Dear parent/caregiver

**Spring Is in the Air**
We are finally entering the season of spring. As the weather warms over the next few weeks, parents are reminded to make sure all jackets and sweat-shirts are labelled with students’ names and classes. This will help us return lost items when students remove these items later in the day. Our students always look smart in their school uniforms. We appreciate your efforts in ensuring students come to school each day so well turned out.

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**School Self-Evaluation Committee**
The Self-Evaluation Committee met on Monday 22 August. We have been looking at ways to gather information about our two major areas for evaluation – writing and teaching and learning. We have also expressed an interest in the school participating in an external cyclical review. This is when a panel of educators from outside of the school come in and review our practices in the areas of:

- School Purpose, Leadership, Performance, Planning and Practices;
- Teaching and Learning; and
- Professional Practice and Learning.

Students, teachers and parents will be asked for their thoughts on our performance in these areas. This review takes three days and at the end of it, the school will receive a report outlining strengths and areas for improvement. We believe this will be an invaluable process and will provide us with a tremendous amount of relevant information that can be used in the development of the next Strategic Plan and associated action plans. Once we have had our review confirmed, we will provide you with details as to how information will be gathered and when and where you can provide some input.

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**Stage 3 Canberra Excursion Raffle**
The raffle organised to support our students in paying for their trip to Canberra was drawn on Wednesday 24 August. The winners of the draw were:

- **First Prize**: Bruce Moore (ticket sold by Araluen Phillips S3J)
- **Second Prize**: Cristian Caleja (ticket sold by Vanessa Policarpio S3C)
- **Third Prize**: Rayanne Zreika S3M

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**Book Week**
A special thank you to the students, parents and grandparents who supported the book fair. Your generous purchases generated sales totalling $6310. Scholastic, who provide the fair, give us a percentage of the sales in either cash or books. This year we will have $1143.71 to spend on new books for the library. The books will help add to our reading materials for our students’ enjoyment.

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**First Aid Training**
Stage 3 students and staff trained in first aid procedures last Monday. This learning experience was very well received by our students. All teachers are required to update their resuscitation qualifications every year. Any changes to CPR delivery are explained and the staff practise, just like the students, using the mannequins.

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**P&C Meeting**
The P&C Association held a meeting last night. At this meeting we discussed the proposed school cyclical review, upcoming industrial action and future fundraising activities including the school fitness-athon, P&C disco and Christmas Raffle.

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**P&C Fathers’ Day Stall**
The P&C held its annual Fathers’ Day stall on Wednesday 31 August. There were lots of gift ideas for dads and granddads. There will be lots of lucky fellows this Sunday. Thanks to the P&C for organising this for our students. Not only do our dads benefit but our students learn lessons in independence, the value of money and how to purchase items within a budget.

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**District Athletics Carnival**
Students whose times were the fastest during our athletics carnival last term participated in the Mt Druitt District athletics carnival on Wednesday and Thursday this week held at Blacktown Olympic Park. Congratulations to all competitors on their fine effort. Many thanks to Mr McKenzie, Mr Wilkinson and Mrs Bourke who accompanied our team.

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**Reach Concert**
The dress rehearsal for the Reach! Concert at St Alban’s Church, Rooty Hill will be on Monday 5 September with the two evening performances on Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 September. Good luck to all our performers – singers, dancers and musicians.

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**Real Men Read**
This activity will be happening again in the next few weeks. We will be seeking dads, grandfathers, uncles and brothers to participate in this activity to promote boys and men as readers. If you think you might be able to spare some time during the school day and would like to share a book with students, keep your eyes open for further information out soon.

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**Fitness-a-thon**
Linking in with the Premier’s Sporting Challenge the school will be holding a **fitness-a-thon fundraiser**. Sponsorship cards will be issued in the coming week for students to organise sponsors during the holidays. A circuit of fitness activities will be conducted in the first few days of Term 4. The number of activities

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completed will be tallied and the sponsorship cards returned to students for sponsorship money to be collected and returned to school. Prizes for the most money raised overall as well as in each class will be presented mid-way through Term 4. Your support of this activity will go towards the purchase of another permanent interactive whiteboard for classrooms.

Parent / Teacher Interviews
There will be an opportunity to meet with teachers to discuss any concerns you may have about your child’s learning. These interviews will be by request only (parent or teacher) and will be held in the last week of the term.

Grandparents Day
This event will be held on Tuesday 20 September. There will be an opportunity for grandparents to visit classrooms and enjoy performances by our various performing arts groups.

K-2 Sports Day
K-2 students will participate in a sports day to be held on Thursday 22 September here at school. The P&C are looking at holding a sausage sizzle for K-2 students and their parents on the day. Additional information will be sent home soon.

Swim School
This highly valuable program is being offered to our students in Years 2 – 4 during the first two weeks of Term 4 (10 – 21 October). The cost of this program is $60. It will help those students who have not reached a satisfactory standard of water safety and survival skills as well as those who are unable to confidently swim 25m unaided. Final payments are due on Friday 16 September.

