Welcome to a warm and wet Week 4 – great weather for our new turf from the end of last year. With band and dance finishing the final organisational touches we will have all programs up and running from next week. Band is especially heartening with nearly thirty new students joining the ranks.

**Congratulations to:**

- Mrs Howat and the school choir for being selected to perform in the *Festival of Choral Music Concert* at the Opera House again later this year. Each year the number of schools selected for the concerts are fewer so it is a significant achievement to be chosen once again.
- All class SRC and Futures reps elected for Term 1 – I know you will all fill your roles proudly during the term.

**Thank you to:**

- All staff and parents who attended last nights class information sessions. It is a good opportunity to touch base with each other and share expectations for the year.
- All parents, grandparents and community members who have volunteered to help in the classrooms, around the school or with Mrs O’Brien on our support programs. Your assistance is greatly appreciated by staff and parents.

What’s Happening At Our School ……

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21st February</td>
<td>Morning tennis groups commence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22nd February</td>
<td>SRE / Ethics commence. Infants Assembly – 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28th February</td>
<td>Primary Swimming Carnival</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8th March</td>
<td>P&amp;C Welcome BBQ</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12th March</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM Meeting – 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 14th March</td>
<td>Selective High School Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 15th March</td>
<td>Primary Assembly – 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18th &amp; 19th March</td>
<td>Regional Debating Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19th March</td>
<td>Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20th March</td>
<td>P&amp;C Easter Mufti-Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 22nd March</td>
<td>Infants Assembly – 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 9</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25th March</td>
<td>Young Leaders Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 28th March</td>
<td>Pedlar’s Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 29th March</td>
<td>Good Friday Holiday</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 1st April</td>
<td>Easter Monday Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th April</td>
<td>Captains’ Assembly – 1:45pm</td>
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<th>WEEK 11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9th April</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting – 8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 12th April</td>
<td>School Anzac assembly. End of Term 1</td>
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SRE / Ethics Program
As mentioned this week at morning assembly our SRE / Ethics program commences this Friday. Fridays in 2013 are our busiest day with many activities occurring throughout the day.

To accommodate the SRE/Ethics program we need to commence school exactly at 9am. We will not have a morning assembly on Fridays with students going straight to the designated room for their scripture group when the bell rings at 9am.

Obviously for the first couple of weeks there will a settling into routine period but I am confident all students will settle quickly into our “new” Friday.

If there are any questions then please contact the office.

Painting – KD and 1M
This Thursday and Friday (21/2 and 22/2) we are having the classrooms for KD and 1M painted. Whilst this is occurring both classes will be in alternative arrangements with KD going into the hall and 1M going into the library. Both rooms will be finished by Monday.

School Band
As mentioned we now have a very healthy group of new band students. Daniel is finalising afternoon groups this week and a note will go home showing when children have their times. Due to the high number of new band members, the more senior players will now have their afternoon session on a Wednesday afternoon.

Tuesday mornings (8am) will be for senior band while Wednesday morning (8am) will be the junior band.

If there are any questions then please see Daniel or contact the school.

National Ride 2 School Day
This Friday, 22nd March, is National Ride 2 School Day. Children are invited (encouraged if possible) to ride, scoot and/or walk to school on this day. For those families who live too far away to accomplish this task easily they are encouraged to drive part of the way to school and then walk, scoot or ride the remainder.

During the day classes will survey numbers of students who participated and our numbers will be sent in as part of a national survey for the day.

P&C News
AGM Meeting – Tuesday 12th March
Next Meeting – Tuesday 12th March
8pm – School Library

Welcome to the 2013 school year from the P&C! It was great to see lots of new faces at our meeting last week. We are a friendly group of parents who work together to support our great school and are always open to new people and new ideas.

On Friday 8th March we will be holding our annual Welcome BBQ for getting to know new families to our school. Keep this evening free and stay tuned for more details about this great evening for the whole family.

AGM
Tuesday 12th March is the date for the P&C AGM which will be held in the library. This is the meeting where we form our new P&C executive (President, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-Presidents, Uniform Committee and Canteen Committees) for 2013. We would love to get some more families involved with P&C this year and it is a great opportunity for either Mums or Dads to be involved in our school community. After the AGM we will hold our regular meeting for March.

