

Coming events

TERM 1 2023

Week 3

Monday 6 February
Kindergarten First
Day 9.25am-3.00pm

Week 4

Kindergarten 9.25am-
3.25pm

Week 4-5

Kindergarten Best
Start assessment.

Week 5

Parent Exchange of
Information Sessions

Week 7

Monday March 6
District Swimming
Carnival
Tuesday March 7
Parent Helper
Information Session
Wednesday March 8
P&C Fun Run

Week 8-11

Wednesday 15 March-
Monday 27 March
NAPLAN

Week 9

Tuesday 21 March
Harmony Day

Week 10

Friday 31 – Celebrate
World Autism Day
(Sunday 2 April)

Week 11

Thursday 6 April
Easter Hat Parade

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Dear Parents/Carers

WHO DO I SEE WHEN I HAVE A CONCERN?

From time-to-time parents or other members of the school community may need to approach the school to discuss the progress or welfare of their own child, express concern about actions of other students or enquire about school policy or practice. In most cases the first person you would contact is your child's teacher, followed by the Assistant Principal of the appropriate stage then the Principal either by note, school email or phone, so you can arrange a mutually suitable time to discuss the issue. If you have concerns and are unsure with whom to speak, please contact the office, state the nature of the concern and they shall direct you to the appropriate person. Below is a list of the Assistant Principals for each stage.

Classes	Assistant Principal
KC, K/1P, 1J, 1/2C, 2S	Mrs Cashman (Mon-Wed); Mrs Parkins (Thu/Fri)
3K, 3/4B	Mrs Kristy Smith
4/5S, 5/6O, 5/6O	Miss O'Riordan
K/1S, 1/5M, 4/6GT	Mrs Sarah Smith

At no time should a parent approach a child (other than their own) to address an issue at school. We are always keen to address any concerns or suggestions you may have and feel it is particularly important that they are dealt with in an open and fair manner to ensure the rights of students, parents and staff are respected and upheld.

DUTY OF CARE REMINDER

Unfortunately, we continue to see a number of students arriving at school as much as 45 minutes early. Please be reminded that there is no teacher supervising until 8.55am and it is unsafe for your child to be unattended. There is a teacher on duty at 8.55am until school starts at 9.25am. Please help us keep your children safe by not dropping them at school prior to 8.25am. Your support is much appreciated.

TEACHER RELEASE

From time to time your child's teacher is not on class for the day. There are several reasons (in addition to illness) why this could be the case. Teachers are required to do additional planning for the class or a specific student, they may be working on a whole school program that benefits all children across the school or they may have additional responsibilities such as leading a team of teachers and support staff that demands additional time. Rest assured, when your child's teacher is 'off class' they thoroughly plan lessons for the day and communicate key information about their students to the replacement teacher.

At Penshurst West PS we also make every effort to ensure we have a consistent casual workforce to promote stability and on-going learning if your child's teacher needs to be away.

BELL TIMES

Below are the bell times for Penshurst West Public School. Please be aware students are expected to be at school by 9.25am. Please support your child to have a smooth, settled start to each day by making sure he or she arrives on time.

9.24am first bell to tell children to proceed to line up ready for class

9.25am classes commence

11.25am lunch commences

12.15 middle teaching session

1:45pm recess

2:10pm final class session

3:25pm end of day

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at school has a significant impact on longer term outcomes for children and young people. When a child is not at school, they miss important opportunities to learn, build friendships and develop their skills through play. Regular attendance at school is a shared responsibility between the school and parents. By working together, we can have a positive effect on supporting our children and young people to regularly attend school. One of our negotiated targets with the Department of Education in our Strategic Improvement Plan is to increase the number of children attending at least 90% of the time. At the conclusion of 2022 we only had 60.5% of children attending 90% of the time. Over a period of three years, we are striving to achieve 90% of children attending 90% of the time.

EVERY DAY COUNTS WHEN IT COMES TO ATTENDANCE

See the table below to see just how much time is lost with just 1 day a week or fortnight.



See the table below to see just how much time is lost with being just 5 minutes late per day.



MOVING INTO YEAR 7 IN 2024

All Year 6 students received a "Moving into Year 7 in a NSW Government School in 2024" form. These completed forms need to be returned to school by Friday 24 March even if you do not intend for your child to attend a government high school in 2024. If you have any questions, please contact your child's classroom teacher. Thank you to those families who have already returned their forms.

HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day is a celebration of our cultural diversity. It is about inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for everyone. Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. To celebrate Harmony Day on Tuesday 21 March, we are having a special dress day where students are asked to wear something orange or wear something to represent your family's culture. No donation will be collected, but Ice blocks (99% fruit juice – no artificial flavours) will be sold to raise money for collaborative resources that promote cooperation and inclusiveness. These 'harmonious' treats will be sold at lunch and recess (until stocks last) and will cost \$1 each.



