



School Newsletter

Term 4 Week 9

3 December 2015

Dates to Remember

December

- 4th - Reports Sent Home
- 7-11 - Parent Teacher Interview Week
- 10th - Presentation Day
- 10th - Year 6 Farewell
- 11th - School Disco
- 14th - End of Year Excursions
- 16th - Last Day of Term

January 2016

- 21st - New Kindy Uniform Purchase & BBQ Lunch
- 27th - Pupil Free Staff Dev Day
- 28th - First Day of Term 1 2016



We are the Champions!

It is always great to hear about big achievements and all the more when you are a team making up 75% of our years 3 and 4, winning the South Sydney Primary School Sports Association Zones T ball/Softball premiership for 2015. In a zone with much bigger schools playing, these fantastic players put in their all and not only won the premiership, but did so by being unbeaten for the entire two terms that the summer competition was played. I know that Miss Thomson is very proud of them and the rest of the school is as well. The motto for the PSSA Region Sydney East is Participation is Winning. This is what St Peter's is all about, participation. This is opportunity and testament to the fact that a small school in many ways provides more opportunities. As this is such a big achievement, Miss Thomson will be presenting the medals for the premiership at the 2015 Presentation Day. Well done guys!

As we come to the end of the school year there are many events coming up including reports going home on Friday, parent teacher interviews next week, and of course the Presentation Day, Year 6 farewell and annual disco which will be held in school time next Friday. In the last week, K-5 will go on a picnic to Sydney Park and Y6 to Darling Harbour. Notes will come out for those events before the end of the week.

It has been a wonderful first year as Principal. So many achievements and things to look forward to in 2016. This year was the first time in over 20 years we had 4 classes and next year will be no different. To anyone I don't get to talk to before the end of the year, have a safe and happy break, and we will see you again next year. To those families leaving the school, I hope you enjoyed your time at St Peter's. All the best for the future. **Neil Lavitt - Principal**



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Reminders

- All absences need to be explained - preferably by using the parent portal feature or by sending in a note.
- All notes that contain money **MUST** come to the front office.
- Have a safe and very happy holiday

School Disco



This year the school P&C will be facilitating a school disco which will be held on Friday 11th December. Similar to last year, there will be a professional DJ who will be bringing all of the latest hits to the school.

To add to the fun, there will be a free lunch provided by the canteen. This will be at 12pm and the disco itself will start at 12.30pm and will continue until about 2pm. There will be lots of time for dancing to your favourite hits.

The day will be a mufti day with a Christmas theme, so wear some tinsel or a Santa hat. There will be a gold coin donation with proceeds to Y6 fundraising.

Peer Support Party

This week was the last session of Peer Support and what a great term it has been. Nineteen leaders from years 5 and 6 have led groups of students from K-4 in lessons about resilience. The teachers have been greatly impressed by the leaders, their maturity and their abilities to work with such a range of ages. It's been a great success and we will be continuing the program next year in term 2 or 3.

To celebrate the end of Peer Support, there will be a party next Tuesday 8th December at 2.30pm. Group participants have already been given invitations with a request to bring some items to the party. Items include, healthy food, some savoury snack like chips and a drink or lollies.

We request that you help your child by preparing something for them to bring. Children with allergies will be asked to bring something for them.



Parent Teacher Interviews



Parent teacher interviews will be held next week between December 7 and 11. The interviews can be booked in timeslots that are different for each teacher via the Parent Portal. A note about how to book was sent home via email and in your child's bag yesterday. If you should have any problems with accessing the portal, please call the school or come into the office and we will help you.

The aim of the parent teacher interviews is for you to discuss your child's learning in semester 2. The reports that will be released at the end of this week can be discussed. So that we can ensure that all parents have the maximum time available, we request that you keep to the times given and inform the school if you are unable to make the interview. Additionally, the staff will not be able to discuss the structure of the school next year. They will be able to discuss transition information which will be passed on with each student to their teacher next year.

Bikewise



Today we went to Sydney Park to do something called Bikewise. Here we learnt all about bike safety. The first thing they did was test us to see which groups we would be put in. The name of the groups were A and B. There were 3 instructors: Bart, Dion and Lydia. They took the two groups and alternated between going round the park and learning theory in the classroom.

Each group rode all around the park and practised different drills. We learnt that you should always stay to the left whenever you're riding a bike because it gives room for the other people on the road. We also learnt that if you are

ever trying to turn you should let the other cyclist go past first. We did things like practising what we would do if we would ever have to cross a driveway. During lunchtime and recess we got to play on the fabulous equipment at Sydney park and rest. Sometimes when we were riding we would all bump into each other and some people would fall off their bikes - but no one was hurt. We also practised skidding down a hill and stopping. At the end we got to have free-play and ride more freely.

