Principal’s Report...

This term has flown so quickly and this is the last Chatterbox for Term 1. All classes have now established their routines and the students have all settled well. Kindergarten students have made a smooth transition to big school.

Thank you to all the families that have paid their school contributions. A reminder that the $40 school contribution (or part of) is due by the end of Term 1. Families with 3 or more children only need to pay $110 per year.

We endeavoured to hold our School Cross Country last Wednesday, 27 March, however with the unexpected soaring temperatures in the afternoon and the effect of the heat on some children, we needed to stop the carnival before it’s completion. We apologise for any inconvenience caused to parents and family members who took time off work to watch their children participate, but the welfare of our students is most important to us.

The completion of the Cross Country Carnival was held today (Wednesday, 3 April) in the complete opposite of weather conditions. The rain just held off enough for the final races.

With the continual changing weather patterns that Sydney has been experiencing over the past few years, the timing of the Cross Country Carnival is being reviewed by the school. We will revise our Cross Country timing in 2014.

Our ANZAC Day Service will be held on Thursday, 2 May at 2:15pm (Term 2, Week 1). You are invited to attend and participate in the service, which will be held at our ANZAC garden near the flag pole. Parents are invited to come along during lunchtime as the canteen will be selling tea/coffee and Anzac biscuits before and after the service.

Term 2 this year commences with 2 Staff Development days on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 April. This is to allow staff to be updated in the new Australian curriculum.

All students return to school on Wednesday, 1 May in full winter uniform. Please ensure that your child has correct winter uniform, including black leather shoes (not Raben type shoes as they do not provide adequate protection for feet) and ankle socks. The School Uniform Code has been agreed upon by the whole school community in the past, following consultation.

It has been a pleasure to sit in Mrs Palmer’s chair again and has been a great experience for me to interact with the students across the whole school.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our School Disco this Friday, 5 April.

I wish you all a very safe and restful break. Mrs Palmer will be back in her seat on Monday, 29 April.

Ms Martha Adams, Relieving Principal.

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

- Sarah Swibel (3/4R), Julie Do (4C), Jack Gallagher (3/4R) and Ben Gallagher 4/5TS.

Congratulations to Lauren Hallowes, Gabby Caruso and Emaison Beck who made the East Hills District Basketball Team.

Gabby went on to be selected in the Sydney South West team and will compete at the State Titles in June. Well done girls especially as they are all fairly new to basketball!

Writing Awards...

Congratulations to:

- Joel Aylward KJW for excellent sentence structure.
- Sanya Raghav 6S for a great exposition entitled “Australia is the Lucky Country”!
- Hayley Chavez 2M for an excellent description of a “Rainbow Fish”.
- Kate Edgtton 4C for a fantastic exposition on “Computer Games are not a Waste of Time”.

Writing samples can be viewed on the Writer’s Wall of Fame near the office.
**A plea from me:**

I am including this note in the last edition of Chatterbox for the term. I am cognisant of the fact that next term is **Season 2 for PSSA** and, historically, it has been the season that causes the most concern with team selection, particularly soccer. In fact, last year, in my absence on a secondment to Regional Office, soccer selection caused a lot of angst with some parents. I came back to school to attend a P&C meeting where I discussed this matter at length to the group. As a result, this year it was difficult to find a coach for soccer and Mr Dodd has put his hand up at the last minute.

The other sporting options and the team selectors will be forwarded early next term. Our trial dates will also be forwarded to you early next term. As per our policy, there will be two teachers supporting the team selection; in the case of Boy’s Soccer, Mr Dodd and Mr Murphy. Their decisions will be based on **professional judgement** and will take many factors into account, not purely a child’s ability at a given activity.

As a teacher it is very difficult to choose students for sporting teams (and for choir, dance, public speaking etc). Of course it is nice to be selected; it is nice to represent your school and to win. But, there is a bigger picture around all of this and sometimes other factors come into play. Teachers become very disheartened when the extra-curricular activities they are involved in result in controversy.

