Welcome back to 2013 and I hope everyone had a refreshing break. A special welcome to our new families as well as our Kindergarten group. As a group they are already very confident about coming to school and are quickly picking up the different school routines.

At this point in time our school enrolments are just over the required number for 8 classes. As long as we keep this figure for the next couple of weeks we will maintain the 8 classes for the year. I would like to officially welcome Miss McFarlane to our school as our newest member of staff. Miss McFarlane joins us straight out of university and I am confident everyone will endeavour to make her feel welcome.

Classes for 2013 are:
- KD – Mrs Dwyer
- 1R – Mrs Rodger
- 2/3B – Mrs Blythe
- 4/5P – Mrs Parnell
- 1M – Miss McFarlane
- 2K – Mrs Kelaher
- 3/4B – Mr Besley
- 6H – Mrs Howat

Congratulations to:
- Our sport house captains who were elected last Friday at the Primary House meetings. They are:
  - Kookaburra (Jeremy Fowler & Paige Felton)
  - Echidna (Will Todman & Carly Hanko)
  - Platypus (Lochie Attard & Jessie Mitchell)
- I know they will be excellent role models for their respective houses.

Canteen
Canteen will be open tomorrow (Wednesday 6th February) for all students. There are some price changes, some new products and items that are no longer sold. Please check the attached canteen menu for Term 1 for this information.

School Rules
At this time of the year it is a good opportunity to remind everyone of our school rules. The three rules are:
- Be safe
- Be Respectful
- Be a Learner

These rules are encouraged in both the classroom and playground environments.

What’s Happening At Our School ……

WEEK 2
- Wednesday 6th February: Canteen open
- Friday 8th February: Induction Assembly – 9am
  Text book packs – pick up

WEEK 3
- Monday 11th February: Band Resumes (existing members)
  Band Trials – new members
- Tuesday 12th February: P&C Meeting – 8pm
- Friday 15th February: Primary Assembly – 8pm

WEEK 4
- Friday 22nd February: Infants Assembly – 2pm

WEEK 5
- Thursday 28th February: Primary Swimming Carnival

WEEK 6
- Thursday 7th March: School Photos

WEEK 7
- Tuesday 12th March: P&C Meeting – 8pm
- Thursday 14th March: Selective High School Test
- Friday 15th March: Primary Assembly – 2pm

WEEK 8
- 18th & 19th March: Regional Debating Camp
- Tuesday 19th March: Regional Swimming Carnival
- Friday 22nd March: Infants Assembly – 2pm

WEEK 9
- Monday 25th March: Young Leaders Day
- Friday 29th March: Good Friday Holiday

WEEK 10
- Monday 1st April: Easter Monday Holiday
- Friday 5th April: Captains’ Assembly – 1:45pm

WEEK 11
- Tuesday 9th April: P&C Meeting – 8pm
- Friday 12th April: End of Term 1
Induction Ceremony

On Friday 8th February at 9am we will be holding the 2013 Induction Ceremony for newly appointed school Captains and Vice-Captains. We will also be presenting badges to our Sport House Captains as well as the library monitors and school services students.

SRC and Futures Representatives

Class SRC and Futures representatives will be given their badges at morning assembly on Monday 11th February.

Class Information Night

Parents are welcome to attend an information evening with their child’s teacher. Teachers will be discussing stage and class academic programs, homework, sports, creative arts and health agendas. This is a wonderful opportunity to familiarise yourself with the program your child’s teacher has planned for the year.

All sessions will take place in your child’s classroom. The parent information evening will take place on Monday 18th February.

Library News

Library finished on a very high note in 2012 with our first platinum Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) awards being made. Four students (Ali, Claire, Harry and Calum) gained these awards for completing the PRC seven years in a row – what a fantastic achievement. The PRC will be starting again in the coming weeks so please encourage your children on their journey as it helps to improve their reading skills.

Book club order forms will be issued this week and are due back Friday 15th February. Payment, at this stage, is by cheque (made out to Ashton Scholastic) or cash. Orders with name and class in sealed envelopes are handed in at the front office. Many thanks to Mrs Wood for volunteering to coordinate book club again this year.

Borrowing starts this week and the library is open from 8:30-9:00 for borrowing for students and preschoolers on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Our Book Week theme this year is Read Across the Universe which will inspire many challenges with our reading this year.

If you would like to “pass on a book” to help fill our boxes destined for the refugees in Africa and schools without books to read please bring in your donations to the office.

Mrs Turner

School Entry and Exits

For safety reasons we ask that all students (and family members) enter and exit the school using one of the three pedestrian gates around the school. There are two on Rusden Road and one on Blackbutts Circuit. Entering and exiting the school via one of the carparks is not a safe practice as we have delivery vehicles using all three driveway entrances at various times each day.

Residents in Students Lane have also requested that people who park in the lane in the morning or afternoons please remember that residents also use the lane to access their properties and there have been occasions where driveways have been blocked.

Finally, when crossing Rusden Road outside of the school please make an effort to use the pedestrian crossing thereby setting a good example for all of our students. There were several near misses of families (or students) being hit by cars in 2012 simply because the crossing wasn’t used.

School Band

Band, for returning band members from 2012 will commence on Monday 11th February.

Afternoon groups will remain the same as per 2012 until new band members have been finalised. All returning band members from 2012 will also have their full band practice on Tuesday 12th February at 7:45am. Once new band members have been selected Daniel will reorganise practice times for the remainder of the term.

