Principal’s Report...

Welcome back to the 2013 school year.

What a week it was to commence school! **Friday afternoon was particularly hectic.** Doesn’t it always pour at home time?? To compound matters many of the teaching staff (and all of the Office staff) were absent at a funeral. The Assistant Principals from our Hub very generously offered to man the office for us in our absence. If announcements were a little hard to hear, or students were elsewhere and couldn’t be found immediately the bell went, I do apologise. However, this was an unusual variation to our routine which I know you will understand.

We have returned feeling refreshed and ready for a great year ahead. We especially welcome all **new students and their families.** As well as the 63 Kindergarten students who started yesterday (without any tears), we have 18 new students across Years 1-6. **A very warm welcome to you all!** This is a wonderful school with a very supportive community. You are going to be very happy here. We encourage you to become involved in the life of the school. It is a great way to make new friends and to learn more about “how we do things around here.”

As well as new students, I know you will join me in welcoming two new “temporary teachers” to our school - Miss Sophie Glover and Miss Francine Frouxiou. **A very warm welcome to you both!**

Today we formed our **new classes for 2013.** We have proceeded slowly as we thought that we may have had the numbers for an additional class. This has not been the case so we will have 18 classes K-6 again in 2013; with 3 multi age classes.

Finally, a reminder that Panania PS strives to be a **nut free** school. Please do **NOT** send any nut or nut based products to school in your child’s lunch box. We have a number of anaphylactic students at school and need to minimise risks for them. There will be more information to come as the revised Department procedures in relation to anaphylaxis come into effect.

As we commence the 2013 school year please do not hesitate to call the Office if you have any queries or concerns about your child.

With my very best wishes,

_Sandra Palmer._

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**DIARY DATES**

**Thursday 7 February**
- Prefect Body sign their contracts at morning assembly. Everyone is welcome to join us for this important activity.

**Friday, 8 February**
- PSSA Trials – Day 1

**Friday, 15 February**
- PSSA Trials – Day 2

**Monday, 11 February**
- P&C Meeting at 7.00pm in ‘A’ Block Staffroom. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Wednesday, 13 February**
- School Photos for KM, 2E, 5/6A, 6P, 6S, Prefect Body, SRC & family photos of students in these classes.

**Monday, 18 February**
- Years 3-6 Parent Information Night 6.30pm

**Tuesday, 19 February**
- Years 1 & 2 Parent Information Night 6.30pm

**Wednesday, 20 February**
- STAR Reading Parent Training 9.30am

**Thursday, 21 February**
- School Photos for KAG, KJW, 1F, 1H, 1M, 2H, 2M, 3H, 3M, 3/4R, 4C, 4/5TS, 5D & family photos for students in these classes.

**Friday, 22 February**
- School Swimming Carnival for Years 3-6 and 8 year old proficient swimmers from Year 2. Parents and community members are very welcome to attend.
- Kindergarten 2013 Welcome BBQ (a P&C organised event.

A Term 1 Community Calendar has been sent home with this Chatterbox. A list of classes and teachers will come out later this week.

**Vegie Garden News...**

Fresh garden produce including delicious jars of homemade pesto ($5.00) will be sold under the morning assembly COLA each Friday morning before school. Look out for Mrs Philip’s table.

_Vegie Garden Co-ordinator._
Following NSW Little Athletics trials in November 2012, Isabelle Lhotka was selected to represent NSW in the Trans Tasman Challenge where the best under 11 & 12 years athletes from NSW compete against New Zealand. Isabelle was selected to compete in the 100m and 200m sprint, long jump and discus. The Trans Tasman challenge was held on 13 January 2013 and Isabelle achieved outstanding results on the day. Isabelle received a Silver medal in the 100m sprint and a Gold medal in the 200m sprint, smashing her personal best results. Congratulations Isabelle!

Parent Tips...

The Department of Education and Communities School A-Z website has many useful links to support parents. A few are listed below for your information.

Doing well in class
An expert panel shares tips about how parents can help their younger and older children reach their full potential at school and motivate them for learning. Watch the video. Find our more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/getting-off-to-a-good-start/good-start-chapter-one

Eight ways to get your kids organised
Are you ready for morning madness, late assignments, yesterday’s half-eaten lunch sweating in the schoolbag? Just like adults, children cope much better if they can manage their time and their environment wisely.

Smart foods to boost learning
Mother Nature is full of foods that help us think and feel better. What do you give your child to help them think more clearly, and enhance concentration and memory?

Value of the Fortnight

Co-operation

Please support us at home by having discussions with your child/children about what ‘Co-operation’ means at home, at school and in the community.

2013 TERM DATES

Following are the term dates for 2013. These have been provided to allow you to plan holiday breaks ahead of time and to minimise disruption to learning.

Term 1: Wednesday, 30 January – Friday, 12 April
Term 2: Wednesday, 1 May – Friday, 28 June
Term 3: Tuesday, 16 July – Friday, 20 September
Term 4 - Tuesday, 8 October – Wednesday, 18 December
Rule of the Fortnight
The rule we are focusing on for Term 1, Weeks 2 & 3 is:
Be Safe

You can support us at home by having discussions with your child/children about what “Being Safe” means and what this rule means in different settings.

REVESBY BLUE LIGHT DISCO

Revesby Blue Light Disco is celebrating 25 years of operation. The first Blue Light Disco for the year is on Saturday, 16 February, 2013.

Time: 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Age: 8 – 16 Years
Cost: Free entry for the month of February only (to celebrate our 25th Anniversary).
Where: YMCA Hall
The River Road, Revesby.

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