While, as a parent I realise it is difficult to deal with a disappointed child (and to deal with your own disappointment), all teachers are doing their best to be objective and professional in their judgements.

It is necessary to have faith and trust and to support your child, if they are disappointed, to come to terms with that disappointment. It is also necessary to support the school in your discussions with a disappointed child and to rationalise that, on that day and at that time, this time they were not successful.

I am reminded of a quote that I would like to share with you. It goes something like this: **“The world is made up of people who did not make the team and who did not win the flower show.”** The rules of logic will mean that many more students do not make a particular team than make it. As hard as this may sound….that is life.

Many thanks for your understanding in this matter. The team selections for Season 2 will be final.

With my best wishes for the upcoming holidays.

Sandra Palmer,  
Principal.

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**Stewart House...**

Stewart House Clothing Appeal bags have been sent home this week. It is a good opportunity over the school holidays to clean out our wardrobes and cupboards and gather together all the old clothes which we no longer have need for and donate them to Stewart House.

Stewart House exists to provide short term respite care for students in both Primary and Secondary schools. It provides health care and help in improving self-esteem, making friends and developing skills needed in everyday life.

Stewart House is a ‘Schools Charity’ and its operation depends greatly on the generous donations schools provide. Over $30,000 is raised through the clothing appeal.

All Bags must be returned to school (outside Mrs Ernstein’s classroom in N Block) by **Friday, 10 May**.

Mrs K Ernsteins,  
Co-ordinator.

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**Value of the Fortnight**

**Responsibility**

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

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**STOP PRESS**

**Change of date**

**ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

**Now**

7 June 2013 **at The Crest**
We are so excited to announce two **SILVER** sponsors *Kingston Carpets Panania* and *Original Decking Pty Ltd*, by The Cooke family (*Koby Cooke from 1H)*.

Also we have four **BRONZE** sponsors *McDonald’s Padstow*, *Bankstown City Council*, *Panania RSL Club* and *First Aid For You* by The Collis family (*Imogen Collis from 1F)*.

Most classes have received their Gold Coast Holiday raffle tickets. All tickets (including unsold) are to be returned to the school office no later than **Thursday, 16 May 2013**.

Check out our Panania Mania 2013 Facebook site and click on ‘Like’ or ‘Coming’.

**White Elephant Stall / Book Stall / Kids Clothing Stall**

Additional drop-off dates of your goods can be made on the following days/times:

- Saturday, 5 April from 3.00-3.15pm
- Friday, 12 April from 8.45-9.15am
- Friday, 10 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 faces 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](http://www.panania-p.schools.nsw.edu.au) under the “Our School” tab. Why not check it out?

**PananiaMania Committee.**
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.

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**DIARY DATES**

**Friday, 5 April**  
- School Disco  
  K:2   5.30pm – 6.30pm  
  Y3-6   7.00pm – 8.30pm  
  BBQ    6.00pm – 7.30pm

**Monday, 8 April**  
- P & C Meeting 7.00pm ‘A’ Block Staffroom

**Friday, 12 April**  
- Last day of school for Term 1

**TERM 2**

**Monday, 29 April**  
- Staff Development Day 1

**Tuesday, 30 April**  
- Staff Development Day 2

**Wednesday, 1 May**  
- All students return for Term 2

**Thursday, 2 May**  
- ANZAC Day Ceremony 2.15pm

**Tuesday, 7 May**  
- SRC Fundraiser “All the Colours of the Rainbow Day”

**Wednesday, 8 May**  
- Year 3 Excursion - Discover University

**Thursday, 9 May**  
- Mother’s Day Stall

**Tuesday, 14 May**  
- NAPLAN (Language Conventions/Writing)

**Wednesday, 15 May**  
- NAPLAN (Reading)

**Thursday, 16 May**  
- NAPLAN (Numeracy)

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**Rule of the Fortnight**

The rule we are focusing on for Term 1, Weeks 10 & 11 is:

**Be Respectful**

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

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**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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