Rule for Next Week: Be responsible for your actions.

Thought for the Week: Your mind will answer most questions if you learn to relax and wait for the answer. William S Burroughs

From the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

Another busy and productive week at Peakhurst South Public School. A big thank you to all of the parents who attended P&C last night and the Information Evenings last week. The teaching staff worked hard in preparing informative and productive sessions.

District Swimming

Best of luck to our District Swimmers today. I am sure that you will represent Peakhurst South PS with outstanding sportsmanship and try your best in each of the events.

World's Greatest Shave

The World’s Greatest Shave is to be held on Thursday 12 March. I need some parent volunteers to take information around to local businesses to get them involved. If you are able to help please see me in collecting some flyers.

Please ensure that when you return the note to school in partaking in the World’s Greatest Shave that you also join the Peakhurst South PS team in raising money for the Leukaemia Foundation online. If you intend on colouring your hair, it is colour spray or chalk that can be washed out easily on the same day. The link below takes you to our team page where you can either join the team or donate.

So far we have raised $719 which is 7% of the $10,000 Goal! Well done to the students that have already raised this amount.

http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/PeakhurstSouth

iPads

The iPads have gone through the Apple Approval and NSW DEC Approval and are ready to be set up. The school will be working with a representative from the ICT Department of the NSW DEC in setting them up. Next Tuesday Mrs Dufty and Mrs McLaughlin will be attending an iPad course on learning how to put applications across multiple devices.

The following week Miss Cole, Mrs McLaughlin, Mrs Dufty and myself will be attending a two day Technology Conference in learning about the best
teaching tools that can be used in the classroom. The Technology Team will then be training all staff in this new knowledge.

**KidsMatter**

Next Tuesday the Kids Matter Team—Mrs Paul, Miss Weston, Mrs Wright, Mrs Blake and myself will be attending Component One of the Kids Matter training. Once the team is trained they will lead the whole staff through Component One. This will then be passed on to the students and parents. The first component is on ‘Building a Positive School Community.’

**Star Students**

This term the teaching staff have been dedicating much of their time to Teacher Professional Learning in writing. The sessions are aimed at giving teachers practical ideas that can be used in the classroom to improve the way our students write. I am already seeing significant gains and am amazed that our Kindergarten students can use descriptive words in their writing, Year 1 understand the term adjectives and how to use them. Year 2 students understand the concept of noun groups, while stage 2 are able to enhance their writing through selecting interesting terms to build on their sentences and Year 6 are using sharp and refined language in their writing.

I am almost out of my special ‘principal’ stickers through class visits and visiting students to my office. Here is an example of what Year 1 can do.

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Natasha Eaton  
Ms Natasha Eaton  
R/Principal
SAVING LIL & ARCHIE

Brainstorm Productions will be presenting their show Saving Lil and Archie on Tuesday 3 March. It’s a fun way to demonstrate emotions and how to deal with anger and fear. It promotes kindness and forgiveness. The performance also highlights safe and appropriate use of technology. It also encourages children to limit screen time, get more sleep and do more exercise.

For more information on the company follow this link or go to www.brainstormproductions.edu.au

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE

The 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge opens on 2 March. Please see link below:
online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

FROM THE OFFICE

Student Enrolment Details: Years 1-6
For those parents/carers yet to return the Student Emergency Contact Detail Report (green note) could you please send it back to school as soon as possible.

Family Occupation & Education Index (FOEI): Kinder - Year 6
For those parents/carers yet to return the Student Resource Allocation Model (white note) could you please send it back to school as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Ms K McDonald
School Admin Manager

The Penshurst Panthers Junior AFL Club is now recruiting players for SUNDAY FOOTBALL in 2015.

Our successful U11 and U12 teams still have vacancies available for boys born in 2003 and 2004, who are keen to get involved in Australian Rules Football.

Check our website for registration details
www.penshurstpanthers.com.au
It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it’s true.

The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being told because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sporting event or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because aunty is coming to visit!”

Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And if of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.
FROM THE CANTEEN

TERM 1, WEEKS 5 & 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Canteen Roster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 27th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kylie Richardson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joanne Richmond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natasha Vida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2nd March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Lesleigher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amber Farag</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 4th March</td>
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<td>VACANT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 6th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Graham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tina Webb</td>
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<td>Angela Vogiatzis</td>
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</tbody>
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**MON & WED: AD = All Day 9:30am–2:00pm**

**AM = 9:30am–11:45am; PM = 11:15am–2:00pm**

FRI: AD = All Day 9:20am–12:30pm

Don’t forget to check out our specials displayed on the canteen door. Please do not order these as they are for one day only, and first in, first served!

Jacinta Goodacre
Canteen Supervisor

P&C MEETING

What a fantastic time we had at the P&C Meeting last night. Close to 30 people attended! It was great to see this number of parents being so supportive of the school. Discussion focused on some really exciting initiatives for 2015. There was a great atmosphere as everyone became involved and shared their ideas. Congratulations and thank you to Mark DeManuele, Amber Farag and Vivian Panagos who were nominated and accepted the positions of Vice Presidents 1, Vice President 2 and Secretary. Thank you to Mr Mark Coure who also came and gave us an update on how he is able to support the school in its projects.

The meeting concluded with a really positive feeling about how we could work together throughout the year. Our first event will be Grandparents’ Day on Tuesday 24 March. There will be a note closer to the event letting you know how you can support this event. Please also mark in your diaries Saturday, March 28th as this will be the State Election Weekend and we will be holding a BBQ and cake stall and will greatly appreciate your support.

Thank you to Miss Eaton, Miss Cole, Mr Marshall and Mrs Paul for your involvement. It really highlights the close collaboration between staff and the school community in making a difference for the students.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th March at 7.30pm in the Library. We look forward to seeing you there.

Rachel Robinson
P&C President

GARDENING

Our next gardening morning will be on Wednesday 4 March from 8:45am on. All volunteers welcome! BYO gardening gloves and tools.

Please see Alex Davis (or call on 0419 600 906) for any further info.

UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop will be open next Thursday 5 March from 8:40–9:20am.

If you can’t make it to the shop, our price list and order form is available on the school’s website and your order can be placed into the Uniform Shop tray in the School Office and your items will be sent to your child’s class.

Sam and Sarah
Uniform Committee

BAND TRY-OUTS

Training Band
A big welcome to all the new Training Band students. Your first instrument tutorial will be in Week 6 (next week) where you will receive your instrument and information on caring for it. Afternoon tutorials are 3:30–4:00pm. Band practice will commence on Thursday, 12th March, 3:30–4:30pm. Information regarding tutorial days and locations has been emailed home.

Senior Band
Please note that after school Senior Band tutorials will be 4:00–4:30pm from Week 6 (3rd March). Students remaining at school should let their tutor know they are waiting and wait quietly outside the tutorial room.

Susan, Sue, Amanda, Jocelyn, and Lisa
Band Committee

Follow us on Facebook for the latest information from the P&C! You’ll find us at: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Peakhurst-South-Public-School-P-and-C/609196729107573?fref=ts
Taking your child to the dentist regularly from a young age is the best way to prevent problems and develop good oral health habits.

With regular general check-ups for both adults and children, problems such as tooth decay, gum disease and crooked teeth will be minimised.

If you have any concerns with your own teeth, or are due for a check-up, call us or come in for a chat.

Dr Ron Borgnolo offers expert treatments and a personalised and gentle service. With over 25 years’ experience, Dr Ron takes the time to meet each patient’s individual needs in a professional and caring manner.

**Medicare Child Benefit Scheme** is accepted here. We also have HICAPS so you can claim from your health fund on the spot. We look forward to meeting you.

**Dr Ron Borgnolo BDS Syd Uni**
28 Pitt Street, Mortdale
Ph: 9580 0141