From the Principal - Mrs Maraga

3 April 2013

Feathers, ribbons, bunnies and chocolate on display at the K-2 Easter Hat Parade!
The Easter Hat Parade held on Thursday was a wonderful colourful spectacle of creative hats. There were over 300 excited children entertaining the crowd with their lovely singing, lively actions to the songs and the parading of their hats! Thanks to all the mums, dads and friends who assisted our children’s hat making. The hats were amazing and certainly added to the colour and fun of the parade!

Our first Disco for the year will be held on 11 April.
Next Thursday evening will see the girls and boys putting on their dancing shoes as they join us for the disco. This is always a highlight at the end of term for the children to join in dancing and have some fun with their friends. We are very appreciative of our wonderful parents who volunteer each disco to ensure it is such a memorable event.

Gold and Silver Awards will be presented at Assembly this Friday
On Friday, the first Gold and Silver Award presentation for the year will be held at each of the Assemblies. To receive a Silver or Gold Award is a significant accomplishment that each child has worked hard to achieve. Congratulations are extended to our students who have reached a special award this term.

General School Contributions 2013 Lucky Draw
Thank you to those families who have already made a voluntary general school contribution this year. Currently the school has received $7,579 all of which will be used to purchase equipment for the children to use. There will be a lucky draw held at the end of term as a way of thanking three families that have contributed to the general school contributions. First prize will be a $100 dinner voucher at Trevi Restaurant, second and third prize will be family passes to the Fire Museum. Contributions are $40 per child or $80 per family and can be paid at the office.

Parent Forum to discuss the NAPLAN
This month's Parent Forum was held on Tuesday on the ‘National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)’. Parents were given an overview of the NAPLAN Assessment Program and had an opportunity to view past papers and stimulus books. The next Parent Forum will be held on Tuesday 7 May at 2 pm in the Library. This forum will discuss reading and how to support children as readers from Kindergarten to the end of Year 6. We will continue to hold our Parent Forums on the first Tuesday of each month, so you may wish to jot this date down in your diary. We are planning to also repeat some of the day forums in the evening prior to the P&C meeting on the Tuesday. Further information will be distributed closer to the date.

Staff Development Days
There will be two staff development days at the beginning of Term 2 this year. The NSW State Government has granted an additional staff development day to all schools for Term 2. The allocation of an additional School Development Day on Tuesday 30 April 2013 is specifically to support planning for the implementation of the new NSW syllabuses for the Australian curriculum. Children will return to school on Wednesday 1 May.
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2013

In May 2013 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools.

The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from 14-16 May 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 14 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 15 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 16 MAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conventions</td>
<td>(Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation)</td>
<td>(Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Measurement, chance and data; and Space)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
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Please contact the school if you require any further information.

**Teacher Professional Learning continues at Regentville PS**

Our staff continue to enhance their skills and knowledge through their ongoing engagement in professional learning. Teachers have attended a variety of sessions on a number of topics over the past months. Most professional learning occurs after school with teachers attending courses at various venues and completing some online courses. Some of the topics covered this term have included:

- Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)
- Effective Classroom Learning Environments
- Best Start training
- Newman’s Prompts (a way of explicitly teaching problem solving in Mathematics)
- Targeted Early Numeracy Strategies (TENS) Training
- Speech Pathology and Development
- Programming essentials: The ABCDE of programming success
- Connected Communities 21: Australian Curriculum Project Workshop CC21
- Primary Executive Support Group Conference Term 1 2013
- New Phase 2 Focus on Reading 3-6
- Team Leadership for School Improvement
- English as and Additional Language/ dialect (EALD)
- Glenmore Park Learning Community Middle Years Project
- Teacher and the New Curriculum
- The learner and the new curriculum in your school
- Leading Focus on Reading in a School
- “Ignite the Spark!” - WSR Gifted & Talented Conference

**Holiday reading**

Have your kids signed on for the Premiers Reading Challenge? Get a head start with Holiday reading time. Booklists are here: What’s your child reading right now?

Dates for the Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Apr</td>
<td>St 3 Illawarra Fly excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Apr</td>
<td>St 2 Team Building Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Apr</td>
<td>Gold and Silver Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Apr</td>
<td>Mufti Day Mothers Day Collection</td>
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<td>10 Apr</td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Apr</td>
<td>Disco (see item)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Apr</td>
<td>School Anzac Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Apr</td>
<td>End Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 May</td>
<td>Students return Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 May</td>
<td>Mothers Day Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 May</td>
<td>District Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>14, 15, 16 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Yrs 3 and 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payments Due
- General School Contributions
  $40 per student $80 per family.
  Before April 10.

Cross Country Helpers
We are looking for parent helpers to assist with the School Cross Country next Wednesday 10 April.
If you can help between 9.15am and 11am, please contact Mr Miskell at school.

School Website Change
Our current school website will soon change over to a new format. The new format will have more information from the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) as well as several other useful features including: all newsletters this year and beyond will be available, an easy to use calendar with school events and links to DEC policies.
It is expected that you will see the new format website before the beginning of Term 2. It will be the same web address but have a different look.
If you would like more information about the new format, please feel free to contact Mr Bamford.

