Hello parents, carers, students and friends of Padstow North PS

As this is our first newsletter for the 2016 school year I would like to welcome everyone to another great year at Padstow North PS, and of course a big hello to those students, families and teachers new to our school this year. Padstow North continues to be a caring environment where all of our students experience success, innovative learning programs and lots of fun.

I would also like to send out a big congratulations to Mr Allsop-Guest who received an Australia Day Recognition Award on 26 January; a well deserved award for Mr Allsop-Guest who was nominated for his contribution as a volunteer in the Bankstown Community.

Our school represents our community, and we are proud that community users such as Dance4Fun and iShine church use our hall for community activities each week. Happy birthday to iShine church which has been providing church services and running Kids Club for four years now.

As you may know we have had some class changes this week and our students have settled into their new routine, and with their new classmates. Well done everyone. You have a fantastic year of learning ahead of you.

Did you know we now accept online payments for text books, excursions and other activities and resources? If not and you would like to know more contact Mrs Peterson in the office and make an enquiry. We hope this provides some added convenience in the lives of our busy parents and caregivers. ‘Skoolbag app’ is another way you can conveniently receive regular updates and current information about day to day activities and changes around the school.

Thank you for taking the time to read about what’s happening at Padstow North Public School, we are very excited to report what our students have been doing. If you enjoy reading our newsletter and would like to see what’s happening around the school more regularly visit the website: www.padstownth-p.schools.nsw.edu.au.

Natalie Armstrong
Principal
News from the Kindergarten Classrooms

**Kindy**

What a wonderful start to the year. Kindergarten have all settled so well into their class K Tokyo. We have had all students wanting to participate and eager to learn at ‘big school’. This term we are learning about ‘Me, Myself and I’ and finding out all about our family.

Students are learning how to write their name daily and add to their learning about their alphabet and sounds. We are learning how to play maths games and learn all about whole number, and addition and subtraction. We can’t wait to learn so much more in the weeks ahead.

**K/1 Barcelona**

Kindergarten Barcelona have had a wonderful and settled start to school. Over the last couple of weeks they have enjoyed ES1 Literacy sessions which cover a number of nursery rhymes including Humpty Dumpty and Incy Wincy spider. The students have enjoyed reciting the poems, learning to write sentences and illustrating their work. Kindergarten Barcelona have shown interest and creativity in creating art works for the sound of the week. They love participating in developmental play and getting to know their peers in Kindergarten.

**K/1/2 Amsterdam**

It has been an exciting start to the year in K/1/2 Amsterdam. The students have had a great start and the year 1 and 2 students have been helping the Kindergarten students with starting school. As a smaller class we have been able to work as one group and learn how to work with each other and start to learn how to be helpful friends. Our class loves to learn in lots of different ways. We practice counting backwards by walking backwards, using the iPads to do writing activities, having yoga lessons in the classroom and learning about ourselves by having a life size drawing of ourselves.

Each student brings something different to the class and we are embracing what makes us unique.
1 Montreal

1 Montreal have had a fantastic start to the year, establishing class roles and responsibilities and getting to know each other. We have started a History unit where students are learning about Who We Think We Are and how everybody is different and unique. We believe that this makes us more interesting, and we love to learn about other people and what makes them who they are.

As a class, we have begun exploring the celebration of Chinese New Year, which many students in our class are currently celebrating. We have been reading ‘Fang Fang’s Chinese New Year’, made our very own classroom Chinese Dragon and discussed the different ways that people celebrate in their household. We are looking forward to learning more together throughout the year as 1 Montreal!

2 Moscow

2 Moscow is made up of lovely personalities and has had a wonderful start to 2016! We have been learning about Chinese New Year and the culture and history behind this ancient celebration. Over the term we will explore many other cultural celebrations.

2 Moscow made a dragon art work while learning about the significance behind this cultural celebration which marks the beginning of spring.

We also explored other traditions, such as clothing, dragon dances, lantern festivals, feasts and firecrackers, while reading texts and having discussions.

1 Helsinki

We are a very special and unique group in 1 Helsinki. As part of our history unit this term, ‘Who Do You Think You Are?’ students were asked to think about what makes each of them special. The students answers were very honest and genuine!