Alisi and Kiara

Some Staff News

I announced at the P&C meeting last week that Miss Thomson would be taking some leave in 2016 from the school. She is going to do some further study in an area of great interest to her. While we will all miss her greatly we are very happy that she is going on to follow those dreams and carry on learning.

Over the year that I have got to know Miss Thomson I have been impressed not only by her kindness and unique ability to see the good in any situation but also her amazing ability to find simple solutions to problems. It's a brilliant trait for an educator and there is not many students in the school who have not been touched by her wonderful teaching at some time. While this is sad, the good news is that Miss Thomson will not be leaving us for good as she will be back in 2017.

As Miss Thomson leaves, we welcome Ms Iriate to the school. Ms Iriate is an experienced teacher from Belmore South PS and currently she works at St Peters in the Out of Home care unit in a seconded position. Her experience will be most welcome at the school. Additionally, Mr Park will be joining us next year as will Miss Yang for Mandarin and Miss Caponas for Music. Miss Yang also teaches at Strathfield North PS and Ms Caponas at Marrickville West PS and Auburn Girls High School.

A colorful poster for a carol service. The title 'Carols on the Lawn' is written in large, stylized letters: 'Carols' in red, 'on the' in orange, and 'Lawn' in green. A yellow starburst is above the 'C'. In the top right corner is the St Peter's Anglican Church logo. In the bottom left, an orange circle contains the text 'Games and BBQ from 6:30pm'. In the bottom right, blue text says 'St Peter's invites you to a fun evening of carols by twilight'. At the bottom, it lists the time '7:30-8:30pm', the date 'Sunday 13 December 2015', and the address '187 Princes Hwy St Peters'. The website 'www.StPetersAtStPeters.org.au' is at the very bottom.

Some Teacher Messages

Miss Sheridan

The end of term is quickly approaching and 1/2S are working hard to finalise their classwork. We have finished our persuasive writing.

There have been so many wonderful programs in the school this year but when I asked 1/2S what some of the highlights of 2015 were, we agreed that the Stripecy excursion, fun science experiments and Got Game were the best parts of school this year.

The word I would use to describe 1/2S is optimism. They have been one of the most enthusiastic classes I have taught. They are always eager to learn and full of positivity when it comes to challenges! I've never heard anyone in our class say, I can't or this is too hard! So well done 1/2 S on a fantastic year!

Ms Paget-Campbell and Milner

Well, K1MP, what a year we have had!

Just this week we have been talking to the class about all the things we have learnt. We have said things like "Remember when we did our first secret sentence and you didn't know any of the words yet?"; "Remember when you didn't know how to write your name?" "Remember when lots of the people in this room were strangers?" Some people in our class couldn't believe they could have possibly gained this much knowledge in one year at school!

For our Kindergarten people it has been a productive first year of learning. For our Year 1 people it has been a year of building on prior learning. For everyone it has been BUSY!

We asked K1MP to share some favourite moments from 2015 with us. This is what they had to tell us:

- My favourite thing this year was iPads because it is the best. Toby
- My favourite thing this year was peer support because

you get prizes and you get awards. Archie

- My favourite thing this year was RawArt. I like it because we got to do all sorts of art. Launoa

We hope that all of you have a happy and safe break. We look forward to seeing all of your faces back at school in 2016.

Miss Thomson

It's the end of the year and what a joy it has been to get to teach all of my students. I've had a great class this year and we've had lots and lots of fun. Before the year started, I had already taught all but one of my students in previous years and was very excited to have the opportunity to teach them again. This year I have seen them grow, not only in their knowledge and skills, but also in the way that they support and care for one another. Friendships have grown and changed, the students have learnt that they can rely on each other along their educational journey, and we've taken on different and new challenges and succeeded. I want to thank each of my students for the individual way that they made my year at St Peters PS really enjoyable. I hope they enjoyed themselves as well. Thank you to the parents, for your continued support for not only myself but for the students as well. It's a team effort, where, when we all chip in, great things can be achieved.

As you have hopefully read elsewhere in the newsletter, I will not be here next year as I'm taking a year of leave. I'm predicating that the first day of school next year, will be a sad day for me, as it is one of my most favourite days (followed closely by the sports carnival days and the pupil free days...just joking!). I will probably pop in to say hello throughout 2016 and wish everyone a great year of learning.

Finally, as it is the end of the year, I want my students to remember that at the end of the day, who you are, is completely up to you.

