



# Newsletter

Term 4, Week 10

Friday, 16 December, 2016

## Principal's Message

As we come to the end of the year, I have been reflecting on the year that we have had at Peakhurst West and I am immensely proud of our school. I am proud of our students, who come to school and try their hardest every single day. This year they have been setting learning goals and striving to improve their writing by tracking their progress on the Literacy Continuum. They come to school, ready to learn and have fun with their classmates and friends. They proudly represent our school when they are on excursions and sporting events. I have seen all of our students striving to achieve new learning goals and I can't wait to see everyone's progress next year.

I am proud of the wonderful teaching team we have here at Peakhurst West. I have not come across a more dedicated and caring staff who strive daily to ensure your children have the best experience at primary school. This includes changing and improving their teaching practices, attending several meetings each week to collaborate and plan for the weeks ahead, making sure their communication with families is regular and open and honest, dedicating weekends to plan units of work or write reports, planning excursions and events that we know some children would never have the opportunity to attend outside of school, and ensuring that your child is happy and challenged, working at their best every day.

Our staff extends to our non teaching team too. Our admin staff and teacher's aides work tirelessly to keep all of us happy and they very rarely say no to any of us no matter how big or small our requests are. They have also had a challenging year as they changed over to the new finance systems this semester and they did so seamlessly.

Our school has grown and achieved so much this year:

Our teachers have been transforming their teaching practice and implementing 'SOLE' sessions – Student Organised Learning Environments, giving students opportunities to be more challenged and more collaborative with their peers. We established our enrichment groups this year to ensure we continued to challenge our academically stronger students. Team teaching, Teacher Professional Learning and Feedback continue to be an integral part of our school improvement culture.

In a year of NAPLAN doom and gloom in the media, we continued to shine. We averaged approximately 40-50% of our Year 3 and 5 cohorts in the top two NAPLAN bands and while NAPLAN is only a snapshot of student performance for one or two hours in the entire year, it is still the educational currency we use to compare schools in the state and nationally. We had very few students in the bottom two bands, in some cases there were none.

We have had many students represent our school in sporting events on a District, State and National level and our PSSA teams have been well represented in finals this year.

Performing Arts have been a key part of our school, with many students performing at the Combined Music Festival in the choir and dance group. These groups have also performed at various school events.

Grandparents Day – our favourite day of the year – was yet another successful event that bonded the school with our community.



We have continued with the physical improvements to our school – painting of classrooms, upgrading the gardens, purchasing new furniture, upgrading our computer lab and installing a kitchen in one of our classrooms in preparation for our Before and After School and Vacation Care service, starting at our school in 2017.

Our recent White Ribbon and Movember Community Breakfast showed how successful our relationships can be when students, staff, parents and the wider community join forces to achieve the one goal. The morning was memorable and we now have a beautiful White Ribbon Garden to remind us that we do not need violence in our lives to try solve problems. This has linked very closely to our positive psychology, gratitude and reflection work we have done in our classrooms from K-6 this year.



We submitted a short film in the 'Films by the Sea' Competition and it debuted at a red carpet event at Bankstown Sports Club. We were successfully awarded two teacher film making scholarships for 2017.

Our Twilight Disco last week was another great example of our community coming together to celebrate the end of a wonderful school year. These events are just not possible without our entire community working together.

The financial contribution by the P&C has supported many key educational programs. This year, over \$20,000 was donated to the school to support the upgrade of the computer lab and to purchase more laptops and iPads. These will be rolled out in more classes next year. We also had the support of the P&C to establish our new K-2 developmental play area which focuses on role play to strengthen literacy skills. The K-6 club, who organise most of the fundraisers, have worked tirelessly throughout the year to raise funds to continue to improve our school.

Today we will be saying goodbye to Year 6. While this is an emotional time for many of you, I hope you can all see that these students have developed into responsible, well mannered and confident young adults who possess the skills to be successful in their future years. Year 6, I have enjoyed watching you all blossom and grow over the past 18 months. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with you at camp, your humor and your beautiful manners. I wish you the best for high school and the years ahead.

I would also like to thank and farewell the following staff members who are leaving our school this week: Miss Cole, Mrs Kingsnorth, Miss Perugini & Miss Dickinson. We wish them all the best in their careers in 2017 and beyond.

It has been an exciting year at our school with academic, sporting, performing arts successes and enhanced community involvement. The reality is that the success of our school has occurred because of the commitment and support of an outstanding staff, a trusting and supportive community and students who are willing to give their all.

I hope you all have a happy, safe and wonderful Christmas and New Year break and that you return to school refreshed and recharged for another school year. We have great things planned for 2017!

*Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and  
the thrill of creative effort*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Have a great break & thanks for your ongoing support!

