Dates to Note

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To subscribe to the school calendar please send a request to pitttownps@gmail.com from your free gmail account.

P&C

It was terrific to see so many people at this week’s P&C meeting. Those present heard a presentation from two of our students who have gone on to great things at high school. Edie and Joe Moxon spoke followed by Mrs Cam, Mr Bonacorso and Mr Carter about the educational opportunities at Windsor HS and the transition program offered by Windsor HS.

Planning has started for the major fete that is to happen on September 14. A planning meeting for this is being held on March 5. Please contact one of the P&C executives for more details.

District Sport Tryouts

A number of our students are attending tryouts for district PSSA sport teams. We all wish these children the best of luck.

Meet the Teacher Evening

It was pleasing to see so many of our parents at the Meet the Teacher Evening. If you were unable to attend, please contact your child’s class teacher for any information that was handed out on the night.

Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all students who competed at the school swimming carnival. Those who placed first or second in their events and met the district qualifying times will receive permission notes from Mr Minton.

The district carnival will be held at Oasis Swimming Centre on March 1.

Asthma and Allergy Updates

Staff are currently updating their qualifications in the management and treatment of asthma and anaphylaxis.

Student details update requests have been sent home to students who have been identified as having asthma or an allergy. It is essential that these updates be returned to school as soon as possible.

If your child has been diagnosed with asthma or an allergy and did not receive an update request please contact the school immediately.

Student Progress

As parents you are naturally concerned with your child’s progress at school. All students at Pitt Town receive the best possible education, and as part of this we provide written reports on each student each semester, and offer parent teacher interviews at the end of term 1.

If you have any concerns throughout the year please contact the teacher concerned to organise a suitable time to have a talk. Together we are all working for the best outcomes for our students.
Speech problems

All kids learn how to talk and listen at different rates but did you know there’s a general pattern to your child’s language development?


Active After School Communities

WE are running the AASC program again this year. During term 1 students in years 2-6 will be participating in AFL and basketball coaching sessions on Fridays.

In term 2 all students will receive athletics and tennis coaching.

This program aims to create more active and healthy people in our community and it is great to hear of students who have enjoyed these coaching sessions and have joined out of school competitions in different sports.

High School Transition

On March 8, Year 5 students will be able to attend a transition day at Windsor HS.

This is an important first step as our students get ready to move into secondary education.

Some Year 6 students will have the opportunity to attend small group transition programs during the remainder of the year.

Friendships to boost your child’s learning

If children are happy socially they tend to be more engaged in their learning. So teaching your child about the importance of making friends is as vital as learning their ABCs.


Awards Assembly

Most parents would have noticed on the school calendar that the last assembly of each term is scheduled as an Awards Assembly. At these assemblies there will be no class item, but awards gathered by the children during the term will be presented.

This will include ribbons from sport carnivals, ICAS competition certificates and Silver Awards. This will make the presentation of these awards a little more formal and special for the children.

Bronze Awards will still be presented at weekly assemblies.

Merit Rewards

With a number of new families starting at the school this year it is timely to remind everyone of the school’s merit award system.

Teachers present students with Strive Tokens for good work, good behaviour and good citizenship. On average each teacher only presents two of these per day, so a child could go for quite a while without receiving a Strive Token. Teachers have their own reward system in their classroom to encourage good behaviour as part of their classroom management system.

When a child collects 5 strive tokens they may present these to their class teacher and they will receive a Merit Award on morning assembly. Each class also receives two Merit Awards that are presented at weekly assemblies.

After collecting 10 Merit Awards students may present these to their class teacher and they will receive a Bronze Award at a weekly assembly.

When a student has received 20 Merit Awards they will receive a Silver Award, which will be presented at the Awards Assembly at the end of term, and the student and their family are invited to attend a Silver Morning Tea.

When a student has received 30 Merit Awards they will receive a Gold Award, which is presented at the annual Presentation Evening, and after 40 Merit Awards a select few students will receive a Platinum Award, which is also presented at the Presentation Evening.
This system aims to recognise and reward the efforts and achievements of our students.

The overall aim is for students to become good citizens who do the right thing because it is the right thing to do, not just to receive a reward. I thank parents for their support in building our students into good citizens who know right from wrong and do things for the right reasons.

Supervision of Students

A reminder that there is no supervision of students prior to 8:15 am and that students should not be at school before this time.

Also, please ensure that students are told how they are going home each day, and that teachers of our younger students are also informed, particularly when there is a change to routine. If you are picking up your child please do so at bell time as this prevents children from becoming anxious if they have to wait for a long time.

Voluntary School Contributions

Students at Pitt Town PS have access to extremely well resourced classrooms and learning resources. This level of resourcing is possible due to the support of our community through the P&C and through voluntary school contributions.

