



## Calendar of Events

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Term 4             |   |
| Week 2             |   |
| Monday<br>12/10    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 3 camp to Arrabri Lodge</li> <li>Year 4 camp to Phillip Island</li> </ul>   |
| Tuesday<br>13/10   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kids &amp; Fruit program commences</li> <li>Prep Transition</li> </ul>   |
| Wednesday<br>14/10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 3 and Year 4 campers return</li> <li>Prep Transition</li> </ul>   |
| Thursday<br>15/10  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5+6 Dance begins</li> </ul>  |
| Week 3             |   |
| Tuesday<br>20/10   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Council</li> </ul>  |
| Wednesday<br>21/10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 1 FAMPAs night</li> </ul>   |
| Thursday<br>22/10  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1+2 Swimming program commences</li> </ul>  |
| Friday<br>23/10    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 2 Day camp</li> <li>Home group placement requests due back</li> <li>Parent payments for 2016 due today</li> </ul> |

## Principal's Message

Welcome back; we hope you have enjoyed the holidays, even if it was only just the change in routine.

I just wanted to recognise the commitment and professionalism of our staff which was so evident during the holidays when thirteen of the teaching staff attended four days of professional learning at a Quality conference with David Langford, the expert in Quality Learning.

We really appreciate their willingness to dedicate the holiday time to such a 'full on' professional learning experience. Some staff let me know their opinion ... "[I] would also like to thank you [the school] for providing me with the opportunity to further enhance my Quality Learning understandings. Thoroughly enjoyable conference, shared with a great group of colleagues. David Langford, as always, is an engaging and inspiring presenter and facilitator."

Following this professional learning was our curriculum day on Monday when we spent valuable time working with David Hornsby, an expert in teaching and learning writing. We worked as a whole staff; teaching and education support staff, in year level teams and with two or three other teams. We discussed, spent time exploring the Australian/Victorian Essential Learnings (AusVELS), learnt a lot and enriched our term 4 planning. Thank you for supporting our learning.

The thought of the concert still brings back great memories; thank you once again for supporting the kids as they celebrated, what was for many, their *personal achievement* in the Arts.

Reminder that our year 3 and 4 students and staff are heading off to camp next week; the excitement is building.

Unfortunately our return to term 4 also brings the news of a tragic loss of one our community. Our thoughts are with Diellza (6-1), Bora (3-19) and their

family as they mourn the loss of their father in an accident last Saturday. Many of our community will have known Dashmir as the family has been part of the community for many years. I know you will join us in offering them all the support we can.

Claire McInerney  
Principal

### Community event for Children's Week, which celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood.

Join the celebration by 'Rockin' at Redleap' on **Sunday 25 October 2015**

**Time: 12 — 3 pm at Redleap Reserve, Redleap Ave, Mill Park**

**Activities on offer include:** Interactive Stage show with magician Magic Tony, local dancing groups and Adventure of the Magical Mountains, story time with Yarra Plenty Regional Library, fun activities with Healthy Together Whittlesea, vegetable and herb planting activities with Bunnings, a range of art experiences and face painting.

**For more information contact Council's Family, Children and Young People Department:**

### 2016 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 27 January Staff Curriculum Day  
Thursday 28 January Staff Curriculum Day  
Friday 29 January Introducing My Child meetings, Prep staff PEA interviews  
Monday 1 February – years 1 to 6 begin school, Prep staff PEA interviews

Preferred Payment Method



## Home group placement process

Each year teachers face the very challenging and complex task of placing students in classes for the following year. Each year we follow a clear process aimed at providing a balance of talents, abilities, social issues and behavioural challenges in each class. **Each year in this process, which is detailed below, you have the opportunity to make a confidential request using the attached proforma if you feel there are any issues you would like considered in the placement of your child. Please be aware that we do not guarantee that all requests will be met.**

**It is important that you send your request each year, even if it is exactly the same as last year's request. This will keep our records up to date, rather than relying on information that may no longer be relevant, as relationships between children change.**

The role of each teacher is to make professional judgments following the complex criteria detailed below. The role of each parent is to discuss their child's placement with them and explain that if they are not in the same class as their 'best friend' then there is a good reason for this and that they can still meet in the yard. Each new year is an opportunity for your child to make new friends. We ask you to model resilience to your child/children.

When thinking about next year please do not presume teachers will be teaching the same year level in 2016 as they did in 2015 as there will be changes.

### Student placement process

Explanation of the process, including the **optional** parent request proforma, is placed in our newsletter. **Please note that to avoid any confusion or misunderstanding it is important that you complete a new request form each year, even if it is exactly the same request as last year. Also note that we do not guarantee that all requests will be met.**

Optional proformas (**due back to the principal by 9:00 a.m. on Friday 23 October**) are read and considered by members of the principal class (Claire McInerney, Julie Nixon, Alison Devereux).

