



Newsletter

From the Principal

Term 1 Week 2
Friday, 3rd February, 2017

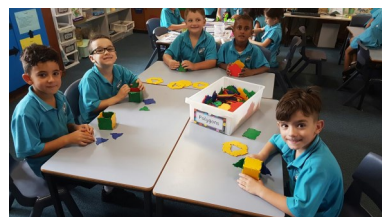
Welcome to the start of another school year at Peakhurst West PS! I trust that you all had a restful and enjoyable break and are ready for an excellent year at Peakhurst West. I would also like to welcome our new families to the school. I hope you enjoy our school community. I can see that all of our students have grown so much over the holidays – our Year 1s are so much taller than they were in Kinder last year!

2017 Classes

On Wednesday, we welcomed our new Kindergarten students and their families. We have formed two Kindergarten classes and all our students seem to have settled in to 'big school' happily. There were some tears, but they were mainly tears of pride from our parents. I am sure there have been some very tired Kinder students this week.



Today we formed our 2017 classes. We have 12 classes this year. Over the past week we have monitored our enrolment numbers closely, calculating who has and has not returned and who is new to our school. This is a lengthy process that has resulted in students staying in 'holding classes' for the week. As per our initial plans, students will now remain in those groups as their permanent class and teacher for the remainder of the year. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this process.



Week 3

- Mon 6 Feb** P&C 7pm
- Tues 7 Feb** Textbook Day
- Thurs 9 Feb** Swimming
Carnival

Week 4

- Intensive** Swimming
- Mon-Tues** Healthy Harold
- Wed 15 Feb** Meet the Teacher Night

Week 5

- Intensive** Swimming

New Staff

As well as welcoming new families, we also have some new staff members at our school this year. I would like to welcome Mrs Sinead Aekins to our school as our new EAL/D teacher (English as an Additional Language/Dialect). Mrs Aekins will be working with students who require additional English support. She comes to our school from Oatley West PS and has strong EAL/D experience. Mrs Sophie Poulos has joined our Stage 3 team and will be sharing the teaching responsibility of both 5/6F and 5/6B while Mr Briggs and Mrs Floratos undertake some new initiatives at the school (more information on this in next newsletter). Mrs Poulos also has strong Stage 3 experience from Rockdale PS. Miss Patricia Hefford is teaching 3/4H for 2017. Miss Hefford comes from Bexley PS and has extensive experience on a variety of stages. Miss Morgan Davies is teaching 5/6T for the first few weeks of 2017, until our permanent teacher appointment is processed. Miss Davies taught at our school for most of 2016 and is familiar with our school community

Working with the Community

Earlier this week, I met with the new owner of the fruit shop across the road, Peakhurst Growers Market. He is very eager to work with and support our school and has already started supplying staff with some fresh fruit for our staffroom. I'm sure many of you enjoyed the free bananas they distributed on Wednesday too. Please support his business so he can continue to support our school community. I have enclosed some vouchers with this newsletter that you can use in his store.

Upcoming Events

Next week we have our 3-6 Swimming Carnival in our school pool. Feel free to join us on Thursday for this great event. We will also have our 'Meet the Teacher Night' on Wednesday, 15 February. Save the date for this – more information will be sent out next week about this. There is a lot of information coming home this fortnight about school events and programs. Please see your class teacher if you require clarification about anything. I have also included some information about school organisation in this newsletter, so please take the time to read it carefully.

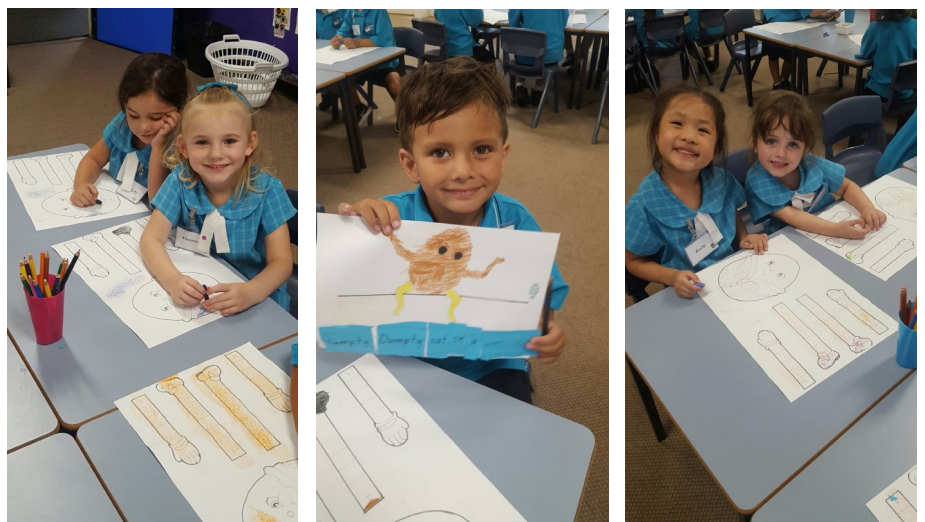
It has been great catching up with you all in the playground and I look forward to more of this in the coming weeks.

