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# Term 4 October 2022

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Term 4 has started off with a lot of exciting events for our students. They have settled in well for their final term of 2022. When I walk through classrooms and talk to students, they are all focused on their learning goals, engaged in their activities and able to tell me what they are learning. We have spoken about finishing the year well and for our Year 6 students what their legacy will be as they finish off their primary education. I have spoken to Year 5 students about leadership opportunities for 2023. Our leadership policy is currently being rewritten. The big change will be that if a student is unsuccessful for a school leadership position, such as school captain, they will be able to apply to be considered for a house captain position.

### New OOSH Operating

TheirCare has started operating their service this term onsite at Pitt Town Public School. Each afternoon as I walk by the OOSH, our students call out to me to say hello and let me know how much they are enjoying attending the OOSH, and also how nice the food is. It is free to enrol, allowing you to access the OOSH anytime you require it on a casual basis.

TheirCare will be operating their Vacation Care service starting from Monday 19 December through to Thursday 22 December and will reopen for Vacation Care in 2023 on Monday 9 January.

### Students Not Returning 2023

As the year draws to an end, I am aware some families will be moving out of the area onto new and exciting adventures and their children therefore will no longer be attending Pitt Town Public School. In order for the school to plan our classes for 2023 if you are not returning in 2023, can you please email the office-[pitttownp.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:pitttownp.school@det.nsw.edu.au) as soon as possible to let us know.

## Additional School Development Day

Earlier this term the Secretary of the Department of Education announced that the Department is providing an additional school development day at the end of this year on Monday 19 December 2022 for staff to participate in professional learning that was put on hold due to COVID-19 and plan ahead for 2023. This means the last day for our students will be Friday 16 December 2022. TheirCare will be operating their Vacation Care service on Monday 19 December. While there will be no classes on Monday 19 December, if parents cannot arrange alternative care, we will provide minimal supervision at school.

## 2024 Year 7 Selective High School Applications

You may have heard advertisements on the radio or television recently about applying for selective high schools. This is due to a desire to get students to apply who may not have previously, under the new equity model that was released this year. If your child was in the top two bands across all areas in NAPLAN in the Year 5 test this year, you may want to think about the possibility of a selective high school application. Please feel free to come and talk with me or your child's teacher.

Selective High Schools cater for high achieving, academically gifted students who may otherwise be without sufficient classmates at their own academic and social level. These schools help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level. Applications for Selective High School placement are considered based on the Selective High School Placement Test results. The 'Intention to Apply for Selective High School' note has been sent home (to current Year 5 students). Please read this note carefully and if you wish to apply, you must complete the online application and return the bottom portion of the note to school. For more information go to - <https://shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au/>

Important dates:

18 October 2022 – Applications open

16 November 2022 – Applications close

## New SES and Fire Rating Systems

You may already be aware that the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has declared a third consecutive La Nina event <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/> , meaning ongoing rainfall and subsequent flooding in many parts of NSW is likely for the remainder of 2022 until March 2023. That said, parts of NSW are still likely to experience elevated bushfire and grassfire risks throughout summer, where rainfall has not been as prevalent.

This means that schools and school communities across the state, whether coastal or inland, must remain vigilant and prepared during Term 4 and the warmer months.

The best way for you and your family to do this is to ensure you are familiar with the new warning alerts from the NSW SES link for floods, storms and tsunamis <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/> , as well as the new Australian Fire Danger Rating system from the NSW Rural Fire link <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me> .

### How to stay up to date with weather warnings?

NSW emergency services are in the process of transitioning critical warning systems to a set of consistent colours, signs and terminology that will be used across Australia.

### Australian Fire Danger Rating System

The first of these is the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) <https://afdrs.com.au/> , which was implemented on 1 September 2022.



Importantly, the Australia fire danger rating system has been improved and simplified to make it easier for people to make decisions to stay safe on days of fire danger risk. Please take some time to look at the improved and simplified system to prepare you for possible bush or grass fires.

