Dear Parents,

Another term has come to an end and it seems like only yesterday we were welcoming our students back to school for 2015. Term 1 will go down as one of the busiest terms I can recall in my teaching career. I would like to congratulate all our students for their application and effort throughout the term. The assessment data collected by teachers suggests students are making good progress across all Key Learning Areas, and with the recent parent teacher interviews now complete, hopefully students have a focus for improvement for the remainder of the year. My thanks also to the teaching staff and the administration staff for their excellent work this term and to the many parents and P&C members who have supported the school in so many ways. I wish everyone a wonderful Easter and a very happy and safe holiday. We will continue quality teaching and learning when students arrive on Tuesday 21st April.

PEPS APP (iPhone, iPad or Android) – PARRAMATTA EAST P.S - SkoolBag
The school is very excited about our new PEPS App which has now been developed. This tool will provide a strong link in our communication with the school community and I encourage every parent to download the free app.
In order to complete the download please log into the App Store on your iPad, iPhone or your Android device. Just search for Parramatta East in your app store and the PEPS SkoolBag app should appear with our school crest. Once the app is downloaded, you should find the navigation menu quite easy to use. One important function of the App is the ability to communicate directly with parents of particular grades. In order to receive the messages most applicable to your children, you can customise the app through the MORE feature and Setup Push Notifications. This will allow you to switch on or off content applicable to your child’s grade. There is so much more this powerful tool has to offer and throughout Term 2 and 3, we will share new functions with you. I hope the community gets on-board with the new app and look forward to the exciting opportunities it has to offer. More information about downloading the app can be found later in this Newsletter.

NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL APPOINTED
The school is very excited to inform the community of the appointment of a new Assistant Principal. Mrs Curtis will commence in the Assistant Principal role at the beginning of Term 2. She comes to PEPS after a very successful career at Wilkins Public School and brings with her a strong passion for learning, enthusiasm for helping children succeed, and an outstanding teaching ability. At this stage, Mrs Curtis will take over teaching responsibilities for 6T, replacing Mrs Tandon who has done a wonderful job with the class throughout Term 1. I would like to thank Mrs Tandon for her commitment to PEPS, her contribution to Stage 3 and her willingness to contribute to positive learning outcomes for every child in her care. I look forward to working with her again later in the year. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Mr Meguerditchian who has acted in the role of Assistant Principal for the past 18 months. His hard-work, organisation and dedication have been outstanding and very much appreciated by the whole school community. Thank you Mr M!

Similarly, with the return of Miss Kafanelis last week, we say goodbye to Miss Li as class teacher of 2K. As a young teacher, Miss Li has demonstrated considerable skill and passion for her teaching and this is reflected in the work of the children. I wish Miss Li all the best with her future career and hope to see her back at PEPS very soon.

SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-17
I am very pleased to announce to the community that the Parramatta East Public School Strategic Plan 2015-17 is now complete and has been endorsed by Ms Bryant, Director of Schools - Parramatta Network. The plan was tabled at our most recent P&C meeting and is available for viewing on the school website. It outlines the vision for our school, the three strategic priorities and the initiatives we will undertake over the next three years to transform the school into a dynamic, world-class, 21st Century Learning institution. I sincerely thank the entire school community for their input into the development of the plan and commend the plan to you.
EASTER HAT PARADE – WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL
The 2015 Easter Hat Parade was held today. This year, children from Kindergarten to Year 4 made gorgeous hats whilst our Year 5 and 6 were away at camp. The P&C also drew the winners of the hugely successful Easter Raffle which was again, well supported by the children. Well done to all the children who participated and thank you Mrs Danh and Mrs Machado for your efforts in co-ordinating this event.

GYMNASTICS PROGRAM 2015
Commencing next term, the 2015 Gymnastics school program will be conducted on Wednesdays for our Years 3-6 students and on Fridays for K-2 students. The Gym program is conducted by accredited gymnastic educators and covers various aspects of the NSW Personal Development, Health and Physical Education syllabus. The program will operate for Term 2 only, at a cost of $36.00 for the term. We look forward to all our students participating in this exciting and physically active school initiative.

SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOLS – PARENT INFORMATION EVENING – TUESDAY 19TH MAY 2015
Through discussion with my principal colleagues, we are fortunate to have secured an opportunity for parents to hear about our local Selective High Schools and what they can offer students moving into secondary education. Mrs Connors, Principal of James Ruse Agricultural High School and Ms Splatt, Principal of Parramatta High School will deliver presentations and take questions from the audience. This information evening will take place in our school hall on Tuesday 19th May, commencing at 6.30pm. If you are considering a Selective High School for your child in the future, this will be a great opportunity to get all the facts. We look forward to sharing this evening with the PEPS school community.

STAGE 3 CAMP – YARRAMUNDI 30TH MARCH – 1ST APRIL 2015
Our Stage 3 campers returned from Yarramundi today in good health and good spirits. The weather was generally fine and the students participated in many activities including archery, rock climbing and the giant swing. The students reported that though they were exhausted at the end of it, camp was a great experience. Thank you to Mrs Sparks, Mrs Chandler, Mrs Tandon, Miss Mourad and Mr Gardner for your time and effort in taking the children to camp. Your commitment to providing students with access to opportunities and experiences which they cannot access in the regular school environment is greatly appreciated by the whole school community.

WINTER PSSA SPORT - TERM 2
Winter PSSA will commence in Week 3, next term and this year, we will field soccer teams for the first time. For the first two weeks of Term 2, students in Years 3-6 may wish to trial for a place in either the school PSSA Netball, PSSA Soccer or the PSSA AFL teams. A junior team (Year 3 & 4) and a Senior Team (Year 5 & 6) will be offered for each sport. Our AFL coach is Mr Gardner, Netball coach is Mrs Bardwell and we are very excited to announce that our soccer coach will be Miss Woodward.

PARRAMATTA EAST PS AWARD SYSTEM
At our recent P&C meeting I was asked about the workings of the Parramatta East PS system of awards for students. Below is an explanation of how the system works.

- 3 x Assembly Awards, Recognition Awards or Principal’s stickers or a combination may be traded up to a Merit Award.
- 2 x Merit Awards may be traded up to a Principal’s Special Award.
- 2 x Principal’s Special Awards may be traded up to an Honour Award
- 2 x Honour Awards may be traded up for a School Pennant
- 2 x School Pennants may be traded up for and Banner.
- 2 x Banners may be traded up for a Parramatta East PS Medal

Examples of these awards are on display in the school office area. I would encourage all students to collect and keep their awards as it is wonderful to see students move through the various levels of achievement and celebrate their success.

Mr Robert Ieroianni
Principal
HAVE YOUR NEWSLETTER DELIVERED VIA EMAIL AND HELP US SAVE PAPER (and Trees)
In an attempt to reduce our reliance on paper at school we are hoping to distribute the school newsletter electronically to as many families as possible commencing in Term 2. We are therefore asking families to supply an email address which we can use for this purpose. If you would like to be added to this service, please complete the slip below and return it to school. If you have already registered, there is no need to register again as your details are already in our secure database. However, any changes to your email address would be greatly appreciated.

PARENT REQUEST FOR AN ELECTRONIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL
Please arrange for the school newsletter to be delivered electronically, via email.

Email: __________________________________________________________
My name: _______________________________________________________
My child/children: ___________________________ Class(es): ______________
Signature: _______________________________________________________ Date: ____________

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DEBATING TEAM WINS FIRST DEBATE
On Wednesday 25th March, the Parramatta East Debating Team delivered their first debate at Parramatta North PS as part of a new interschool program within the Parramatta Learning Community in 2015. Our team consisting of Lillian, Seth, Heidi and Jade, presented the negative argument for the topic: School holidays should be shorter. Although both school teams were well prepared and presented strong arguments, the PEPS Debating Team were able to produce stronger rebuttals and were successful in winning the debate! This experience was a wonderful way for our students to develop their communication skills in a collaborative environment and get a taste for the competition ahead of us this year.

Special thanks to our reserve students, Jonah and Bianca who have been working alongside the team in developing their arguments, also the Parramatta North team for being worthy opponents and our adjudicator Mrs Lamoureux for giving us productive feedback.
Our team looks forward to hosting our next debate in Term 2. Well done debaters!
TERM 1 - NEWS FROM THE SRC

On Wednesday 4th March 2015, the SRC team went to a Leadership Conference to learn how we could become a better leader and make the school a better place.