Lists are compiled of approved parent requests without specific reasons detailed. These lists are placed in the confidential care of the leader of each year level.

Teachers (class and specialists) use the process detailed below to construct a draft of the classes for the following year.

To ensure 'a fair go for all' in terms of the structure and membership of classes, we plan for, **as far as is practicable:**

- equal size classes in the year level
- equal spread of boys and girls in each class
- equal spread of student abilities in each class
- teacher and student welfare coordinator recommendations about separation of children because of behavioural issues
- the sensitive placement of children who are on the Program for Students with a Disability
- the sensitive placement of identified gifted children
- the sensitive placement of children consolidating (repeating) or accelerating a year level
- placement of twins according to parent request and teacher recommendation
- placement of children whose parents request they be separated from another child
- placement of children who have worked with the same teacher for two or more years and who request a change
- placement of children whose parents request not to have a specific teacher because of a previous unsatisfactory relationship
- teacher requests not to have a child because of a previous unsatisfactory relationship with a parent.

Drafts are presented at a School Improvement Team meeting, (team consists of leadership staff at each year level, our coaches and our three principal class officers) where we review all lists and check the placement of students on the special request list. Draft lists are also checked paying particular attention to those students with special needs (intellectual, physical, social or emotional) and any recommendations or changes are discussed.

Units (class and specialist teachers) review class lists to make any further recommendations and check any changes made by the Leadership team.

The Leadership team review class lists again.

The Leadership team draft a plan of classes and teachers for each year level and in each specialist area for the following year.

Final recommendations to principal class.

If a teacher feels they need to discuss any aspect of the placement process with a parent, they will contact them prior to the official notification.

Students and parents notified of 2016 class.

Please be assured that *respect* and *care* will be shown by teachers when placing children and please *trust* that teachers do know your child and will make the best possible decision for them, even if it is not the one you would have chosen.

To help prepare your child for the next year of school we will continue to set up many transition activities, including our whole school Transition Experience for a half day. Your year level unit will inform you of the transition activities your child will experience to help them with the move into a higher year level next year. Our aim is to ensure the children move smoothly to their next year level and that there is *a fair go for all*.

Children will spend time in their 2016 class room with their 2016 teacher and class on Thursday 17 December.

We seek your support to follow the PPPS process. If your child is not placed in a class with their best friend, help them to become more resilient and *tolerant* of others so they can make additional friends. Children can still meet their special friend and play together every recess and lunchtime. Even when children are in the same class they do not necessarily sit with their friend nor do they necessarily learn best with their special friend. Friends may be in quite different learning groups. Sometimes it is better to have learning partners in class and special friends for playtime.

It would also be wonderful if children could make additional friends each year. This is a very beneficial life skill for children to learn so that they are not timid about going to a new school, to secondary school, to new sporting clubs, to TAFE, to University and when entering the workforce.

If you have any questions about the process please contact me.

Claire McInerney, Principal



## 2015-2016 HOME GROUP PLACEMENT PROCESS

### Optional parent request proforma for student placement for 2016

*Due back to the principal by Friday 23 October (late requests will not be considered)*

**Please note that we do not guarantee that all requests can be met. Please remember that parents are not able to request specific teachers. Please complete this proforma each year even if the request is the same.**

Name of student \_\_\_\_\_

Name of 2015 teacher/s \_\_\_\_\_ 2015 home group \_\_\_\_\_

#### Request for the placement of your child away from another student

Name of the child you request your child be separated from in 2016

(This will only be considered if it does not involve discrimination).

Name of child \_\_\_\_\_ 2015 class \_\_\_\_\_

Reason \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Name of the teacher you do not want your child to have again

**a) because your child has already had the teacher for two years** and you would prefer they did not have that teacher for a third year. (This is a reasonable request)

**b) because of a previous unsatisfactory relationship.**

Name of teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Reason \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Sometimes children have very special needs which have an impact on home group placement (i.e. twins)

*Please elaborate if applicable.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 2016 Prep Buddy Program

The Prep Buddy program is a vital part of our Prep Transition Program. The aim of this program is for new students to feel secure and confident as they begin school. Initially school can be overwhelming even for the most confident child. There are so many new experiences and unfamiliar situations and prep students are required to make many new adjustments.

In past years PPPS has implemented a buddy program that involves students at year 4 level. We have looked closely at the changing needs of our prep students each year and also at the research done by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation's Better Buddies Framework. This Foundation advocates that there are many benefits for year 6 students to be involved in the buddy program. For these reasons we have made a change to our program and in 2016 our Prep Buddies will be students in year 6.

