

Pitt Town Public School Newsletter

2019 Term 2 Week 4



DATES TO NOTE

Date	Event
31 st May	School Disco
5 th June	World Environment Day
7 th June	Year 2 Excursion
21 st June	School Athletics Carnival

PRINCIPAL REPORT

A big thank you to our families, especially our hardworking mums, who have worked tirelessly in beautifying our school. The entryways to our school are breathtaking. We will be more than ready to enter the gardening competition in September. Also, thank you to local businesses for their plant donations and the P & C for their \$1000 donation towards more plants. If you would like to join this group, please leave your name at the front office.



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Thank you also to the parents who have volunteered their time to work in the classroom supporting our teachers and children. It is expected that you will attend a workshop focusing on Department of Education volunteer expectations and supporting students in the classroom. It is not too late to volunteer, just leave your name at the front office by next Friday.



Over the last two weeks, the refurbishment of the existing toilet block commenced. We are also a little closer to the commencement of the construction of a new toilet block. In the interim, we are using the demountable toilets and the children need to be commended, as they are coping with this change extremely well.

SOCIAL SKILLS GROUP

We have had an overwhelming response from families requesting their child/ren to be involved in the social skill groups that will commence in term 3. I have had a meeting with Michelle Miller (psychologist) and I will be sending notes home to parents whose child/ren have been chosen for the first sessions next term.

CROSS COUNTRY

What a glorious day we had—weather was beautiful, children had fun and family and friends made a day of it. Thank you to our students for your enthusiastic involvement in our cross-country races. The ribbons for the place getters were presented at last Friday's assembly. Well done to all!

Thank you to Mr. Noercsik for organising this event for us, the teachers, who ensured all went smoothly and parents, caregivers and friends who joined us on the day.

The District Cross Country Carnival was held today, Friday 24th May at Cattai National Park. Congratulations to these children as they represent our school.

NAPLAN

Over the last two weeks Year 3 and Year 5 students participated in the National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) online. The information about each student's learning that NAPLAN provides for parents and the school, is extremely valuable. An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child's results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at www.nap.edu.au.

Thank you to all of our students at Pitt Town Public School who showed consideration for our Year 3 and Year 5 students during the testing time by moving about the school in a quiet manner to avoid interruptions.

PARENTS COMMUNICATING WITH STAFF

I would like to remind parents of the protocols of communicating with staff. If you have any issues or concerns in regards to your child's schooling or wellbeing, please contact the office through an email or phone call to make an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. If you feel that the issue has not been resolved, please contact the Stage Supervisor/Assistant Principal for further discussion with them and the class teacher. As a school, we constantly reinforce with students our three expectations – to be responsible, safe and respectful learners. Staff demonstrate these expectations on a daily basis when they deal with each other, students, parents and community members in a professional and respectful manner. We ask that parents behave in the same manner when engaging with staff on the school site.



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FERNADELL DRIVE PICK-UP

Thank you to the parents who ensure that the pick-up in this area is a safe one for their children. Unfortunately, over the last few weeks Mrs. Pendleton has been confronted with inappropriate behaviour by a few parents due to her commitment to keeping our children safe. If this behaviour continues, I will have no choice but to lock the back gate and pick-up will have to go back to Buckingham Street.

HOMEWORK

At this week's P & C meeting, a homework discussion took place. To answer any further questions, could you please refer to the homework policy, which will be placed on our website next week for your feedback. It is in draft due to the move to a homework grid.



Yours in partnership,

Mary Roche

Principal





Road safety



Keeping your children safe when dropping off and picking up at school

Here are a few things you can do to help keep your children and others safer during drop-off and pick-up times during the school week:

- Make sure your children are fastened in the correct child car seat for their age and size and that it is fitted correctly.
- Stick to the 40km/h speed limit in a school zone and look out for children who may be about.
- Watch for flashing lights on buses. They let you know that there may be children crossing or about to cross the road. A 40km/h limit applies when school bus lights flash.
- Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.
- Always park and turn legally around schools. Manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns are dangerous during busy school drop-off and pick-up times.
- Drop your children off and pick them up on the school side of the road in your school's designated drop-off and pick-up area. Never call out to them from across the road – they may run to you without checking for traffic.
- It's safest for children to get out of the car through the Safety Door, away from passing traffic. This is the rear footpath side door of the car.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on safetytown.com.au



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National Simultaneous Storytime



National Simultaneous Storytime was held on Wednesday, 22nd May. It is a national event where the same book is read in schools and libraries around Australia. This year's book was *Alpacas with Maracas* by Matt Cosgrove.

