Principal's Report

Mr Graham White

Welcome Back to School

As usual, Term 4 is developing into a really busy time at Paxton Public School. The children have lots of valuable learning to get through as well as a lot of other exciting activities. To help you organise things, a Term calendar is included in this newsletter. The calendar notes activities that we know of now and allows you to add notes as we go through the term.

Perhaps there’s a spot on the fridge door or somewhere else in the kitchen for it to live.

School Starts at 9am

Obviously, in family life, things don’t always go to plan! However, please try to get your children to school before 9 o’clock so that we are able to begin promptly at nine.

Kinder Orientation

Our Kinder orientation program begins on 29th October and will include a variety of class and playground experiences for the new students. The program also includes a variety of information sessions for parents.

If you are aware of any local children beginning school next year please encourage their parents to visit the school and obtain an enrolment package before the orientation program begins.

Grandparents’ Day

In NSW, Grandparents’ Day is set down for Sunday, 26th October and this year Paxton Public school will be recognising grandparents with our own Grandparents’ Day.

On Thursday, 23rd October, all grandparents of our students are invited to come to school and have lunch with their grandkids and then join in a class activity in the afternoon.

We hope to see as many grandparents as possible. Naturally, the invitation extends to those special older friends that many families have – the many sort of “unofficial grandparents” that lots of children adore.

Grandparents’ Day
Thursday, 23rd October
1.15 – 3.00pm

School Plan 2015 – 2017

The school plan for the next three years is presently being prepared and listed below are the priority areas that the school staff have developed. The priority areas recognise the departmental guidelines and emphasise the importance of regularly assessing students’ learning to direct follow-up teaching and the development of a strong whole school community approach.
School Plan continued…

The staff also reviewed the school vision but agreed that it very clearly and simply captures the spirit of what the new school plan aims for and is perfectly appropriate. (You may recognise the vision statement from our school merit cards.)

I discussed the vision statement and the priority areas of the new school plan at the P & C meeting yesterday and those present agreed that they were appropriate. However, I welcome any comments or suggestion from the wider school community also.

“Parents, Students and Teachers all striving for the best by aiming high.”

Paxton School Plan 2015 – 2017

Purpose: Engage the whole school community in developing critically aware, highly literate and numerate 21st century learners.

Strategic direction 1

Develop high quality learning and teaching practices, driven by analysis of assessment date, to enhance the achievements of all students in Literacy.

Strategic direction 2

Develop high quality learning and teaching practices, driven by analysis of assessment date, to enhance the achievements of all students in Numeracy.

Strategic direction 3

Develop whole school organisational practices which enable all students and the wider school community to be highly engaged in schooling, leading to the creation of lifelong learners.

Tricks for encouraging kids to read

Is your child a reluctant reader? Why not try helping them find the book that goes with a movie or DVD they’ve enjoyed, or are about to see. Encouraging your child to read can help them to build their imagination as well as giving them a better vocabulary. Kids who read different types of books develop a wide range of language skills and are better placed to understand different types of texts as they progress into high school. School A to Z has lots of tips and ideas on encouraging your child to read, at http://bit.ly/HLPmB9

How much water does your child really need?

Staying hydrated is even more important during the warmer months. Every part of your body needs water to work properly and dehydration can lead to painful kidney stones. Many people don’t feel thirsty until they are already dehydrated, so packing a drink bottle with your child’s school lunch is a good reminder for them to drink during the day. Sports drinks and juices are popular with kids, but they often contain a lot of sugar. To find out the recommended daily intake of water for your child’s age at http://bit.ly/ZjwUjo

Team sports – more than health benefits

As well as helping kids stay fit and healthy, team sports help them learn that things don’t go their way all the time and that they need to respect their peers. Sports also help children and teens with resilience, how to respond to setbacks and loads more benefits discussed here: http://bit.ly/HlgxVO

NSW School Terms 2014

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Tuesday 29th Jan to Friday, 11th April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Monday, 28th April to Friday, 27th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday, 14th July to Friday, 19th Sept</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Tuesday, 7th Oct to Friday, 19th Dec</td>
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- Next Friday is out of uniform day -

Students are asked to come dressed in their favourite country outfit next Friday ready to celebrate our schools 90th birthday at the Country Fair.

Thank you to all families who have donated items towards the classroom stalls for the Country Fair. Your generosity is most appreciated.

volunteers WANTED

If you have the morning free next Friday and would like to offer your time to help set up for our Country Fair, we would sure appreciate it. We are setting up from 9am. There will be a to-do list on the canteen door for anyone willing to lend a hand.

Unlimited rides wrist bands

On Sale Now!

- Cost = $10.00 each
- Pick up an order form from the office today.

EFTPOS is now available to purchase your child’s wrist band.

Visit Sydney’s best factory outlets with savings of up to 90% off retail prices

Let’s Go Shopping with excel and support Paxton Public School 25th October 2014

A day of fun and shopping at some of Sydney’s best factory outlets with massive savings.

Price Includes:
- Fully escorted 5 Star Coach,
- Breakfast (Muffin and Juice) on board the Coach,
- Lunch at The Intersection Tavern

Contact: PPS Office - 4998 1278
Cost: $75 per person

Thank you for supporting Paxton Public School P&C ~ Together we can make a difference ~
Speaking & Listening Skills for Starting School

Come and learn about fun and simple ideas to help your child get ready for big school with All Areas Speech Pathology.

Help your child to:
- Listen carefully
- Understand words and instructions
- Use good grammar
- Enjoy working on speech skills
- Pronounce sounds that are hard to say

Wednesday 29th October 6.30 to 8.00 pm
or
Thursday 13th November 9.30 to 11.00 am
Koe-nara, Schools as Community Centre
Child minding only available by prior booking for 15 Nov session only
Call Jane Hodgson on 4990 9354 or 0428 263 854

Tuning in to Kids

A six session parenting program for parents of children aged 2 years to 12 years

Would you like to learn how to:
- be better at talking with your child?
- be better at understanding your child?
- help your child learn to manage their emotions?
- help to prevent behaviour problems in your child?
- teach your child to deal with conflict?

Tuning in to Kids shows you how to help your child develop emotional intelligence.

Children with higher emotional intelligence:
- have greater success with making and keeping friends
- have better concentration at school
- are more able to calm down when upset or angry
- tend to have fewer childhood illnesses

Where: Samaritans Information & Neighbourhood Centre
198-202 Vincent Street, Cessnock
When: Wednesdays 15, 22, 29 October and 5, 12 and 19 November, 2014.
5:30pm to 12pm
Contact: Cessnock Family Support Service
Phone: 4990 4507
Contact service to register for attendance or further information
No childcare is available

Cessnock Family Support Service is funded by Family & Community Services