**Principal’s Message**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the first newsletter for Prestons PS in 2013!

**NEWSLETTER ‘FACELIFT’**

The layout of our newsletter has had a ‘make over’ for the new year, to provide the school community with a reader friendly newsletter that showcases our school, whilst still providing all the important information that parents and the community need in order to stay informed about our great school. Please feel free to let me know what you think about this new layout, or how we can continue to improve this important communication tool.

**CLASS REORGANISATION**

Due to a significant increase in our enrolments since the beginning of the year, it has become necessary for us to reorganise classes to maximise the learning potential of EVERY child. It is expected that this change will occur NEXT MONDAY after lunchtime. On that day ALL students will be dismissed from underneath the COLA at the end of the day, so parents do not have to search for students that may have changed classes. Great care and effort has been applied to ensure that classes are formed to meet the needs of every student, however if you have any major concern regarding the placement of your child, please contact the office as soon as possible.

**P&C MEETING**

The first P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th February (Week 4) at 6:00pm. This is a great opportunity to meet other members of the Prestons school community and hear about all the great projects that will be happening at Prestons PS in 2013. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

**SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

The school swimming Carnival will be held on Monday 18th February (Week 4). If your child is a capable swimmer and you would like them to participate, please complete the permission note and return it school. (Please note – this event is only open to students who are 8 years old or older).

**MEET THE TEACHER**

Our ‘Meet the Teacher’ event will be occurring at the end of Week 5 - stay tuned for more details soon!!

Mark Greentree - Principal
School Information

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS 2013

What Is A Voluntary School Contribution? This is a voluntary payment from parents that is requested each year by schools to supplement existing funding. Our school relies on these contributions to provide additional resources to ensure our students have the best possible learning opportunities and learning environment.

How Much? The voluntary contribution for 2013 is:

$30 per family.

Please note that this equates to only 75 cents per FAMILY per school week, and it is the cheapest contribution amount of ANY school in this local area!

What Will The Money Be Used For? All money raised from these contributions will go directly towards the purchase of *iPads and related technology*, to enhance the teaching and learning across our schools.

Information Evening

For future Year 7 students (currently in Years 4, 5, 6)

Tuesday 19th February 2013 6.30pm to 7.30pm

ANNOUNCING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2014

Please contact the school should you require additional information

CASULA HIGH SCHOOL

Myall Rd

Casula NSW 2170

p:(02) 9602 4320

t:(02) 9601 4175

e: casula-h.school@det.nsw.education

Parent Reading Tutors Needed!!

At Prestons PS we are very proud of the educational programs that we offer our students. Some of these programs however, could not be run, without the fantastic support from YOU - our parent community.

It is this support that I now call upon, as we look for parent helpers to assist with our Parent Reading Tutor Program.

The time commitment is minimal, but the rewards associated with helping a child learn to read - a skill that they will use everyday for the rest of their life - is immeasurable! A training session will be provided for all parents wishing to participate, on Wednesday 20th Feb (Week 4) from 9:00am-10:30am. Ongoing support for parents involved in this program will be provided by Miss Kinnavong.

If you would like to participate in this valuable programs, please contact the school.
2S

Welcome to 2013! 2S have been working hard and have settled in well. We have been excited to get to know each other and have enjoyed working in groups to complete tasks. 2S have revised the school rules Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a learner. The students have continued to develop their understanding of what each of the rules mean. We made bee puppets after talking about the bee rules. We look forward to lots of fun and learning this year.

5/6N

5/6N together with other Stage 3 classes are studying the book “The Jewel Fish of Karnak” by Graeme Base. This book captures the elegance and mystery surrounding the Ancient Egyptian culture. Some of the themes addressed in this book are: honesty, leadership, greed and punishment. Another major part to this book is the hieroglyphic version of each illustration that runs at the bottom of each page. This adds to the reader’s comprehension of the plot and helps in solving the puzzle at the end. Hieroglyphs were a formal writing system used by the ancient Egyptians.

5/6 N students have had great fun writing their names using hieroglyphs. Good luck to all Stage 3 students who are on their way to decipher the hieroglyphics and then solve the puzzle to find the right jewel fish!

The day the Tigers came to town...
Friday, 8th February, 2013

OFFICE HOURS AND UNIFORMS
Our office opening hours are from 8:30am – 3.15pm, uniforms can be purchased during these times Monday to Friday.

STUDENT BANKING
Student banking has recommenced. Deposit books are to be handed into the office each Wednesday morning before 9am. Student deposit will be processed and books will be returned to classrooms by the following day. Parents wishing to open new accounts for their child can collect an application package from the office.

SCRIPTURE
Scripture classes will be commencing in Week 5, 28th February. Classes are held each Thursday morning between 9.55am and 10.55am. To ensure our records are up to date we have sent home a note to all students requesting that parents indicate which scripture group that they wish for their child to attend. At present the classes that are offered are Catholic, Pentecostal, Islam, Anglican and Non Scripture.

HEAD LICE ALERT
As will often occur in schools, a few cases of head lice have been reported recently. To prevent this from becoming a larger issue, we ask that you check your child’s/children’s hair for lice and/or eggs and treat accordingly with an appropriate lice treatment. If you do happen to find evidence of head lice, it is also advised to wash your child’s bed linen and hats to prevent further reoccurrence.

SMART FOODS TO BOOST LEARNING
Mother Nature is full of foods that help us think and feel better. What do you give your child to help them think more clearly, and enhance concentration and memory?


COMBINED SWIMMING CARNIVAL
This year our swimming carnival will be held the Whitlam Leisure Centre on Monday 18th February between 10am and 1pm. The carnival will be combined with Casula PS, Liverpool West PS and Lurnea PS. Notes have been sent home for students in years 3 to 6 and students in year 2 who are turning 8 this year. It is crucial that all students who will be attending the carnival can confidently swim a minimum of 50 metres unaided. Permission notes and payment of $5 are due back to the office by Wednesday 13th February.

STUDENT BUS PASSES
Bus passes have been issued to students who were entitled to receive a new pass for 2013. Parents wishing to apply for bus travel for their child may obtain an application form from the office.

UPDATE OF DETAILS
Have you moved, got a new email address or changed phone numbers? It is important that the office is notified of any changes to family or student details so that if there should be a need for the school to contact you our records are up to date.

P&C SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP
The P&C will be opening their Second Hand Uniform shop on Tuesday 12th February from 8.30am till 9.30am.

BOOK CLUB
Book club brochures have been distributed to students. If your child would like to order from this issue please complete the order forms, ensuring that your child’s name & class are provided and return the order form & your payment to the office in an envelope. Orders for this issue close Wednesday 20th February 2013.

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