Tanya Sarafoski



**2017 return dates:**

**Years 1-6 return on Monday, 30th January, 2017**

**Kindergarten start 'Big School' on Wednesday, 1st February, 2017**

# Celebrating Our High Achievers



Jermaine Baxter received a certificate and book prize for his entry in the Patrick White Young Indigenous Writing Competition. Jermaine submitted a poem called ***Warrigal (Dingo) Howling*** which he illustrated with one of his collage artworks.

Paul Logozzo and Sora Kamikura received Platinum certificates for the PRC (Premier's Reading Challenge). This achievement is for 7 years consecutive participation in PRC. Our school also received 83 Gold certificates for 4 years of participation.



Olivia Singh had her artwork, ***Samurai at Dawn***, selected to be part of the 2016 Operation Art collection. Her artwork was selected by major sponsor, ANSTO, to be hung in their offices at the Lucas Heights reactor. A framed copy of her artwork can be seen in the school foyer.

*Congratulations on Your Achievement*



## Sports Cavalcade



## Pennant Winners

Congratulations to the pennant winners for this fortnight!

Sabah Soueid, Ashton Dennis, Joshua Porter, Anthony Kong, Bryton Bailey, Raymond Deng, Adonis Chen, Ivan Aebersold, Elliot Zylstra, Evelyn Xu, Jonah Dutton and Damon Zylstra.

Keep up the great work!



**Above:** Swimming coach, Rose Agius, presents Sora Kamikura with the Swimming Co-operative Encouragement Award for his dedication to swimming at the recent Presentation Day ceremony.

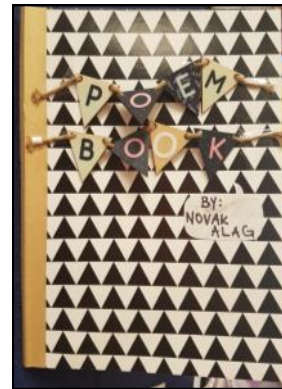
**Below:** Our Swimming Squad members were presented certificates at the last Flag Assembly of the year and those members with 100% attendance were awarded trophies for their effort all year.



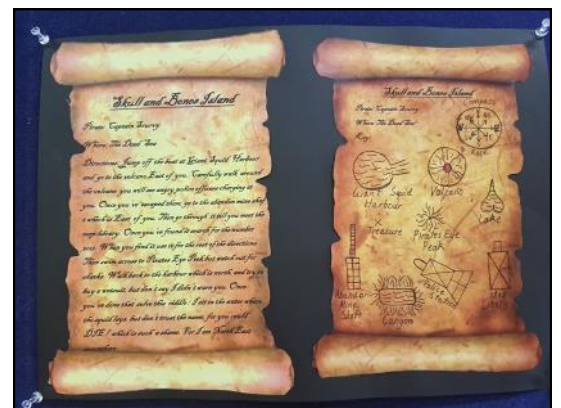


# Enrichment Groups Presentations

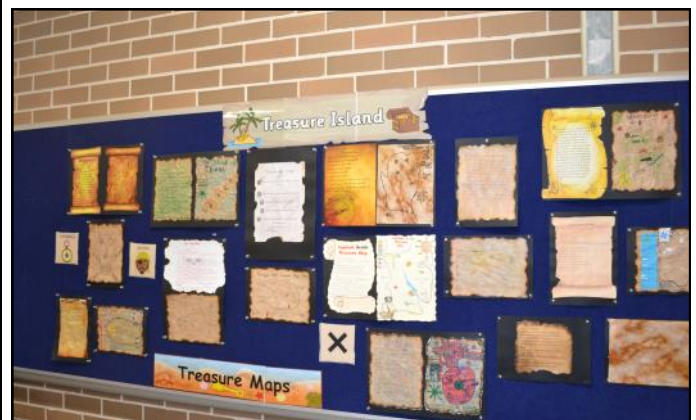
The enrichment groups finished the term with a presentation of their Semester Two projects. Stage One wrote and published their own stories which followed the layout of a storybook. Each one read their "About the Author", page and read their story with the pages and their own illustrations on the screen for the audience to follow. Stages Two & Three wrote poetry journals with one of the poems being autobiographical. Each student chose a poem to recite. Stage Two also studied landforms and designed a treasure map incorporating some of the landforms. Stage Three worked on a large jig-saw piece and decorated it to express their personality and interests. They used mixed media and some included three dimensional elements. The presentation was the perfect way to publish their work. The groups were guided by Mrs Floratos and really entertained the audience of parents and students from the relevant stages.



