19th February 2013

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

MEET THE TEACHERS EVENINGS
A reminder that our “Meet the Teachers” evenings this year are on Wednesday and Thursday evening this week from 7.00pm. These evenings are an “out of hours” opportunity to find out personally about your child’s class and routines as well as meet their teacher for 2013. The evenings will start with a plenary in the library or hall followed by classroom visits and discussions with teachers. The arrangements are as follows:-

Wednesday 20th February:
7.00pm - 7.45 pm - KF, KN, KFM, KR, 1L, 1EP, 1GH
7.30pm - 8.15pm - 2J, 2S, 2/3C, 3B, 3/4R

Thursday 21st February:
7.00pm - 7.45pm - 4D, 4/5R, 5DS, 6R, 6C

Many thanks to all those who attended the P&C meeting on Monday 11th February. This was the first meeting of the year and a great deal of planning and organisation was achieved by a larger than usual group of dedicated parents. Thanks also to those newer members of our school community who decided to take time out of their personal time to attend the meeting and find out about our P&C and its role in our school. We appreciate the commitment and the signs are very good for another very successful P&C year.

The traditional “P&C Welcome Breakfast” for new students and families (the first P&C function of the year) will be held on Friday 22nd February. This marvellous P&C initiative has been bringing families, staff and students together for nine years now and I’m sure families will enjoy the informal opportunity to get to know each other over a bacon and egg roll … or two! So put it in your diary, Friday 22nd February from 8.00am.
The next meeting of the P&C will be on Monday 11th March at 7.00pm in the library. We look forward to another strong turnout.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Many thanks to Mr Rutherford, staff, parents and students for an outstanding swimming carnival held on Friday 8th February at Glenbrook Pool. There is much planning and organising necessary to run such an event and thanks to everyone’s commitment, including the students, it went very well.

Thank you to all who contributed to its success (students, staff, pool staff and parents) and particularly those parents and friends of the school who just seem to “get things done”.

Thanks also to Nepean High for approving four of their students to assist with the “lifesaving” and timekeeping duties around the pool. It is a great initiative and we appreciated the extra eyes on the competitors.

Our carnival priorities are safety, completion of all events for competitors and an enjoyable day for all attendees including staff and parents. Congratulations to Cox House, Swimming Champions for 2013 but congratulations also to all those students who “had a go” and swam to the best of their ability on the day. Well done all!

DISCIPLINE POLICY AND SCHOOL RULES
Our school enjoys a safe, orderly environment where learning and social responsibility are valued and encouraged. The school’s rules, as part of the Discipline Policy, ensure all members of the school community have the best possible opportunity to experience success in their learning and social interactions. The children are reminded regularly of these rules and “expectations” but I thought parents may benefit from a reminder of the things we feel are the keys to success at school ….. and life in general. The school rules are as follows:

- **BE A LEARNER** (attend each day with the correct equipment and provide your best effort in lessons)
- **BE RESPECTFUL** (of each other and everyone’s right to learn)
- **BE SAFE** (in what you do and how you affect others)
- **BE RESPONSIBLE** (for your actions, choices and the consequences that follow)

STUDENT LEADER INDUCTION
Our student leader induction ceremony will be held on Thursday
28th February at our Primary afternoon assembly. This is a significant event for our school leaders and marks their official induction into the positions they have been elected to by their peers. It is really pleasing to see so many students taking extra responsibilities in our school and I was very impressed with a number of students who displayed selflessness in the election process by declining extra positions when they had already been successful in an area of responsibility. Seems to me that those badges certainly bring out the best in our children …. well done!

This is a great honour for these elected students and their families and I’m sure they are looking forward to upholding the fine traditions of leadership at Emu Plains Public School.

**STUDENT WELFARE**

Records:
It is important that the school has accurate information for contacting families when and if necessary. If your contact or other details have changed since last year, please contact the school to update this very important information.

**SCHOOL POLICIES**
The following outlines of school policies are printed in this newsletter as refreshers for experienced students and parents and valuable information for those new to the school. Policies are available on the school’s web page.

**Supervision of students**
The school's hours are from 9.05am to 2.55pm Monday to Friday. Teacher supervision is provided from 8.35am. In the interests of safety, students should not arrive at school before this time. Students are not to leave the school grounds at any time after arrival without the expressed permission of the principal. Students who arrive late to school or are required to leave early must have the appropriate form from the office. These forms are kept as a legal record of attendance.

**Safety of students**
In the interests of safety for all, students should travel to and from home by the most direct route. Parents are most welcome to collect their children from the courtyard area and any student not being collected by a parent should proceed directly home without loitering. Travelling to and from school is the most dangerous time for students. All students should use the crossings provided and observe the road rules. Students riding pushbikes must wear a helmet and walk their bikes (and scooters) in the school grounds.
Parents are requested to **observe the rules of the road, parking restrictions** around the school and **not use the car park** as a pick up and set down area.

**Homework**
The school, and the Department of Education and Communities support the provision of homework for students in Primary school. The purpose of homework is to provide purposeful learning experiences which may consolidate, extend or enrich the school's teaching / learning programs.

Homework activities will vary according to the age and development of the child, but generally as students mature, homework expectations will increase.

Teachers will discuss homework expectations in more detail at the Meet the Teachers evenings this week.

