Dear Parents,
It is hard to believe that the end of another school year has arrived and what an exciting, successful and busy year it has been. 2015 has once again seen Parramatta East PS achieve some outstanding results in every classroom, on the sporting field, music and the arts, debating and public speaking. My sincerest congratulations go to every student at PEPS for their application and effort this year and to the teachers and support staff who provide them with high quality, engaging and challenging learning opportunities. We are very grateful to the PEPS parents, P&C and broader community for their outstanding support and I thank you all for your ongoing faith in the work we are doing to ensure every child can achieve their potential. I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas, a restful holiday and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

A SAD GOODBYE TO STAFF MEMBERS
At this time each year we have the sad task of saying goodbye to some our staff members who will not be returning to PEPS in 2016. Mr Gardner has been an engaging teacher for a number of years, establishing and co-ordinating many programs across the school and in particular across Stage 3. He will be moving to a new teaching position at Baulkham Hills North Public School and we wish him every success in this new position. Mr Moraitis will also be finishing up at PEPS at the end of the year. He too has ensured quality learning programs have been implemented within his class and has held an important role supporting our debating team. I would like to say thank you to Mr Gardner and Mr Moraitis for their great work in the education of the students at PEPS and we wish them a very successful and rewarding experience in their new positions.

SCHOOL EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK – PARENT SURVEY
This is the final reminder that in 2015, we are asking our school community questions linked to the new School Excellence Framework, a model of excellence developed by the Department of Education in 2014 to support schools aspiring to excel at all levels. There are 28 questions within the survey and the more responses we receive, the more relevant the feedback will be. The URL below will link you to the survey, or if it is more convenient, simply scan the QR code below to access the survey. I thank the community in anticipation of your participation in this important initiative.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LLQSCWR

THE POWER OF L3
Hopefully the school community is aware of the L3 (Language, Learning and Literacy) program which has been implemented across Kindergarten, Year 1 and 1/2M throughout this year. We have recently received details of the results of our students’ progress from this initiative and are very happy to report that the students at PEPS are ‘blitzing it’ when it comes to growth in reading writing and comprehension. Statistically, our Year 1 results indicate 94% of Students’ are at Reading Recovery level of 17 or greater, 72% at Level 19 or greater and 42% at level 21 or greater. Our Year 2 results from 1/2M indicate 100% of children are at level 21 or greater. These impressive results are a
testament to the amazing work and commitment our students are showing every day and the exceptional practice of our dedicated teachers. In 2016 we will be extending the L3 opportunity across Year 2 to continue this excellent trend.

SCHOOL PRESENTATION ASSEMBLY: CONGRATULATIONS TO 2015 CLASS AWARD RECIPIENTS
Our 2015 Presentation Assembly was held yesterday in the school hall. This assembly allowed the school community to recognise the efforts and achievements of many students who have excelled in different areas throughout the year. It was wonderful to see so many students receiving awards and my sincerest congratulations go out to all students regardless of if they took home a medal or certificate, for their wonderful progress in learning throughout the year.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2016
As part of the Presentation Assembly, I led the new school prefects through the Prefect’s Pledge, affirming their commitment to being student leaders next year. I also announced our school captains for 2016, and congratulate Mila Nikolic and Wesley Stasiak who will take on this important role.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION
The 2015 Year 6 Graduation and Farewell will be held on Monday 14th December. The graduation will be held in the school hall with dinner commencing at 6:00pm followed by fun activities. The formalities of the evening will include a presentation of the Year 6 graduation packages and all parents of our Year 6 students are welcome to attend at 7:45pm. We would love to see you there.

END OF YEAR SCHOOL DISCO
The 2015 Christmas School Disco will be held tonight. There will be two stages to the disco with Kindergarten to Year 3 commencing at 5pm and ending at 6pm and Years 4 – 6 from 6:15 to 7:30pm. The disco is free and all PEPS students are encouraged to attend. If your child is enrolled in after-school care, please make arrangements with the coordinators to ensure your child is permitted to attend the disco.

PARENT HELPERS MORNING TEA
As a way of saying thank you to the parents who have worked around the school in so many different capacities, I would like to invite our parent helpers to a Thank You Morning Tea on Thursday 10th December. The morning tea will be held in the PA room commencing at 11:15am. This invitation is extended to members of the P&C, uniform shop, classroom volunteers, library and sport volunteers, scripture teachers and anyone else who has been actively working within the school during the year. We hope you can all join us for this special event.