RESILIENCE TIPS

Research shows that good resilience skills help children perform better at school. Helping a child feel successful is an important aspect of resilience. Below are a few tips to help your child build confidence and concentration.

- play card, memory, and concentration games
- do crossword and picture puzzles
- dance sequence games improve concentration, processing speed, planning, sequencing, and motor integration. As a bonus, they can also be a good form of aerobic exercise.
- Story based games require a good story book and a good imagination.

You can simply read a short story and discuss the content. Or you can read a paragraph or two from a story and then ask your child to produce what they think might come next. You can then add your take on what happens after your child says what they think happens next. If possible, keep trading back and forth and see what you end up with. Through repeated playing, brain circuits are exercised and challenged, which strengthens connections and thus improves function. These games help with building working memory, sequencing, and concentration. They can also help in the development of logic and sense of humour.

(NAPLAN) NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM – LITERACY and NUMERACY

What is NAPLAN? The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Commencing this year, the test window has moved from May to March. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states, and territories with information about how education programs are working, and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement. NAPLAN tests are one aspect of each school's assessment and reporting process and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance. Each teacher will have the best insight into their students' educational progress. Parents/carers can use NAPLAN reports, along with other school assessment reports, to discuss their child's strengths and areas for improvement with their teacher.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the 4 areas (or 'domains') of:

- reading
- writing
- conventions of language (spelling, grammar, and punctuation)
- numeracy Students in Year 3 and Year 5 will be conducting the NAPLAN assessments in the online format between 15 March to 27 March 2023.

Lauren Phillips
Principal

CELEBRATION TIME – Student Awards

Congratulations to our award winners who consistently display our school's core values.

GOLD AND SILVER AWARDS



GOLD / SILVER AWARDS

Clarisse (5/6O)

Alana (4/5S)

Emma (5/6B)

Krit (4/5S)

BRONZE - RESPONSIBILITY



BRONZE AWARDS (Left to right)

Back row:

Kobe (5/6B), Soloman (5/6O),
Zak (3K), Shanaya (2S),

Front row:

Terence (4/6T) Leo (1/5), Noelan
Campbell (4/6GT), Lachlan Zigic-
Manning

SPORTING SUCCESS – Basketball



Owen (5/6O), Louis (5/6B) and Keanu (5/6O) were selected to play in the Georges River PSSA basketball team. This is an outstanding achievement, and we are enormously proud of you.

District Swimming Carnival

Last Monday 6 March the District Swimming Carnival was held. All our swimmers tried their best and represented our school with pride and determination. Your efforts are commended.







GO HENRY!!

A HUGE congratulations to Henry for coming second in 50m Freestyle.

This achievement sees Henry progress to Sydney East.

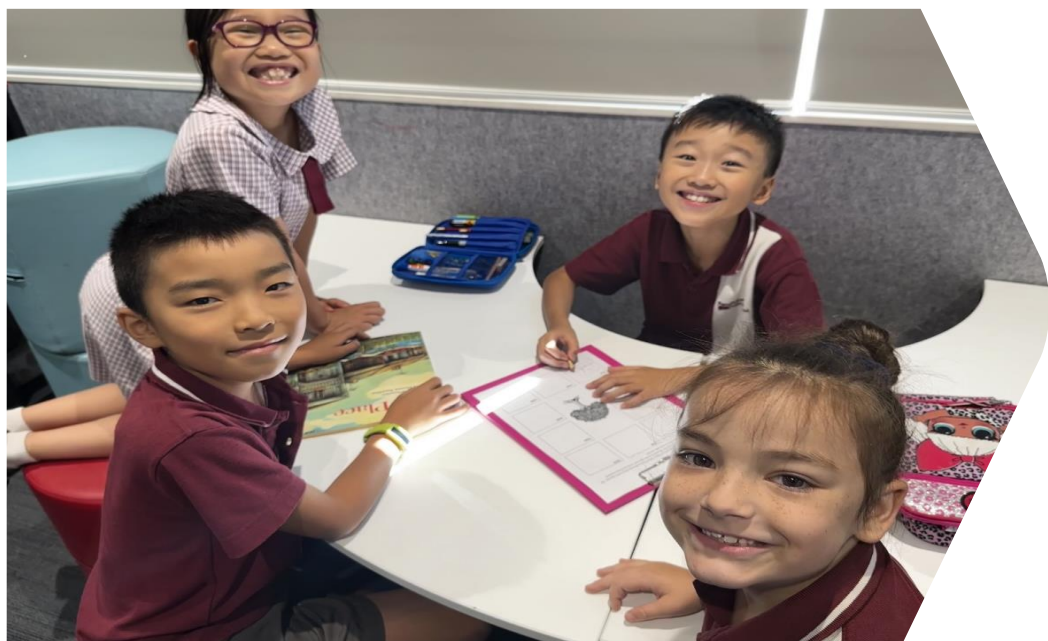
We are exceptionally proud of you Henry!!