**Poetry Journals—Stage Two & Three**



**Stage Two landform treasure map**



**Above: (left) Luciano Favuzzi & (right) Lara Mannell of Stage One presenting their published short stories.**  
**Below: (left) Stage Three, My Identity, jig-saw & (right) Stage Two Treasure Maps.**



# Presentation



# Day

Our Presentation Day Yr3-6 was recently held in our Assembly Hall. It was a formal occasion to recognise excellence in— **Citizenship, Academic Achievement, & Sporting Achievement**. Special guests presented Citizenship and Academic awards and class teachers and coaches awarded class achievement awards and awards for sporting excellence. During the ceremony the audience was treated to Mrs Klicek's up-tempo and colourful video of our school community and the ceremony concluded with the naming and investment of our elected School Leaders for 2017.



**Above: Jermaine Baxter** delivers the acknowledgement of Country **Left: School Captains Roland Wu & Emilia Paine** compered the award ceremony and **Mrs Sarafoski** delivered her opening address.



Congratulations award winners (L-R) Dux of School— **James De-Fraigne Murphy**, Robyn Hunt Visual Arts Award— **Roland Wu**, ANSTO science Awards awarded by Ms Callan—Stage 2 **Joshua Porter** Stage 3 **Isaac Tanza (absent)**, Jenny Pacey Literacy Award for Improvement in Reading— **Jimmy Han** , Gillian Carr Award for Outstanding Reading— **Yanyi Zhu &** Maths Olympiad Trophy— **Ernest Deng**.

# Citizenship



# Awards



**Left:** Ms Simpson representing Federal MP for Banks, Mr David Coleman, presents **Yong Deng (front L)** with the Commonwealth Parliamentarian's distinguished Achievement award and the Commonwealth Parliamentarian's Merit awards to: **(Front 2nd & 3rd from L) Emilia Paino & Andrei Esdaile-Watts. (Back L-R) Matthew Shepherd, Nick Broekhuis & Emily Cliff**



**Above:** Ms Northey from GRC Peakhurst Campus presents **Jolee Sa'u** with the GRC Citizenship Award



**Right:** President of the P&C, Mr McWaters presents the P&C Citizenship Awards to **Collin Fu & Daniel Atie**



## Congratulations



# Congratulations &



# Farewell



**Left:** Mrs Danielle Wilson was congratulated on her recent permanent appointment as school administration officer.



**Right:** Mrs Mary Floratos was congratulated on her recent award for teaching excellence and contribution to education and our school.



**Left:** Ms Laurina Perugini was congratulated and farewelled as a result of her recent permanent appointment to Georges Hall Primary School.



**Right:** Ms Lauren Cole was congratulated and farewelled as a result of her recent promotion to Daceyville Primary School as Assistant Principal. She was also extended our best wishes for her up-coming marriage.



# School Leaders 2017

Congratulations to our new School Leaders for 2017 who were invested at our recent Presentation Day ceremony. Each leader was elected by their peers and received their badges from the outgoing Leaders of 2016.



**Above: School Leaders 2017 (L-R back) Yianni Daniel, Jack Martsoukos, Joshua Hewitt Isobelle Steinhardt, (L-R front) Eloise Carey (Girl Captain), Chester Chin (Boy Captain), Audrey Man, Banin Kabalan**

**Left: Eloise & Chester receive their Captains' jackets from Mrs Sarafoski**

***Congratulations new  
School Leaders***

# The Changing of



# the Guard



Outgoing Captains pinning on new Captains' badges.  
**Left:** Eloise Carey receives her Captain's badge from Emilia Paino **Right:** Chester Chin receives his Captain's badge from Roland Wu



**Left:** Yianni from Emily  
**Right:** Jack from Nick

**Leaders  
Invested**



**Left:** Banin from Jesse  
**Right:** Audrey from Collin

**CONGRATULATIONS  
SCHOOL LEADERS  
2017**



**Left:** Isobelle from Sora  
**Right:** Joshua from Jaafar

**Thank You  
Outgoing  
Leaders**





# Primary Picnic Day @ Morgan's Flat



## ***Finding a shady spot was a priority***

The annual Primary picnic day, for students from Year 3 to Year 6, was held at Morgan's Flat, on the George's River. Despite the very hot conditions the students shared the day with their friends. Fortunately there was a breeze coming off the water. It's a day designed for the children to organise their own picnic hamper and games. Once off the buses the children soon found shady spots to set up their picnics. Due to the heat we returned to school half an hour earlier than planned and retired to the air-conditioned library to watch a movie until home time. Like all picnics it was—**FUN!**





# Yr6 Farewell Dinner



The annual Year 6 Farewell dinner was another brilliant evening. It started with the traditional baby photo guessing competition. The School Captains delivered their farewell speech and cut the cake with Mrs Sarafoski. Then it was games until dinner was served. Each student had made their own placemat and sat in table groups under the hall COLA. After the delicious buffet it was time for a few dances. The evening concluded with the students receiving their Graduation photos and Yearbook. Special thanks should go to the parents who organised and served the magnificent food, Mrs Floratos who provided the excellent games, Mrs Power for the dance music, Mrs El Ammar for the stunning cake and to the teachers who attended.