I am special because...
“I am going on a holiday to Scotland.” Scott
“Timmy plays with me.” Ryan
“Of my laugh.” Rachel
“my family is Chinese and English.” Yvonne
“my mum and dad hug me.” Karim
“of my family.” Declan

2 Athens

We have had a great start to the year. I have discovered that they are bright, cheerful, helpful and very kind towards each other. They’ve especially made me feel very welcome after teaching primary for many years. Now how lucky am I?

2 Athens has also displayed talent in writing, maths, visual arts and sport. They enjoy music and dance and also love to play a variety of sports. Oh, did I mention they also like to participate in Core Movement? Aha... We like to sit, stand or lay whilst stretching our bodies and before you know it, everyone in 2 Athens, including myself, will be strong and flexible in no time at all.

What a great start to your school year, 2 Athens. I am really looking forward to not only teaching you but also learning from you too.
Stage 2

Stage 2 have welcomed many new students to year 3 this term. We have all been busy in our classes learning a variety of things.

3 London

We have had a fantastic start to the year finding our new classroom and making new friends. A big welcome to Harry, Rabieh, Lulu, Briony, Alliyan, Zaeem, Emily and Joshua who are new to PNPS this year. Everyone has begun to learn about each other and especially ourselves in our goal setting. We have been very busy in the classroom learning about measurement, numbers, adjectives, reading with Fantastic Mr Fox, and Picasso. Most importantly we have been learning all about London and why we have our special name! Dean the superstar was able to figure out why....It’s the Olympics!! We have also been learning about Chinese New Year and have made our own special drums. We are all looking forward to a great 2016.

4 Rome

4 Rome have been using tape measures to measure, record and compare lengths, circumferences and perimeter in centimetres and millimetres. It was the first time many of us had used tape measures. Accuracy was the key to success.

3 Sydney

Over the past few weeks, the students of 3 Sydney have gotten to know each other and have come together as a class. Mrs Reichelt has been with us, as Mrs MacKenzie has been on leave. Our class is named after the Sydney 2000 Olympic games and we have been learning about all things Australian. We have created our own Aboriginal artworks, read books written by Australian authors such as Mem Fox, Pamela Allen and Rod Clement, and have also learnt poems by Banjo Paterson. Our favourite is Waltzing Matilda.

4 Seoul

Each class at Padstow North is named after a city which has held the Olympic Games. 4 Seoul have enjoyed learning about South Korea and Seoul. The students have compared the population and the area of South Korea to Australia.

We also had a great day at the swimming carnival. It was great to see so many year 4 students in the water having a go in races or the novelties. Well done!
Stage 3

Stage 3 has started the New Year by celebrating the colorful cultures of three different countries through major cities that have the distinction of being hosts to Olympic Games. Years 5/6 are festive and Rio, host of the upcoming 2016 Olympics; Year 6 are sunny Los Angeles, known for its movies and relaxed style; and Year 5 are cosmopolitan Paris, a cultural bastion often signified by the majestic Eiffel Tower. Exciting activities that students will participate in include a two day camp in Canberra, dance groups, drama and sports carnivals.

This year has been great so far. My friends are in the same class as me. Preston

I hope that I can make the district swimming carnival for 2016 and achieve my goal. Darrel

I’m looking forward for amazing singing and dancing performance for Padstow North. Saraya

Looking forward to 2016 with everything that’s going on. We should have a very good year.

Reflections from 5/6 Rio

I am happy that other kids look up to us. Tamara

We are trying to set a good example to Stage 1 and 2. Rogan

Looking at our class this year, it seems like it’s going to be a spectacular one. Brinly

6 Los Angeles

6 Los Angeles have had a very busy start to the school year. We have started our math and reading groups and have been using a new app called Seesaw to keep an electronic record of our learning. We have also started our new class blog, where we will be sharing all of our learning and fun events. We would love for you to visit our blog and leave us a comment. Our address is http://www.6losangeles.weebly.com.

We have also been learning about Chinese New Year. Our class completed a web quest, gathering information about the customs and beliefs associated with Chinese New Year and used the information to write an informative text about it.

You can read the text on our blog.
We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead.