After rehearsing prior to the event, our library monitors (Georgia, Jesse, Jade, Mikaylah, Emma and Scout) paired up and visited every class with the book and maracas in their hands. They confidently read the story with every class listening eagerly. At lunchtime in the library students could participate in art and craft activities relating to the story. A video of Matt Cosgrove reading the book with alpacas in the library was also shown. Some students also had fun playing some maracas.

Sandra Martin (Librarian)

Girls Netball Knockout Competition

On Thursday 23rd May, our Senior Girls Netball team played Hobartville in Round 2 of the knockout competition. Our team played brilliantly and defeated Hobartville 37 - 0. The girls demonstrated excellent netball skills and played extremely well as team. They are to be commended for their encouragement of each other and the opposing team and also being respectful and fair players throughout the game. Well done girls!



Thank you to Mrs McCaffery for umpiring the game.

Round 3, 4 and 5 will all be played next Tuesday the 28th May at the Knockout Gala Day at Penrith. We wish the girls the best of luck for next week.

Mrs Johnston

SPORTING EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR PRESENTATION NIGHT

There has been requests for this award to be explained.

This award is given to a student who exhibits sporting excellence in a variety of sports. The award is generally awarded to a senior student (Year 5 or 6).

Below are the points that are allocated to determine the recipient of the award. Points are allocated per individual event (relays do not count).

Carnivals – Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics

District	1 point per event
Regional	3 points per event
State	5 points per event

Hawkesbury Sporting Teams (cricket, rugby, AFL, netball etc)

3 points are awarded for each team the child represents the school.

State Sporting Teams (cricket, rugby, AFL, netball etc)

5 points awarded for each team the child represents the school.



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SRC NEWS



The SRC is very excited to be planning a school mufti day for Rural Aid's 'Adopt a Farmer' initiative.

This is an opportunity for our school, as well as schools around the country, to support our Aussie farmers still living in drought.

The mufti day, scheduled for Week 5, 30th May, will help raise money for drought relief, by making a gold donation on the day. The SRC members are also communicating with their peers to make sure rubbish is placed in the bins and not around the playground.

LEGO LEAGUE



This term we are introducing a new lunchtime club called the *Lego League*. Students in Stage 2 and 3 will be selected to participate in this extra-curricular club, which focuses on technology and engineering components. The club involves students participating in a variety of Lego building challenges in a group setting. The club will run every Thursday at lunchtime this term. Next term we will be looking at expanding the year levels as we purchase more Lego. Again thank you to the P & C for their contributions.

GRUB CLUB

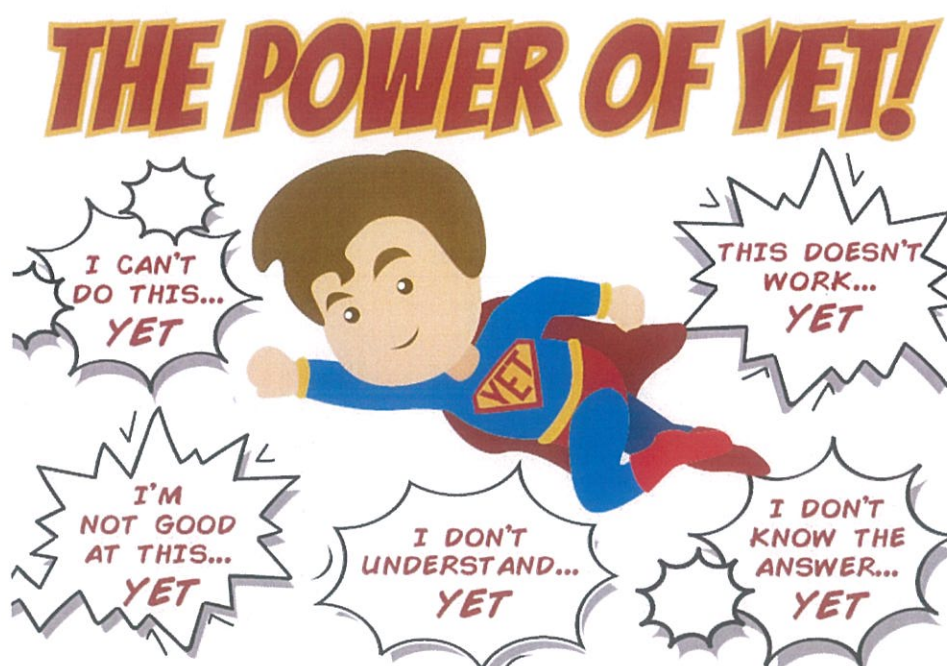
The sunflowers have bloomed and the vegies are growing. Our club has been tending to our radishes, cucumbers and tomatoes, which are beginning to ripen. All Students are encouraged to come along on Wednesdays at lunchtime to help in our fruit and vegetable gardens.



