Good Afternoon Parents,

Welcome back for the new school year in 2013.

At the end of 2012 a panel was convened to choose a new principal for our school. Unfortunately a new principal was not chosen from that process and it would seem that, that process will be repeated in the early weeks of this school year. Plumpton is a great school and we want to be assured that we will have a worthy leader. If that process is taking longer than expected then so be it. We need to get it right.

In the interim I will continue as Acting Principal. I will continue to move the school forward and look forward to the challenges of a new school year. At the present time there are no new staff members for 2013. At this stage the biggest change is that Plumpton no longer has a Deputy Principal. A full class list will appear in the next newsletter.

We will not be starting our new classes today and in fact I do not envisage new classes starting till the beginning of next week. Our current numbers allow us to have 19 classes. We are only a few children short of our 20th class. Executive teachers spent much of the day today checking up on students that hadn’t returned. We will not know final kindergarten numbers until Friday. At that point I will be able to start forming classes.

Kindergarten is beginning a little different this year. Between Wednesday and Friday the new enrolments sit what is known as the “Best Start” assessment. It is a test with concrete materials and the child will have a teacher and parents in the room. Always a struggle for the parents not to help their child but the answers the students give will help the classroom teachers know what levels they have already reached and where to go from there. After testing the students will be returning home.

Next week the kindergarten children will be having a staggered start. They will meet with members of the support staff and have a short interview process before being taken to a kindergarten class. The support staff will help the kindergarten teachers build a profile of the new student. By Wednesday of next week all students should be here and in new classes.

Bookpacks are available for sale. They contain most of the books and equipment that your child will need during the year. Money can be paid to your child’s class teacher. Kindergarten to year 4 book packs will be worth $30. Year 5 and 6 book packs will be selling for $35.

Over the next week Mr Bragg will be talking to students about our competitive swimming carnival. This short carnival is only for students from 8 years old and above who can competitively swim a whole lap (50m) of the Emerton Swimming pool. He needs to choose a team that will represent our school at the Blacktown District Carnival. That competitive carnival will be held on 14 February at Emerton pool. We will be beginning at 1.45 pm and all should be completed by 3pm at the latest.
Looking forward to an exciting 2013 with lots of fascinating activities
Mr. Terry Dauw
Acting Principal.

MESSAGES FROM THE DEC

Anaphylaxis information
If your child is diagnosed at risk of a severe allergic reaction, particularly anaphylaxis, the Anaphylaxis Procedures contain information for schools and parents designed to minimise the risk to students. If your child has an allergy it is important to let us know — see Action steps for parents.

Swim and survive program
Lessons are for beginners through to confident swimmers keen to practise their technique (from infants to 12 years). See the map to find the pools where friendly swim teachers with AUSTSWIM accreditation teach across NSW.

Schoolkids Bonus
The Schoolkids Bonus can help lighten the financial load. It replaces the old Education Tax Refund and it’s simple: there’s no need to collect receipts or claim it through your tax.

SWIMMING TRIALS
Our school’s competitive swimming trials will be held at Emerton Leisure Centre on Thursday 14th February from 1:45pm - 2:55pm.

The swimming trials are for swimmers who can confidently swim the length of a 50m pool independently. The aim of the trials is to provide an opportunity for students to qualify to represent the school at the Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival, where they will compete against students from school across the Blacktown PSSA zone.

Students turning 8 this year and older are welcome to take part in the swimming trials. Please note that travel to and from the venue will be by private transport.

If your child is interested in competing, please encourage them to listen carefully to announcements at school regarding the swim trials and to get a note from Mr. Bragg.

Mr. Bragg
Sports Coordinator

SCHOOL PROCEDURES & REMINDERS

EARLY LEAVERS
When signing children out early of an afternoon, for appointments etc, parents are asked to do so before 2.45pm. Students will not be signed out after this time.
SCHOOL CAR PARK
Parents are reminded that the school car park is for STAFF PARKING ONLY. Parents are asked not to drop children off in the car park, park in or walk through the car park. The car park is out of bounds for students. This is for their safety.

MESSAGES REGARDING LATE COLLECTION OF STUDENT
Please phone before 2.30pm with any messages for your child. We do our best to get messages to children but it would be appreciated if you could ensure there are alternative procedures in place.

PAYMENTS
All payments for excursions, camp, activities etc must be paid by the advised closing date and given to the class teacher. Please ensure you have enclosed the correct money (no change will be given) in an envelope clearly marked with child’s name, class, activity and amount.

Have you changed any of your contact details? If yes, please contact the office immediately. It is very distressing for students and staff when parents cannot be contacted when needed. Thank you.

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BMX NATIONAL SIGN ON DAY
COME AND TRY the THRILL and EXCITEMENT of BMX RACING for FREE

YOUR LOCAL CLUB IS AT:
PERTH PANTHERS BMX CLUB
CREEK ROAD ST MARVILS BEHIND BLAKE IVY
NEAR RIPPLES SWIMMING POOL

DATE TO COME AND TRY:
SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY
9.00AM TO 11.00AM PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

CONTACT:
0424507395 OR 0409747604
BMXpuurid@hotmail.com
http://panthers.bmxwq.com.au

FREE SHOWBAG
- for participants with a Hat, Handbar Grip, DVD and more
- while stocks last at participating tracks

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

BMX AUSTRALIA
bmxaustralia.com.au

PEC
Plumpton Educational Community