You will now start to see the replacement of all existing fire danger rating signs along NSW roads.

You will also see these changes on the NSW Fires Near Me link <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/stay-up-to-date>. NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) encourages you to download the app and set a watch zone in the app for your school and home locations to receive early alerts when there is a fire in your area.

### New NSW SES Flood and Tsunami Warning System

The second of these changes is the new Australian Warning System adopted by the NSW SES. The new warning system includes warning levels, action statements, hazard icons, colours and shapes for floods, storms and tsunamis link <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/warnings>. You will notice that the icons are consistent with those that you see on NSW Fires Near Me.

These changes have now been made on the Hazard Watch app on the SES website <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/> which provides you with information on increased flood hazards across NSW.

Once again it is recommended that you and your family familiarise yourselves with the new flood, storm and tsunami warning system ahead of the predicted wet summer season in many parts of the state.

The Department of Education and our school will continue to work with SES and RFS in order to provide updates to you and our school community if our school is made non-operational due to severe weather or another emergency.

I want to thank you for your ongoing support as we prepare for any weather events, together as a school community.

### P&C

It was great to see an increase of members attending our October meeting, including some new members. As part of the school report, we spoke about our 2022 NAPLAN results and where next to continue lifting our achievements.

Our Bunnings BBQ was successful and a nice opportunity to work alongside our parents and grandparents to raise funds for our school. Thank you to all those who came along and helped on the day and a special mention to Mrs Wallace the P&C President, who organised the successful day.

The Slime Explosion was a huge success with the students, teachers and P&C helpers enjoying the slime.

**Our next P&C meeting is to be held on Tuesday 15 November and is the AGM**, commencing at 7pm at the school. All members are encouraged to attend. Please read the P&C Newsletter attached.







## World Teachers' Day



This year marks the 28th anniversary of World Teachers' Day and the theme is "The Transformation of Education Begins with Teachers". I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our exceptional teaching staff for their tireless commitment to education. They ensure our students are known, value and cared for, and are engaged and challenged to continue to learn every day. Thank you to the P&C for putting on a staff lunch as acknowledgement of their appreciation for our teaching staff.



## COVID Update

On Friday 30 September, National Cabinet announced that from Friday 14 October 2022, people who test positive to COVID-19 do not need to isolate. In line with this announcement, the NSW Department of Education have worked with NSW Health to support all schools to adapt to this change while continuing to prioritise student and staff wellbeing by minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmissions. Students and staff should continue to stay home when sick. Students, staff and visitors should only attend school when they are symptom free. We strongly encourage all students, staff and visitors to follow the guidance issued by NSW Health. We will continue to send home students or staff displaying symptoms. Anyone who believes they have been exposed to COVID-19 is strongly recommended to monitor for symptoms and test if they have any concerns, as well as wear a mask. We will continue to support our families to use rapid antigen tests (RATs) if symptomatic or if you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19. RAT testing may help identify the infection early and is important if you are in contact with people at greater risk of serious illness if exposed to COVID-19. We are continuing our COVID-smart measures: Our school will continue to operate with our baseline COVID-smart measures in place throughout Term 4 to minimise transmission and keep our school open. This includes a combination of layered safety measures such as maintaining hygiene and cleaning practices, using rapid antigen testing (RAT) when experiencing symptoms, maximising natural ventilation, strongly encouraged vaccinations and strongly encouraging mask-wearing particularly when indoors and/or physical distancing is not possible.

## Every Day Matters

You will start to hear advertisements on your television and radio about school attendance and the importance of attending every day. Consistent attendance improves student outcomes, increases career options, and helps students build relationships and confidence.

Please contact me if you are experiencing difficulty getting your child to come to school, so we can put in strategies to support you.

Missing a day here or there may not seem like much, but absences add up and can impact your child's learning more than you think. When your child misses one day a week over a year, that's 40 days of school, 8 weeks of lessons and 2.5 years over their school life lost.

