PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Friends

What a wonderful two weeks we have had!

Congratulations to our students for their magnificent efforts and performances at the Penrith District Athletics Carnival. A special thanks to Mrs Thompson and Mr Attard for their efforts as Team Managers. Well done to everyone!

Congratulations to our Y1-3 and Y4-6 Dance Groups. They were fabulous at the Nepean Blue Mountains Dance Festival. Their costumes and their dances looked exceptional on the stage at the Joan Sutherland Centre. A huge thank you to Mrs Ptolemy and Miss Austine for their efforts with these groups. Amazing work and effort everyone! Best of all was the compliment that our students were the best group backstage!

Well done to Kindergarten for their fantastic behaviour on the excursion to the farm. I heard many stories of their excellent day including how skilled Mrs Ptolemy was with milking the cows and Mr Morgan still practicing his whip cracking skills. A big thank you to Mrs Peters for organising such a successful and educational day.

Talking Kindergarten, it has been very exciting to meet and greet our 2016 Kindergarten students and their families. I have been conducting one on one interviews with our new students learning about their hopes for next year. We have a wonderful bunch of students joining our school family for next year, all showing how excited and eager they are to learn. If you know of friends or neighbours who have not submitted their application for 2016 can you please encourage them to do so immediately so that we can finalise structures and staffing for the coming year.

Three cheers to our Year 6 students who have been taking part in their High School transition program heading over to Cranebrook High School every two weeks on a Thursday afternoon with Mrs Thompson and Mr Kristof. Our students have been complimented on what a delightful group of interested and well behaved students. We are very proud of them!

This week is again our Father’s Day Breakfast. This is our biggest community day of the year and we hope that everyone can come along at 7am and join in the fun. This is a day that we focus on showing gratitude to the people that are important in our lives. Please ensure you have purchased your breakfast voucher and donated your food item before Friday. Thanks as always for your incredible support.
**Staffing News**

A huge Cambridge Gardens welcome to our new School Administrative Officer, Mrs Pat Davidson. Mrs Davidson comes to us from Falconbridge PS and will be working full time in our front office. We are very happy to have her join our team.

We also welcome Mrs Melissa Gurnett to our school three days a week. Our school has a growing need to support students with English as an additional language. Mrs Gurnett will be supporting those students for two days a week. On her third day, Mrs Gurnett will be supporting our school executive and leaders by releasing them to undertake activities to develop our teachers’ classroom skills. This is a new government initiative and we are very excited to have gained this staffing allocation.

Our wonderful School Administrative Officer, Mrs Karen McCoy, is relieving as School Administrative Manager at Londonderry PS for the rest of the term. We are very fortunate to have Mrs Karlea Fearnley filling in in her absence.

Mrs Lisa Crisford, one of our talented QuickSmart tutors will be absent until the end of term completing her teaching practicum. Mrs Bernadette Owen will be relieving in Mrs Crisford’s role.

Our teachers took part in a three hour professional learning activity on behaviour last week. Our staff are learning about the behaviour continuum and developing new strategies to deal with students displaying difficult behaviours. It is a credit to our teachers how they continually strive to develop their repertoire of skills.

Our K-2 teachers are also working through the intensive three day TEN training. Our Instructional Leader, Mr Denis Morgan, is leading the staff in the refinement and further development in their skills and knowledge in early numeracy strategies. As you know our Year 3 NAPLAN assessments this year display the improvement that our school is making in this area and through this further training for our teachers this important pedagogy is embedded across our classrooms.

**Reminders**

Mathletics is a wonderful way to consolidate and improve your child’s maths skills and knowledge. It is excellent that your child can have access to this wonderful program at school and home at such a cheap price. I am following up on the small number of families who have yet to make their payment for 2015. Can I ask that if you haven’t finalised your payment for Mathletics as yet that you do so this week. If that is not possible please drop in and see me this week.

Woolworths Earn and Learn has only about another week to run. For those of you shopping at Woolworths, we are hoping that you are dropping your stickers into the box in our school foyer or in the box outside the Woolworths at Jordan Springs. We really appreciate your support in this area.

Adam Wynn
Principal

**Calmsley Hill City Farm Excursion**

Kindergarten represented Cambridge Gardens wonderfully at Calmsley Hill City Farm on Tuesday, 25th August. Our Farmers quickly welcomed us into the farm, and had us touring the Cattle Pens, the Pig Pens and Livestock Pens. We were so busy throughout the day that it was hard to decide which part of the day we enjoyed the most: entering the Animal Nursery and patting young lambs and kid goats; personally milking a dairy cow; experiencing the adventures of a tractor ride around the farm; watching the working dog show or cheering on Mr Morgan in the Stock Whipping Show! A fun day experienced by all! Well done Kindergarten!
Father’s Day Breakfast

Father’s Day Breakfast is only three sleeps away. We are looking forward to a great morning followed by our annual Father’s Day Assembly. We also have 2 new additions this year with the Local Fire Brigade and Police coming along. It is going be a memorable and significant event so come ready for an excellent morning.

