Principal's Report

Mr Graham White

Grandparents’ Day

It was great to see such a wonderful response to our Grandparents’ Day last Thursday. I met quite a few grandparents and great grandparents and there were many very excited grandchildren.

Several of the visitors I spoke with were having their first look at our school and they were all very complimentary about our standard of facilities and our students.

Several others hadn’t been here for many years and they remarked on the many changes to the school.

After lunch every class enjoyed sharing an activity with our visitors. Several of the shared activities were computer-based – a big difference to when the grandparents were at school!

Intensive Swimming Program

Our school's Intensive Swimming program starts in a little over a week and at this point have had very few students return their notes and / or money. This is a very important program conducted by trained instructors at Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre and caters to all swimming abilities.

When: 10th – 14th November

Where: Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre

Cost: $25.00 per child. Second or more children at $15 each.

We had this program last year and some great improvement was reported by many parents.

The cost is only $25 for the first child in each family and $15 for each child thereafter. This is only $5
per day which includes pool entry, small group lessons and bus travel to and from Kurri pool.

This is a whole school activity and supported greatly by school funds.

**National Bandanna Day**

Once again, our school will be supporting National Bandanna Day tomorrow. This is an annual fundraising and awareness day for CanTeen – The Australian Organisation for Young People Living with Cancer.

Bandannas cost $4 and pens are $3 and children will have the opportunity to wear their bandannas throughout the day.

**Count Us In**

At 12.30 today, our school choir (ie. Everybody) joined with hundreds of thousands of other kids from around Australia in a mass singing exercise. The Count Us In program is run by the Music Council of Australia and is supported by the Federal Government. There was a live link to a choir in the Federal Parliament House, Canberra and they were joined by all the other kids so that more than half a million voices united to sing the same song at the same time right across the country.

**Kindergarten Orientation**

The first session of our Kinder Orientation program was very successful and all the new Kinder students and a large number of their parents joined Mrs Field for a first official taste of big school.

Welcome to Paxton Public School, kids!! From all the smiling faces as the left, it was a lot of fun and well worth the wait!

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**Orientation Sessions 2014**

2. Wednesday 5/11/14 9.10am
   * Mr White – Welcome
   * Ms Watson - Office Admin
   * Morning Tea

3. Wednesday 12/11/14 9.10am
   * Carol Avery - P & C
   * Bec & Mandy - Canteen
   * Mrs A - Library
   * Morning Tea

4. Wednesday 19/11/14 9am – 11.30am
   * Sandy Ryan – Cessnock Library
   * Morning Tea
   * Isabelle Ireland – Speech Assessment
   * Mrs Field – K/1 Information Session

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**NSW School Terms 2015**

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<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Tuesday 27th Jan to Thursday, 2nd April</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Monday, 20th April to Friday, 26th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday, 13th July to Friday, 19th Sept</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Tuesday, 6th Oct to Friday, 18th Dec</td>
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**Calendar - Upcoming Events**

**Term 4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31st Oct</td>
<td>Bandana Day School Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th Nov</td>
<td>Kindergarten 2015 Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Nov</td>
<td>Kindergarten 2015 Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Nov</td>
<td>Kindergarten 2015 Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Dec</td>
<td>MVHS Orientation (Yr7 2015)</td>
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<td>11th Dec</td>
<td>Pool Fun Day</td>
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<td>16th Dec</td>
<td>Presentation Night</td>
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<td>18th Dec</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Dec</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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**What is a homonym?**

Let's face it, English can be a crazy language. Take homonyms, for example. These are words that are identical in pronunciation and spelling but have different meanings. This homonym list will provide some clarity. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z/-english_glossary/8Qum/1084/homonym](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z/-english_glossary/8Qum/1084/homonym)
Sun safety
This spring has seen temperatures soar. A new information pack with the latest advice on sun safety is available for schools and parents.
Find out more:

Digital citizenship
We’re the first generation of parents responsible for equipping our children with digital citizenship skills – how to use technology safely and responsibly, and how to evaluate, manage and use the information and tools they find online.
Here are some tips to get you started:
-Tomorrow is National Bandana Day-

Please show your support for young people with cancer by purchasing a Bandana or Pen which are available until Friday.

-Grandparents Day-

Thank you to all those who were able to join us in celebrating Grandparents Day. The weather was glorious and everyone enjoyed the afternoon.

The technology used day to day in our classrooms at Paxton Public School is quite a bit different to what our parents and grandparents were used to all those years ago and the students loved showing off the iPads, computers and the work they’ve done this year.

Special thanks to the teachers, staff and volunteers who coordinated such a lovely family afternoon.

-P&C Fundraising Shopping Tour-

This year’s shopping tour of Sydney factory outlets was a massive success. Although it was a little hot at times, it was a great day. We held a raffle on the day which raised $329.

Sincere thanks to our sponsors;
- House of Wax and Beauty
- Polina’s Café
- Pizzazz Boutique Cessnock
- Reading Cinemas Maitland
- Xedos Cutters Cessnock
- Mama’s Café
- Floral Affects & Event Hire
- Eureka Taekwondo
- Gayle White
- & Leanne Garney

In addition to the raffle, the P&C receives 8% of the every dollar spent in the outlets. Also, each outlet we visited gave us items to include in our Christmas Raffle.

We were also given a 9" tablet and an iPod shuffle to assist with our efforts.

Although we haven’t received confirmation on the exact amount raised, our day of fun and bargain hunting raised around $1000.

Thank you to all those who joined us on Saturday. Your support is invaluable and appreciated by everyone associated with Paxton Public School.