I am looking forward to an exciting year and happy to meet the Kindergarten buddies. Hannah

I am looking forward to participating in this year’s school activities and having lots of fun. Rashad

I am looking forward to excursions. Haresh

For the first few weeks we have had lots of fun doing activities and learning. Serena

As another new year starts I feel welcomed by Padstow North. Jacqueline
Library News

Welcome to 2016! Library lessons have commenced. We have revised care of our books, borrowing procedures and The Five Finger Test, which is a simple test to help students choose a book that is at their reading level. Library borrowing commenced this week. Each class has a designated library session every week and students are encouraged to bring their book(s) each week to return and borrow. Please check your child’s library day with their class teacher. To borrow, students need to remember a library bag. A school library bag offers the best protection for our books.

A number of Year 5 and 6 students have applied to be Library Monitors for this year. Students will be coming during lunchtime to learn the many things that they need to know to take on the role.

The NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge will officially commence from March 7 and all students need to have their ‘Challenge’ completed by August 19. If you have any queries about the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge or other matters related to the library please contact me.

Happy Reading

Mrs Harris
Teacher-Librarian

2016 School Swimming Carnival Report

Over 200 students, 10 teachers and many family supporters attended Padstow North’s annual swimming carnival. It was good to see, most of the students ‘had a go’ and competed in 1, 2 or even 5 races at the carnival, while others had fun doing novelties and 25 metre races. See our website for great photos taken on the day.

A team of 22 students will represent our school at the 2016 East Hills District Carnival being held on Wednesday, 2nd March, at Birrong Pool.

Please note there are set times for district qualifying. Only students who swam under or near these times were selected to represent PNPS at the district carnival.

An enormous thank you to the parents who offered to help and helped on the day and those who came along and supported their family. Greatly appreciated by both staff and students.
Welcome back to another year at Padstow North PS and a very warm welcome to our new families.

Each year we have families who leave our school to go onto high school who had been volunteers, therefore we are continually looking for new volunteers to come forward to continue the good work that has been accomplished throughout the years, and hopefully long after we have all left. I encourage every family to consider how they can help and volunteer a small amount of time from their busy lives to support P & C activities which are for the benefit of ALL students of Padstow North Public School.

I am happy to announce that Macarena Ortega and Christine Scionti have volunteered to run the Uniform Shop for 2016.

I would like to remind all parents, who are using Munchmonitor please follow the steps below to change your child’s class on Munchmonitor:
1. Once you log into Munchmonitor a pop up box will come up once you click onto canteen.
2. Press update now.
3. Click on your child’s name.
4. Go to class and click the dropdown box and select your child’s class and then press save.

Also Milo in a cup will be discontinued once we are sold out as it is now a red item.

Our next P& C Meeting will be a night meeting and will be held on Tuesday 8th March at 6:30p.m. in the library, and everyone is welcome.

Faye Cazouris
P&C President 0402 077 736

**P&C Fundraising Update**

Welcome back for another year of Fundraising! This year our fundraising efforts will be for the purpose of funding an improved canteen facility for all students and staff to use. We already have a few exciting activities already lined up!

**Family Portrait Fundraiser**

For the price $21, your family can get a photo shoot with Advance Life Studios plus a free 10x14” portrait of your choice. The school will receive $20 for every booking (the extra $1 goes to the bank for transaction fees). So, if you haven’t already done so, go online and book your time slot now. Should you need extra booklets, please let me know on 0434 195 848.

**Easter Raffle**

During the Easter Hat Parade the P&C will organise a raffle. We will once again ask parents to donate an easter egg and we will make gift prizes from these donations. Historically, we have had 35-40 prizes to raffle off. So please keep your eyes out for more details closer to the time.

**Bunnings BBQ**

We have successfully applied for 2 dates to hold BBQs at the Bunnings at Bankstown Airport. The dates are Saturday 21st May and Monday 13th June (Queen’s Birthday public holiday). A note will go out asking for parent volunteers as we need to let Bunnings know whether we have enough helpers to run a successful BBQ.

Should you be available to donate an hour or two of your time to help wrap easter raffle gifts, please don’t hesitate to contact me on the number above.

Thank you for your support.

Jame Wong
P&C Fundraising Coordinator
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