An example of how these funds are used is the 3/4P room. This room was delivered to the school and meets the standards for classrooms in NSW. In order to match the standards of our other classrooms additional work need to be done, including installation of blinds, installation of PA system, installation of additional data points to enable more than one computer in the classroom and installation of interactive display and extension of the school wireless network. These additional items exist in all of our other classrooms and needed to be matched in the new room. This work will cost $10,000, which needs to come from school and community sources. The P&C are kindly donating $5000 for the interactive display unit and I have budgeted the remaining funds to come from voluntary school contributions. With additional classrooms to be installed over the next few years, this cost is likely to be repeated, making these fees important in maintaining the school learning environment.

If you are able to pay the voluntary school contribution, please do so as soon as possible.

Sick Children

A reminder that if your child is sick they should stay away from school.

Attendance at school is vital to your child achieving their best, but coming to school when sick can extend the period of illness and possibly infect others.

Measles

There has been a case of measles at school and the parents of the child did the right thing by keeping their child home as soon as a diagnosis was made.

Please note the following information from NSW Health, particularly if your child has not been immunised.

What is measles?

- Measles is a viral disease that may have serious complications.
- In the past, measles infection was very common in childhood. Measles is now rare in NSW because of immunisation but many areas of the world continue to experience outbreaks. In 2008 there were 164,000 deaths worldwide due to measles.

What are the symptoms?

- The first symptoms are fever, tiredness, cough, runny nose, sore red eyes and feeling unwell. A few days later a rash appears. The rash starts on the face, spreads down to the body and lasts for 4-7 days. The rash is not itchy.
- Up to a third of people with measles have complications. These include ear infections, diarrhoea and pneumonia, and may require hospitalisation. About one in every 1000 people with measles develops encephalitis (swelling of the brain).

How is it spread?

- Measles is usually spread when a person breathes in the measles virus that has been coughed or sneezed into the air by an infectious person. Measles is one of the most easily spread of all human infections. Just
being in the same room as someone with measles can result in infection.

- People with measles are usually infectious from just before the symptoms begin until four days after the rash appears. The time from exposure to becoming sick is usually about 10 days. The rash usually appears around 14 days after exposure.

Who is at risk?

- Measles was common before 1966, so most people born before then are immune. People at risk of measles include:
  - people born during or since 1966 who have never had measles and who have not had two doses of Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine from the age of 12 months.
  - people with a weak immune system (e.g., people who are receiving chemotherapy or radiotherapy for cancer or people who take high-dose steroid medications) even if they have been fully immunised or have had past measles infection.
  - people who are not immune and who travel overseas.

How is it prevented?

- The best protection against measles is immunisation with two doses of MMR vaccine. This vaccine provides protection against infection with measles, as well as against mumps and rubella.
- MMR vaccine should be given to children at age 12 months and a second dose is given at 4 years of age.
- Anyone born during or after 1966 and who has never had measles infection or MMR vaccination should make sure that they have had two doses of MMR vaccine at least four weeks apart.
- It is safe to have the vaccine more than twice, so people who are unsure should be vaccinated.
- People with measles should stay at home until they are no longer infectious (i.e. until 4 days after the rash starts).
- For people who are not immune and have come into contact with a person with measles, infection can sometimes still be prevented with MMR vaccine if given within 3 days of exposure or with immunoglobulin within 7 days of exposure.

How is it diagnosed?

- Measles is suspected when a person feels unwell, has a cough, runny nose or sore eyes and a fever followed by a rash.
- Whenever measles is suspected, a blood test and samples from the nose, throat and urine should be collected to confirm the diagnosis. Confirmation of the diagnosis is important as it allows prompt public health follow-up of other people who are at risk of measles.

How is it treated?

- People with measles infection are normally advised to rest, drink plenty of fluids, and take paracetamol to treat the fever. There is no specific treatment.
- While a person is infectious with measles it is important that he or she remains at home to reduce the possibility of spreading it to other people.

Michael Miller
Principal – Pitt Town PS

Multilit

Due to the success of last year we will be continuing this valuable program. Unfortunately the number of students we can assist is dependent on the number of volunteers we have. If you are interested in helping us, please contact Mrs Gaffey. Training and ongoing assistance is always available. The program operates from 8:45 until 9:15. Thank you to our fabulous parent helpers- Mrs Newland and I couldn't do it without you!

Clean Up Australia Day

Once again Pitt Town Public School will be participating in Clean Up Day. This year it is on Friday 1st March. Parents are encouraged to supply a pair of gloves for their child, alternatively teachers will ensure students wash their hands thoroughly.