



GIRLS AND BOYS DRAGON TAG GALA DAY

Penshurst West Public School Newsletter

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TERM 4, WEEK 4 - 28 OCTOBER '13

A busy time at Penshurst West. Whilst our current students have been working hard across all learning areas, we have also been welcoming our 2014 Kindergarten students. A series of workshops for the parents and lessons for the students have been very well received, and they continue this Wednesday.

As we get closer to the end of term I encourage you to check out our calendar section at the end of this newsletter. Put all the end of year functions into your diary so you don't miss a thing.

Our swimming scheme has been going great, the students have definitely enjoyed getting out there and learning how to swim. This is such an important skill so well done to all those involved.

Last Friday was World Teachers' Day. We have a wonderful and caring staff that is committed to ensuring your child has the best possible education. I thank them for all their hard work and dedication to the students of Penshurst West. Take the time to thank the teachers yourself.

Have a great week at Penshurst West.

Mr Ackerman

Relieving Principal

Mrs Furey

After a long and varied career at Penshurst West, Mrs Furey has recently been offered a new position at Brighton Le Sands Public School. This is as an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher, something which Mrs Furey has been wanting to do for some time. Mrs Furey will start at Brighton in 2014. We wish her all the best.

Teacher Professional Learning

Did you know that all Penshurst West staff attend weekly professional learning on a range of subjects? From technology to curriculum to behaviour management, our staff are dedicated to ensuring they are up to date with what is going on in education.

This week they attended a session on behaviour management by Carl Warren. His key message was to ensure we had a positive relationship with our students. Talking to them, listening, understanding body language and giving students time is the key to getting that relationship. All staff are committed to having calmer classrooms.

Gold & Silver Awards

Congratulations to the following award recipients:

Silver:

Sara H
Gene T
Ben W
Kai D
Evan P
Blake R
Chad H
Chad H
Oliver D
Summer G
Summer G
Adrienn S
Jacob B
Yuvraj M
Josh S
Amish P
Anes B

Gold:

Ben W
Adrienn S
Oliver D
Yuvraj M
Josh S
Amish P

Medal:

Ben W



School Medal

If you are close to getting a school medal you need to see Mrs Kovacs this week so she can organize the medals.

Public Speaking

Last week our four stage winners represented Penshurst West at the Inner West Public Speaking Competition. You all did yourself, your family and your school very proud.

Congratulations to;

- Kindergarten – Luke (Highly Commended)
- Stage 1 – Olivia (Highly Commended)
- Stage 2 – Madalyn
- Stage 3 – Ella Rose (Highly Commended)

Buddies Program

As our new Kindergarten students have been settling in, our current Kindergarten's have been spending some quality time with their Year 6 buddies.



Kindy Start 2

This Wednesday from 9.45am we have our second Kindy Start session. This week the parents will move around the school and see all the wonderful programs that we offer. These include Buddies, Laptops, MindUp, Dance, Choir, Speech Therapy and the Computer Lab.

It sounds like a great morning.



Year 7 Selective High 2015

Applications for students seeking selective high school placement in Year 7 in 2015 (current Year 5 students) will be available from 15 October 2013. Most parents are expected to apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement.

All students seeking placement in a selective high school will be required to sit the **Selective High School Placement Test** on **Thursday 13 March 2014**. Parents who wish their child to sit the test will need to apply by **Friday 18 November 2013**. We will send home more information as it arrives.

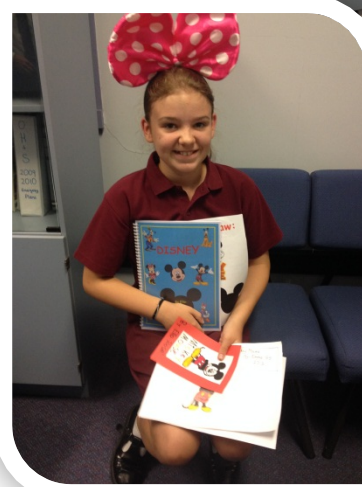
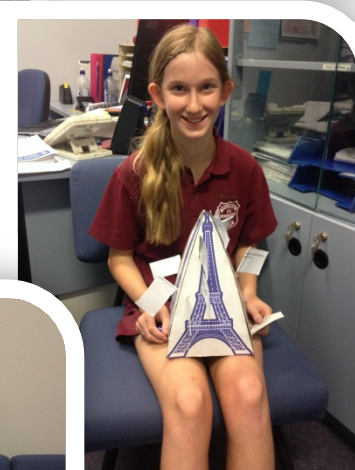
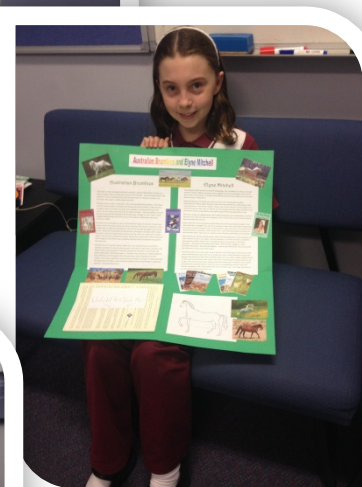
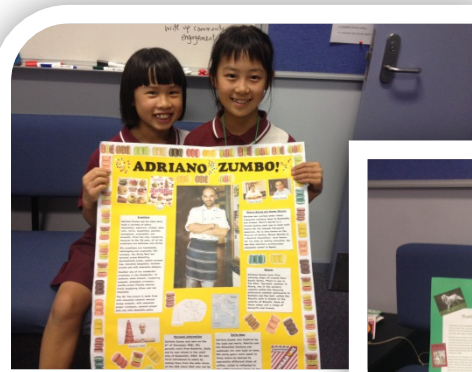
Jellybean Music

A new music resource was purchased this year allowing students to learn new percussion scores in their class. Called Jellybeans, it has been a big hit with all the classes that have tried it. Last week SS and Mrs Sarafoski showed off their musical expertise.



