Welcome to Week 10 and the final newsletter for the term. We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable long weekend. Finally, remember to reset your clocks and watches this weekend with the end of daylight saving.

**Term 2 Staff Development Days**

Next term there will be two staff development days at the beginning of the term. The first day (Monday 29th April) is the normal Term 2 staff development day held every year. The second day (Tuesday 30th April) is an extra day provided to all schools for the sole purpose of holding teacher professional learning specifically for preparation in delivering the national curriculum in 2014. **Students will therefore commence Term 2 on Wednesday 1st May.**

**Congratulations to:**

- Our three Futsal teams who competed in the regional championships before Easter. They all played very well and represented the school proudly.
- All students (and parents) for a very successful Pedlars’ Parade last week. It was a fantastic day for all with $1280.90 being raised.
- The following students who have completed their Premier’s Reading Challenge:

**Thank you to:**

- All parents who helped transport for the maths enrichment day at the high school last week.
- All parents and family members for their wonderful support of the Pedlars’ Parade.

**School Assemblies – Term 1**

Friday 5th April  Captains’ Assembly – 1:45pm

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**What’s Happening At Our School ……**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 4th April</td>
<td>Aboriginal Artist in Schools – 6H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th April</td>
<td>Combined SRE Assembly – 9:40am Captains’ Assembly – 1:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 7th April</td>
<td>Daylight Savings End Working Bee – 7:30am start</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8th April</td>
<td>Gold Excursion – Years 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 2 WEEK 1</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 29th April</td>
<td>Staff Return – Development Day</td>
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<td>Tuesday 30th April</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1st May</td>
<td>Students Return</td>
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<td>1st &amp; 2nd May</td>
<td>Peer Support Camp – Yr6</td>
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<th>TERM 2 WEEK 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6th May</td>
<td>Yrs 3&amp;4 The Rocks Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 7th May</td>
<td>“Crossing!” – play performance</td>
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<td>9th &amp; 10th May</td>
<td>P&amp;C Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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<th>TERM 2 WEEK 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>14 – 17 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Assessment – Yrs 3 &amp; 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14th May</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting – 8pm (Library)</td>
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<td>Friday 17th May</td>
<td>Primary Cross Country</td>
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<th>TERM 2 WEEK 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21st May</td>
<td>UNSW Computer Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 23rd May</td>
<td>Sydney Writer’s Festival</td>
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<td>Friday 24th May</td>
<td>District Cross Country</td>
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<th>TERM 2 WEEK 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 29th May</td>
<td>Interrelate – Years 3, 4, 5 &amp; 6 Musica Viva</td>
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Working Bee – Sunday 7th April

Please remember that this Sunday, 7th April, we will be conducting a landscaping working bee. In priority order we will be trying to finish the library garden, weed existing garden beds and mulch. After the working bee we will be having a sausage sizzle.

A note went home to all families last week outlining the morning. As stated in the note, please return the slip by Thursday 4th April so that a rough idea of numbers can be worked out for the sausage sizzle at lunch.

All hands on deck would be greatly appreciated. If there are any questions then please contact the office.

Library News

Congratulations to all children who have completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge this term. We have been working hard to achieve this. Students in Years 3-6 have been entering their own reading records online, which helps save paper as well as develop computer skills.

The CWA projects on Morocco are all in and look wonderful. Results for the competition will be announced at the CWA International Day in Term 2. A special thanks to Elana Gaiyich for bringing in a home made Moroccan spice cake for morning tea. It was delicious!

Last week Year 6 were treated to an outstanding presentation from Mrs Finneran on her family tree. A truly amazing story to hear and we all learnt a lot. This Thursday we are hosting an Aboriginal artist so that we can take part in the “Say Something” competition and learn more about reconciliation.

Mrs Turner

Young Leaders Day

On the 25th March the captains and vice-captains caught the train with Mr Giles to the Entertainment Centre.

We spent the day listening to some inspiring speakers talking all about the best ways to be great leaders and what are the best ways to represent our school.

There were many different schools there and some of the speakers were Jessica Fox, Creel Price, Nathan Hindmarsh and Brett Lee (not the cricketer).

