

PADSTOW NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

"A Quality Education in a Caring Environment"

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Thursday 27th February 2014

Term 1 – Week 5

Dear Parents,

Woolworths Earn and Learn arrives!

Thanks to the efforts of the parents who collected Woolworths "Earn and Learn" tokens during last year we were able to order a great deal of resources for our school. These will certainly be put to good use throughout the school. My thanks go to all the parents and friends of Padstow North for collecting the tokens last year – I hope Woolworths run the competition again this year so that we can continue to get these resources for our children.



Textbook Sales

Our annual textbook sale day is scheduled for next Thursday, March 6th. Children are asked to bring in their money in a sealed envelope and they will be given their textbook order. A note explaining the various costs per grade was distributed last week.

Play Equipment outside of school hours

Parents are reminded that if their children are to use the infants play equipment before or after school it is their responsibility to supervise their children whilst playing on the equipment.

Platinum Level

Helena Cazouris is the first child to achieve platinum level in 2014. Congratulations Helena on this fine achievement. I hope many more children will follow in her footsteps as the year progresses.

Recent Investments

The school has recently committed funds to a new bell system which has the capacity to play music instead of ringing a bell to alert children of specific times and events throughout the day. We are currently programming the bells for this to occur – so stay tuned!

The school has also made significant investment in new sound systems. This was necessary due to the fact the Federal Government will switch off the analogue signal before the end of this year. All the wireless microphones in the school have been replaced with much better models and we have purchased a new cabinet and redone all the wiring in the hall. Our choir microphones and our whole sound system in the hall is now 'state of the art'. We have also purchased two portable spotlights to enhance our productions and assemblies when required.

To go with our new wireless network we have purchased 10 Ipads and 10 tablets which should be in classrooms shortly.

Voluntary contributions

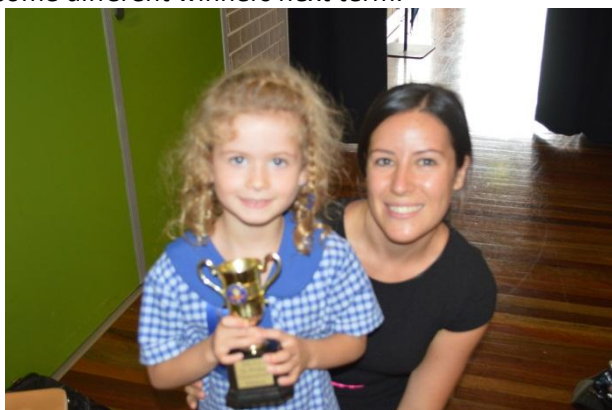
Thankyou to those parents who have already made their voluntary contributions for 2014. To take advantage of the 'early bird discount' payments are required by the end of this term.

Gold! Gold! Gold!

Helena Cazouris, Simon Nguyen, Raiq Islam, Brinly Peters, Brian Tran, Mahsen Narvel, Riley Duryea, Christian Fermanov, Anney Sheng, Maria Zoe Panagis and Vivien Nguyen are all eligible for their gold award and will be presented at tomorrow's assembly. Congratulations to you all.

5c Friday winners

Our recent 5c Friday winning classes were K Silver and 4/5 Lemon Congratulations to both classes – let's see if we can get some different winners next term.



Stage 3 Camp to Berry

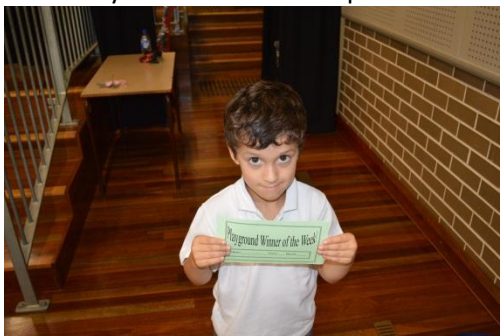
This week 54 of our stage 3 children have been visiting the Sport and Recreation Camp at Berry on the NSW south coast. I had the pleasure of visiting the children and all were thoroughly enjoying themselves learning a great deal about teamwork to achieve a common goal. A full report and pictures will appear in the next newsletter.

Sport

Congratulations to those children who have been successful in making a PSSA team for season 1. The competition starts next Friday, March 7th.

Canteen vouchers

These have recently been increased to \$2 per voucher to encourage more children to participate in our playground incentive scheme. When a teacher sees a child doing something nice in the playground they are given a raffle ticket which goes into a draw at each week's assembly Two vouchers are presented each week – one K-2 and one 3-6.



K.J.Bowden
Principal

Mrs B's Tech Spot



Welcome to **Mrs B's Tech spot**.

Each fortnight I will include information for parents and students, to hopefully make your school technical experiences a little less mystifying. This fortnight there are basic reminders about the school's computer network, and how students can access their **DEC student KIDSPACE/Student Portal** and some basic resources available to students.

