Principal’s Message

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

2014 KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION PROGRAM

The 2014 Kindergarten transition program kicked off this week, and it was great to see such a positive reception. Approximately 45 preschoolers participated in the Monday session, and another 20 (who braved the terrible weather conditions) attended on the Wednesday. The preschoolers participated in a variety of activities and took home some great work. I look forward to seeing the results next week! The transition program will continue for the next two weeks. The Orientation program which is ONLY for students who have enrolled at Prestons for 2015 is to be held on Wednesday 5th November.

FREE MUSIC PROGRAM FOR ALL STUDENTS

Our music program kicked off on Monday this week, it was great to hear all the different musical sounds emanating from the hall and G block when I was moving around the school. The students had a lot of fun I’m sure they will learn a lot about music and music composition. It’s great to provide such a wonderful program for the students at Prestons PS.

NO ANIMALS ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

As much as I love animals, I ask that parents and families follow our school rule and NOT bring animals into our school. Unfortunately, we have a number of students who are either allergic to animals or extremely fearful. As our main purpose is to serve and protect the students of our school, and ensure that this is a happy and safe environment, I ask that you assist us by leaving all pets at home. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

ROAD SAFETY – PLEASE HELP!!

On a number of occasions this year, I have asked the parent community to exercise extreme caution and obey the road safety rules around our school. Recently we have had people speeding up Box road and driving in a dangerous manner, parking illegally, making u-turns unsafely and travelling through the school carpark. I have been notified by council and local police that officers will be visiting our site, so even if you don’t exercise caution for our students – do it to avoid a fine!

COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT

It’s happening again in 2014!! The P&C will be hosting a community movie night on Friday 7th November. Keep the date free for a great night with the family and school community! More details will be sent home soon – so stay tuned!!!

Mark Greentree - Principal
Drama Performance
Our drama club will be performing this Monday 20th October at Hurstville Entertainment Centre. They need to arrive at school at 7.30am for a 7.45am departure. They will return to school at approximately 1pm. Students need to arrive dressed in their black drama clothes with any props in a labelled plastic bag. Students should also bring their morning tea and lunch in a small bag. Good luck with the performance!

Motivating “laid-back” Children
Why do some children prefer to lead a lazybones life, while others love to tear around the sports field? Is it a hereditary trait? And what can parents do to encourage those children to get up off the sofa, or switch off the computer, and get a little physical?
Find out more: http://bit.ly/1s5TN5Z

Getting Organised for Term 4
Welcome back to school! Keep track of the week numbers of each Term and help your family stay on top of the million and one things happening this time of year with School A to Z’s monthly planners. They’re easy to print out and pop up on the fridge for all to see. You might even want to print a spare for each child’s bedroom so there are no excuses for them to forget homework, chores and other weekly activities. http://bit.ly/UbmQz8

Public Speaking Made Easier
Many people rate speaking in public as one of their worst fears. But it’s an important skill for kids to master, which is part of the reason why we start them off with News in Kindergarten and progress to other presentation skills from an early age. Helping your child prepare their speeches and presentations at home will really boost their confidence. Here are practical tips any parent can use: http://bit.ly/Kr3ukB
Term 3 was action packed for 5/6R as we completed an engaging Science unit on ‘Earths Place in Space’. In this unit we had opportunities to create moving models of the Earth, Moon and Sun which we learnt to call an ‘orrery’. Later in the unit we mapped the sun’s position in the sky through the day and designed sun shades from various materials according to what we had learnt. Finally to finish the unit we constructed a class model of the Solar System to scale, which takes pride of place on display in our wet area. Now we are reminded of the relative size of each planet and its distance from the sun each day when we walk into class.

In HSIE we focused on Government and learnt all about Democracy and how that works in Australia. This unit culminated in our overnight excursion to Canberra in which we visited Parliament House and sat in the Senate of the Old Parliament House. The trip to Canberra was a great way to end term 3 and consolidated all the work we did in the classroom.

Looking forward Term 4 is already upon us and a year that has gone all too quickly is drawing nearer to completion. For the Year 6 contingent in 5/6R this is a bittersweet period in which we welcome the challenges that lie ahead and appreciate the community that we have become such a strong part of here at Prestons PS. In preparation for what lays ahead Stage 3 have begun a high school transition program in which we get the opportunity to experience what it is like being a high school student. This is a great opportunity for students to raise any concerns they have before they move into high school at the end of the year.

Before we say goodbye to anyone however we have so much to look forward to this term. Every Monday we are participating in a fully funded Music program providing students with the opportunity for specialist music tuition. We are already loving the opportunity to play with instruments and learn to read music. Just next week all of Year 5 is off to the Powerhouse Museum on another fully funded trip and later in the term Year 6 will get an opportunity to head out on their own excursion. This term will also see us helping with a Cake Stall, Grandparents Day and all of the usual end of year festivities. To say we are excited about everything going on would be an understatement!

5/6R would like to wish everyone a successful and enjoyable Term ahead and look forward to achieving many great things in the weeks ahead.

Mr Wilson.
Symbio Wildlife Park Excursion Pictures

Parent English Classes

If you would like to develop your conversational English skills then our parent English classes are for you!

**Week 3 ** Tuesday 21st October
9am-10:30am

**Topic -- Everyday English**
Focus on Australia

The purpose of these classes is to assist parents to develop their English skills so that they can confidently communicate in everyday situations such as at school, home or the shopping centre.

Class content will be developed based on the needs and interests of parents attending.

Weekly classes will be run by Mrs Nelker and Mrs Claydon on a Tuesday morning, 9am-10:30am.

Casula High School Update

This week at Casula High:

- Two of our students were successful in gaining selection for the NSW State Athletics Championships. Well Done!!
- Our Year 10 students have recently completed their Peer Support training. These students will now lead our local Primary school students in excursions to the Powerhouse Museum and look forward to meeting all of our new Year 7 students on orientation day.
- Our indigenous Garden is now complete. A big thank you to all of our students who put in a lot of effort learning about native flora and making it look wonderful.
- Our Year 9 and 11 Drama students are in the early stages of planning a musical, how exciting!!!
- Our library is updating its furniture and fixtures to turn it into a hot and happening learning space in the future. Come check it out!
- The Casula High School water rocket challenge team recently place third in Australia. Great work.
- For more updates on our exciting achievements why not like us on Facebook? Find us at [www.facebook.com/casulahighschool](http://www.facebook.com/casulahighschool)

If you have any queries please contact the school on 9602-4270. Simon O’Donnell, Relieving Transition Co-ordinator