Come along on March 12th and join us – we would love to see you there.

Phillip Handley
P&C President

Library News
All K-2 students received their Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) booklets last week.

Parents / carers, please help them to record their books each week with high-lighting being a quick option.

Years 3-6 are recording their books in class until the site is accepting entries.

A big thank you to Mrs Liauw and Mrs Greenhough for updating our PRC books. It is a big job – well done ladies.

Mrs Turner
School Photos
School photos have been booked for Thursday 7th March. All students should wear correct summer uniform on the day. Photo envelopes and information will be sent home closer to the date.

Visitors to the School
ALL visitors to the school are required to visit the office before going to one of our classrooms or contacting students in the playground.
If your child is arriving late or leaving early please remember to go to the office to receive an early leaving / arriving late slip which is then given to the teacher. If there are any questions then please contact the office.

Family Contact Details
Last week a note went home asking for families to ensure that their contact details are accurate. Thank you to those families who have already updated their details. Accurate information is extremely important in the event that we have to contact you regarding your child or in the event that we have to declare a catastrophic fire warning during bushfire season.

St Finbar’s Netball Club

10 Year Olds and Senior Players Needed!
Would you like to play netball in a fun, friendly and competitive environment with a well organised and well equipped club?

St Finbar’s Netball Club require 3 players for our Under 10’s age group (can be turning 9 or 10 in 2013) and we have a limited number of places in our Senior teams.

If you would like to play please contact our registrar, Trish Oxford on 0418 440 860 or trish1232@bigpond.com ASAP.

Our season starts on Saturday, 23 March and runs through to August with breaks for public holidays and school holidays. All games are held at the Lapstone Netball Complex. Training times will be agreed upon within teams.

Student Assistance, We Can Help
During the course of the school year there are many financial demands upon parents. Excursions, uniforms, shows and textbooks are just a few. As a parent I understand the constant pressure that these costs can bring to a family budget and that as parents we want to provide our children with all opportunities made available to them. Each year the school is provided with a small budget to help any parents who may require some financial assistance for school related expenses. It parents require any assistance with school related expenses please contact Mr Giles or your child’s teacher. All enquiries are confidential.

Anaphylaxis – a shared responsibility
Being the start of a new school year it is just the right time to remind everyone about this issue. We now have a couple of students at our school who have a severe allergic reaction to peanuts. This anaphylactic reaction is likely to be life-threatening. For this reason we ask that peanuts are not brought to school. This includes peanut butter, nut spreads (nutella), and nut bars.

The inconvenience to some children is recognised and appreciated, but the consequences to children with this severe allergy are extremely serious.
All members of our school community are asked to be aware of the dangers of even the slightest contact with peanuts or tree nuts for these children.
To help minimise the risk, simply washing hands and cleaning teeth before coming to school would really help.

School Voluntary Contributions
Each year the school asks families to consider paying the voluntary contribution if they are in a position to do so. Money raised with the voluntary contributions is used to help provide additional funding for programs that the school runs. Voluntary contributions for 2013 are $50 per student or $70 per family.

School Assemblies – Term 1
Friday 22nd Feb. Infants Assembly – 2pm
Friday 15th March Primary Assembly – 2pm
Friday 22nd March Infants Assembly – 2pm
Friday 5th April Captains’ Assembly – 1:45pm
Lost A Copy Of A Past Educom Issue??

The Educom Is On the Internet
Our bi-weekly Educom can be accessed from the internet on our web site - www.mtrivervie-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
If you are not receiving your fortnightly issue of the Educom from your child please feel free to come up to the office for another copy or go to our website. It is important that our school news reaches you.

School Security, You Can Help
If parents or community members observe any destructive or suspicious behaviour in the school grounds please ring the School Security phone number listed below. All reports are treated discreetly; names do not have to be left with the operator.

School Security - 1300 880 021

UWS PENRITH OBSERVATORY
Great Western Highway, Werrington North
(Building AO)
Astronomy Night – Dads & Kids(182,466),(447,507)
AILENS – NOOO! – What is the likelihood of aliens and are we really unique?
Saturday 9th March (8pm – 10 pm)
The University of Western Sydney Penrith Observatory is running a special astronomy night for Dads & Kids on Saturday, 9 March from 8pm.
The evening will not only include a talk by Associate Professor Miroslav Filipovic, Director of the UWS Penrith Observatory, but a 3D astronomy movie and observing of the night sky through the University’s computerised telescopes.