SPOTLIGHT ON 3K

English



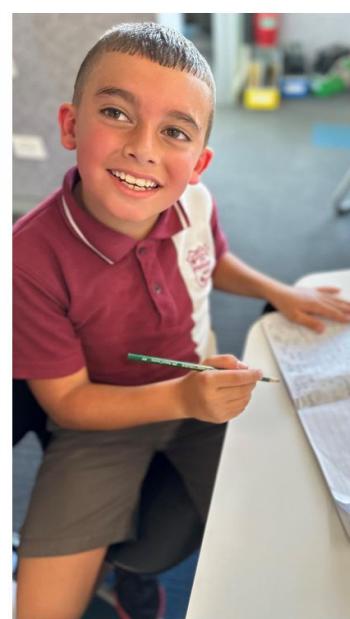
In English this fortnight, students delved into the concepts of narrative and imagery. They explored how narratives organise, shape, and present a view of the world and how meaning can be shaped and communicated using images and symbols. Students learnt to read like writers by examining the text 'My Place' by Nadia Wheatley & Donna Rawlins. They explored the key ideas, inferred meanings, vocabulary, non-linear structure of the text and the impact these have on the reader. Students are now extending on their learning and exploring the concept of 'my place' in relation to our community and school. In the coming weeks they will engage with our history inquiry with the driving question 'How has our place' changed over time?





Things you can do at home to support reading and comprehension skills:

- Encourage nightly reading for at least 10 minutes.
- Asking children comprehension questions based on the book they have been reading.
- Encourage your child to write stories, to keep a journal, create cards and even shopping lists.



Maths

3K is filled with curious mathematicians that are committed to investigating, understanding, and solving problems using a range of skills and strategies. Our 3K students have been working hard in place value (reading writing, ordering, expanding and representing numbers) and in multiplicative thinking (using arrays to record multiplication facts, solve problems and represent their thinking). Students have been developing automatic recognition of their timetables by incorporating movement and mathematics. Developing fluency in these mathematical facts will play a large role into the transition of other mathematical concepts and efficient, effective problem-solving methodologies.



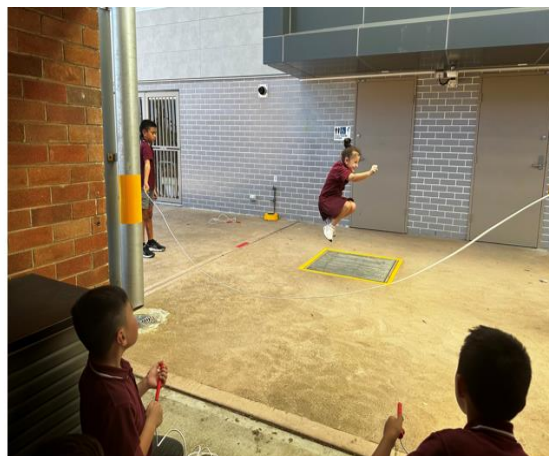
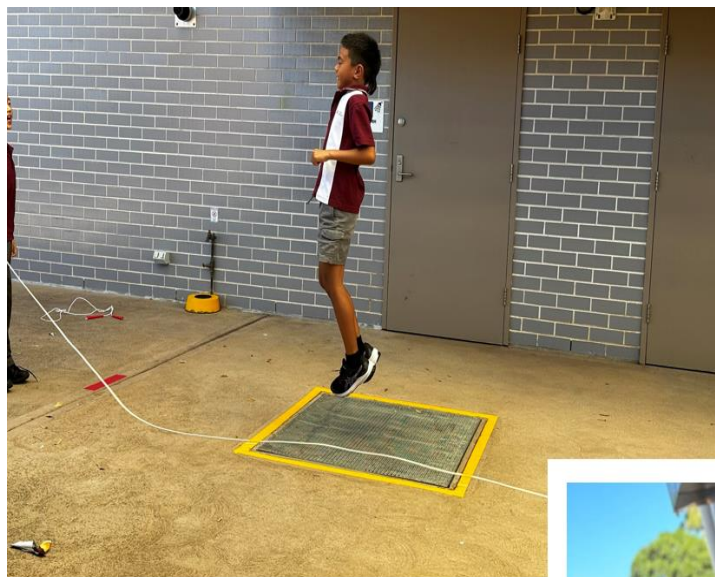
Multiplication Hopscotch

Things you can do at home to support mathematical skills:

- Practice automatic recall of multiplication facts
- Practice skip counting forwards and backwards from any given number.
- Practice reading and writing 5-digit numbers.



Skip Counting



Technology

3K have been enhancing their research and technology skills using the app Keynote. Students have learnt to navigate websites, critically analysing what they are reading and considering the sources and accuracy of the information presented. They have learnt how to create multimedia presentation and how to publish their writing to engage an audience through the integration of written, visual and audio texts. We look forward to sharing some finished Keynote presentations with you soon!