We found the day a great experience and were very inspired to be the best school leaders that we can be. Thank you Mr Giles for spending the day with us and taking us there.

Hannah, Isaac, Harper and Harrison

P&C News

Next Meeting – Tuesday 9th April
8pm – School Library

At our next meeting we will be discussing fundraising ideas for the next year. It would be great if we could get as many ideas as possible.

Just in case you cannot attend the next meeting and would like to give us your feedback we have a short survey –

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2MQKXX2

It would be fantastic if you could take five minutes to complete this survey on events we have run such as the movie night last year and any ideas for this year that you have.

Looking forward to a great year ahead for our kids!

Phillip Handley
P&C President

Stewart House – 2013 Donation Drive

Donation envelopes have been sent home today with every newsletter for the Stewart House 2013 Donation Drive.

All donations received are eligible to enter the competition for a $4000 holiday to the destination of your choice and at the same time you will be supporting the 1,800 children who attend Stewart House each year from public schools across NSW and the ACT.

Return your donation with your details on the back of the envelope by ‘Stewart House Day’ on 10th May 2013. If you would like to know more about Stewart House and how your donation assists please visit their website www.stewarthouse.org.au

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

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)

Family Astronomy Nights
Saturday 13 & 20 April (7pm – 9 pm)

Astronomy Close to Home

These nights will include a talk on astronomical phenomena that we observe around our planet, a 3D astronomy movie and viewing of the night sky through the University’s 0.6 metre and 0.25 telescopes.

Our programs run regardless of the weather.

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Kids Fun Day
Wednesday 24 April (10 am – 12 noon)

Earth Chemistry - looking at all those chemicals in our world, which came to us from the explosion of a star!

Come along and also watch a 3D astronomy movie, water rockets being launched or safely do some sun spotting through the University’s computerised telescopes.

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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 High School

50th Anniversary and Open Day

Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School will be holding the 50th Birthday Celebrations and Open Day on Saturday 18th May.

The celebrations will include the official opening of the new Nepean Arts Centre and they would like to welcome as many ex students and staff as well as prospective students to the school.

So please come along on the day and help Nepean High celebrate it’s 50th Anniversary as well as meeting old classmates and teachers.

Go4Fun – Nepean / Blue Mountains Local Health

Go4Fun is a free 10 week program for children to become fitter, healthier and happier. This fun, interactive program is running again across Western Sydney & Nepean Blue Mountains for the 10th school term.

We’ve already had great response with over 340 children and families adopting a healthier lifestyle. In 2013 we are bringing this fun, free program to the Mountains! Programs will run in Katoomba and Springwood. Please see the ad below for further information.

**FREE fun program for kids to become fitter, healthier & happier**

**Go4Fun**

Do you have children 7 to 13 years old?
Are you worried about their weight?

Go4Fun runs for 10 weeks during school terms. Sessions are run twice a week.

Registrations for the next school term are now open!
Don’t miss out!
1800 780 900
www.mendcentral.org/go4fun
26th Annual Penrith Working TRUCKSHOW
Held At: MUSEUM OF FIRE
Sunday 7th April 2013 - 8am-5pm
Australia’s Best Value Family Day
The Best In Country Music

Adam Brand
Chelsea Basham
Darren Carr
Buddy Goode
Dan Murphy
Plus much much more

Direct access from Penrith Station
Unlimited FREE amusement rides all day (12 rides)
Concert sound & full stage
Specialist trade stalls & displays
Entertaining games & competitions
Free Balloons & Farry Floss
Free face painting
BBQ, drinks & beer tents
Major prizes & trophies
Price includes entry to Museums
Admits S30 up to 3 Children FREE with paying adult

Munger Trailers
Clancy's
Museum of Fire

Sydney Classic & Antique Truckshow on 16th June, 2013 (See website for more details)
School Working Bee – Sunday 7th April 2013

Dear Parents

As explained during the last P&C meeting we are in need of holding a “landscaping” working bee at school.

With the new construction that has occurred over the past couple of years the garden areas of the school have increased significantly. Keeping up with the maintenance of these areas is really beyond the two days a week we have Mr Hens, our general assistant, at school.