Have a great week!

Tanya Sarafoski

Principal

"Tell me & I forget,
Teach me & I remember,
Involve me & I learn"



2017 Staff Structure

Class Teachers:

KS Mrs Solo

KP Mrs Pearce

1K Mrs Kostoglou

1/2E Mrs Klicek

2WS Mr Sanders (Assistant Principal for K-2) &
Mrs Wells

2/3P Mrs Power

3/4H Miss Hefford

3/4L Mrs Lymberis

4/5B Mr Brown (Relieving Assistant Principal for
Stage 2)

5/6T Miss Davies (for start of 2017)

5/6B Mr Briggs & Mrs Poulos

5/6F Mrs Floratos (Assistant Principal for Stage 3) &
Mrs Poulos

Support Teachers:

Mrs Nichols—RFF teacher (PDHPE)

Mrs Wells—Early Literacy teacher

Ms Dawson—Librarian (Mon-Wed)

Mrs Aekins—EALD teacher (Mon-Thurs)

Mrs Stubis—Learning and Support Teacher (Mon-Wed)

Mrs Harris—Learning and Support Teacher (Mon, Tues)

Mrs Alessandri—School Psychologist (Tues)

Other Support Staff:

Student Learning Support Officers (SLSO): Mrs Woodhams, Mrs Nikro, Mrs Gech

Admin staff— Mrs Elliott (Admin Manager), Miss Danielle, Mrs Woodhams, Mrs Nikro

Support roles explained

Relief from Face to Face Teaching (RFF): Every full time teacher employed by NSW Department of Education is entitled to two hours per week relief from face-to-face teaching duties. This time is used by the teachers for parent interviews, marking student work, preparation of lessons, organising materials and meeting with other teachers. Schools have the flexibility to organise RFF to suit the needs of the students and the expertise of the teachers. During 2017 students will participate in library lessons and PDHPE during RFF times.

English as an Additional Language/Dialect Teacher (EALD): For students whose first or main language is not English, we offer programs in developing speaking, listening, writing and reading skills in English. These lessons are held during normal school hours and may be in the child's main classroom; in a team teaching mode or the students may be withdrawn for a period of time on a regular basis.

Early Literacy Teacher: Our Early Literacy Teacher is specially trained to provide an early intervention reading program in the school for students who are experiencing difficulties with reading in Stage 1. The program offers intensive lessons, aiming to bring the reading level of these students up to at least average classroom levels.

School Psychologist: The School Psychologist is specially trained in psychology and assists students who have learning, social or behaviour issues (previously known as School Counsellor). The school psychologist is at our school every Tuesday. Parents who have concerns about their children should make an appointment to see the psychologist through the class teacher.

Learning Support Team: Our school has a very active and effective Learning Support Team. The LST meets regularly to discuss the specific learning needs of referred students. The Learning and Support Teacher and the SLSOs support students who may have learning difficulties, students with disabilities, students with behavioural problems or gifted and talented students.

If you have any concerns about your child's learning, wellbeing or behaviour, you should always talk to your class teacher in the first instance.

Composite Classes

This year, we have again formed composite, stage classes. Composite classes are a long-standing and widely used method of grouping children which can successfully cater for the learning and social needs of students. Many schools form composite classes as a preferred option, because of the benefits they can bring. We have had composite classes at this school for many years, and our teachers are very experienced and comfortable with catering for the students in these classes.

You may not be aware that, since the mid '90s, the Department of Education syllabus documents have been written in terms of stages, rather than grades or years. Each stage caters for students across two school years, with the awareness that not all children learn at the same rate:

Early Stage One - Kindergarten

Stage One - Years 1 & 2

Stage Two - Years 3 & 4

Stage Three - Years 5 & 6

These syllabus documents, which drive class teaching and learning programs, ensure that teachers group children according to their needs. Even in a “straight” class, with children of approximately the same age (although this can vary by up to eighteen months), there will be big differences in students’ ability, maturity and learning readiness. In effect, all classes are composite classes!

