



PEATS RIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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24th September, 2018
Week 10 Term 3

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

DIARY DATES

TERM 3

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

26th - 27th September

Parent / Teacher Interviews

28th September

Grace Springs Farm
Excursion P1 & P2 9:30-11:30

Peats Pride Assembly

20th October

Mangrove Mountain
Country Fair
Stall and Performance

23rd October

Invictus Games Excursion

26th October

Tell Them From Me
Parent Survey Closes

29th October

Kindy Start 9am - 12

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear students, families and friends,

One of my favourite jobs is showing prospective students and their families around our beautiful school. On Friday, I met a lovely couple building a new home in Marlow for their growing family. They were impressed by our lovely students, C21st classrooms, playground and facilities and hopefully we'll see them again on our Term 4 Kinder Start days. Keep spreading the good news as we'd love LOTS of cute, little kindies next year!

Our Girls' Relay Heading to State!!

The week got off to a great last Monday, when Mr Randall texted me excitedly to say our girls' relay team had qualified for the State Athletics Carnival. Proud mum, Amanda, brought in some fantastic photos and I was lucky to watch the video of the whole race on her phone. This is how the girls described it:



Savannah- "I started the relay. I could hear Amanda, Mum and Leina shouting GO! GO! GO!"

Abbey- "The baton pass was very good. I'm only 8, turning 9, and I took on 10 year olds. We were so close! When I got to AK, I had to slow down."

AK- "I felt scared! As I grabbed the baton, I nearly got disqualified by going outside the lines and nearly twisted my ankle."

Jayda- "It was a pretty sloppy change-over but then I gained lots of ground. We came third, but technically second, which means we made it to state. Yipee!!"

P&C Meeting

I always appreciate the time our busy mums (and sometimes dads) take to attend P&C meetings. Last Monday, we heard reports on the very successful Bunnings BBQ and raffle. Sample school blazers should arrive early next term and another Bunnings day is planned for 2019. I tabled a draft of the 2019 Family Budget Guide and promoted the Tell Them From Me parent survey currently underway.

Please follow this link: <https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/xt9vf>

Your opinions and comments are highly valued for school planning.

I sought feedback on many of the events held this term- school photos, Woolies excursion, 'Jeans for Genes' and drought mufti days, Education Week Open Day, Book Week fair, parade and treasure hunt, Public Speaking and Spelling Bee finals, Kindy Start and High School transition days, senior Girls' Club, meat pie Fridays, our Father's Day breakfast, Mariners soccer for Sport and the



PBL VALUE OF THE WEEK

Responsibility -
Clean out
your tote
trays



combined Small Schools' Interrelate evening, NAIDOC celebrations, Athletics carnivals and of course, the amazing Amazing Race! We discussed the positives and any minuses and how things can be improved in the future. Unfortunately, the kids weren't impressed with afternoon tea- wasabi peas- Lesley's favourite!

Kindy Start

Our final Kindy Start session for this term was held last Tuesday, at the different time of 12~3pm so pre-schoolers and their parents could experience lunch break, afternoon and home bell routines. Mrs Davis' home-made ice-cream and pancake cooking classes were very popular and I was amazed at how clean the canteen was left afterwards, considering!



Kindy Start dates for Term 4:

Mon 29th Oct - 9am~12

Mon 12th Nov - 9am~12

Fri 23rd Nov - 12~3pm

Staff Professional Learning

Last Tuesday, I travelled to Sydney with Steve Collins, the Principal of Kulnura PS, and Stephanie Seddon, Assistant Principal at Ettalong PS, to attend a leadership course on 'Embedding School Excellence'. I have to admit, I learned as much travelling down and back with my colleagues as I did from the presenters! Steve was excited about Kulnura's 90th celebrations on Sunday and Steph's three girls all attended Peats in the Gary Rowe days (with Calloway and Hasting's mum, Tarryn)- each becoming school captain and selected for Gosford HS. She and her husband were very active in the P&C with Jan (Tarryn's mum) and Steph was also Principal of Mooney Mooney and Yarramalong PS before they closed.



