Principal’s Message

Payments of Fees
A big thank you to all parents who are already fully paid for the term. We really appreciate it.
If you know that you have outstanding fees, can you please pay what you can before the end of next week. On Friday next week Mrs Hamilton will be sending out statements of accounts to parents with monies outstanding.
If you are currently experiencing financial difficulty, can you please come and see me so that we can work out an arrangement and prevent your child from missing out on valuable learning experiences.

Parent Information Evening
Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to the Parent Information Evening on Monday night. We hope that you found it useful. If you were unable to attend please see your child’s teacher for the information sheet that they provided.
Parents at the Class 2/3/4 meeting discussed attending a camp in May. This is a camp for Year 3/4 students only and will include the Year 4’s from 4/5/6. Students currently in Year 2 will have the chance to attend in 2017. Thank you to the P&C who are subsidising the cost with a donation of $800. This should bring the camp cost down to around $190 per student.
The 4/5/6 camp this year is to Katoomba, Bathurst and Dubbo. It will be held in September and should cost around $300 - $350 per student.

Uniform
At the parent information evening I addressed each meeting to discuss the school uniform, and in particular, the inclusion of a tunic option for the girls. The vote was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>K/1</th>
<th>1/2</th>
<th>2/3/4</th>
<th>4/5/6</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintain a tunic K-6 in a different fabric</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No tunic. Girls wear skorts or shorts.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunic maintained for K-2 only.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 4/5/6 there were 4 parents who abstained. This makes the vote very close as the total vote to maintain a tunic in some description is 16.
If you were not at the meeting, please cast your vote at the end of the newsletter, or come and see me. You need to include your name so that I know that no one has voted twice.
This issue will be finalised at the March P&C meeting on Tuesday, 3 March at 6:30 pm. All parents are welcome to attend. This is the one issue where you are allowed to have a vote without being a financial member of the P&C.

Swimming Carnival
I had the pleasure of attending the Swimming Carnival on Tuesday and it was a terrific event. Thank you to all the parents who could assist with transport, as time keepers and as life-savers. Thank you also to everyone who stayed for the day to cheer on the students. The students’ behaviour and sportsmanship that I witnessed were all exemplary.
It is always wonderful to see the children who aren’t necessarily the greatest of swimmers getting in and having a go.
The students in the novelty events with Mrs Stoppini and Mr Westcott had a great time. We also some outstanding swimming! Congratulations to everyone who placed in a race. Your ribbons will be handed out shortly.

NWPS and Pelican Flat PS are responsible for the running of the Zone Carnival this year. Mr Westcott and one of the Pelican Flat teachers will be taking on this responsibility.

The Zone Carnival is run over two days in Week 5; 23 February and 25 February.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our Year 4 – 6 students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday, 27 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above. THIS ONLY APPLIES TO STUDENTS IN YEARS 4-6.

Learning Support Programs
If you would be interested in assisting our students by working through the Multilit program with a couple of students a week then that would be very helpful. The program is simple to administer but has tremendous impact on those few children who find learning to read a challenge. I am able to train you before, after or during school time. If you come and see me then we can work out a time.

As well as providing support to students with reading, I am also beginning some extension work with selected students. At the moment this will be students from 4/5/6 and from 1/2. And I am providing some NAPLAN support for students in Years 3 and 5.

K/1 News
We are now settling into our class routines and I am impressed with the level of effort the students are putting in with their learning tasks. It is wonderful to watch them get better at something they found tricky when they started and realise that the more they practise the better they get.

Our Teddy Bears’ Picnic was a fantastic event. We counted with teddy bears, read and watched some stories with bears in them, played pin the nose on the bear and ate our picnic lunch (with Tiny Teddy biscuits) together with 1/2 in the shade. Photos are coming soon.

I talked briefly about the new SSP approach that we will be using to support the development of phonemical awareness, reading, writing and spelling at the parent information night. If you would like more information, including how to support your child at home using the same approach, please let me know. I am happy to run another session to explain it in more depth.

