Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**P&C MEETING**

The first P&C meeting will be held **next 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!

*****MEET THE TEACHER BBQ***

You are invited to attend the Prestons Public School **’Meet the Teacher’ Community BBQ**, on Friday 1st March (5pm – 7:00pm)

This is a great opportunity to mingle with other families within our school community and celebrate the community spirit that exists in our great school. Come on up and grab a sausage on a roll, a cold drink and share in some fun and games with the staff and students of Prestons Public School.

This is a family event. All students attending MUST be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

If you wish to attend (and for catering purposes), please complete the order form below and return it to school before Tuesday 26th February.

I look forward to seeing you there!!!

Mark Greentree
Principal

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**2013 DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **18/2/2013**
  - Swimming Carnival (Yr2-6)
- **19/2/2013**
  - 1st P&C meeting for 2013 – 6pm - Staffroom
- **25/2/2013**
  - Yr 6 High School visit to Lurnea HS 10:45am
- **1/3/2013**
  - Clean Up Schools Day
- **1/3/2013**
  - Meet the Teacher BBQ
  - 5:00pm – 7pm
- **5/3/2013**
  - Liverpool PSSA Zone Swimming Carnival
- **5/3/2013**
  - Start Smart Workshops K-6

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**Sport Highlights**

PSSA Trials for the summer season of PSSA will be held over the next few weeks.

The PSSA competition will commence on Friday, 1st March - Week 5.

Details regarding the sports and venues will be posted in the coming weeks.
**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.

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**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 program, please contact the school.

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**COMBINED SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

This year our swimming carnival will be held at 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 Friday 15 February 2013.

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**Office Hours and Uniforms**

*Our office opening hours are from 8:30am – 3:15pm, uniforms can be purchased during these times Monday to Friday.*

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**BOOK CLUB**

Orders for this issue close Wednesday 20th February 2013.

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**STUDENT BANKING**

Student banking is each Wednesday. Deposit books are to be handed into the office each Wednesday morning before 9am.

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**SCRIPTURE**

Scripture classes will be commencing in week 5, 28th February. Classes are held each Thursday morning between 9.55am and 10.55am.
What a wonderful start to 2013. Students in 1S have jumped straight into Year 1 ready to learn. All students in 1S have shown great friendship to one another and have settled in well, to form a lovely class. Already this year, 1S have begun to develop their dance skills as part of their ‘Move to Dance’ program, worked hard to improve addition and subtraction skills and started writing recounts. I have been very impressed with the beautiful handwriting of Julia; Stamatis’ completion of addition sums; and Paige’s comprehension skills. I’m looking forward to seeing all of the other wonderful things that the students of 1S will produce in the coming weeks.

Tuesday was our first library visit. Students were introduced to their library teacher, Mrs Hawkins. 1S can commence borrowing from the library in Week 5. Please encourage your child to bring their library bag every Tuesday so they are able to borrow and begin reading at home.

Thursday is sport day for Stage 1. Get ready to get active 1S!

Miss Schroeder

4/5B

This year will be filled with lots of exciting activities. I am looking forward to a fun, creative and challenging year! We have started the year by setting goals for the term. We have just started grouping across Stage 3 for Literacy and Number groups. This will provide students with the opportunity to work within a group structure that targets their specific strengths and needs. I’m sure that we will see some wonderful improvements right across the stage.

What’s on in Term 1 …

HSIE:- We have just started our HSIE topics. Year 4 will be focusing on British Colonisation and Year 5 will be studying Rainforests.

CAPA:- This term our major focus will be ‘Music’. 4/5B can’t wait to get their hands on the iPads to start making music on ‘GarageBand’.

ENGLISH:- We are focusing on Persuasive Texts and we will be using Talking and Listening time to verbalise our opinions before writing.

Term 1 is certainly going to be a busy and educational experience for all involved, and I look forward to seeing everyone at our “Meet The Teacher BBQ in Week 5.

Mrs Beavis

4/5B are already engrossed in their books for the Premiers Reading Challenge!
Dropping off and picking up students at school the safe way

Children are vulnerable around and on the road. Their physical size and developmental limitations place them at risk in the traffic environment. Drivers are less likely to be able to see a small child and it is harder for children to see oncoming traffic. Their lack of road experience means it is difficult for a child to judge dangerous situations. Children’s safety to and from school is an important road safety issue.

‘No Parking’ zones allow drivers to stop for a maximum of two minutes to drop off and pick up passengers. Drivers must stay within three metres of their vehicle at all times. ‘No Parking’ zones provide a pick-up and set down area that gives parents and carers a safe environment to drop-off and pick-up their children from school by car.

Many school road environments in the Liverpool Local Government Area have ‘No Parking’ zones which work well when parents use them properly. Problems arise however, when drivers misuse the zones by stopping and waiting in their vehicles for lengthy periods. The penalty for disobeying a ‘No Parking’ sign is $165 and 2 demerit points (effective 1 July 2012).

Parents must ensure their children know how they will be collected from school. They need to know when and where parents will be after school and where they should wait. Children must know not to try and get into a vehicle while it is still in traffic, even if it is stopped.

Tips For Parents:

- Make sure that the hand brake is applied when the vehicle is stationary in the ‘No Parking’ zone.
- Make sure children use the footpath-side door when getting in and out of a car.
- Never double park, park across a pedestrian crossing or park in a ‘No Stopping’ or ‘Bus Zone’.
- Never undertake a U-turn in close proximity to a school.
- Never call to your child across the road.
- Children up to 10 years old should be actively supervised around traffic and should hold an adult’s hand when crossing the road.