Anzac Services
Each year our school is represented at the Student Anzac Service held at Penrith Paceway by the SRC representatives of Year 2 to Year 6 classes as well as our school leaders. This service is being held on Tuesday 9 April.
Our school Anzac Service will be held on Friday 12 April starting at 10.15am. Parents are welcome to attend, however, as we have 666 students, seating will be outside the hall.
We would gladly welcome donations of flowers and greenery on the morning of the service. A willing band of volunteers will turn these into arrangements for the students to use at the service. If you would like more information about these events please contact the school.

Star Performers
- Thanks to the volunteers who sorted and wrapped up over 200 prizes for the Easter Raffle last week.
- Well done to all involved in the Easter Hat Parade last Thursday. What a spectacle!
School Disco  
Thursday, 11 April 2013

K-2 .... 5.30pm - 7pm  
Yr 3-6.... 7.15pm - 8.45pm  
Doors open 5.15pm

Entry $3.50

Drinks/Water $1  Chips 80c  Wicked Fizz 30c  Geckos 50c

- To help move everyone into the hall as quickly as possible, we would appreciate the correct money for entry into the disco.

- We have large numbers of students attending the disco and we ask parents and toddlers to stay outside the hall to maximise the space for the students.

- Volunteer helpers at the disco will be easily identified by coloured badges.

- Parents are asked to drop off and pick up their children at the hall as it will be dark and there have been students left unattended waiting for their parents at the gate.

Pre-pay for the Disco on Thursday 11 April between 8.30am and 9am outside the canteen to Mr Bamford.


This term, in preparation for our ANZAC assembly we have been discovering what ANZAC Day is all about through songs and various texts.

We have discussed our upcoming assembly and why we observe the formalities that we do both in this assembly and at Dawn services. 

As a result of this some students have expressed an interest in knowing the details for the Dawn Service to be held in Penrith this year.

The following is for your information:

Dawn Service begins at 5.00am at Memory Park, Woodriffe St. Penrith

It is advised that you arrive at 4.50am in time to see the silent march as it approaches the War Memorial. 

Further information can be obtained by contacting Penrith RSL Club.
Computer Games- Are They a Waste of Time?

A computer game is a program that a group of people have made for people to have fun. But I believe that computer games are a waste of time. In a survey conducted in 5/6B, an alarming 40% of students said that they would play video games for 3 hours straight! Computer games are a waste of time, I'll tell you why.

They are bad for your eyesight! According to Dr Blakeney, optometric advisor to the College of Optometrists, computer games will not permanently damage the eyes; however, they can cause strain or exacerbate existing eye conditions.

People become obsessed! People can become so engrossed in their game, they neglect other, more important activities, such as school work, chores, exercise, and sleep.

People can copy violence! Have you ever heard a story on the news about a shooting that has occurred? Have you ever thought that maybe, the gunman played violent video games, wasn't mature enough to realise the consequences, and thought it was okay to shoot people?

I hope people can realise that computer games are a waste of time, because they are not good for your eyes, people can become too obsessed over them, and some can be extremely violent or inappropriate. So, next time you see someone playing a video game, remind them how they could be putting themselves, or maybe others, at risk.

By Claudia Dixon 56B

Digital Newsletter

As many of you are aware, the newsletter has always been available from the school website. Due to the increasing cost of producing almost 500 newsletters, from the beginning of next term we will not be sending home a paper version of the newsletter. There will be a limited number of paper versions available from the notes display case in the front office.

If you are not able to access the internet at home to view the online version of the school newsletter, please return the attached slip to Mr Bamford so that a paper copy can be arranged.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please feel free to contact Mrs Maraga or Mr Bamford.

I am unable to access the internet to view the school newsletter online. Please send me a paper copy with my child _______________________________ of class ______________.

Parent Name: ___________________________________
MUFTI / COLLECTION DAY
WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL
TO PARTICIPATE IN MUFTI DAY, PLEASE DONATE A GOLD COIN PER STUDENT.
Money will be collected by teachers as students enter the classroom.

ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS THE MOTHERS DAY STALL.

MOTHERS DAY STALL
MONDAY 6TH MAY
ALL GIFTS $5.00 EACH.
Please send in the correct money with your child on the day.
Students are only able to purchase ONE gift during their shopping time with their class.
The Hall will be open at recess for students who wish to purchase a second or third gift.

WANTED: PERSONAL SHOPPERS.
Regentville P & C have openings for a number of “Personal Shopper” volunteer positions for our Mother’s Day Stall. These positions require dealing with the most discerning of customers - our children!!
No experience required - just 2 ½ hours of your time. To be held on MONDAY 6TH MAY - meet 8.45am at the Hall. If you are interested, please leave your name and a contact number with Sally Simmons in the canteen. Our success depends on volunteer help, so please help by getting involved.

Fiona Stevens (Fundraising Coordinator)
Michelle McFarlane (Stall Coordinator)