In preparation for this, the Alannah and Madeline Foundation's Better Buddies Framework will be implemented in term 4 for the current year 5 students. This program is designed to create friendly and caring primary school communities.

Through Better Buddies, children in their first and last year of primary school buddy up and learn the values: *caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing difference, (tolerance) including others and responsibility.*

We are excited about this change and believe our 2016 year 6 students will respond well to the challenge. We also want to reassure our current year 3 students, their time will come. They just need to wait a little longer.

## SCHOOL CONCERT DVD

Please note the School Concert DVD forms have been collected and DVD's should be distributed to families within the next week. For those of you that have not yet handed in a DVD order form and wish to purchase a DVD please note the last day for late orders through the school will be Friday 16th October, 2015. After this date you will need to contact the company directly and there will be an additional charge of \$5 for postage.

## CANTEEN ORDERS ON QKR

Please note that families paying for canteen orders through Qkr will have the transaction listed as "Natalie Williams" on their statements. It is not listed as PPPS as the canteen is outsourced. This is for your information purposes.

## School Concert Survey

Please see on the last page a School Concert Survey. It will be greatly appreciated if you could take the time to complete the survey and return it to the school office by 15th October so your feedback can be taken into consideration in our planning for the 2017 School Concert.

**Regional Finals: Basketball Teams (term 4)**

Our A Boy's (year 5 and 6) team has qualified for the Regional's on Thursday November 5th at the Mill Park Basketball Stadium in Mill Park. Go Plenty Parklands!

**NMR Primary Track and Field Championships**

On Wednesday October 14th we have a number of students attending the Meadowglen Athletics Track to compete in various events. Congratulations to all of the students competing. Everyone at PPPS wishes you all the very best of luck!

**Health and Physical Education Week****12-16 October, Week 2, Term 4*****Our school is flying the flag for HPE!***

Celebrating the importance of Health and Physical Education – Health and Physical Education is an essential area of the curriculum that provides real opportunities for children to learn how to lead active and healthy lives – now and in the future. It recognises and actively promotes the importance of health and physical education and physical activity for physical, social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. This year we are celebrating on Wednesday the 14th October with our RMIT PE students who will be taking classes on the sportsground (weather permitting). All parents and friends are most welcome to attend.

**What are the benefits of Physical Activity?**

Range from health benefits, social and emotional benefits to intellectual benefits. Some of the physical benefits such as healthier heart and lungs, stronger bones and muscles, improved body composition are obvious, but some of the other benefits get forgotten. Physical activity can help to improve self-esteem, reduce stress and anxiety, improve body image, provide a greater sense of belonging and increase motivation for more physical activity. Intellectual benefits of physical activity include improved concentration, better school performance, improved academic function, enhanced learning and memory and improved mental awareness.

**RMIT PLATOON PROGRAM**

Next Wednesday will see the conclusion of the RMIT Platoon Program for 2015. The students in year's Prep-4 have benefited greatly from such a valuable partnership with the pre service PE teachers. The skills and activities were selected by me and supported our school based PE Program. We are only one of a few schools in Victoria that have this partnership with the RMIT University. A huge thank you to the staff and students from year's Prep-4, that were involved and supported the program.

**PURCHASING OF SPORTS EQUIPMENT**

**You will have until Friday October 9th to have your orders placed. No money will be accepted after this date. THERE WILL BE NO MORE ORDERS TAKEN FOR THIS YEAR.**

All sports equipment ordered will be G.S.T. inclusive and will arrive approximately 2-3 weeks after the due date for payment. All order forms **MUST** have the correct amount of money placed with their order and if paying by cheque, it must be made payable to Plenty Parklands Primary School. *Please circle the items you would like to purchase.* Your child's name, home group and class teacher needs to be clearly written on the order form and it is to be placed in an envelope with the money. All items are on display in the glass cabinet, which is located in the foyer of the school hall.



**Physical Education & Sports Coordinator - Sebastian Scanu**

**ITEMS FOR SALE**

|                                 |        |         |  |        |         |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|--|--------|---------|
| NYDA Cellular Basketball        | Size 5 | \$20.00 | Nyda Skill Netball                             | Size 5 | \$15.00 |
|                                 | Size 6 | \$20.00 |  |        |         |
| Ultra Rubber Basketball         | Size 6 | \$12.00 | Nyda Neon Football (Primary)                   |        | \$17.00 |
| Buffalo Hands-on-Basketball     | Size 6 | \$22.00 | Nyda Celestial Volleyball                      |        | \$15.00 |
| Nyda Heavy Duty Rubber Playball | Size 2 | \$6.00  | Bat Tennis Bat- Wooden                         |        | \$14.00 |
| Nyda Deluxe Playball            | Size 3 | \$10.00 | Baseball/Tee-Ball Glove and Ball               |        | \$30.00 |
| Derby Cellular Soccer Ball      | Size 4 | \$15.00 | Skipping Rope (please circle) 2.1m, 2.4m, 2.7m |        | \$7.00  |
|                                 |        |         | Tennis Balls (purchase per dozen only)         |        | \$14.00 |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to purchase the above-circled equipment and am enclosing the exact amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the goods.

