girls' Age Champ Savannah - 100m, 200m, high jump, long jump.

Good luck girls!

### 'The Amazing Race' – Ten Days to Go!!



With under two weeks to go, I'm transporting our lead actors, Brooke and Jayda, to Somersby PS again today for another rehearsal. Thanks to Mrs Davis, our Japan and Hawaii acts are coming along nicely, and the other school 'race destinations' are New Zealand, Italy, Ireland, Spain, Brazil, India, China, Sweden, Egypt, Antarctica, England, France, Malaysia, America and Africa.

I can't wait to see each act and this unique opportunity allows students to develop specific skills, knowledge and understanding across the Creative Arts syllabus, addressing most outcomes in Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Music. With the logistics involved, this isn't something we're able to offer every year so please invite friends, relatives and neighbours along to the 2pm matinee or 6pm evening performance:

<http://www.theearthhousewong.com.au/whats-on/central-coast-small-schools-the-amazing-race>

Mrs Riley in the front office can print extra A3 and A4 size posters if you can display one in a local business.

For our full rehearsal day at the Arthouse (11~2pm, Tue 4 Sep) and the performance day (11~9pm, Thu 6 Sep) we have decided to hire a bus. It's important students attend school in the morning prior to the performances, otherwise we panic thinking many students are away sick. It is also a legal requirement that parents and carers remember to notify staff and sign the roll if leaving a school event early.

### Goal: 100% Attendance!

Attendance was raised as a concern during our recent audit and currently five students are near or below the 85% mark and a few habitually arrive late to class. Monitoring attendance is a core responsibility and legal requirement of all teaching staff and research shows a direct correlation to academic performance and social wellbeing. All absences must be explained within seven days. Please ensure children gain the most from their education and reach their maximum potential by being on time and only missing school when sick or for important family matters- sorry, birthdays don't count! The NSW Department of Education's Attendance Policy is found here:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/school-attendance-policy>

### 'Tell Them From Me' Surveys

Since 2013/14, the Department of Education has engaged the 'Tell Them From Me' online survey system to help schools capture the views of students, parents and teachers. It's an evidence-based system for measuring student engagement, wellbeing, effective teaching practices and classroom climate, and other factors known to affect learning outcomes. Between now and the end of October, we'll be inviting students and parents to