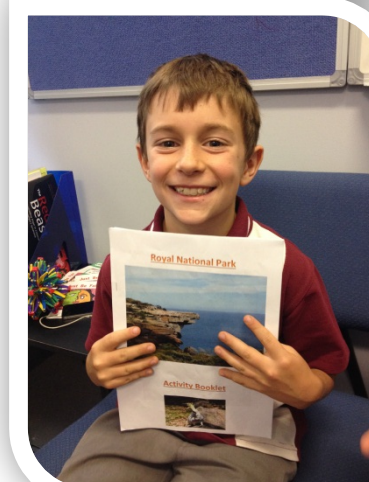
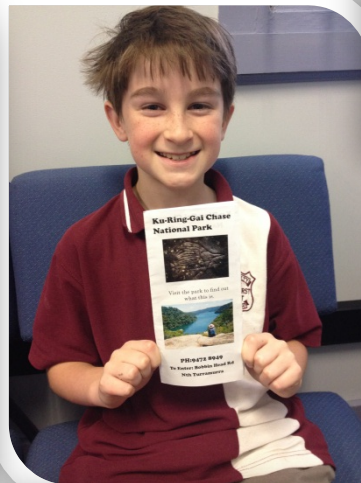
Stage 3 Extension Group

The Stage 3 extension group, led by Ms Hancock, have been working on personal projects. They had to choose an area they were passionate about and teach their peers. Amongst the great activities was cooking deserts, teaching a second language, cartoon drawing and hieroglyphics. Thanks to these girls for coming in and showing their fantastic work.



Stage 2 Extension Group

As a follow up from the last newsletter where we highlighted the wonderful national park work from our talented Stage 2 students, here are some more of their great work.



Dragon Tag Gala Day



Last week our boys and girls oz tag teams represented the school in the annual Dragons Tag Gala Day, held at Evatt Park. Our students behaved beautifully, tagged quickly and scored many fantastic tries. Thanks to Mrs Kovacs, Mrs Sarafoski and Miss Mackie for supporting the students on the day.



MindUP

This week in MindUP we complete our final two lessons.

Lesson 14 – Performing Acts of Kindness

Good deeds....gestures of generosity....paying it forward. These expressions describe mindful action intended to help another living thing. Participating in such an action constitutes an act of kindness. Acts of kindness can be big or small, spontaneous or well planned. Socially, acts of kindness cultivate shared happiness, build relationships, and give people a sense of connectedness to a group, community, or place – they are an excellent way to build a classroom community full of good will and optimism. The more people practice acts of kindness, the more likely they are to recognise and act on situations in which others are in need.

Things to do at home:

Random Acts of Kindness

At mealtimes, in the car, during bath time, or as you're putting your children to bed, share with each other what kind acts you did. How did being kind make them feel? Which acts made them feel the best? Ask them if they'd like to carry on doing kind things and is so. What would they do?

The Kindness Game

Make up a new game with your children called the Kindness Game. It goes like this: Say that from now on you are each going to do at least three acts of kindness per day. Talk to them about what these might be. For instance, helping a friend at school, cheering someone up who's having a bad day, offering to help with the chores, or telling someone he or she did a good job.

Lesson 15 - Taking Mindful Action in the World

Whether they involve one or many individuals, mindful actions are purposefully planned activities that create a healthier world and set a precedent for other people to follow. In this culminating lesson, children work together to select, plan and execute a group act of kindness for the school or larger community. Through actions like this, children are able to see themselves as part of a larger community.

That brings an end to this years MindUp program. We hope the students have enjoyed the activities and are now thinking a bit more mindfully when approaching situations.

It has been fantastic to see all the classes get involved in this program, thanks to the teachers for all their efforts in ensuring the program's success.

We will have an evaluation of the MindUp program for students, staff and parents. More information to follow in the next newsletter.

Mrs Lopes

Enrolment in 2014

Having accurate enrolment numbers is extremely important. Penshurst West is starting to plan for 2014. If you know that you will be taking a long period of leave in the beginning of 2014 or are leaving the area can you please ring or call in to the Office to let us know.

Calendar Updates



Being such a busy and exciting term, I hope that our term calendar has a special place on your fridge. Please refer to the calendar, our website and our new, OFFICIAL FACEBOOK page for regular information about school events and activities.

OCTOBER

21 Monday

Swim Scheme Begins for two weeks

30 Wednesday

Kindy Start 2



NOVEMBER

1 Friday

PSSA Round 6

End of Swim Scheme

4 Monday

Yoga Trial – selected students

6 Wednesday

Kindy Start 3

8 Friday

PSSA Round 7

11 Monday

Remembrance Day Ceremony 10.30am Hall

15 Friday

PSSA Round 8

22 Friday

PSSA Round 9

25 Monday

School Leader Elections

28 Thursday

Year 6 Fun Day

29 Friday

PSSA Finals Day

DECEMBER

4 Wednesday

High School Orientation Day

5 Thursday

Combined Scripture Service

10 Tuesday

Presentation Day @ Peakhurst High 10.30am

12 Thursday

3-6 Fun Day @ Hurstville Aquatic Centre

13 Friday

K-2 Fun Day @ Funarama, Kirrawee

16 Monday

Year 6 Farewell

18 Wednesday

Students Last Day

19 Thursday

Staff Development Day

20 Friday

Staff Development Day