Things to have done to ensure you and your family are prepared for the morning:
- Brought in your donation
- Purchased your food vouchers
- Brushed up on your table tennis skills
- Set the alarm early for Friday

District Athletics Carnival

Last week students from our school were involved in the District Athletics Carnival at Harold Corr Oval. Our students did a wonderful job and I was truly amazed by the passion and courage many of them displayed. Nearly all of our students improved on their school carnival performances.

I would like to congratulate all of the students who attended the two-day event, your behaviour was exceptional! I would also like to make a special mention to Tia, Elissa and Phillip who will now move on the represent the school and district at the regional carnival in a few weeks time.

Just a reminder that the Athletics Ribbons for our carnival will be handed out at the week 9 assembly.

Mr Attard
Athletics Carnival Coordinator

NAIDOC Assembly

You are invited to our special NAIDOC assembly to be held on Friday, 11 September at 2.00 p.m. in the school hall.

Students will be singing a Torres Strait Islander song, presenting information on their culture and flag.

Quality work will be Aboriginal theme.

Students will be participating in traditional Aboriginal games during sport on this day.

Gardening Club News

Last Thursday 24 very keen Kindergarten to Year 5 students from the gardening club spent their recess and some of their class time creating most wonderful fruit and vegetable gardens. Mrs Cheetham organised the activity and used her very persuasive skills to enlist the help and resources from Bunnings North. Nicole from Bunnings arrived with potting mix, mulch, fertiliser, some hand tools and a terrific array of seedling and plants which were all donated to our school. The students prepared the soil in the already existing gardens and then planted rows of lettuce, carrots, cucumbers, herbs, sweet potatoes and tomatoes. They also planted blueberries, strawberries, passionfruit vines and a lime tree. All students listened to Nicole’s
instructions, followed directions, worked hard and created a fabulous resource for our school.

Our senior students are to be especially commended for their patience and help given to our youngest gardeners helping on the day. A huge thanks must be given to Mrs Cheetham who organised this activity whilst on leave and of course to Bunnings North who generously donated all the resources and Nicole's time and expertise to help teach our students. Hopefully we will have some home grown "Crunch and Sip" to share with our students in the not too distant future.

The Partners in Learning parent feedback survey

Our school will also be participating in the Partners in Learning parent survey, another part of the Tell Them From Me suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents’ and carers’ perspectives on their child’s experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically takes 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.


Kindergarten 2016

Kindergarten interviews with Mr Wynn have commenced. Appointments for students who have applied to enrol in 2016 will be scheduled in the coming weeks. It would assist us greatly if all applications to enrol are submitted as soon as possible so that we can begin organising appointments.

It is essential that parents and caregivers, who wish to enrol their children for Kindergarten in 2016, send in the application to enrol forms promptly. Next week, we will be notifying the Department of Education about our expected school numbers for next year. These expected numbers will assist our school administration in planning for staffing and resources.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us prepare for Kindergarten 2016. There will be further information about Orientation events later this term.

NEWSLETTER

Don’t forget the Walkathon this Friday 4th September @ 12pm. Please come along and join in with the kids. Sponsorship forms and money can be returned to the office by Friday 4th September. Make sure you select your prize/s 😊

We still need a couple of helpers from 8 – 9am for the Father’s Day BBQ, if you can spare anytime please let me know or drop a note to the office. Email at cambridgegardenspublicschool@pandcaffiliatel.org.au or send in the slip below to the office.

Next P&C Meeting

The next general meeting will be held 27th October 2015 at 7pm in the library. Please come along, as this is an opportunity to bring together Parents/ Carer’s and Teaching Staff to promote the best interest of the school and all the children attending. Decisions we are making at the P&C meetings affect your child’s schooling.

We are open to suggestions of discussion topics and teachers you would like to hear from, either in regards to your child’s classroom or extra curricular activities in the school. Please drop a note into the suggestion box or feel free to email the P&C at cambridgegardenspublicschool@pandcaffiliatel.org.au

School banking

School banking is this Friday 4th September. Please ensure you complete the deposit slip and secure your
money in the banking wallet. All bank books are to be taken directly to the office before school. **If anyone is available to assist with banking on a Friday morning please see Karlea or let us know via the parents Facebook page or above email.**

**Father's Day BBQ Helpers**

If you are able to help out on the 4th September with our Father's day BBQ, please fill in the slip below. Time slots are:

8am – 9am

Clean up.

If you are able to help, but not for the whole hour, please indicate the time you would be available to help out, any time is appreciated 😊

Name: __________________

Phone: __________________

Email: __________________

Time: __________________

Many thanks,

Leanne Reed (President)