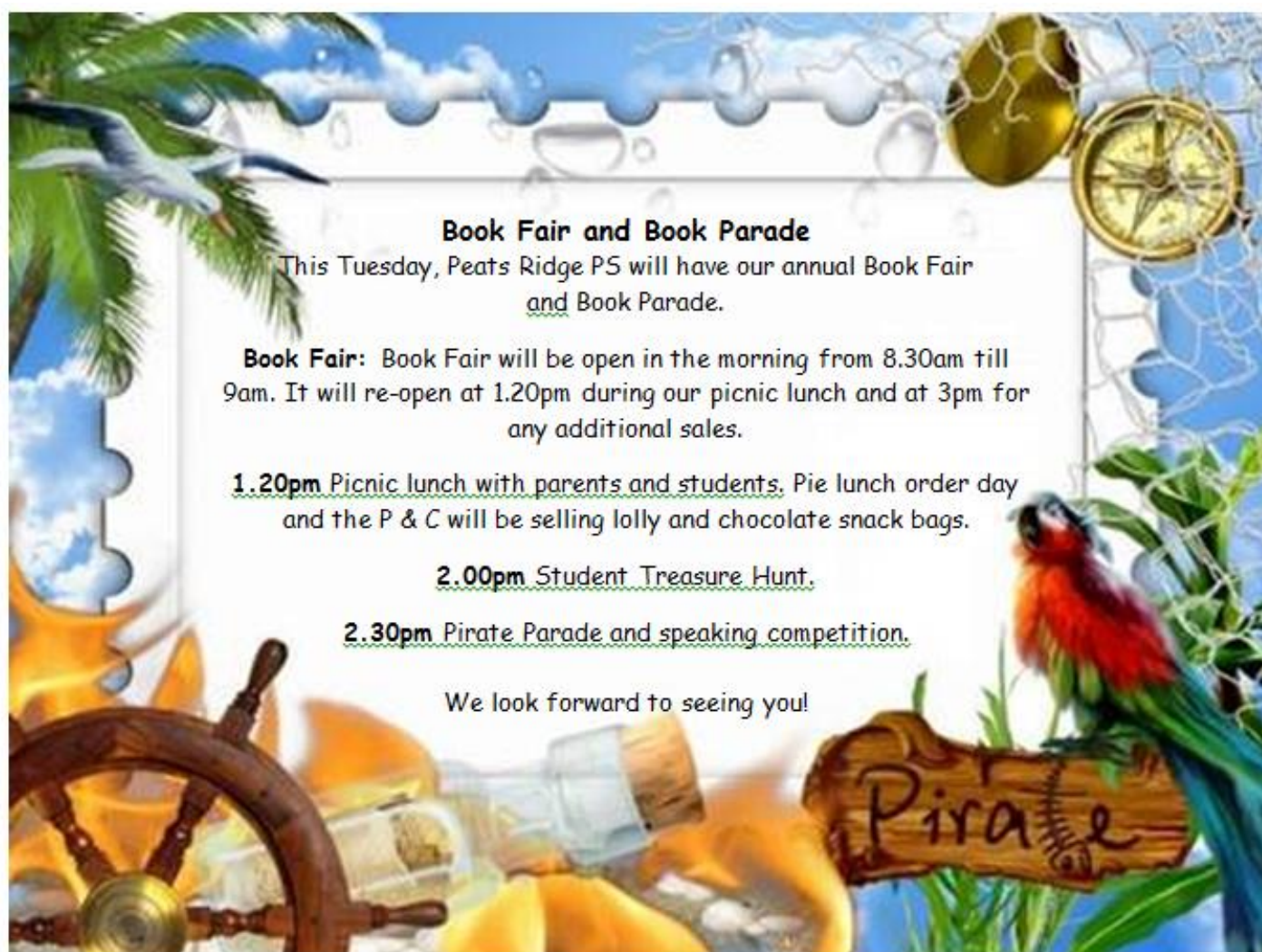


complete the surveys. This information then informs school policy and practice to make our lovely little school even better. <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/>

Finally, the last of the new classroom furniture has arrived! Mrs Davis and P1 love their funky green and orange 'Kaboodle' IT station and P2 begged me for two wobbly stools, just like the infants class. Both rooms have been transformed into clean and colourful, modern and flexible learning spaces which emphasise problem-solving and critical thinking, group work and the development of social skills. Each room has zones for collaboration and teamwork, critical thinking, creativity, movement, standing up and the ability to work independently. Pop in for a look anytime to see the positive difference it's made to our teaching and learning. Hudson was lucky enough to find a freshly laid egg when he visited last week and happily ate it like an ice cream for lunch!

Enjoy Wattle Day and Father's Day everyone!

*Ms Austin* - Principal (rel)



### Kariong Mountains High School

If your child is enrolling at Kariong Mountains High School in 2019, please return enrolment forms to the office as soon as possible. If you need another copy of the enrolment form, please see Mrs Riley at the front office.





# PIE & SAUSAGE ROLL DAY!

**Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> August**



**Sausage Roll + Drink - \$4.00**

**Meat Pie + Drink - \$5.00**

**Potato Pie + Drink - \$5.00**



**Please place orders in the cash box in the office foyer.**

**Thank you**









Come on the trip 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

**2pm Matinee Performance - \$15**

**6pm Main Performance - \$20**

THE ART HOUSE  
19-21 Margaret St, Wyong NSW 2259

Book at the box office or [www.thearthousewyong.com.au](http://www.thearthousewyong.com.au)