2015 SCHOOL PERFORMANCE NIGHT
Our annual Performance Night was held last Thursday evening. The class performances were outstanding, and all the children enjoyed sharing the Christmas spirit with our school community. The P&C led by Mrs Machado and Mrs Dahn ran a very successful sausage sizzle, and the staff from Westpac Bank were wonderful in their sponsorship of the night. As always, the PEPS community were outstanding in their support of this major event and on behalf of the students and staff, I thank you for participating.

RETURNING TO SCHOOL 2016 - Important information
If you are going on a holiday and will not be returning to PEPS until after the start of the new school year, can you please let us know in writing via email or a letter/note. We will then reserve a place in a class for your child next year. Final numbers for total enrolments are critical as they directly affect classroom formation, staffing and building allocations. If you have moved or you are moving and your child will be attending a new school next year please inform the office of this too as soon as possible: email - parramatte-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
CYBER SAFETY DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD
I would like to remind parents of the need to monitor the activities of children as they engage with technology in cyberspace. Social networking such as Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat can cause issues for children if their use is inappropriate. The school is aware that some of our students who have social networking profiles have them set to public access and information such as their school, their suburb and in some case their phone number and address are visible to the public.
Please remember that most social networking sites are restricted to people over 13 years of age.

Mr Robert Ieroianni
Principal

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<th>COMING EVENTS FOR TERM 4 - 2015</th>
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WEEK 10 – THE PRINCIPAL’S PROBLEM:

Two of the Muller children play a game of Chess every night of the week. Kay, May, Fay, Ray, Tay and Jay are the names of the children in the Muller family. How many nights will it take for each child to play Chess with every other child in the family?

ANSWER: □  NAME: ________________________________________

CLASS: __________

WORKING OUT: (optional)

Please return your answer to the Principal’s Problem box in the front office.
News from PEPS Lost Property

From today until Tuesday 15th December all unlabelled lost property will be on display on the verandah near the COLA. If your children are missing items of uniform, please help yourself to anything you’d like. All unclaimed clothing will be sent to charity on the last day of school. Thank you for your cooperation.

WESTPAC – P&C SUPPORT PROGRAM

Parramatta East Public School is pleased to advise the school community that the P&C have accepted an invitation to be the first school in Western Sydney invited to be part of the Westpac Bank Home Loan Referral Program. Essentially, the program is a community reward initiative whereby Westpac will pay a commission to the PEPS P&C Association whenever a person mentions our school when signing up for a new Westpac home loan. It’s that simple! Westpac sponsored our P&C BBQ on presentation night and gave away some great prizes including a $200 gift voucher. We look forward to the benefits of this program flowing through to the students throughout next year and thank Mr Florence Yuen from Westpac for establishing this relationship with the school’s P&C Association.

UNIVERSITY of NSW MATHEMATICS MEDAL

Recently, a student from Year 4 was awarded the UNSW Medal for his results in the 2015 ICAS Mathematics Competition. He was amongst the highest achievers in this competition and we congratulate him for this outstanding achievement.

MINI FETE – Mufti Day

Friday 11th December please remember that all students must have their tickets purchased for the day. Tickets are 50cents for 1 or $1 for 3 tickets. Tickets will be sold in advance at recess and lunch time on the office stairs and on the day.

Mrs Chandler
Band News

Is your child interested in joining the band next year? Would you like more information on the School Band program? The **School Band** is now taking enrolments for 2016 and participation is open to all students who are *currently in year 2-5*. No prior experience is required.

Students will have recently attended a **Concert** by the band and **Teaching Services Australia (TSA)** staff demonstrating the variety of instruments available for tuition next year. They will have received a *green Instrumental Band Program-Introduction* with a tear-off **Expression of Interest** form. Students who return this tear-off form asap will be given the opportunity to test a variety of instruments to help them find the one most suited to them. They will then be given a comprehensive **Enrolment Pack** with the results of this instrument test.

Learning an instrument in an ensemble is a great way to experience the social, educational and personal benefits that music and the arts have to offer. TSA is committed to providing a quality concert band program, with full band rehearsals, great value tuition and rent-to-buy instrument hire.