Tasks for the proposed working bee include (but not limited to):

- Completing the library garden. I will have had the necessary plants and soil delivered prior to the working bee weekend and we have a landscaping plan for the garden. A bit like “gardening by numbers”.
- Weeding of all garden areas.
- Mulching – we have 3 piles of mulch that can be used across our garden beds.

The working bee will commence at 7:30am and will continue through until lunchtime. I have organised a sausage sizzle for lunch for the hard working volunteers.

Extra tools, wheelbarrows, trailers, etc will be useful if you would like to bring those along. The wheelbarrows and trailers will be especially useful when having to move the mulch. Other useful tools will be rakes, shovels, forks, etc.

As the saying goes, *many hands make light work* so if you believe you will be able to help out during the morning please complete the return slip and return to the office by Thursday 4th April as this will give me an idea of how many people will be attending.

If there are any questions then please contact the office.

Thank you

Richard Giles
Principal

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School Working Bee – Sunday 7th April 2013

_____ Yes I will be able to attend the working bee organised for Sunday 7th April.

_____ I will / will not be able to bring along extra tools.

_______________________________________________ (Name – Please Print)  ___________________________________________ (Signature)
The University of New South Wales Competitions 2013

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

This year our school is participating in the Maths, English, Writing and Spelling Competitions held in May, June, July and August.

Please select the competitions below that your child would like to enter. Each competition has an entry fee, see entry form below. This money is payable to your child’s teacher by Friday 12th April, 2013 as the entries need to be collated and sent in by the closing dates. No late entries can be accepted.

Please note that alternative dates will be arranged if tests coincide with special school events.

Competitions

**Computer – Tuesday 21st May**

Years 3-4 – 30 minutes  
Years 5-6 – 35 minutes  
The computer assessment will assess a wide range of skills relevant to computers for Years 3-6 and cover general operation and usage of computers and software. These can include Word Processing, Graphics and Multimedia, Spreadsheets and Databases, Internet and email.

**Writing – Monday 17th June**

Years 3-6 – 30 minutes  
The assessment will follow a genre-based approach which is a narrative this year. Approximately 20 criteria are used to assess the writing. The criteria focus on the characteristics (such as pronouns, conjunctions and tense) and syntax (such as sentence structure and clause pattern). Detailed criteria also measure punctuation and spelling skills.

**Spelling – Tuesday 18th June**

Years 3-6 – 30 minutes  
The spelling assessment consists of different spelling tasks including dictated words, editing, application of spelling rules and conventions and the correction of spelling errors. Words tested reflect the vocabulary and interest of primary school students.

**English – Wednesday 31st July**

Years 3-4 – 45 minutes  
Year 5-6 – 50 minutes  
The questions cover a wide range of skills in reading and language and across both literary and factual genres and test types. These include identifying and interpreting the main ideas, themes, points of view, audience and purpose. Spelling, punctuation, grammar and elements of style are also assessed.

**Mathematics – Tuesday 13th August**

Years 3-5 – 45 minutes  
Year 6 – 1 hour  
The questions cover a wide variety of skills and processes that include the four areas of number, algebra, measurement, space and geometry and chance and data.
Awards
Certificates are awarded on the following basis:

High Distinction
Top 1% of entrants in each year level in the state

Distinction
Next 10% of entrants in each year level in the state.

Credit
Next 20% of entrants in each year level in the state.

Achievement
Students who were placed within the top 20% of the year group in their school, but who have not qualified for a higher certificate.

Participation
All other participating students.

Over the years a large percentage of our students have entered these competitions with many achieving outstanding results whilst giving all competitors experience in external tests and new challenges. We look forward to many of our students entering these competitions.

Yours faithfully
Richard Giles
Competition Coordinator
4/2/2013

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University of New South Wales Competition Permission Note

I give my child .......................................................... of class .................................. Permission to enter the competitions nominated below. I understand that the entry form and payment must be returned by Friday 12th April, 2013.

......................................................... Writing $18.70

......................................................... Spelling $12.10

......................................................... Mathematics $ 8.80

......................................................... English $ 8.80

......................................................... Computer $ 8.80

I enclose a payment of ................................ for payment of the competitions selected above.

......................................................... ..................................