Dear Plumpton Public School Community,

28 August 2014

Our enrolments are increasing. It is so pleasing to see that our reputation is spreading. Welcome to our school – your local school – a great school!

The word is getting out! At our school, we have:

- Wonderful families who proactively support us in so many ways
- Fantastic staff who go above and beyond the call of duty for the children and for each other
- Great students – who care for and support each other
- Wonderful experiences for our students, including: a variety of lunchtime interest groups (the teachers give up their own time to run these), student enrichment programs, school sporting competitions, quality transition to school and transition to high school programs, environmental education, targeted learning support for students, public speaking and debating
- Cutting edge technology and 21st Century learning
- PSSA teams in AFL, Cricket, European Handball, Soccer, Netball and Oztag,
- Wonderful P&C and community volunteers who devote many hours of their time to make a difference for our school
- A school that is first and foremost committed to the safety, wellbeing and success of our students.

FLU SEASON IS HERE!

Influenza is spread from person-to-person through the coughing or sneezing of infected people. It’s always good to remind our children about these good hygiene practices to minimise the spread of infection:

- Cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the garbage bin after use.
- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

Anyone who is sick with influenza symptoms should stay home until their symptoms are gone. If you or your child develops influenza-like illness, seek the advice of your family doctor as you would with any other illness.

The seasonal influenza vaccine, which protects against the pandemic influenza strain as well as two other influenza strains, is now available free to eligible people. More information about the vaccine is available from the NSW Health Immunisation Unit
NAPLAN 2014 release of results
The 2014 NAPLAN student reports will be delivered to NSW schools very soon. Please see the ‘Open Letter to Parents’ from Robert Randall, CEO, Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) in this edition of our newsletter.

LUNCH
Could we please ask that you do not send food to school for your child that needs heating up. For safety reasons, staff are not supposed to heat children’s food up. Thank you for your assistance.

SCHOOL CAR PARK
The staff car park continues to be used by parents and caregivers to drop children off at school in the mornings. When I have approached parents, they’ve said “it’s raining” – this is no excuse.

The car park is for authorised use only. Authorised means: employed on site to carry out work, or holding an authorised permit, or delivering purchased goods.

Our rules are clear; if you are not authorised – you are trespassing on school property. Rego numbers will be recorded and trespassers will be reported to the local police.

LEAVE
I will be taking 2 weeks leave for some minor surgery from next week, and will be returning for the last week of term.
Yours in partnership,
Ms Maureen Larkin
Principal
Be safe – Be respectful - Be a learner

LIBRARY NEWS
Wow, what a busy Book Week we have just had. This year’s theme is “Connect To Reading, Reading to Connect”, so on Monday some enthusiastic students from Plumpton High School came and read to our Year 1 and Year 2 students, from a selection of the nominated Book Week books. This was the brilliant idea of Sue Pitt, the High School Librarian, and it really was a great way to “connect” with our High School. On Tuesday all our classes took part in Reading Hour, some shared the reading with their Buddy classes. In Library we have been enjoying exploring the books that have won awards and completing activities. There have also been various competitions that students could complete to win book prizes and book marks. This will continue to the end of next week so all students have the opportunity to complete different tasks. We were very privileged to have Frane Lessac visit on Thursday, the students that watched her presentation loved her stories and illustrations. Her husband Mark Greenwood visited our Stage 3 students on Friday and took our students on many adventures through History and his imagination; it was up to them to work out what was true and what was imaginary.

I have had a few parents concerned that we did not have a Book Character Parade; this will happen when we have our Book Fair next term. Our Book Fair will commence in Week 2 on Thursday 16th October with the P&C Disco and conclude on Wednesday 22nd October with Grandparents Day and our Book Character Parade. So start thinking about that Book character costume and organising your Christmas list so you can purchase books for your Christmas gifts. However next year our Book Fair and Book Week will coincide so there will be great celebration in Book Week next year.

Bronwyn Bailey
Teacher Librarian
TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY
In week 10 of Term 3, Plumpton Public School will be getting ready to participate in ‘International Talk Like a Pirate Day’ for the third year in a row. Students are invited to wear their pirate costumes on Thursday 18th September. We will be raising money for Childhood Cancer Support, so start collecting your coins. The class who bring in the most treasure (donated coins) on the day will receive ice blocks for the whole class.