On Wednesday, Mr Randall enjoyed a day at Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre, to unpack the new Science and Technology syllabus and learn how teachers can complement their program by engaging students with scientists and real world environmental challenges. The timeline for implementation is:

2018: Continue teaching current syllabus, familiarisation and planning for new syllabus

2019: Implementation of new syllabus in all stages

If you'd like to read more about what's similar and what's different:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/key-learning-areas/science/science-and-technology-k-6>

On Thursday, I was invited to open the Primary Principals' Association meeting with an Acknowledgement to Country and highlighted our small schools' annual NAIDOC celebrations, our combined Term 3 Staff Development Day outing to Mougamarra Nature Reserve and our enviable mountain location- surrounded by the highest density of significant Aboriginal sites in the state. The first guest speaker was Peter Lippman, a world-renowned architect, educator, writer and researcher on creating dynamic, activity-based learning environments for the future. This is a special interest of mine and it was great to hear him mention changes that we've already put into practice. If you're interested too, please read more here:

<https://placescreatedforlearning.com/about-us/>

The second speaker introduced the new STEMShare Kits. Under the STEMShare Community program, 660 kits that include robotics, 3D printing, coding, film-making and virtual reality equipment will be available for schools to borrow for a term. Peats has already booked a kit for Term 1 next year and each program includes the technology kit, teacher training, expert support, and curriculum-linked learning and online tools to ensure schools make the most of the new resources. With the VR headset on and hand controls, I entered the incredible world of Minecraft then went scuba diving on a coral reef! Have a look at the learning fun we're in for: https://twitter.com/stem_share?lang=en



As Education Minister Rob Stokes said, "Our students will need to think critically, solve problems creatively, work in teams, communicate clearly in a range of media and continue to learn to engage with new and ever-evolving technologies. We are supporting our students to develop

future skills for work and study.”

Tomorrow, Mrs Riley will attend DoE training to update our school website. Over the next few weeks, this will cause some disruption to our school website and the newsletter will not be able to be accessed online.

Container Break-in

Students were excited to meet Jess from Police forensics when she visited last Wednesday to examine the break-in to the PSSA storage container. Mr Randall was devastated to realise they'd stolen the full set of PSSA walkie-talkies and hopefully Jess was able to lift fingerprints off some of the items. Luckily, they tried and failed to enter our GA's container. We're looking into making them even more secure so it won't happen again.

Little Shop Swap

As a bit of end-of-term fun related to our 'Paddock to Plate' unit, we're holding a *Little Shop Swap* tomorrow. I've been handing out the packets in class as rewards as some students build up their collection and others have full sets with spares to share. Bring your Little Shop collection along tomorrow and we'll swap and snack, with the Spelling Bee left-overs.



Parent-Teacher Interviews



Notes will go home today for P1 and P2 Parent-Teacher Interviews this Wednesday and Thursday. 15 minute time slots will be available in the morning from 8:30am and in the afternoon until 5pm. It's a wonderful opportunity to see and hear first-hand about the wonderful work going on in our classrooms each day, the progress your child is making and their learning goals. Our own goal is to connect with 100% of our parents so we really hope you can make it!

NAPLAN Results

2018 NAPLAN results have finally arrived and will be sent home with students tomorrow. There has been a lot of press and controversy surrounding NAPLAN this year, so please bring them along to interviews if you need clarification on anything.

'Grace Springs' Farm Excursion

To celebrate the completion of our 'Paddock to Plate' unit this term, a special local excursion to 'Grace Springs' farm has been organised for 9:30~11:30am this Friday 28th September. 13 students still need to return their notes- tomorrow please- and only one parent so far has provided a copy of their license and rego to the office for transport. Working With Children Check documentation is also a new requirement if you've offered to drive other children or join the excursion. I know this paperwork is quite onerous but our recent audit red-flagged this as an area for improvement. We'd love as many parents as possible to come along!