This *green Expression of Interest* form is due back to the school office **within 5 days**. You can download this note at [www.teachingservices.com.au](http://www.teachingservices.com.au) or for more information email info@teachingservices.com.au

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**P&C News**

**Christmas Raffle**
Thank you to everyone that took part in the purchasing and selling of raffle tickets, donating hamper items and for purchasing food and drinks on Performance Night. Your ongoing support with P&C fundraising is always appreciated. The lucky winners of our Christmas Raffle were Trisha 2K (Large hamper winner), Tanisha KR, Aleksija 2B, Kitty KO, Mrs Sparks, Leela 1/2M, Sumaya 4M, Farzam 5G, Jason 1D, Brandon KR, Mrs Joannou, Lucas 2K, Leela 1/2M, Aiden KO, Shaunak 3M, Joya 2B. Congratulations also to our incentive prize winners! 1st Prize went to Aleksija 2B, 2nd Prize to Trisha 2K and 3rd Prize to Aiden 3V.

**School Disco**
The P&C will be selling drinks and glow sticks during the school disco on Wednesday 9th December. They will be selling for $1 each so please don't forget to bring your gold coins if you want to purchase these items on the night.

**School Banking**
Today was the last day of School Banking for the year. Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our students, since starting the program midway of Term 2, we have raised $1,023.12 for our school through School Banking commissions. If you would like to join in on the fun of personal savings, rewards and helping the school, simply visit a Commonwealth Bank branch to apply for a Youthsaver Account. I would like to thank *Mrs Helen Rahaman* and *Mrs Sudha Pullakandam* for volunteering their time and hard work with the program this year. The first day of School Banking in 2016 will be Wednesday 3rd February.

**Uniform Shop**
Please note that the uniform shop will not be open during last week of term. The last day for uniform purchases will be Thursday 10th December 2015.

**Contact Us**
PEPS P&C can be contacted by email on ppe.pandc@gmail.com or via our Facebook page “PEPS P&C”. The P&C wish all our PEPS families a safe and happy Christmas.

Linda Dunwoodie
P & C Secretary
Transport for NSW
Fact sheet: The School Opal card

Who's eligible?

To be eligible for a School Opal card, students need to be NSW residents and may need to live a minimum distance away from their school:

• Years K-2 (Infants) there's no minimum distance.
• Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking or further.
• Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking or further.

Students completing secondary studies at TAFE, boarding school students and students temporarily in Australia may also be eligible for a School Opal card. The eligibility and criteria for these students is available at transportnsw.info/school-students.

A School Opal card is provided to eligible students who need to travel within the Opal network. Paper travel passes are issued to eligible students who need to travel outside the Opal network.

Who needs to apply?

Most students or parents won't need to apply for the School Opal card. The School Opal card will be sent to a student's school automatically at the beginning of the new school year in 2016.

However, a new application is required if:
• The student is just starting school or has not had a pass for travel before.
• The student is progressing from Year 2 to 3 or Year 6 to 7.
• The student is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school.
• The student's personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Applications must be made by a parent or guardian for children aged 15 years and under.

Applications must be made by the student if aged 16 years or older.

How to apply:

Step 1 Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students.
Step 2 Print, sign and submit the form to the school for endorsement.
Step 3 The school will then forward the application to Transport for NSW for processing.

Once approved, Transport for NSW sends the School Opal card to the home address given in the application. The application may take several weeks and the applicant's email address is required.

If any student does not qualify for free travel they may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.

Apply at www.transportnsw.info/school-students.

For more information on the School Opal card and the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS), please visit: transportnsw.info/school-students.

Transport for NSW

Message from our P&C President

On behalf of the P&C I would like to thank you all for supporting us throughout the year. Together we have raised enough funds for more iPads and a covered walkway. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make our events so successful. I would like to thank Anh Danh our Vice President for organizing our fundraising and dedicating so much of her time to ensure their success. Thank you to Linda Dunwoodie, our fantastic secretary for the great job that she has done this year and for her enthusiasm and dedication to school programs. Thank you to Vishal, our treasurer for helping us again this year. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. We would like to thank Kala Rajendran who operates the Uniform Shop, for her reliable and enthusiastic help again this year. I wish you all a happy and safe holiday and hope to see you all in the New Year!

Regards

Estella Machado
P&C President