VISIBLE LEARNING AT HOME

Growth Mindset in Maths (really, in all learning experiences)

In general, a growth mindset is the belief that intelligence and 'smartness' can also be learned and that the brain grows from experience and effort. The opposite, a fixed mindset, is the idea that you are smart, or you are not. In maths, that translates into "some people are good at maths, and some are not." Did you know that praising efforts rather than intelligence or results can impact your child's ability to persevere in challenges?! The goal is to have children thrive on challenges and see failures, not as a sign of low intelligence, but as a learning opportunity. Brain research tells us that making mistakes actually wires more connections into the brain! When a person has a growth mindset, they accept challenges, see their efforts as worthwhile, and are open to learning from mistakes. Students with a growth mindset achieve at higher levels than those with fixed mindsets.



How can you help? Some simple ways:

- Adding "yet" when they claim they are "not good at this" (Respond: "You are not good at this yet.")
- Ask questions that focus on their effort and choices and get them to reflect on satisfaction of that effort (e.g. *What did you learn today? What mistake did you make that taught you something? What did you try hard at today?*)

Model this yourself as you share about your day

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Winter. Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pale blue polo shirt with school crest long or short sleeved. • grey shorts or trousers • royal blue jumper or jacket with school crest • royal blue bucket hat or broad brimmed hat with school crest • grey socks • black shoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pale blue long sleeved blouse or pale blue polo shirt with school crest • school material tunic with dropped waist and pleated skirt or school material slacks • royal blue jumper or jacket with school crest • royal blue bucket hat or broad brimmed hat with school crest • white socks or blue tights • black shoes
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Winter Uniform		
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Please ensure that your child is in full winter uniform by **Monday 3rd June**. You can purchase these items from Lowes at Rouse Hill or Brynorns at Richmond. The above images show the school uniform that is to be worn from Monday to Thursday. Also, children are to wear the appropriate **royal blue** jacket or track suit top, other colours will not be accepted. On Friday it is expected that students will be in full sports uniform. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any difficulties in ensuring this takes place.





Enrolling now for Kindergarten 2020

If you have a child turning 5 years of age before July 31, 2020 and thinking about sending them to Kindergarten next year, please come and collect an enrolment package from the front office.

If you would like a tour of the school or just to meet with the Principal to ask questions or alleviate any concerns, please contact the front office and this can be arranged.

If you have any neighbours, family or friends in the area who may have a child starting Kindergarten next year, please pass on this information as we would love for them to be a part of our community.



TERM 2 ACCOUNTS

The Term 2 account has been issued and it is important to try and avoid letting these payments build up, as they then become increasingly difficult to pay. Should you have any questions, or require a short extension of time in which to pay, please feel free to contact me directly.

PAPERLESS PITT TOWN NEWSLETTER

As advised last term, PTPS are trying to minimise the amount of paper that we use, so we are starting this with the newsletter being made available through the Skoolbag app or our website. As you can imagine the time, paper and other supplies that are used to produce a paper copy of the newsletter each fortnight to every family, has a high toll on staff and on our school budget. However, if you require a paper copy, please come in and see the office staff.



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www.pitttown-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



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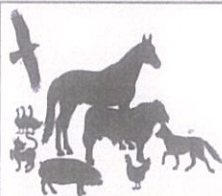
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