New students in Years 3-6 who wish to join the band should come along to the “try an instrument” session at lunchtime on Monday 11th February. Students will then take a slip of paper home to discuss with parents about whether or not they can join the school’s band program.

If there are any questions regarding the school band program please contact Mr Giles.
School Uniform

We are a very lucky school in that nearly all children are dressed in the correct uniform every day of the school year. Whilst on excursions or camps we are always complemented on how smart our students look. The P&C run the school uniform shop which is located near the library entrance. It is open every Monday morning and if there are any uniform needs on other days then Mrs McKeelar and Mrs Scaramuzzi in the school office are only too willing to help.

At this stage of the year I am extremely pleased with the percentage of students wearing the correct uniform. The one item I have noticed needs some attention however is shoes. Fully enclosed, black leather shoes are the appropriate school footwear (either the traditional leather school shoe or the modern sport style leather shoe) which should be worn every day. The exception to this is when classes have their sport day in which case sport joggers can be worn along with their sport uniform (primary). There seems to be an increasing number of students wearing the slip on “slipper” type shoe which from a safety point of view is not appropriate footwear for school.

Throughout the year we have several “mufti” days for fundraising purposes (a gold coin is usually brought to school on the day). Whilst children are free to wear their own choice of clothes on these days we still ask them to dress appropriately. For example, no thongs, singlets, tank tops, t-shirts with inappropriate words or images, etc.

If you are unsure about anything regarding school uniform then please contact the office.

Scripture and Ethics Classes

Scripture and Ethics classes will commence in a couple of weeks so it is a good time for families to ensure they have indicated the correct preference for their children at school.

At this stage, for students in Kinder, Year 1 and Year 2, the choices are: Catholic, Protestant and Non-scripture

For students in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6, the choices are: Catholic, Protestant, Non-scripture and Ethics.

If you are unsure of the scripture group you may have selected in the past, or wish to change your selection, please contact the office or send a note into school outlining your choice.

Hat Count Class Competition Has Started

The class hat count competition started yesterday. Each morning at assembly there is a count of how many students in each class are wearing the school green brimmed hat.

At the end of each term the class with the least number of hats missing for the term win themselves a BBQ lunch. The two school green hats are the only ones that count towards the competition.

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.

Major Costs During the Year

Throughout the year we have several extra-curricula activities that are held approximately at the same time and have a similar cost each year. The school office is in the process of putting together a sheet for each year group outlining the activities and associated costs that we know of at this stage.

The purpose of this letter is to allow families (those that elect to) the ability to begin paying off the costs well before the event. By adopting this approach we are hoping that it will help to spread costs throughout the year rather than have them occur in spikes.

Please note that the note which will be sent home IS NOT AN INVOICE, but rather an outline of what to expect for your child throughout the year. If there are any questions then please contact the office.
**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. *If 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.

**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](http://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**

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**UWS PENRITH OBSERVATORY**

Great Western Highway, Werrington North (Building AO)

**Family Astronomy Night**

Saturday 9 & 16 February (8pm – 10 pm)

Both nights will include a multimedia presentation, a 3D astronomy movie and viewing of the night sky through the University’s 0.6 metre and 0.25 telescopes (weather permitting).

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
PENRITH PANTHERS BMX CLUB is holding a
FREE Come and Try Day on SUNDAY 24TH
FEBRUARY 2013 FROM 9.00AM TO 11.00AM at
PANTHERS BMX TRACK, CREEK ROAD ST
MARYS (behind Blair Oval, near Ripples Swimming
Pool).
BMX is a fast paced exciting sport. Riders sprint
around a dirt track 300-400 meters long, with jumps
and turns. In 2008 BMX made it’s Olympic debut in
Beijing. Now is a great time to get involved in BMX
so get on your bike and head to your local track to
experience first hand the speed and excitement.

We have riders ranging in age from 4 years old to
64 years of age. Riders of all ages, genders and
riding abilities can take part in BMX. It offers a great
alternative to those sports traditionally offered to
kids, full of excitement and FUN!

BMX Australia in conjunction with the State
Associations and Member clubs will be holding a
Free Come and Try Day in February 2013. Kids and
their parents can head
down to their local club and
see what BMX Racing is all
about. Clubs will have
clinics that the kids can join
in for free and learn the
basics of BMX Racing.

For attending the day kids
will receive a showbag
containing a hat, BMXDVD, stickers and other
products as well as a certificate and have the
chance to win a Redline racing bike.

For more information you can visit our website
http://panthers.bmxnsw.com.au or contact the
Club on 0434267785 or email
penrithbmxclub@gmail.com

Preregistration is required.

A place to call home
World Education Program (WEP) is inviting you to
experience another culture in your own home by
becoming a volunteer host family to one of our
international students arriving in July 2013. Our
students from Italy, Belgium, France, Switzerland,
The Netherlands and South America are looking
forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new
friends and becoming a member of an Australian
family soon.

Find out more!
Getting to know your student before he or she
arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved.
Take the next step and contact WEP today to
receive a full information pack for your family.

Sylvia Kelly
Manager - Inbound Exchange
Programs
Phone: 1300 884 733
Email: info@wep.org.au
Online: www.wep.org.au

Open your home and hearts to an international
exchange student!
It’s easier than you think and a fantastic
experience for all!