Principal's Report...

I came back to school after spending two days at the Regional Principal’s Conference (our last as a South Western Sydney Region as, under the state realignment, regions will no longer exist). What a surprise I had when I viewed all the work that was completed at the Veggie Garden Working Bee on Sunday. A very impressive effort indeed! Mrs Waskiw acknowledged the efforts of the students involved and also Mrs Philip, our coordinator extraordinaire!! Check out the changes. They are very impressive! Also, check out the gorgeous photo of our “little helpers” who worked so hard…we heard all about it at morning assembly!

This Thursday we will be spending time discussing Harmony Day, which is held on 21 March each year. It is a chance for us to celebrate the diversity in our school and continue to convey the message that “everyone belongs.” At Panania PS we have a diverse population of students and families who come from many different backgrounds. We certainly think this is cause for celebration! You might like to ask your children what they did at school in relation to Harmony Day. I am looking forward to seeing lots of orange “accessories”

Mrs Rowland, Mrs Cameron, Mrs Hoffmeister and Mr Murphy all reported that the Regional Swimming Carnival, held last Tuesday, was a great success. We value the parent support on days such as this and are really heartened when we see our students supporting each other and those from other schools. Daniel Walsh (3H) is off to State in the 9yrs 50m freestyle and the Senior Boy’s relay came fifth in the final. Well done to all involved!!!

Next Tuesday, (27 March), will be my last day at school for the term as I am taking some long service leave and doing some travelling. Where to, we are not sure of yet! The school will be left in the capable hands of Ms Martha Adams who will be relieving as Principal. Ms Adams will continue her Reading Recovery work (see report below on this new program) and Mrs Ernsteins will relieve as Assistant Principal and Stage 1 Coordinator.

Finally, I hope you have an enjoyable Easter break and share special times together as a family.

With my very best wishes.

Sandra Palmer.

School gate closure....

Until further notice the northern gate in Lambeth Street will be closed and locked. Access to the school from Lambeth Street will be from the southern gate. This gate will be locked at 9.30am each morning and reopened at 3.05pm each afternoon.

The gates at the Lawler Street entrance will be closed but not locked. Access during the day will be via these gates.

As you would be aware we had an incident that required the school to go into lockdown on 7 March. These precautions are for the safety and security of all students, staff and visitors.

Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience, particularly last Monday when we were so busy teaching that we forgot to open them!!! We know that you will understand that safety is of utmost importance to us.

High Flyers!

Congratulations to the following students who have received Gold Awards at Assembly:

Emily Apostolovski (4C) and Emily Wells (3H).

Rule of the Fortnight

The rule we are focusing on for Term 1, Weeks 8 & 9 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.
Attention Year 6 Parents...

We have been asked to advertise a local high school initiative. Sir Joseph Banks High School has a Stage 4 Enrichment Class which caters for high ability students. Students from both Year 7 and 8 are selected to create the Enrichment Class. These selected students are offered learning opportunities and experiences that enable them to demonstrate deeper understanding of Stage 4 course content.

The selection of students requires parents, teachers and students to complete and submit an application along with a portfolio highlighting an area of interest (piece of writing or work sample). Students who wish to be considered will also be required to participate in a general ability test, to help ascertain if the candidate would benefit from participation in this class.

If you would like your child to apply for entry into this class please obtain an application form from our School Office.

Mrs S Apostolovski,
Stage 3 Co-ordinator.

Reading Recovery...

Reading Recovery is a school based program offering additional support to selected Year 1 students to assist them in becoming better readers and writers.

Students take part in Reading Recovery lessons each day for twelve to twenty weeks. This individual support is additional to classroom reading and writing lessons.

Reading Recovery lessons are individual, are very structured and are for 30 minutes each day.

Many schools across the state take part in this research and evidence based program.

Ms M Adams,
Reading Recovery Coordinator.

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence....

Last Friday (or Thursday) Panania PS students participated in Stage based lessons on the theme of bullying and violence. We like to tap in to activity that is happening in the wider community as it helps to reinforce the messages we are trying to put across at school. It is very important for students to make connections with their learning.

Activities included:

- reading appropriate texts including “A Case of Different Stripes”;
- making bracelets that had “friendship” and “Bullying-No Way” messages on them;
- writing a No Bullying Contract;
- making theme based bookmarks;
- working around a theme of: “Stop and Think! Words Can Hurt”;
- looking at the role of the “bystander”; and
- a specific and topical theme based on building empathy in relation to refugees which was wonderfully supported by a parent talk to the class involved.

Much learning took place...now let's put it into positive action! This is the responsibility of each and every one of us. Building empathy and developing positive and respectful relationships is critical; as is the need for our children to grow up in environments where those respectful relationships are fostered - at home, at school and in the wider community.

Parking Around School Grounds...

Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking around the school grounds in the mornings and afternoons. Please avoid parking your car across or overhanging our neighbours’ driveways; especially on Picnic Point Road.
2013 Premier's Reading Challenge...
Panania Public School has once again registered for the 2013 Premier's Reading Challenge. The Challenge begins at the start of each school year and concludes at the end of August. All students who complete the Premier's Reading Challenge will receive a certificate from the NSW Premier.