Students are expected to have above a 95% school attendance rate, because days missed is years lost. That's why making sure your child comes to school every single day (unless genuinely sick) is so important.



More information on attendance is available here- <https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/going-to-school/every-day-matters>

### Kindy 2023

Our first two Kindergarten Transitions Days have been very successful. It has been nice to meet our new students, and they are all very excited to spend an hour in the classroom with their teachers. There are two more sessions in November. Enrolments are still open for our 2023 Kindergarten classes.



### Upcoming Important Dates

Hawkesbury Public Speaking Semi-final  
 Stage 2 & 3 Parent Workshop  
 Stage 2 & 3 Cyber Safety  
 Grandparents Day  
 Year 4 Camp  
 Hawkesbury Public Speaking Grand Final  
 Stage 3 Camp  
 Remembrance Day Service  
 Stage 2 PSSA Basketball  
 Maths Spectacular  
 P&C Meeting  
 Kindergarten Transition Day  
 K-2 Excursion  
 Kindergarten Transition Day

Wednesday 2 November  
 Wednesday 2 November  
 Thursday 3 November  
 Monday 7 November  
 Wednesday 9 November- Thursday 10 November  
 Thursday 10 November  
 Wednesday 9 November- Friday 11 November  
 Friday 11 November  
 Friday 11 November  
 Monday 14 November  
 Tuesday 15 November  
 Thursday 17 November  
 Tuesday 22 November  
 Tuesday 29 November

Angus Lamont  
 Principal

## October Merits

Congratulations to the following students who have received merit certificates in October.

Class	Term 3 Week 10 Merits	Term 4 Week 1 Merits	Term 4 Week 2 Merits	Term 4 Week 3 Merits
KC	Sienna H	River S	Dallas S	Samson G
	Payton B	Jackson B	Aidan O	Kohen B
KK	Ashton W	Connor D	Willow N	Jordan X
	Aaliyah T	Maddison V	Ethan F	Christopher M
1/2B	Georgia W	Natasha S	William C	Preston D
	Rheeanon B	Indi J	Olivia L	Mackenzie K
1/2J	Georgia C	Braxton X	Koda W	Charlotte I
	Thomas E	Ivy W	Jaxson N	Logan B
1/2K	Heath S	Charles A	Iris N	Mayah B
	Elaina H	Kayden V	Ava K	Kyanna H
1/2S	Edward W	Ciera M	Amelia B	Ashton N
	Indie V	Dakota K	Mia B	Ella D
3/4C	Dakota W	Ivy M	Oscar L	Hayley A
	Jasmin Y	Victoria C	Blake B	Tate P
3/4M	Ava S	Georgia C	Jonathan W	James I
	Charlie K	Klay P	Indiana F	Evie M
3/4HW	Ella W	Cooper T	Lexi A	Adam W
	Lincoln F	Henry J	Koby W	Ziad A
5/6K	Carter C	William W	Elliana D	Brent S
	Charlotte C	Myiah D	Juliet S	Nicholas W
5/6R	Lincoln V	Bryson H	Carter S	Hannah S
	Brianna Z	Sonny B	Vegas C	Brayden D

Term 3 Week 10 Strives				
Kayden V	Samson G	Eliza W	Hayley A	Lucas C
Charlotte C	Olivia H	Flynn B	Nimreet K	
Term 4 Week 1 Strives				
Oscar L	Ivy W	Indi J X2	Isabella R	Olivia H
Macy B	Braxton B	Isaac S	Jackson K	James I
Sam L	Amelia B			
Term 4 Week 2 Strives				
Roy T	Luca H	Kade M	Anya H X4	Beau C
Myiah D	Milly J	Brent S X3	Jack W	Heath S
Ella W	Crystal J	Lili C	Henry J	Harley T
Ariana S	Layla M	Lain M	Cooper S	Charlotte I
Georgia C	Logan B	Chase D X2		
Term 4 Week 3 Strives				
Joshua H X2	Aidan O X2	Henry C	Ava S	Jhett W
Maddison V	Archer S	Tom N	Juliet S	Jack S
Jordan X	Ashton W	Annabel H	William C	Lucas L
Isabelle G	Carter T	Zahra E	Charles A	Lincoln V