**Attendance / rolls / transfers**
The Department of Education and Communities works in the legal framework of The Education Reform Act of 1990. This act states that:

“ It is the duty of the parent of a child of or above the age of six and the age of fifteen to cause the child to be enrolled at a government school or registered non – government school and to attend the school at all times when the school is open for the child’s instruction or participation in school activities.”

School rolls are the legal and official documents of attendance and are marked each day. If a child is absent from school, parents must notify the school (preferably with a note of explanation) and students late to school must collect a note from the front office to be retained in the roll. Parents wishing to take their child from school early should collect a release form from the front office.

Students leaving the school when they move to another area should notify the front office to expedite their enrolment at the new school.

**Medications at school**
In the interest of safety, it is preferable for students **not** to have medications at school. It is possible for doctors to prescribe medicines to be taken before and after school as well as at bedtime to satisfy the “three times a day” requirement of many medications, including antibiotics. This does not include asthma medication in puffers.

Parents with students who have been prescribed schedule 8 medications (eg: Ritalin or Dexamphetamine) or specific medical needs should contact the principal regarding administration of such medications.
In no circumstances should such medicines be sent to school without prior consultation.

Money at school
Students are not encouraged to bring large amounts of money to school. Payments for school activities should be enclosed in an envelope and presented at the money window of the Admin Block. As a general rule, it should not be necessary to have more than $5 spending money at a time.

A.W. Best
Principal

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR
As parents, we know the rewards and challenges that raising children brings to us as we attempt to provide them with the skills and values that will enable them to lead rich and fulfilling lives. Sometimes the challenges seem overwhelming and, if you are anything like I was when I was raising young children, then you have sometimes felt that you are stumbling in the dark and are not sure whether you are capable of doing the job properly; we never get to practise being a parent before we have to do it for real. Fortunately, despite all our doubts, we generally do a pretty good job. Children are also very resilient and most of them turn out okay. There are times, however, when a little help can be a blessing, and there is a lot of help around. There are many service providers that offer assistance to parents through courses in such topics as child and adolescent development, behaviour management for children and adolescents and developing emotional intelligence. I have left information about some of these courses at the front office and you can contact me at the school on Wednesdays if you want further information.

It is good to be back at Emu Plains and I look forward to working with many of the children and parents in the coming year.

Ian Birrell
School Counsellor

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS
School photographs will be taken on Friday 8th March. The packages will range in price from $15 to $35. Please keep an eye out for the notes and the envelopes. Money needs to come in on the day of the photos and it is essential that payments are accurate because change WILL NOT be offered on the day.
LIBRARY NEWS.

All history becomes subjective; in other words there is properly no history, only biography.
Ralph Waldo Emerson.

This year marks the bicentenary of the successful crossing of the Blue Mountains by Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson. It is also the 150th anniversaries of the opening of the Penrith railway station and the dedication of the Emu Plains cemetery and the 50th anniversary of the transfer of Emu Plains from the Blue Mountains Shire to Penrith Council.

The Penrith City Council and Library’s 12th Annual History Conference is being held on Saturday, March 9, 2013 and will be followed by a Family History Fair on Sunday, March 10. Further information may be found at http://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au/index.asp?id=3572

Filming begins in Germany this month for a movie adaption of Markus Zusak’s evocative award winning young adult novel The Book Thief. Set in Nazi Germany at the start of the Nazi Occupation it tells the story of nine year old Liesel Meminger, her foster parents and others she befriends during this turbulent time in history. Australian actor Geoffrey Rush and British actor Emma Watson (from Harry Potter) have already been cast.

This week borrowing commences for all classes K – 6. Please encourage your child to bring their library bag and borrow from our well-resourced collections.

The first PRC book that I have read to Kinder and Year 1 is I Wish I Had a Pirate Suit / Pamela Allen (PRC Code: 11107).

Happy reading!
Mike Botham
Teacher/Librarian
P & C NEWS
What an amazing turnout to our first meeting of the year. It was so good to see new faces and have such valuable input and also some fresh ideas for fundraising. Be sure to put the dates for our next meeting in your diaries as all are welcome to attend. **Our next meeting will be 11th March 2013 at 7.00pm in the Library.**

One of our fundraising efforts this year will be our Good Guys Rewards Dollars. When making a purchase at the **Penrith Good Guys** store make sure you mention Emu Plains Public School and for every $50 spent our school will receive $1. So start spending!

Our first Working Bee will be on Sunday 17th March. Any help would be appreciated. The whole family can be involved, with the children loving to help out as well. We have a fantastic sausage sizzle organised and is even being cooked by Mr Best!

It would be a good help if you could also bring along shovels, wheelbarrows, rakes, or just bring yourself. We have plenty of jobs such as painting, linemarking and a general tidy up. Thank you in advance for helping to make EPPS look great.
### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Term 1 - 2013

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<th>Days</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues-Wed</td>
<td>19-20</td>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Meet the Teachers evenings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>P &amp; C Welcome Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
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<td>Select High School Tests</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>P &amp; C Working Bee</td>
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<td>18-22</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Year 5 Camp</td>
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<td>25-27</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Year 4 Camp</td>
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<td>Mar</td>
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<td>Apr</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Students return</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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