SPECIAL SWIM PROGRAM
There are still places available for the Special Swimming Program that will run from the 1 December to the 12 December. These places are now being offered to Years 3 & 4. Thank you.

READING HOUR
Last Tuesday 4/5D and 1/2L participated in Reading Hour. We went to the library and we read as a class then to our buddies. Our buddies got to choose the books and decided if they wanted to read the whole book or both of us read. It was fun to spend time with our buddies and see how well they could read.
Emma Wilson and Jacqueline Blackburn 4/5D

STUDENT BANKING
The Commonwealth Bank started a new system with the tokens from the beginning of 2014. All accounts started with a zero balance of tokens. There has been some confusion and students have been submitting tokens from previous years. The system will not allow rewards to be given if the correct amount of deposits have not been reached.
Thank you.
GALA DAY
Tickets for Gala Day can be purchased now at 50 cents each or 5 for $2. Gala Day will be held on the 12th September from 10am - 12.30pm to raise money for Year 6 Farewell.

The Activities on the day will include:
Scones, Jam and Cream (4 tokens)
BBQ (5 tokens)
Can Stall (4 tokens)
Fairy Floss (5 tokens)
Jumping Castle (6 tokens)

Novelty Store (range from 4 tokens to 10 tokens)
Plaster Painting (2, 4 and 6 tokens)
Guessing Comp (2 tokens)
Face Painting (2, 3 and 4 tokens)
Lots more Games and activities

FREE DENTAL CHECK
Dental staff from Blacktown/Mt Druitt Dental Hospital Clinics will be visiting the school on Thursday 11 September to provide a short talk regarding oral health information, diet advice plus a free dental check to students in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. Forms have been given out to these classes. Each student (with Medicare Number and the consent form ticked yes and signed by a parent) will be eligible to have a dental checkup. Please complete form and return to the school.

Parents with children in Pre-school, Kindy, Years 1 & 2 or children suffering dental pain or trauma, may call the Western Sydney Local Health District call centre on 9845 6766.

PAYMENTS
All payments for excursions, camp, activities etc must be paid by the advised closing date and put into the chute in the office counter. 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. Please use separate envelopes for each activity. Sorry we do not supply envelopes.

LOST PROPERTY
A reminder to parents to ensure that all school uniform items are clearly marked with your child’s name. Lunch containers and drink bottles also need to be labelled as well please.

P&C NEWS
Hope everybody is getting in their raffle tickets for our Father’s Day raffle to be in the draw for some lovely gifts for dad.

Don’t forget the Father’s Day stall is next Wednesday with gifts ranging from 50c-$5. Each child will have a chance to purchase one gift only when they come to the stall with their class, then once every class has been through the stall will be open to everyone to purchase more if they like. This is to ensure every child gets the chance to purchase something special.

UNIFORM SHOP.
MONDAY AND THURSDAY 8.30-9AM AND 2.30-2.55PM.
CASH ONLY
WHO IS THE PYJAMA FOUNDATION?
The Pyjama Foundation is a learning based charity that supports children in foster care, who are often left behind academically by their peers. The Pyjama Foundation recruits, screens, trains and supports community volunteers, known as Pyjama Angels. Volunteers are matched with a child in care and visit them each week to deliver The Pyjama Foundation Love of Learning Program®. This learning-based mentoring program has produced many positive results for the children, including improving their literacy and numeracy skills, increasing their self-confidence, and widening their networks and experiences within the community.

For every child in care that we can nurture and help educate, we change their future expectations and options and therefore also change the lives of those around them. It is truly a snowball effect, positively affecting the whole community and ending the cycle of disadvantage.

If you require any further information on either The Pyjama Foundation or the World’s Biggest Pyjama Party, or how your school can get involved in some of our other fundraising activities, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Regards
Adrian Steer
Corporate Partnerships Manager
The Pyjama Foundation
M: 0408 66 16 17

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT FOR 2015

It’s that time of the year where we start taking enrolment applications for children commencing Kindergarten in 2015.