Term 4 Week 2 Bronze Awards				
Taylah D	Levi C			

Term 4 Week 4 Bronze Awards				
Brent S	Kade M	William W		

## 100 Nights of Reading

Congratulations to the many students who have completed 100 nights of reading and are approaching 200 nights. We will continue this into next year and the next level will go through to 365 nights of reading – in other words, a year of reading! Keep it up everyone, it would be great to have everyone reaching that point.

Term 4 October 100 Nights of Reading				
Zahra E	Jonathan W	Aaliyah T	Charlie K	Carter T
Eliza W	Archer S	Thomas E	Hunter B	Harlow B
Ashleigh W	Nataliya G	Edward W	Jack G	Emily B
Juliet S	Ziad A	Indie-Lee P		

## Library News

Thank you again to the many parents who have been busy covering books. There are always books needing to be covered and any assistance with this is greatly appreciated.

Thank you also to those of you who have purchased from Book Club during the year. It contributes to reward points for the school, enabling more books to be purchased for the children to borrow. The last issue of Book Club for the year will be available soon.

The last week for borrowing this year will be Week 6. This allows time for all books to be returned before the end of the year and before I start the annual stocktake. Reminder notes of overdue books will go home next week. Please take time to search for any missing books and return them to the library.

Mrs Martin

## Salvos Generosity Christmas Challenge 2022

The Salvation Army organises Christmas hampers every year to give to families in need at this time of year.

We are setting up a Christmas Giving Tree in the office at Pitt Town PS as a collection point for items for the hampers. *You can donate basic pantry staples and/or new toys or books.* Basic pantry staples include long life milk, breakfast cereal, rice, pasta, pasta sauce, tea, coffee, tinned fish, tinned ham, tinned fruit, sweet and savoury biscuits. Some ideas are in the image provided. Items can be donated from now.






## Got It – ES1 and Stage 1

The Got It team have been up and running their program this term. It has been great to see the parents working with the children and developing some skills. There are still two webinars in November.


# Free Caregiver Webinars 2022



## 1 Little Kids Big Worries

**Date:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022 **Time:** 5pm-6pm


This webinar provides a general overview of anxiety symptoms in children. It provides caregivers with helpful tips and advice on how to respond to their child's fears in a way that encourages them to be brave when facing their worries.



## 2 Helping Kids with Big Emotions

**Date:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 **Time:** 12pm-1pm


This webinar provides a general overview of how you can support your child to develop their skills in recognizing and regulating their big feelings. It focuses on teaching parents how to coach children through their "big" emotional moments and to support them in making "thumbs up" behavioral choices.



## 3 Keeping Busy Kids on Track

**Date:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 **Time:** 12pm-1pm


This webinar provides a general overview of how to support your child when they have difficulty concentrating and sitting still. It will provide strategies you can implement at home to help your child focus and engage in everyday activities.



## 4 Building Healthy Friendships

**Date:** Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 **Time:** 5pm-6pm


This webinar provides a general overview on why some children have difficulty making and keeping friends. It will explore social skills you can teach your child to support them to interact positively with their peers.



**To access the webinars:**

1. Go to this website: <https://conference.meet.health.nsw.gov.au> or google "NSW Health Pexip".
2. Enter your name, click continue
3. Click green phone button
4. Enter VMR number: 4881716 in the box that says VMR and click the green phone button
5. Click 'join' (ignore pin request)

- You can access from your mobile, tablet or computer.
- You DO NOT need a microphone or camera
- Any problems please call 4725 9800 or email [nbmlhd-got-it@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nbmlhd-got-it@health.nsw.gov.au)



Health  
Nepean Blue Mountains  
Local Health District

## PSSA Athletics Carnival

Chelsea C and Anneliese X competed at the State Athletics Carnival on Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 October. Both girls should be proud of the effort they put in. Anneliese will compete in the Australian Athletics Championships to be held in Brisbane next month.