KIDSPACE/STUDENT PORTAL

Each student has a **DEC account** (Department of Education and Communities), including an **email account**, which some teachers use for communication of messages/homework reminders etc. **KIDSPACE** is the name given to **ES1-S1** students' accounts; a student account is called **STUDENT PORTAL** in **S2-S3**. Accounts can be accessed, either via the school website (a link at the bottom of the page), or via the **WEBCOM** (see below), or students can simply Google DEC Student Portal. ES1-S2 classes have a 'class password', however Stage 3 students have the option to retain their current password, as long as they remember it. Any student who forgets a password needs to see me to have it re-set.

NEWSLETTER

The school's newsletter is uploaded to the school website and the SKOOLBAG App each fortnight.

<http://www.padstownt-h-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

SKOOLBAG APP

Last year the school began a trial of an APP called SKOOLBAG, which enables the school to alert parents and staff regarding changes to scheduled events, for example, if PSSA sport was called off due to wet weather. This has proved very successful, with more than 400 downloads of the APP in 2013. The APP can be found in either the **ANDROID APP STORE** or the **APPLE STORE**, for free, for phones and tablets; save it in your settings in the notifications area. Newsletters are also sent via this APP, for extra mobile convenience. The iPhone APP can be downloaded onto iPads.

WEBCOM

The Padstow North **WebCom** is a website which has been set up to provide students with access to links to resources, links to the **Student Portal** and **school website**, **Mathletics**, **World Book Encyclopedia**, **Choir/Dance** and **K-6 songs** performed at assemblies during the year. This year extra pages/tabs, dedicated to specific stages will be added to the site, so that teachers have an extra place, to communicate with students. If students do not have access to the internet at home, the **Computer Lab is supervised 3 recess breaks a week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)**. A link to the **WebCom** can be found in the **2nd tab on the school website**.

MATHLETICS

The school subscribes to the **MATHLETICS online program**, a great site which reinforces skills taught in the classroom. All students will receive a Username/Password by the end of this week in order to access the 2014 program. Usernames and passwords have not altered for students who had an account in 2013.

WORLD BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA

The school subscribes to Worldbook Encyclopedia, a wonderful resource for students. This year we are also adding **e-books** to our subscription. This resource can be accessed via the **WebCom**.

IPADS/WINDOWS 8 TABLETS/WIRELESS

This year we are excited to announce that **wireless access** has now been added to the K-6 school site, and a set of **iPads and Windows 8 tablets** have been purchased, and soon to be trialled in classrooms.

PERMISSION to PUBLISH

Parents may be asked to sign permission notes for particular technology projects, such as: website building; contributing to blogs; taking part in online programs etc.

CYBERSAFETY

Awareness of safety is always a priority in lessons. Please make yourself aware of what your children have access to at home, as well.

Any inquiries regarding Technology can be directed to me. Mrs G. Byrnes (Technology Coordinator K-6)

Homework

Do you struggle to understand your child's homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments?

The free School A to Z app has been created by the Department of Education and Communities to help parents and their school-aged children, wherever and whenever they have homework and study questions.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z>

P&C President's Report

It was wonderful to see so many new faces at our first P&C meeting for the year. At the meeting, the P&C agreed to contribute funds to pay for the following items: 4 new gazebos with the school crest and name printed on the sides of the roof; the hire fee for Canterbury swimming pool for the school swimming carnival; and swim caps in school house colours for those who wanted to wear them while participating in the races. These are just a few of the costs that your P&C contribute to through our various FUNdraisers.

A huge thank you to Emily Baker, our new FUNdraising Coordinator, who has agreed to run the FUNdraising this year along with a number of other parents. I attended their first meeting last week and I know it is going to be a busy but great year with some wonderful new FUNdraisers on the way, as well as some of our regulars. Please support them in any way you can.

All of the sub committees of your P&C are run by volunteers, including the canteen, uniform shop, school banking, FUNdraising and book club. These amazing volunteers spend some of their spare time at school and many activities would not take place without their support. I urge every family to consider how they can help, particularly by volunteering a small amount of time from your busy lives to support P&C activities which are run for the benefit of **ALL** students of Padstow North. Many hands do make light work, and it's a great way to meet new friends and to show your children that you are interested in their school.

If you and a few of your friends would like to get involved please contact the school, a member of the P&C committee or approach anyone currently volunteering. We will be more than happy to welcome you and to help you get involved.

Our next P&C meeting will be held on **Tuesday 11th March at 7pm** in the library everyone is welcome.

On Tuesday 25th March you are invited to a morning tea in the school hall at 9.15am - everyone is welcome. Why not come along and meet other parents and friends of this great school. More information will be sent out before the event.

Phill Allsop-Guest

P&C President 2014

0401 503 017

pnpnpncevents@y7mail.com

Uniform Shop Sale

The following items have been reduced to just \$5.00 (Size 4 only)

- Red microfibre pants
- V neck jumpers
- White short sleeved polos

Sale is on for 2 weeks only or until stock runs out!

Second Hand Sale Day Monday March 10th 8.30am-9.00am

Kerrie Fawzy

Uniform Co-ordinator

Fundraising News

Introducing the new team!