Cost: $15 adult, $10 child/concession & $40 family
Bookings essential:
Phone: (02) 4736 0135
(Mon, Wed or Thurs)
or email: r.mccourt@uws.edu.au
Web: http://www.uws.edu.au/observatory

Nepean Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
Parent Support
We are the oldest Australian charity of our type and we support parents who have very premature or sick newborns at Nepean Hospital.
We have over 1000 babies spend time in the NICU each year; there are certainly a number of your current students and families who have spent time in our care.
100% of funds raised goes directly to our cause, all of our staff are volunteers who have previously had babies in the NICU.

We have been running for 21 years in March and are having our 21st Birthday celebrations on the 2nd of March 2013 at St Marys Band Club in the form of a Gala dinner and fundraising auction event.
We are aiming to raise $121,000 in our 21st year and will be spending this money on vital lifesaving equipment for our NICU.
If you wish to attend our fantastic event please contact us at nnicups@hotmail.com or www.facebook.com/nnicups

EARLY EXPLORERS
Children’s Services
33 Layton Ave Blaxland
For children aged 0-5 years
Monday to Friday: 7:30am-6pm
Child Care Benefit Available
• Purpose built, air conditioned facility
• School Readiness Program
• Qualified, experienced, caring staff
• Privately owned and operated

Come and visit us any time!
Ph 47398828
BLAXLAND
Email: earlyexplorers@three.com.au
X-CITE

Penrith PCYC

100 Station Street Penrith

1st March 2013

6pm – 9pm

Ages 12-17

Pre – Purchase tickets at Penrith PCYC for $10

$15 at the door

Dominik Dale

Chicky B

Photography


THE SECOND BIGGEST KILLER OF YOUNG CHILDREN AT HOME IS DRIVEWAY ACCIDENTS

CareFlight

The next life we save could be yours.

Donation Hotline 1800 655 876

Be aware, take care in your car.

Read the driveway safety tips at www.careflight.org and let’s reverse the statistics.
Nepean Creative & Performing Arts High School

Are you interested in Dance, Drama, Music or the Visual Arts?
then
Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School may be the school for you

Talented students with a strong interest in Dance, Circus, Drama, Music, or Visual Arts are encouraged to apply for audition

Local, in area, students wanting to be part of the selective Creative and Performing Arts Program must also audition or present a portfolio of work

To be part of the 2014 Year 7 cohort of Creative and Performing Arts students, check the website for an Audition Application at www.nepean-h.schools.nsw.edu.au under the CAPA Tab

For further information contact the school on 4728 7200

Closing date for applications for Years 7 and 8 2014
Thursday 4th April 2013

Auditions will commence
Monday 6 May 2013

Does your child have Vision Impairment?

The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register collects information on children who have vision impairment. This information is used in research and to plan better services throughout Australia. Information from the Register is shared with researchers and planners, however children & their family are not identified in any way.

The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register is maintained by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, a service provider with a 150 year history of supporting children with vision impairment and their families. The Register is supported by other Australian low vision agencies.

If your child has vision impairment you are invited to join.

By registering your child you will contribute to what is known about children who have vision impairment and what best meets their needs.

The Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register website – the VI Family Network (www.vifamilynetwork.org.au) can also help you with finding specialized services which support your child’s health and education.

For further details please contact:
Jill Watson
RIDBC Rennick Centre
361-365 North Rocks Road
North Rocks, NSW 2151
Telephone: (02) 9872 0303
Email: jill.watson@ridbc.org.au
Web: www.vifamilynetwork.org.au

Complaints about this Research: This project has been approved by the Hunter New England Human Research Ethics Committee. Reference Number HNEHREC/11/NE/169. If you have concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the researcher, or, if an independent person is preferred, to the Hunter New England Human Research Ethics Professional Officer, Hunter New England Health Ethics Unit, Locked Bag 1, New Lambton, NSW 2305. Telephone: (02) 49214020.