From The Principals’ Desk
Welcome back to 2015, this year is shaping up to be an engaging, exciting year full of experiences that will only serve to enhance the students learning.

Over the past holiday period a lot has been happening at school: further tree work making the school safe, installation of two Interactive Panels to replace old Interactive White Boards in our Year 3 and 3/4 classrooms, preparation for a new handball court area and a new fence, which was a hazard in the playground. I also received notice that the grant applied for by our P&C for a shade area over the asphalt area near the hall was successful. Quotes have been obtained and this should occur over the term 1-2 holiday period. But this is getting ahead of ourselves.

We have teachers training in new programs over the coming weeks to deliver quality research based approaches to learning. There will also be questionnaires to seek your input into the directions of the school for the next three years, opportunities for parents to learn more about the programs run in school and how they can help at home and in the classroom.

For the students extra-curricular activities through a boys dance group, steel drumming band, various girls dance groups and of course choir groups as well.

PSSA will start week 4 and trials for teams will commence this week.

At the closing of the school year the student standard of dress was high and showed pride. I look forward to this continuing throughout 2015.

Steel Drums
Yesterday the students of years 2-6 had a presentation on the new program that is being run at school on Monday lunch times. Steel Drum is an instrument program available. There are 30 places available but the students need to make a yearlong commitment to the program. The cost will be $80 per term. Interested students can see Mrs. Ferlazzo or Miss Abela for further details.
through the class teacher. When it is unavoidable to attend an appointment the student must be signed into school or out of school by an authorised adult, (Parent or Guardian). A sibling in high school is not sufficient.

Students who develop a pattern of non-attendance or miss days regularly will be monitored and may have legal consequences applied.

If you are planning a holiday during school time where the child will be absent for greater than 10 school days, please complete an exception form available from our front office.

Our teachers mark the rolls on a daily basis first thing in the morning, if your child is even just a few minutes late they need to go to the office for a late note.

Please ensure that a note comes to school within 3 days of returning. Further follow-up notes will come home seeking a reason for the absence.

**Staff Changes for 2015**

I would like to welcome Miss Edwards who will be teaching 3/4E. Miss Edwards has been teaching extensively across the South West Sydney area. She is an exemplary teacher and brings knowledge and skills in Literacy and Numeracy including experience with the TENs program that we implemented at the school in 2014, Performing Arts with dance and experience with PBIS (Positive Behaviour in School) at her previous school.

Mrs. Speechley will be at the school 4 days a week working with students both in class and withdrawing to support their learning.

Mrs. McTaggart has been successful with a transfer to Bald Face Public School for 2 days a week. At present she is taking leave from Penshurst West PS for her remaining day for 2015.

Miss Hancock will continue the Extension program on a Thursday this year. Additionally, she will be teaching 5/6A on a Friday.

Miss Andreacchio returns to take 1S and share the teaching of the class with Mrs. H. Smith who will be teaching 1S on a Friday.

Our office staff also has undergone some changes. We welcome Mrs. Sando back as the School Admin Manager. You will also find Mrs. Ilias in the office and Mrs. Fasullo who will be in the office on Tuesday’s and Mrs Hart on Wednesday’s.

**Sports In Schools Australia (SISA) Program**

As most would be aware the school engaged the company Sports in Schools Australia to deliver an exciting and effective approach to team building and cooperative learning.

This program fits very well with our focus on developing leadership in every child. The cost of the program is $45 for the term with a maximum cost per family of $90.

All students will participate in the first lesson, on February 4, Wednesday (week 2). Payment for the term of $45 per student or $90 per family must be received at the office to continue to participate from Week 3 onwards.

Those students who are not involved with the SISA program will work through activities with a teacher.

**Students will need to wear their sports shoes every Wednesday.**

**Welcome BBQ**

Our Welcome BBQ/Disco is on Wednesday 11th February. This is an annual event which provides the opportunity for new families to mix and get to know each other and families across the school that have been here for a while.

Dance2Bfit will run a disco for the kids.

Canteen will be selling sausage sandwiches, kebabs and other treats. Entry is $2.00 donation per family at the Scott Street gate.

Please note ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

**Meet the Teacher**

Tuesday 17th February, the school is organising a Meet the Teacher afternoon/evening session. This is an opportunity to meet the class teacher, the teachers on the same stage and hear about the structures and plans for 2015.

An initial presentation will occur in the hall before we breakup to the class groups.

Please keep this date in your diary and a detailed note will come home next week with the times of each session.

**Early Arrival at School**

Students are not to be at school before 9.00am. There are no teachers to supervise the students and this places the students in an unsafe situation.

We well understand that many parents have commitments at work which require them to leave before 9.00 am. However, there is available Before and After School Care service which operates from 6.30 am every school morning, 3 Bridges Communities (9580 0688). As well, many employers will be sympathetic to parents with responsibilities for caring for children and will allow some flexibility in parents' working hours. By law, employers are restricted from treating an employee detrimentally on the grounds of their status as a carer.
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Like us on Facebook

We now have an official Facebook page administered by the school, authorised by the Department of Education. Find us at https://www.facebook.com/#!/PenshurstWestPublicSchool or by looking for our page name: Penshurst West Public School - NSW DEC.

Calendar Updates

We hope that our term calendar has a special place on your fridge. Please refer to the calendar, our website and our OFFICIAL FACEBOOK page for regular information about school events and activities.

Come and Try Hockey

Friday 6th February
5pm to 7pm

Join us at the club for a fun afternoon of experiencing full field hockey. Ideal for boys and girls aged between 9 and 12 who are looking to play hockey in 2015.

For more information and to RSVP email: juniors@sutho.com.au

Uniform NEWS

Open Tuesday morning throughout the year, from 9.00am – 10.00am. The Uniform Shop needs more second hand uniforms. If your child has grown out of last year’s uniform please consider donating it to the P&C Uniform Shop.