<https://www.facebook.com/gracespringsfarm/>

www.gracespringsfarm.net



'Share our Space' Program for the Holidays

Our playground will be open for public use again over the holidays. School playgrounds are valuable assets and by making them accessible outside of the school term they can provide a broader benefit to the whole community, including opportunities for sport on school ovals. Special signage, an on-site security guard and daily cleaner will again be provided and the school receives \$5000- a win/win for us and the community!




Year 6 Assessments

In the Library Week 1 of next term, Peats is hosting VALID face-to-face marking professional learning for staff in our region to further promote our fantastic school. VALID (Validation of Assessment for Learning and Individual Development), is a free program which provides online, end-of-stage assessments for the key learning area of Science. The results assist schools and the

system to monitor student achievement of syllabus outcomes and content across stages and inform planning and programming. Mr Randall will be attending and our Year 6 students will receive an individualised report outlining their level of demonstrated understanding.

Mangrove Mountain Country Fair

As the sign strategically placed opposite our school gate attests, it's that time of year again and things are heating up for the Country Fair, on Saturday 20th October. Our school art display for this year's theme on *'The Land'* is almost complete and looks zzzennzzational! 



As usual, each school has been asked to perform on the stage and we'll be showcasing our Hawaiian item from The Amazing Race. At the last meeting, Kulnura PS was slated for 10:30am, Central Mangrove at 10:45 then Peats at 11am. We're hoping as many students as possible can make it and we'll bring along all the costumes, music and props (just wear your performance gear).

Our stall will have a mix of flowers, second hand books and white elephant items (mostly cleaned out from school storerooms). If you, friends or relatives have any children's or suitable adult books to recycle, please bring them to the office. Get the kids to clean out their shelves over the holidays. Volunteer helpers welcome!

The Invictus Games



We've been fortunate to gain a grant to cover a coach and tickets for P2 to attend The Invictus Games on Tuesday, October 23rd (Term 4 Week 2). To fill all seats on the bus, P1 students and parents are tagging along to visit the Sydney Fish Markets and Darling Harbour's Chinese Gardens with lunch and a paddle at the water park. These sites tie in nicely with our *'Paddock to Plate'* unit this term and *'Built Environments'* in Term 4. Our student leaders and Mr Randall are also looking forward to a special Invictus morning tea at Gosford RSL on the first Monday of Term 4, hosted by MP Liesl Tesch.

We've been enjoying the catering leftovers from Liesl's visit and the Regional Spelling Bee recently- cheese and seaweed rice crackers and carrot sticks with cottage cheese and hummus and chocolate milk or orange and apple juice- during Break 2. Many students hadn't eaten seaweed (popular in our house!) or cottage cheese before and it's great to see them try new, healthy foods.

Statement of Accounts

It really is incredible how many unique opportunities we can offer our students, often for free due to successful grant applications or simply paid out of school funds, saving parents hundreds of dollars. At the moment, we're in the process of sending home statements of accounts to families with this year's school fees and any monies outstanding for excursions. We're hoping these can be finalised before the Christmas rush begins and please see Mrs Riley in the office for a payment plan if needed.

Congratulations to our talented soccer players. All that hard work with our Mariners coaches this term has paid off. On the weekend, Brooke, Jayda, Abbey and Matteo were presented with their end of season trophies and Brooke received a special second trophy for 'Most Improved'. Well done players!

Everyone is keeping an eye out for our friendly diamond python and wrote some terrific Diamante Poems about snakes in class last week. We hope to see you at this Friday's Peats Pride Assembly when we'll read a selection to you. It hasn't made another appearance - yet...

Happy holidays everyone!

Ms Austin - Principal (rel)



NO SCHOOL BUSES OPERATING ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER!

Busways drivers who are members of the Transport Workers Union will be taking protected action from 6am-9am and between 3pm-6pm on Wednesday. We have been advised that there will be no school buses in operation on this day.

Share Our Space

Your school is a vital part of our community, and we want you to use it. During these upcoming holidays participating schools across NSW will be opening up their play areas for your enjoyment.

For more details visit schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au

Tell us what you think about the Share Our Space program by visiting: goo.gl/iBv3x2

This pilot is an initiative of the NSW Government.





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