Research indicates that in a typical, for example, Year 4 class, with children of approximately 10 years of age, the difference in reading age averages seven years. That is, some children will be reading at the level of a seven year old, while others will be reading at the level of a 14 year old. Obviously, to meet these children’s needs, teachers have to group and provide appropriate work which challenges and extends children at their particular level.

The same is true in a composite class. Being mindful of the stages and outcomes which children need to achieve, teachers group according to children’s needs and levels of ability. No child should be held back, nor unduly pushed forward. Teachers assess the children’s current level of understanding and performance, and move forward from there.

Please be assured that all students will enjoy teaching and learning activities which are designed to meet their needs and abilities. Our teachers plan and work collaboratively, so that all students are working towards meeting stage outcomes. Our students will also mix socially and be actively encouraged to make friendships across their grade and stage.

Please be reassured that, in whichever class your child has been placed, they are in excellent hands. Research evidence strongly indicates that it is the teacher, and support from home, which makes the difference in student achievement, not the name or composition of the class.

School Uniform

It was great to see everyone in their beautiful aqua uniforms this week. Thank you for helping us maintain such a high standard of uniform. Please note that we strongly encourage black school shoes or black sneakers to be worn with our uniform. We are noticing an increasing amount of bright sneakers that do not go with our uniform. Many high schools are now only allowing white sneakers to be worn to school.

From the Admin Office

Invoices & Payments

Now that our classes are finalised, term invoices will be distributed over the next fortnight.

We are currently collecting \$10 from grades K-4 for Life Education/Healthy Harold.

Please return any swimming notes to class teachers or the office (a few have been sent home!).

We encourage purchasing textbooks online, as per notes sent home last year. However, if you are unable to access the internet, please make payment on Tuesday, 7 February at the office.

As always, please see admin staff if you have difficulties making payments or would like to make a payment plan for school costs.

Second Hand Uniforms

Preloved uniforms have been very popular. If you have any uniforms at home that are clean and in great condition, please bring them to the office if you would like to donate them to the school.

If you would like to purchase second hand uniforms, please see Danielle in the office. **The second hand uniform shop is open every Tuesday.**

Lost property

Every day we have copious amounts of jackets, lunch boxes and hats in the playground. Many of these items are unlabelled and cannot be returned to their owner. Please label all of your child/children's belongings. At the moment we already have many containers and lunch boxes lying around the playground.

Newsletter and Notes

As this is our first newsletter for 2017, we have distributed a printed copy to all families. In the future, all newsletters will be sent home electronically through our 'Skoolbag' app. This is a great way for the school to reduce printing costs and become more environmentally friendly.

Instructions on how to download the FREE Skoolbag app are in this newsletter. Printed copies of the newsletter will be available from the office if needed.

Notes and event information are also available through the Skoolbag app or on our website.

Attendance

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options.

NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people at school.

When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- Being sick or having an infectious illness
- Having an unavoidable medical appointment
- Being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- Exceptional or urgent family circumstances

School attendance also includes arriving to school on time.

Following an absence from school, you must ensure that within 7 days you provide the school with a verbal or written explanation.

If your child will be or has been absent from school, please notify the office by phone or send a notification via Skoolbag. We have attached absence slips to the newsletter which can also be used to explain your child's absence.

Parking & School Zones

Parking rangers have been at the school monitoring and warning drivers about driving and parking rules around the school. Please obey the 40km School Zone Speed Limits for the safety of our student and community. The rangers will be issuing fines to drivers who do not follow the rules. Please remember that the rules are there for the safety of our students.



Peakhurst West Communications

We are always looking for ways to increase our communication with our families. We have a number of ways to keep in touch. The best way to keep informed is through out Skoolbag App.



Peakhurst West Public School App

Search for Peakhurst West Public School in the App Store. This is the best way to receive newsletters, notes, reminders, alerts, etc.



Peakhurst West Public School Website

Search our website for general school information as well as printable notes and newsletters. Access our website to make online payments for school activities.

<http://www.peakhurstw-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>



Like us on Facebook to follow what we do at Peakhurst West Public School



Follow us on Twitter
@Peakhurst West

Peakhurst Growers Market

31 Ogilvy St, Peakhurst Ph: 9534 3611
(Off Henry Lawson Dr)



15% Off

**Fruit, Vegetables
Smallgoods & Groceries**

Present coupon. Valid till 2/4/17. Excludes
eggs & milk. Minimum purchase \$50.

15% Off

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