

# Pitt Town Public School Newsletter

## 2019 Term 4 Week 8



### Dates to Note

Date	Event
11-13 Dec	Stage 2 Camp
16 Dec	Parent Helper Morning Tea
16 Dec	Reports go home
17 Dec	Year 6 Farewell
18 Dec	Students Last Day

### Principal Report

Thank you to everyone who joined us for presentation night on Thursday night. It was a wonderful evening, celebrating the achievements of our students in 2019. Thank you very much to Mrs Knight, Mrs Pendleton, Ms Apap, Mr Tasker, Mrs Brown and Mrs Roeder who worked very hard behind the scenes in organising the event.



Thank you also to our wonderful 2019 school leaders Darcy, Dylan, Ellie, Lilli, William and Hannah who did a wonderful job in leading the evening. Congratulations to our new school leaders who were inducted for 2020.

Our School leaders are:

<b>Captains:</b>	Maddeline Daniel
<b>Vice Captains:</b>	Faith Riley
<b>Prefects:</b>	Jason Chelsea

Also, thank you to Mrs Jen Hawken and staff from Windsor High for their hospitality and ensuring that our night went off without any issues.

### Reports

Semester 2 reports will be sent home with students on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December (week 10)**. A significant amount of time goes in to making accurate, 'point in time' judgements regarding students' achievements and areas for future development. We hope you find the reports informative. As always, should you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.



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### 2019 Start Dates

School will resume for students in Years 1-6 on Wednesday January 29th. Our office will be open on Tuesday January 28th. Our school email account is checked on a weekly basis throughout the school holidays, should you need to contact the school prior to the commencement of school for 2020. The school email address is [pitttown-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:pitttown-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

### Outstanding fees

Our office has today printed invoices which are being sent home today to those families who have still not paid their 2019 accounts. These accounts must be settled by the end of next week, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

### Holiday Maintenance

During the holidays, there will be a hype of activity around the school. The toilet block will hopefully, be completed by day 1, all demountable windows will be tinted, and lights will be mounted under the COLA – just in time for our Welcome BBQ.

### Organisation for 2020

As you would be aware, much time and thought is currently going into our organisation for 2020 as we value a smooth transition from one year to the next and a positive start to Term 1, for all of our students and families.

Below is an outline of our current focus and plans regarding organisational matters.

Staff have been working on draft class placements, taking into consideration individual student needs, both academic and social. The number of students in each class, as well as the number of boys and girls is also considered. We also ensure that all students have some students from their 2019 class, moving into their new class with them.

For all students, it is beneficial for important information about their learning and development to be passed from their teacher in 2019 to their new teacher. This occurs in the form of brief interviews where information about students' academic and social needs are shared, as well as any other relevant information that will help teachers get to know their new cohort. For some students with particular needs, this occurs in an exchange meeting during week 1 of 2020 and includes members of our Learning Support Team as well as the students' teachers (if possible), both current and future.

On the first day back, at the start of 2020, students will line up in their normal spot with their 2019 class. For the first day, students will stay with their 2019 class and teacher where possible. As you would be aware, schools are staffed according to student enrolments, and this process allows us to confirm the attendance of any new enrolments as well as checking all of our students have returned for 2020. As soon as we have confirmed our anticipated enrolment numbers, we will form our new 2020 classes.



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Sometimes, students return from holidays late and **it is very important that you notify us in writing if you know your child will not be returning for the first day of school in 2020.** You can do so via email to [pitttown-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:pitttown-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au). Before we can form our classes we must phone parents to confirm the intentions of each student who has not returned on day one. As you could imagine, this process can be very time consuming, particularly if families are on overseas holidays, and it greatly slows the formation of our new classes.

Yours in partnership,

Mary Roche  
Principal

### School Banking

Commonwealth Student Banking has ceased for this year. Thankyou to all the students who continue to bank weekly.