We need to have our anticipated student numbers reported to the Department of Education soon. Staffing is calculated on these anticipated numbers so it’s important that they are as accurate as possible.

If you have a child commencing Kindergarten in 2015, could you please request an enrolment form and have it returned to the office as soon as possible.

It would be appreciated if this information could be brought to the attention of any neighbours who have a child commencing Kindergarten next year. We appreciate your assistance.
Try Baseball and Teeball

Learn how much fun it is to play Baseball & Teeball. Come and have a turn at batting, throwing, fielding and running the bases. We may even find a Major League player of the Future or someone who like to have some fun on a Saturday and making new friends. There is no cost or obligation with Try Baseball at Boomers.

We will be accepting registration for players on Our Try Baseball. With a one off fee and No Weekly Match Fees. All Try Baseball participants will receive a Free Sausage Sandwich and drink.

West Sydney Boomers Baseball Club Try Baseball and Registration Day is Sunday 31st August 2014 Between 10.00 and Noon
For any Information Contact David 041243568

Boomer's Home Diamonds are at Tregear Reserve
Cnr Wilkes Cres & Debrincate Ave Tregear
Website: www.westsydney.baseball.com.au
Email: wsboomersbaseball@gmail.com
Phone Enquiries 0412435686
NAPLAN results out soon: it shouldn't be a testing time

If you have school-age children in Year 3, 5, 7 or 9, you’d be aware that they took the NAPLAN tests (the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) in May this year.

Testing children at school is not new. It happens every week in most schools. However, NAPLAN is a national test that is specifically designed to provide a snapshot of your child’s learning in literacy and numeracy.

Reading, writing and maths are basic skills that help us all get on in this world. School, work and life become hard if you can’t read, write and understand how numbers work. As a parent, I want my children to be able to read the bus timetable to catch the bus home, or know how much change they should get after buying food at the school canteen. These simple activities rely on literacy and numeracy. Like all parents, I want to know if my children can do better and I want to know that as early as possible.

The results for this year’s tests will be with you over the coming weeks, earlier than in previous years. Sometime in August or September – the exact timing varies from state to state – you will receive your child’s NAPLAN report.

In the NAPLAN report, your child’s results will be shown against six levels of achievement. The black dot is your child’s result. The black triangle is the average results for all Australian children in that year level.

If your child’s black dot is close to the black triangle, it means your child is performing at a similar level to other children of a like age. If your child’s black dot is well above the black triangle, they are doing better than children in their year level across Australia; and if it is much lower, they aren’t doing as well as children in their year level across Australia.

If you are happy with what you see in your child’s NAPLAN student report, take the time to explain the results to them and encourage them in their areas of strength.

If you aren’t so happy with what you see in your child’s NAPLAN student report, here’re a few things to consider:

- NAPLAN takes place every second year. So, you could go back and look at your child’s previous school reports. Is NAPLAN showing you the same thing you see in them? Or is NAPLAN not reflecting what you know about your child? NAPLAN is a snapshot of your child’s abilities in literacy and numeracy, so it’s good to compare what you are seeing in the NAPLAN report against other school reports before reaching any conclusions.
- Think about how your child deals with tests. For some children, tests are a breeze, while others may struggle. Although NAPLAN isn’t a pass or fail test, it’s still a test. Perhaps your child is normally good at reading, but for some reason their NAPLAN results show the opposite.
- Maybe your child was unwell or distracted on the day of NAPLAN?

After you’ve considered these things, you might make a time to have a talk with your child’s teacher. Talking to your child’s teacher will help you to put the NAPLAN results into context and understand what you and the school can do with the results, and how to assist your child in the areas that they may need help in.

Remember that NAPLAN is only a snapshot of how your child was going in literacy and numeracy at that point in time.

Whatever you do, don’t stop any activities your child enjoys and don’t focus your child only on reading, writing and maths. All activities are crucial to the school program and contribute to developing informed, happy children who are confident in their own abilities.

Robert Randall
Chief Executive Officer, ACARA

_The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for the national assessment program, including NAPLAN, and the My School website. ACARA works to improve the learning for all young Australians through world-class school curriculum, assessment and reporting._