The first thing we learnt was to Pay it Forward. Pay it forward, is when you are kind to someone and you don’t expect anything in return. You give someone something they might need and they do not have to pay you back.

We learnt that a good leader needs to be generous. We can be generous with our:
Time, Treasure or Talent

We also learnt that the greatest display of leadership is when a person stands up for something. There are four principles. 1. Stand up when there is an opportunity. 2. Stand up for what is right. 3. Stand up for others. 4. Stand up for yourself – standing up for others and for yourself particularly when others may be mean.

Another good example of leadership is the game paper, scissors, rock.

Paper = create a plan
Scissors = take action
Rock = stay strong

These three steps are what you need to be a good leader and makes something happen.

How could you help the community?
Shayma, Lillian and Enrique

Congratulations and well done to the following students for winning the SRC colouring competition. Dhanya KR, Chloe KQ, Cher KG, Jessica 1D, Fiona 1S, Danica 1/2M, Sooin 2B, Aimi 2K, Nasrin 3M, Aiden 3V, Tijana 4W, Wendy 4M, Charlotte 4/5M, Sophia 5G, Jake 6C and Thomas 6T.

The SRC students and teachers would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Easter Break.

Mrs Venetsanos & Ms Daniels
SRC Co-Ordinators

FROM THE LIBRARY
Another busy term has come to an end and the student borrowing has been great. We have added many new titles to the collection to encourage children to keep on reading. Many students are participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Thank you to those children who have already entered their data online and are developing good management skills by doing this on a regular basis. For those students in Kindergarten and Year 1, your children will be using the computers next term. (Year 1 did this term as well.) We would appreciate it if you have access to a computer, to allow your child to practise typing their name so they have more time on the computers at school. For most students it will be first name, last name. Have a lovely Easter and enjoy sharing books with your children over the holidays.

Mrs Gee Teacher Librarian.

P&C NEWS

ELECTION DAY BBQ
Last Saturday was the State Election and we had perfect weather to have our barbecue. Thank you to Estella, Anh and our dedicated team of volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the day to make sure everyone was fed. A special thanks to Ghazwan Sakalaki for donating $150 worth of sausages on the day. Thank you to all that came and supported the P&C by buying from the stall. We raised over $1000 on the day which will go towards much needed resources for our students.

EASTER RAFFLE
A big THANK YOU to everyone that sold and bought Easter raffle tickets this year. To all the students that brought in an Easter Egg on mufti day and also those that made a cash donation, we were able to put together some great Easter bags and baskets. Congratulations to all the prize winners, we hope you enjoy your stash of goodies!

FACE BOOK PAGE
PEPS new Facebook Page is up and running. Please look up “PEPS P & C” on Facebook and hit LIKE to keep updated on the latest news and fundraising events from the P&C. This tool can be used to provide us with any ideas, feedback or questions you may have. Alternatively you can email us on ppe.pandc@gmail.com

On behalf of the P&C I’d like to wish everyone a safe and happy Easter holiday!

Linda Dunwoodie
P&C Secretary

Special Art Classes during the Easter Break

Sketching, oil pastels, watercolours and acrylic!!!

6 classes for $50
Morning 10am – 11.30am

Please contact Jabeen Sharma on 0411 639 811 for further information.
School Banking – A platform to help you teach your child about saving!

Thank you to all the students and parents that have expressed their interest in School Banking. We are now excited to announce that Parramatta East Public School will be starting the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program in TERM 2.

It’s a great way to give your child a financial head start by helping them to learn about good money management and the importance of saving.

It’s time kids learnt that Mum and Dad are not the bank! Does your child always want? Do they understand how much things cost? Do they think there is an endless supply of cash from the machine in the wall? The School Banking program offers you a platform to start teaching your child the value of money and the benefits of saving.

EARNING FUN AWARDS
Every time your child makes a deposit through the School Banking program, regardless of how much, they get 1 step closer to some fun Dollarmites gifts, like handballs & money boxes.

Your child will need a Commonwealth Bank Youth Saver account. You may already have one ready to start, if you do not have a Youth Saver account you can attend any Commonwealth Branch with your photo ID and child’s Birth Certificate/Passport and open one. More information will be provided in Term 2 regarding when the program will be starting and how you can be a part of it.

Linda Dunwoodie
School Banking Coordinator