### PSSA Soccer Gala Day

With the sun out and shining, our Stage 2 & 3 students had a fantastic day at the Hawkesbury PSSA Soccer Gala Day. Our students displayed their excellent soccer skills, teamwork skills and sportsmanship throughout the day and represented Pitt Town PS with pride. We wish to congratulate them for their outstanding efforts. We would also like to thank the parents and families that came along to support our students with a special mention to Mr Langston, Mr & Mrs Wildman and Montanna Wallace for supporting our teams by managing and refereeing. A wonderful day had by all.



### Swim School

Our Stage 1 students enjoyed their time at Swim School over the last two weeks. The students have made pleasing progress over the program to develop the essential skill of swimming.





## Responsible Pet Care

K- 2 students had the opportunity to meet Kate on Friday 14, a bernese mountain dog. Beatrice, Kate's owner, talked with the students about the responsibility of looking after an animal, particularly dogs and how to approach a dog we do not know, safely. This was done via pictures where the students could see how people were being responsible with their animals, being part of their family and by role playing. The students were shown other pictures of dogs that are scared, angry, dangerous and happy and the signs that indicate these types of behaviour. The students were given activity sheets, stickers and information.



## Phonics Games with Stage 1

"Phonics Instruction is beneficial to all, harmful to none and crucial for some" (Author Unknown). Stage 1 have been enjoying a variety of phonics games. Phonics is the combining of sounds and symbols. It opens the door to reading. These games have helped students find the ending sound, identify the middle sound, read nonsense words using their phonics knowledge, locate the correct digraph and find the correct position of sounds in words. Keep it up Stage 1!





## Peer Support

Our Peer Support program finished this year with a walk and talk session. The Peer Support leaders lead their groups around the oval via different stations to receive talking prompts. This year after each session the groups ate their lunch together, and many groups then played together for the lunch break. Congratulations to our school leaders for their excellent work with Peer Support in 2022.



## Day for Daniel

We celebrated "Day for Daniel" on Friday 28 October. Our students participated in some new learning around how to be safe and we raised money to support the Daniel Morcombe foundation. Congratulations Pitt Town Public School for supporting a great cause.







# ***Pitt Town Public School Parents and Citizens Association***

## **P & C Update - October 2022 -**



Our **Slime Spectacular** was a hit and all student prizes have been distributed!

Class 3/4C raised the most for the school and each student won a hot chip lunch, closely followed by 3/4M and 1/2B.

Our top 3 fundraising students were Dallas A, Dakota W and Koby W, and as Dallas received the most donations for the school he got to enjoy sliming Mr Lamont!

The total amount raised for the school will be confirmed shortly!

At our last meeting a vote was held to confirm the purchase of new

**full size portable soccer goals** for the school.

These have been ordered and are coming soon!



A big thank you to all who donated drinks for sale and those who volunteered their time to help with a **Fundraising BBQ at Bunnings** on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

A huge thank you also to The Home Bureau in Pitt Town for their sponsorship to help purchase the meat for the BBQ

A profit of **\$1251** will be used to fund the new technology room at our school!

On 26<sup>th</sup> October the P&C organized a luncheon for

**Teacher Appreciation Day**, with a beautiful spread supplied by The Cookie Cart & Co.

We appreciate all our teachers for their hard work and dedication to our children!



## **Annual General Meeting is Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November**

The P&C AGM (annual general meeting) has been booked for Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

The meeting will take place at School in the hub at 7pm.

The election for next years committee will take place first & all committee positions will be available.

Positions are: President, Vice President, Social Co-ordinator, Secretary and Treasurer.