Parents Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





## HOW TO GET STARTED

Before using our programs register online for an account. Registering is quick and easy. Visit [www.campaustralia.com.au/newparents](http://www.campaustralia.com.au/newparents) to begin.

**Opening Hours:** 7.30-8.45am and 3.30-6.00pm  
**For bookings/cancellations call** Kristine on 9404 4516

### Sunsmart Week

- Monday:** Design your own sunscreen label
- Tuesday:** Outdoor play ... remember, no hat no play!
- Wednesday:** Sun smart lessons and tips for kids
- Thursday:** Activity sheets
- Friday:** Board games and Card games

### OSHC news:

In the last week of term 3 Steph, Jessica, Julia, Asher, Alana and Liviana helped with fundraising for the Smith Family. Thank-you for your hard work and to all the parents who donated. We successfully raised \$64.50.

Remember this term children must have their hat with them at after school care.

*Your feedback is always important to us, please share with us your opinions and suggestions so we can constantly improve our service. The OSHC Team*

#### Save on Care

Save 50% or more on Before and After School Care with the Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343

#### Holiday Clubs

Don't forget about the Camp Australia Holiday Clubs these school holidays. Use the Holiday Club Finder on the website to find the nearest program: [www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs](http://www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs)

#### Healthy Snacks

Afternoon tea is served daily. Menus are tailored to children's tastes, developmental and nutritional needs. Afternoon tea includes a selection of yummy sandwiches and fruit. Children may also engage in fun cooking activities.

*we make kids smile*  
[www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au)

## STUDENT BANKING NEWS:

With the withdrawal of the Lunar Light Band this term, we are releasing an alternative reward item in Term 4. Alongside our **Outer Space Savers Money Box**, students' savings efforts can now be rewarded with our new **Galaxy Glider** (available while stocks last). Students will be able to test their skills with a game of frisbee with our new reward item.

## Rewards Program - Available in Term 4



Still in stock are the following reward items from our 2015 Outer Space Savers range:

- ET DVD
- Intergalactic Rocket
- Invisible Ink Martian Pens

Plus, we have limited stock available from our 2014 Deep Sea Savers range of reward items including:

- Scented Pencils
- Shark Plush Toy Keyring
- Swimming Bag

## WIN A FAMILY TRIP TO DISNEYLAND:

To congratulate the stellar savings achievement displayed by students who have made 25 or more School Banking deposits this year, we will be handing out a slip with your next deposit to let students know they're in the running to win a family trip to California's Disneyland. So keep saving and good luck!



## School Council - Concert Survey 2015

Dear PPPS families,

A number of parents have asked about the possibility of using a different venue due to the limit of one or two tickets per family at Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre. The feeling in our community in the past has been that the limitation of Plenty Ranges regarding the seating capacity is outweighed by the convenience of its location.

One suggestion has been to hold the concert over three or four nights, however staff already work full days and nights on both concert performances and, as you would appreciate, cannot be expected to work a further one or two evenings.

Another suggestion has been to investigate the seating capacity of other venues in our area. Please be assured that we have been through that process and **Plenty Ranges has the greatest seating capacity of them all.**

School Council has written to Whittlesea Council regarding the lack of a suitably sized venue in this area. Plans are underway for a venue with a greater seating capacity, but it won't be built in the immediate future.

Now is your opportunity to give School Council feedback regarding the venue for our 2017 concert. Please take the time to respond as we need to make a decision quickly and make a booking at the venue of our choice in order to secure a place.

**Please return the survey to the school office by Thursday 15 October in order for the results to be collated in time for our 20 October School Council meeting, or place in the box provided.**

**Thank you for taking the time to respond – PPPS School Council**

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**PPPS - Concert Survey—Return to school by 15 October, or place in the box provided**

**YES/NO**

We would be prepared to continue with the current venue, Plenty Ranges and the allocation of two tickets per family (with the last 20 families restricted to one ticket per family)

**YES/NO**

We would be prepared to drive to another venue, for example the Palais Theatre in St. Kilda, which would enable four or five tickets per family and the performance on one night only.

**Comments/Questions**

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