Principal's Report

Mrs Megan Avery

Exciting New Year at Paxton

A warm welcome to everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful festive season and are ready for another year of quality education at Paxton School.

A very special welcome to all of our new Kindergarten students and their families. The students were certainly all smiles this morning, which is more than I can say for some parents and grandparents who shed a tear or two.

It is with great pleasure that the staff welcome Naomi Keir back to the Paxton team. Naomi has returned from extended leave where she received ongoing treatment. Please respect her privacy in this matter. She is thrilled about returning to work and would like to focus all her attentions on providing a positive and productive learning environment for your children.

I am very excited about taking the Principal role while Mr White is on leave and would like to thank everyone for the very positive and warm nature in which I have been received. I’m looking forward to working with all of you and continuing the wonderful work that Mr White has instilled. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to come and see me at any time.

Classes

We have had a slight change to classes this year.

K/1
Naomi Keir and Alex Hussein will be job sharing on K/1. Naomi will be working on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Alex on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Alex will also be with K/1 on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the next seven weeks.

1/2/3
James Eagleton will working with years 1/2/3.

4/5/6
Beth Thompson will be working Monday – Thursday on 4/5/6 and I will be teaching them on Fridays.

I will also be teaching Personal Development and Health to all classes, as well as Library skills.

Learning and Support Teacher
Debbie Asquith will be continuing in her role as the Literacy and Numeracy coordinator. She will be providing assistance to teachers and developing quality programs for your children. She will also be teaching a stage two literacy group in the mornings.

Front Office
Leah Watson (School Administrative Manager) will continue in her role in the office. She holds many ‘hats’ in this role including financial and organisational matters. She also helps many students with all manner of enquiries.

School Learning Support Officers
The teachers, Leah and I are very fortunate to have the assistance and support of five terrific people. Jo, Donna, Louie, Sonia, and Belinda will be helping us out in the classrooms, office and also during playground duty.

General Assistant and Cleaner
Al Blake will continue in his role maintaining our school grounds and Jo Hobday will continue to keep our classrooms and office clean and tidy.
Important Information!

Small School Swimming Carnival
This carnival will take place on Tuesday, 5th February, which is next week. This joint small school carnival is open to all students who are turning 8 this year and older. A bus will be leaving the school at 9am and returning to school at approximately 2.30pm.

Students will be travelling by bus to Cessnock pool. A permission note will be sent home today. Please can you ensure this comes back as soon as possible?

Calendar - Upcoming Events
Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th February</td>
<td>SS Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th February</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th March</td>
<td>Year 3-6 Oz Tag Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>1st April</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<td>3rd April</td>
<td>Paxton Olympics</td>
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Assembly Dates

8 February
22 February
8 March
22 March
5 April
Are you ready for morning madness, late assignments, yesterday's half-eaten lunch sweating in the schoolbag? Just like adults, children cope much better if they can manage their time and their environment wisely.


**Smart foods to boost learning**  
Mother Nature is full of foods that help us think and feel better. What do you give your child to help them think more clearly, and enhance concentration and memory?


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**NSW School Terms 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Tuesday 29th Jan to Friday, 12th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Monday, 29th April to Friday, 28th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday, 15th July to Friday, 20th Sept</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Tuesday, 8th Oct to Friday, 20th Dec</td>
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**2013 homework planner**

Kids and families run more smoothly when there's a plan. The 2013 homework and study calendar includes key dates and school holidays. You can print it out month by month, or by the whole year.

Find out more  

**Doing well in class**

Our expert panel shares tips about how parents can help their younger and older kids reach their full potential at school and motivate them for learning. Watch the video.

Find our more:  

**Eight ways to get your kids organised**
P & C News

Canteen Roster

1st January – Amanda Pace & Nathalie Oxenbridge

Volunteers for Canteen are urgently needed.

Please add your name to the current roster located in the office.

Year 6 Senior Shirts

It was decided at a P & C meeting last year to continue with the Year 6 students wearing the darker colour school shirts with their names embroidered on them.

This year the P & C will again be purchasing one shirt per student and additional shirts will be available for you to purchase if you wish.

We are currently looking into pricing and the design of the shirt. As soon as we have this information, an order form will be sent home for you to fill out.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

safeTALK

Tuesday 5th March 2013 or Wednesday 22 May 2013
9am-12.30pm
Catherine McAuley Building
Rear 841 Hunter St Newcastle West

Seasons for Growth has partnered with Lifeline Newcastle & Hunter to present safeTALK to companions.

safeTALK is a half-day presentation to increase suicide alertness

Suicide alert helpers contribute to a suicide safer community

This program alerts community members to signs that a person may be considering suicide.

It acknowledges that while most people at risk of suicide signal their distress and invite help, these intervention opportunities are often overlooked.

Participants learn to recognize when someone may have thoughts of suicide and to respond in ways that link them with further suicide intervention help.

The safeTALK is being offered for free but please bring a gold coin donation to cover the cost of morning tea.

Booking is ESSENTIAL.

Please register by 1st March or 17th May 2013

Seasons for Growth Companions please register at www.goodgrail.org.au

All other participants: phone 4973 1555 or email jenny.harris@nsw.catholic.org.au
SAM’S PERFORMING DIVAS

Offering dance classes to rural communities especially those in Wollombi, Laguna, Quorrobolong, Millfield, Paxton, Felton, Ellalong and Bellbird

Open Monday 25th February

Where – Ellalong Hall (Olney st)

Tiny Tots Jazz and Ballet (age 3-6) – 4.15pm
Boys Hip Hop (age 3-7) – 4.45pm
Intermediate Tap and Jazz (age 7 – 10) – 5.15pm
Senior Tap (age 11 – 14) – 6.00pm
Senior Jazz (age 11 – 14) – 6.30pm
Advanced Jazz (age 15 – 17) – 7.00pm

Zumba – All ages (children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult) – 7.30pm

- Price – $7 a class
- Zumba – 4th March $10 a class
- All classes first week FREE
- All enrolment forms to be filled out week 1
- Yearly enrolment fee $10 due back week 1
- Tea and Coffee provided for parents

Contact Sam on 0422 156 128 or
visit facebook page sam’s performing divas or
Email samperformingdivas@hotmail.com

Spots filling fast, please enrol by 7th Feb 2013.