FAREWELL Yr6

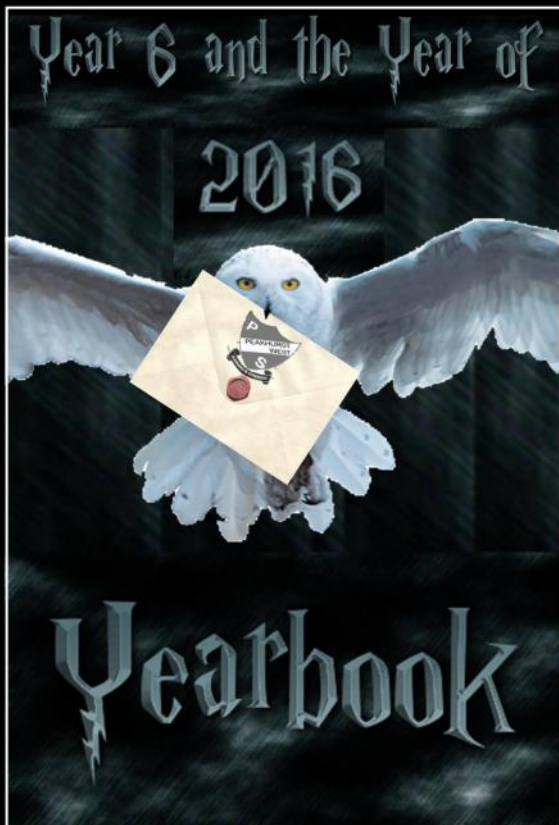




# FAREWELL



# Year 6



# Good Luck





# Twilight Family Picnic & Disco

This was our first **Twilight Family Picnic & Disco** and it was a wonderful evening. Due to the difficult weather conditions the dancing was held in the Assembly Hall instead of the COLA. Families still had the covered areas to enjoy the BBQ, drinks and ice creams. The Footsteps group ran the disco for K-6 students. Our Senior Dance Group entertained us with their routine for the song, Heroes. The night concluded with the Monster raffle. Each class was responsible for filling a basket with items related to a theme: pink, chocolate picnic, gardening, games, beach etc! Mr Sanders ran the raffle of 18 baskets. Special thanks must go to the **P&C** for organising and running the BBQ, drinks and ice creams and to **Footsteps** for running the disco—it was a fabulous night we hope will become an annual event.



**Dance—dance—dance!**



**Prizes galore in the MONSTER raffle!**



# K-6 Talent Quest



**WINNERS**

The K-6 Talent Quest was held on the second last day of term. After a series of qualifying sessions over the last few weeks the finalists entertained the audience to determine the winning acts. It was a varied program ranging from; cultural dancing, contemporary dancing, singing, drumming, magic , hoops, rap, guitar to a uni-cycle performance. The eventual winner was Magic Masters with second place to Shibaduti Das and third to the Drummers . It was a wonderful afternoon of entertainment. Congratulations to all the finalists and also to the organisers; Mrs Harris and Mrs Kingsnorth and to Mr Brown who compered the finals.





# Stage Three Major Excursion 2017

Recently, students from Year 4 & 5 received a note with details of next year's major excursion to *Canberra and the Snowy Mountains*. As it is an expensive excursion it is important that families are aware of the event so they can start preparing for it. It is an educational excursion linked to our **HSIE** and **Science** topics of: Canberra a Planned City, Federal Government and the Alpine Environment. Apart from the educational aspect of the trip it is a wonderful and important social experience for the students. Tourist sites we will visit include: *Regatta Point, Parliament House, The National Art Gallery, The War Memorial, National Science and Technology Centre (QUESTACON), National Museum, Museum of Australian Democracy and an Embassy Tour*. Our visit to the snow and ski lesson will be to, *Thredbo Village*.

Early term one families will receive a note with exact cost details and a payment schedule. The cost will include accommodation for two nights, all meals (except the first day's morning tea and lunch and a light evening meal on the way home) and all entry costs. It also includes a day pass at Thredbo, ski lesson and ski hire (helmet, skis, stocks, & waterproof Parka and ski pants).

*This is a highlight of the Stage Three students' calendar for 2017 which will provide happy memories for many years to come.*

## Canberra & the Snow



Fun!



Education

New Experiences



FRIENDS



*"The only source of knowledge is experience."*

Albert Einstein