(Please see the attached outline of all positions)

Only financial members are able to vote or hold a position. If you would like to become a financial member to vote or be elected for a position, please email the committee and we will ensure you are added to our members register. Current memberships are valid till the end of the meeting.

If you would like to nominate yourself for a role please email the current committee in advance for more information:

**[pitttownpspc@gmail.com](mailto:pitttownpspc@gmail.com)**

Membership for the 2023 calendar year will open at the AGM, and will be advertised further after the meeting and in the new year. New members are welcome at any time.

We invite all parents and community members to come along and find out what the P&C is all about.

Monthly meetings are a chance for communication about what is happening in the school, and how the P&C can support the school community through fundraising and social events.

Members are entitled to minutes from each meeting, and are able to vote on decisions for spending and fundraising. They can commit as much or little time as they like, to any cause, and all support is appreciated.

**The current committee would like to thank our members and the parents of PTPS for their support during 2022.**





### **P&C Executive Committee Role Descriptions**

The following role descriptions are intended as a guide only. Each role may vary depending on the individual that fulfills the position and the requirements of the committee at the time.

#### **PRESIDENT**

The president is responsible for the overseeing of the P&C and the associated committees, presiding and running the P&C meetings and liaises with the NSW P&C Association and the Principal over any P&C and school matters.

The president is responsible for:

- The successful functioning of the P&C.
- Fostering participation of all members.
- Welcoming new members & supporting volunteers.
- Chairing Meetings.
- Signatory on bank accounts.
- Acting as the P&C spokesperson.
- The President is automatically a member on sub-committees.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

The vice president in the absence of the President presides over the meeting. The Vice President supports the role of the President and may be required to:

- Chair meetings or parts of meetings under the direction of the President.
- Chair meetings in the absence of the President.
- Signatory on bank accounts.
- Take on the responsibility of supporting / leading sub-committees.
- Represent the President if the President is not available.

#### **SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall attend meetings and keep a record of all business conducted, collect and receipt any mail received, and then hand the mail onto the appropriate sub-committees. The Secretary is responsible for:

- Taking minutes at meetings.
- Writing outgoing correspondence.
- Maintaining records.
- Signatory on bank accounts.
- Receive and table incoming correspondence.
- Give notice of meetings.
- Maintain official records.

#### **TREASURER**

The Treasurer receives and deposits all monies, maintains records, draws cheques and presents accounts to each meeting, and presents all records for auditing each year. The Treasurer is responsible for:

- Receives and deposits money.
- Maintains records.
- Draws cheques and presents accounts.
- Signatory on bank accounts.
- Must ensure books are kept up to date.
- Audit – organising and co-ordinating audit of books.
- Reporting of all transaction and a bank reconciliation at P&C meeting, an annual report to be presented at P&C AGM.

#### **SOCIAL CO-ORDINATOR**

The Social Co-ordinator plans, oversees and co-ordinates any fundraising events along with the President and Vice President. They also maintain records of all events, expenditure and income received from each event.

- Co-ordinate, plan and discuss fundraising ideas which will then be taken to the P&C meeting for approval by the P&C.
- Organise fundraising initiatives.

# Sunsmart Snippet

## 6 tips for staying SunSmart:

1. Learn to understand the UV index
2. Slip on sun protective clothing
3. Slop on sunscreen
4. Slap on a hat
5. Seek shade
6. Slide on wrap-around sunglasses



**Protect yourself in five ways from skin cancer**



**SLIP**



**SLOP**



**SLAP**



**SEEK**



**SLIDE**

[sunsmartnsw.com.au](http://sunsmartnsw.com.au)



**Cancer Council**  
Healthy Lunch Box

# ***Nutrition Snippet***

## **HOW TO PACK A HEALTHY LUNCH BOX**



**A good lunch gives children energy and nutrients to learn, play and grow.**

**But what does a healthy lunch box look like? Find out in our short video.**

**[healthylunchbox.com.au](http://healthylunchbox.com.au)**



**Cancer Council**  
Healthy Lunch Box