Have a great weekend!

Trinity Hook

1/2 News
What a lovely day we had at our Teddy Bears Picnic on Tuesday. We had great fun completing activities with our Teddies during the day and a nice picnic outside at lunch. By all accounts it was a great day for Year 2 students who were at the swimming carnival too!

Thank you to parents who were able to make it on Monday evening for the parent information night. It was great to
able to talk about the 1/2 class this year. If you do have any questions or concerns, please let me know, I am at the classroom most days before or after school.

This week the Star of the Week is Shontelle (last week was Tommy). Each student will have the opportunity to be a ‘Star of the Week’ and will be able to be the special helper for that week.

Mrs Halligan

2/3/4 Class news
First of all I would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents that were able to make Monday’s meet the teacher night. It was fantastic to touch base with everyone and to hear your thoughts and opinions. I was very happy to announce our school camp which is strictly for the Year 3 and 4 students only. Therefore our Year 2 students will have to wait until next year before they can go.

The swimming carnival was very successful. Most students from our class enjoyed the day and participated in multiple events. Thank you to the professional time keepers that helped on the day and I hope everyone’s thumbs are O.K.

This week, students that asked for home readers due to not having books of their own received these. There will be either 2 or 3 books sent home each Wednesday as this is the only day we can sort and re-issue students with their books. Please make sure your children bring them in on the Tuesday or Wednesday. Don’t forget to record your child’s reading each day that they complete a 10 minute reading session.

Next week, our class will be looking at ‘Length” during Maths and our News topic will be ‘My Favourite Place To Go’. It would be very much appreciated if you can give your children ideas that they can talk about. We will be working closely on making sure that during News students inform their groups of Who, When, Where and What which should cross over into their writing also. Most students are participating in News which is laying a fantastic foundation in preparation for Public Speaking in Term 2.

As always, please feel free to come and discuss anything that you like or if time is making such a conversation difficult please send a note in with your child and I will get back to you as soon as possible. A personal thank you to the parents that have already come in to help which the students are loving even more than me.

Carl Derbyshire

4/5/6News
This week the students in 4/5/6 have begun writing a persuasive text, convincing children to learn to swim. They have also begun to have their music lessons with “Jellybeans” and have already made great progress. Ask your child about it.

We have begun learning a play which we shall be videoing next Wednesday. The Year Fives have been working on “Wombat Stew” and Year Six on “Margorie You’re a Hero!”

Our school books are apparently on the way which will be a great relief to us all.

Hopefully everyone has been learning their dictation and spelling. Well done to Eva, Stanley and Kaitlyn who each scored 100% last week.

StarStruck
We have formed a Star Struck group to prepare an audition tape for Star Struck. The group have been rehearsing at lunch times and the students are learning the dance well.

Carl Derbyshire and Kate Halligan

P&C News
A reminder that the P&C AGM is being held on Tuesday, 3 March at 6.30pm in the Staffroom. The following positions will need to be filled: Canteen Coordinator, Band Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator. If you are interested in any of these positions and would like more in formation please contact Sidone Lambert on 0416 230 739.
Assembly Awards Term 1 Week 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K/1</td>
<td>Shaniah, Caitlyn H, Tyler, Tilly, Aamon, Will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Billy, Jace, Kayden, Talia, Shontele, Joe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3/4</td>
<td>Max C, Eloise, Koby, Daniel, Nathan, Aliyah,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>Jay, Taj R, Mary-Jane, Eva, Kaitlyn G, Sophie, Jay, Sam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey

If your child is in Years 4 – 6 and you do not want your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by Friday 27 February 2015.

I (print name) .................................................................................. DO NOT give consent for my child/children (print name/s) ........................................................................ to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Signed................................................................. Date.................................

NWPS Uniform

Name: _________________________________________________________________

I vote for the following option:

- Maintain a tunic for K-6 girls in a different fabric.
- No tunic.
- Maintain a tunic for girls in K-2 only.

Signed: __________________________