### Head Lice

We've recently had a number of reports of head lice. This is a sensitive issue and it is important that the school and parents work together. Thank you to the support of parents that are diligent in checking their child's hair. Could I please ask parents to check their child's hair and treat them if required.

### Chicken Pox

We have had one case of Chicken Pox reported in the school. Please ensure that if you have any questions or concerns you contact medical professionals for advice.

### Parent Helper Morning Tea



To all our parent helpers,

To express our appreciation for the assistance you have given both  
the Staff and Students of  
Pitt Town Public School.

You are invited to a  
Garden Morning Tea  
to be held at the School on  
Monday the 16th December 2019  
at 10:45am.

RSVP: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019



## Visible Growth



### Kindness

As parents and teachers, one of our greatest hopes is that our kids will be kind and good people. When they have a choice to help others, we hope they will. We never want them to be cruel, intolerant, or prejudiced. But let's face it. It's not always easy to be kind, even for us. Even grown-ups don't want to share our toys sometimes. Helping others can seem hard when we feel like we don't have the help we need ourselves.

The good news is that kindness can be learned; just like any other behaviour, it can be trained through repetition. The most dominant way children learn new behaviours is by copying those around them. Which means we adults have a powerful opportunity, and responsibility, to teach by example.

Mirror neurons are cells in the brain that wire us for imitation, and they're especially active during childhood. When kids observe an action, their brains respond as if they are performing the action themselves. Their brains form new neural pathways, and these create the basis for behaviors that stick with them throughout their lives.

Thanks to neuroplasticity, the brain's ability to adapt and change, we all have the aptitude to learn new behaviors, including becoming kinder. Kids' brains are particularly moldable, as they've had less time to solidify lifelong habits. So if you want to encourage more kindness in your kids, and in the world, here are some fun things you can do:

#### 1. Send kind thoughts

Kindness can sometimes be as simple as a wish for the well-being of others.

#### 2. Share stories of kindness

Choose books and stories with kindness themes. There are many great stories to choose from! Stories are a powerful and highly influential way for kids to learn without direct teaching.

#### 3. Smile more often

In a study conducted in Sweden, when people looked at others who were smiling, their muscles twitched into smiles involuntarily. Play a smiling game with your kids to show them how smiling truly is contagious. The simple act of smiling can spread the warmth of kindness far and wide, as others smile in return and continue to pass the smile on.

#### 4. Play the compliment game

It feels good to receive a compliment. So make someone feel good by paying them a compliment.

#### 5. Practice random acts of kindness

Random acts of kindness can be anything that will make someone's day a little brighter. They don't even have to know who did it. I challenge my students to perform random acts of kindness for other students and teachers at school. To make sure no one gets left out, we draw names out of a hat.



### Report Card Thoughts

Dear Mom and Dad,

In a few days, I'm going to bring home a snapshot of myself. This picture will be a time exposure of me that's been developing during the past weeks. Considering my many likes and dislikes and my mood changes from day to day, I think it's a pretty good likeness of me.

When you see my snapshot remember this is a report of someone near and dear to you. So please don't get too uptight if you see a blemish. I hope you accept me as I am.

Please do not picture me as being better than all the other children. Remember that all children do not learn to talk or walk at the same time, nor do they learn math and reading at the same rate. I ask you not to compare me with my brother, my sister, or the kid next door. You can set realistic goals for me, but please be careful not to push me to succeed at something that is beyond my ability.

I want you to understand that my report card is a picture of my school progress. When you meet with my teacher, you will learn many things about my life at school, even some things that might surprise you.

My teacher knows me as I am at school. You know how I am at home. The "real" me is somewhere in between. When these two pictures become blended with acceptance and understanding, I hope my snapshot will be a shining portrait.

Love,

Your child





# Carols on the Green

## Pitt Town PS

**When:** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
**Time:** 6:30pm – Carols begin at 7pm  
**Where:** Pitt Town Public School back field.

Come along and sing Christmas Carols with our wonderful school community.

A BBQ, drinks and other snacks will be available on the night. There will be many glow in the dark and light up items available for sale.

