Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a very wet and windy start to Term 2. The second term is traditionally a very active and engaging term of learning and I’m sure this year will be the same. I trust all our students took the opportunity to relax and enjoy their holidays and are now looking forward to continuing quality learning throughout this term.

WELCOME MRS CURTIS – NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Our new Assistant Principal, Mrs Curtis commenced her time at Parramatta East this week. She brings with her considerable experience and a genuine passion for learning and I am sure she will provide wonderful learning and leadership opportunities for the students and the broader school community. Please join me in welcoming Mrs Curtis to the PEPS community.

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION ASSEMBLY
Our 2015 Anzac Day Commemoration Assembly will be held tomorrow, Thursday 23rd April, in the school hall commencing at 12.30pm. Being the centenary of the landing at Anzac Cove we would like to invite the school community to join us for this special commemoration, which will be followed by a wreath laying ceremony under the Australian flag at the front of the school.

NAPLAN 2015 – YEARS 3 AND 5
The 2015 NAPLAN program for Year 3 and 5 students will commence on Tuesday 12th May. The first assessment will be Language Conventions, followed by the Writing assessment. On Wednesday, 13th May, students will complete the Reading assessment and on Thursday 14th May, the Numeracy assessment. Any student who is absent for any particular NAPLAN test is entitled to a catch-up day on Friday 15th May. We wish all students in Year 3 and Year 5 every success with their NAPLAN assessments.

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 log into the App Store on 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 parent 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.

GYMNASTICS PROGRAM 2015
The 2015 Gymnastics school program commenced today and will be conducted each Wednesday for our Years 3-6 students and on Fridays for K-2 students. The Gym program is conducted by accredited gymnastics 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.

OPPORTUNITY CLASS (OC) APPLICATIONS FOR 2016
The 2016 Opportunity Class (OC) placement test will be held on Wednesday 22nd July 2015. OC classes are a strategy used by the Department of Education and Communities to cater for the learning needs of gifted and talented students in Years 5 and 6. OC applications need to be completed online. Online applications open on Monday 27th April and will close on Friday 15th May 2015. Parents seeking Opportunity Class placement for Year 5 entry in 2016 are required to
submit an application by Friday 15th May 2015. Generally students are in Year 4 in 2015 when applying for Year 5 entry in 2015. Parents seeking opportunity class placement for students in 2016 will be able to apply for up to two schools of their choice. It is expected that parents will make appropriate decisions when choosing a school that is within reasonable travelling distance. Parents of students currently enrolled in a NSW public school with access to the internet, a printer and their own email address (not the student’s) should apply for opportunity class placement online by going through the URL: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

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.

WINTER PSSA SPORT - TERM 2
Winter PSSA will commence in Week 3. For the Winter PSSA competition, 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.

2015 SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY CARNIVAL
The Parramatta East Cross-Country carnival will be held on Tuesday 5th May at the Doyle Grounds. Children aged 8 – 10 years of age will run the 2000m course and 11-12 year old students will run the 3000m course. Children in Kindergarten to Year 2 will also be involved in the carnival, participating in running and novelty events. The Cross-Country is a great day for the whole school and parents are most welcome to join us on the day.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL
The P&C will be holding a Mother’s Day stall on Thursday 7th May. Each class will be given an opportunity to visit the stall and purchase Mother’s Day gifts. The P&C will use the funds raised to purchase school resources and support school programs.

RETURNING NOTES AND MONEY TO SCHOOL
The collection of money for school excursions and activities is an important administrative process which takes considerable time. At times, money and notes may become separated and it is difficult to match loose notes with the money collected. In order to streamline the process can you please ensure all notes and money sent to school is in a labelled envelope with your child’s name and class? All envelopes should be returned to the class teacher who will forward them up to the office for processing. Your assistance with this procedure is very much appreciated.

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 you 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: _________________
Dear parents just a reminder that our weekly Chess lessons commence this Friday 24th April in the school library at 1.05pm.
These lessons are only for the students who have already paid for the term.

Mrs A Bellamy
Chess Co-ordinator
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