Interrelate
The school will be hosting human sexuality lessons (old Family Life sessions) on Monday 31 October here at the school. Information will be going home in this week’s newsletter with separate notes going home early next term.

Supermarket Promotions
Over the coming weeks both Coles and Woolworths supermarkets will be holding promotional challenges from which schools can benefit. Coles will once again mount their Sport in Schools promotion that allows shoppers to collect vouchers which can be presented to the school and at the end of the promotion period the number of vouchers collected is exchanged for sporting equipment. Last year we received several sets of stopwatches and a first aid kit for sport use.

Woolworths is running an ‘Earn and Learn’ campaign. Shoppers send their docketts into school and for every $10 spent, the school receives one point which is totalled at the end of the promotion and then exchanged for teaching and learning resources from Modern Teaching Aids. We currently have **983 points**.

Both promotions will provide some useful resources for our school. Further information will be sent home next week. Please start collecting your vouchers and docketts now and send them in to the school office for collection. Don’t forget to ask relatives, neighbours and friends to help us too!

Kindergarten Enrolments 2012
There have been lots of enrolments so far for Kindergarten next year. We have an excellent Kindergarten program and need to confirm how many students we can accept next year. It is important to complete enrolment forms early so that a place can be reserved for your child. Call in at the office for enrolment forms now, so you don’t miss out.

If your child turns five by 31 July 2012, then he/she is eligible to start school next year. Parents are urged to get enrolment forms from the school and complete them now, ready for next year. You might like to share this information with your neighbours. Please contact the office for enrolment forms.

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<th>Notes This Fortnight</th>
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<td>Stage 3</td>
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<td>Year 2 / Stage 2</td>
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Definitions

**English**

Some Common Irregular Verbs
Below are some common **irregular verbs**.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive</th>
<th>Past Tense</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
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Don’t confuse the past tense with the past participle. It’s easy to get it right because the past participle is always preceded by part of the verb to **have**.

The bells **rang** last Sunday. (past tense)

The bells **have rung** every Sunday this month (auxiliary plus past participle)
Maths

**Diameter:** A straight line drawn from one point on the circumference (curved edge) of a circle through the centre to another point on the circumference of the circle.

Technology

**Cache:** Memory that is readily available to the Central Processing Unit (CPU). Level 1 Cache is located in the CPU itself. Level 2 Cache is located outside the CPU, but can still be accessed much faster than the RAM memory. The CPU stores commonly accessed data in its cache memory. This causes the processing cycle to be much quicker and more efficient.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

This week’s target is:

‘We speak politely and clearly’.

On Monday, 29 August, our school along with the Got It! Team provided information to Western Sydney Region teachers at the ‘Shades of Green’ PBL Expo at Penrith Panthers. We were able to share the great work that is being done between the school at NSW Health to work with students and parents in dealing with children demonstrating challenging behaviours.

We also had an opportunity to see what other fantastic programs are being developed and implemented in schools K-12 to promote Positive Behaviour for Learning. After the Expo, Lori Newcomer from the University of Missouri in the USA gave the keynote address about how we can develop practices in our schools to assist those students that have difficulty complying with school expectations of behaviour. There were lots of great ideas that we will be looking at including in our school.

Brain Bender

I can climb without feet.
I can fall without a net,
Yet I never get tired.
It's me that makes you sweat.

What am I?

**Answer next issue.**

Last issue’s question:

What goes up but never comes down?

**Answer:** Your age!

Children and the Media

**Suggestions for Parents**

Consider a media diet as being like a food diet. Everything we eat has an effect, and everything we experience changes the way our brain is wired together. That doesn’t stop people eating chocolate or butter altogether, but most parents are careful to make sure their children have a fairly balanced diet. It is the same with media. Children should understand that what they watch and play changes them, just as food does, and learn to self-regulate their intake.

Ways in which parents can help this process is to:

1. Talk to their kids about media issues just as they would other health issues;
2. Encourage use of media with positive and pre-social themes;
3. Discourage having TVs and computers in a child’s bedroom;
4. Actually listen to the music, play the video games, watch the movies – experience media with your children and also know the content;
5. Set limits on the hours (eg no TV/games during dinner; set media-free times); and
6. Find out more through websites such as the Australian Council for Children and the Media and the Centre on Media and Child Health sites.

Finally, and importantly, media impacts both adults and children. Parents, as the role models for their children’s media use, may want to use media as more positive influence in their own lives. After all, we are what we eat!

**Dr Wayne Warburton, Department of Psychology, Macquarie University, Deputy Director, Children and Families Research Centre, Macquarie University**

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Food for Thought
“A man’s worth is measured by how he parents his children. What he gives them, what he keeps away from them, the lessons he teaches and the lessons he allows them to learn on their own”. ~Lisa Rogers

Pauline Baker
Principal
1.9.11