After the first P&C meeting for 2014 we have been thrilled to receive many new faces into the fundraising team. Phill has put in many years of 100% effort and amazing enthusiasm into fundraising and every student has benefited from his and all those who have helped efforts. Phil is still very active in fundraising but I am pleased to introduce myself, Emily Baker, and Stella Petrou to you. We have volunteered to try our hand in co-coordinating the fundraising for Padstow North Public School for 2014. Stella and I are new Kindergarten mums and are very excited to be on-board and get started in filling the big shoes that have been left. We are blessed to have an amazing group of volunteers ready and willing to help and have begun work together planning this year's fundraising events.

Upcoming events

The very exciting Family Portrait Day will be held on Saturday 29th March. This is a great opportunity to snap the very rare family portrait! For \$15 you receive a family photo shoot session, a 10X13" family portrait and a wallet size shot. You can purchase additional photos for a very reasonable cost. The school receives the full \$15 per family for fundraising. This is a fun and unique way to help our students and also receive a lovely family photo, which could even be used as an upcoming mother's day present! If you haven't already booked please see myself, Stella or Phill.

We are also organising some Easter activities including a fun raffle and a tricky guessing competition to excite our children. We have organised one guessing competition for each of the following grade groups: Kindergarten, 1/2, 3/4 & 5/6. We need one parent volunteer per year to collaborate their year's guesses and money. As the majority of our team are Kindergarten mums, Kindergarten is covered but we would greatly appreciate some parents for the other year groups to contact us to help with this activity.



There will be more fundraising news coming your way in the coming weeks so please keep an eye out for it in the newsletter and also in the form of **YELLOW** notes in your child's bag. We all want our children to have the best education possible and our school does an amazing job of this but together we can help expand this and provide for kids with additional supplies and opportunities through fundraising. The saying "it takes a village to raise a child" is still so true, and if we all help out in a small way over the year, it not only benefits all of our children greatly, showing them that we value their education but it also lessens the load for all who help. So please feel free to come and meet us outside the Kindergarten rooms in the mornings or drop in on our next fundraising meeting. This will be held on Monday 10th of March at 9:30am at the new Milperra McDonalds. We are so grateful for all those who have already helped and are looking forward to meeting so many more of you.

Emily Baker

Fundraising Co-coordinator
0401 787 571

Maths

Struggling to remember everything you learnt in maths? If you need a refresher course, here are some tips and tools to help you to help your child.

Find out more: <http://www.schooltoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/mathematics>

Get involved in the School Banking program.

Our School Banking Day is every Tuesday



A warm welcome to all our new account holders for school banking to date we have opened 16 new accounts that gives the school \$80.00 Commission. On School Banking day students should bring in their weekly deposit and put their yellow deposit wallet in the purple box marked **SCHOOL BANKING** outside each office



To save the volunteer's time please make sure that the child's name, student ID Number and amount depositing is on the deposit slip if there is no information your child's deposit book will be returned as we cannot fill this in for you.

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

Remember our school earns **5% commission** on every deposit made (to a maximum of \$10 per individual deposit). Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at Padstow North Public School.

Leaflets can be collected from either office

Phill Allsop-Guest

School Banking Coordinator

Canteen News

Welcome back to all our returning volunteers and a big friendly welcome to our new volunteers. It's great to have so many new faces in the canteen. We can never have too many helpers on the canteen roster so if you are thinking about volunteering your time we will welcome you with big smiles. We especially need volunteers on a Friday. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and to give back to the school and the students.

Last year we were able to give \$14,000.00 to P & C to put towards buying materials and equipment to improve our school and we hope to do even better this year. The canteen menu is on the school website and prices have stayed the same as last year. However next term there will be some price increases as the costs have increased on many of our items.

Anyone who is considering volunteering can contact Kelly [0450 343 756](tel:0450343756) or Carlie [0412 664 379](tel:0412664379) or leave your name and phone number at either office and we will contact you.

Carlie Williamson

Canteen coordinator

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Aimee Belgre

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KU Milperra Preschool Enrolling Now

KU Milperra Preschool is a high quality preschool for children aged from 3 to 5 years old.

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For more information, or to enquire about enrolling your child, contact:

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E ku.milperra@ku.com.au

www.ku.com.au

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FOR YOUR DIARY

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6	3 March	4 District Swimming carnival	5	6 Sport in Schools for Stage 2 and Stage 3	7 PSSA Round 1 commences
7	10 Second Hand Uniform sales 8.30-9.00am KATTS	11 P & C Meeting 7.00pm in Library	12	13 Sport in Schools for Kinder and Stage 3 Selective high school testing	14
8	17	18	19	20 Sport in Schools Yrs K-2	21
9	24 KATTS	25	26 Last day for University competition money	27 Sport in Schools Yrs K-2	28 Family photo day tomorrow

iShine KIDS *iShine for Jesus*

Arts
Activities
Crafts
FUN
GAMES

Free Admission / Morning Tea Provided
Every Sunday at 9:30am
Padstow North Public School
Halcyon Ave, Padstow NSW 2211
w: iShine.org.au p: 0409 980 903 e: info@ishine.org.au

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9am - 12noon
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