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading in students for leisure and pleasure, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

Students who participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge for four years in a row will receive a Gold Certificate from the NSW Premier.

To be eligible for a certificate, students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 will need to share 30 books with their class. Students in these grades will read 20 books with their classroom teacher and 10 books in the library with the Teacher Librarian. Students in Years 3 - 6 will need to read 20 books. 15 of these books need to be on the Premier’s Reading Challenge List and five of their own choosing.

Each class in Years 3 to 6 have a box of 30 books in their classroom which are listed on the Premier’s Reading Challenge list. Each student in Years 3 to 6 has a Reading Record they need to complete in class with their classroom teacher. Each class has a poster to show student progress and motivate continuation of the challenge.

More information can be found on the Premier’s Reading Challenge website https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

Mr S Beattie,
Librarian.

Cross Country...
The annual school cross country carnival is fast approaching. The carnival will be held on Wednesday, March 27 commencing at 1:00pm. The carnival is always an exciting afternoon and over the years has been actively supported by the school community. On the day of the carnival the Canteen will be open for light refreshments.

As the students will be very active, it is important that they bring to the carnival water bottles and any medication they may need during or after the event.

Students who finish in the top six places of the age race events will go on to represent our school at the East Hills District Cross Country, which will be held on Tuesday, 28 May at Padstow North Public School.

Mr B Dodd & Mr S Beattie,
Cross Country Co-ordinators.
We have been overwhelmed with the support of local businesses but we need more. If you are involved in a business that would like to become a sponsor for the day, please contact Julie Parsons at julieparsons@optusnet.com.au or 0417 684 648. There are several different types of sponsorships available, so don’t miss out on this great opportunity to promote your business through our local community.

Don’t forget any donations or vouchers are still needed for the Chocolate Wheel.

Coming up:
Our next Panania Mania meeting will be on Monday, 25 March at 6.30pm at the school in A Block staffroom. Any parents/carers are welcome to attend and provide feedback and input.

White Elephant Stall / Book Stall / Kids Clothing Stall
Additional drop-off dates of your goods can be made on the following days/times:

- Monday, 25 March from 3.00-3.15pm
- Wednesday, 27 March from 8.45-9.15am
- Tuesday, 02 April from 8.45-9.15am
- Friday, 05 April from 3.00-3.15pm
- Wednesday, 10 April from 8.45-9.15am
- Friday, 12 April from 8.45-9.15am

The drop-off location is the old Uniform Shop, outside the Office stairs at A Block.

Plastic Bag Collection
Please keep bringing in plastic bags for use at our Stalls. Bags can be dropped off to Mrs Murphy’s (3M) classroom, located on the ground floor in A Block. You can also drop off bags at the allocated days/times as listed for the White Elephant stall.

Face Painters
A parent has kindly volunteered to help with face painting on the day, but there will be lots of kids wanting their face painted. We are looking for additional volunteers. Are you, or is someone you know good at face painting? Please contact Kathy Petersen on 0429 774 300 if you can help on the day.

Drinks Trailer
The P&C would like to borrow 2 trailers for Panania Mania that will be filled with ice to sell cans of drink on the day. Do you or someone you know have a trailer we can borrow? Please contact Kathy Petersen on 0429 774 300 if you can help.

Further information is available on our website:
www.panania-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
under the “Our School” tab. Why not check it out?
PananiaMania Committee.

Value of the Fortnight
Respect
Please support us at home by having discussions with your child/children about what ‘Respect’ means at home, at school and in the community.

14 FREE days of FITNESS!*
**Please note:** After the third week, you are expected to pay for further classes.

GAIL BROWNING’S SCHOOL OF MUSIC
Gail Browning is a local Professional Entertainer and Piano Teacher and is offering the first lesson for FREE!

All ages from 5 years up, beginners or experienced are welcome.

Please call 9771 9225, or email gpbrowningmusic@optusnet.com.au
Website: www.gailbrowning.com.au

STOP PRESS
Change of date
ATHLETICS CARNIVAL
Now
7 June 2013 at The Crest
Picnic Point Public Schools 50th Birthday!

Are you an ex student, parent or teacher from Picnic Point Public School? If so, they’d love to have you go to their party and help them to remember and celebrate their 50th year.

Date: Saturday, 4 May 2013  
Venue: Revesby workers in the Waratah Room  
Age: 18+ only  
Time: 7.00pm  
Food/Drinks: Finger food with a cash bar  
Dress: Smart casual  
Cost: $45.00 per person

Tickets can be purchased at Picnic Point Public School’s office and be quick as numbers will be limited.

You can call 9773 7817 and pay for your tickets over the phone and they will be waiting for you at the door on the night.

There is a Facebook Page if you’d like to join in the discussion! Picnic Point Public School 50th Anniversary 2012.

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

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