Dear Parents,

**WELCOME BACK TO ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR FOCUSED ON SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT**

I very warmly welcome back the Parramatta East Public School community to another wonderful year of learning and progress. With the summer holidays now behind us, it is time to focus ensuring every student is given opportunities to learn, grow and succeed. I hope all families took some time to relax and enjoy time together. Our students started back last week with Kindergarten joining the PEPS family on Tuesday. I would like to welcome all our new students and their families and hope that 2016 is a wonderful and successful year for every child.

This year we welcome some new staff members to our school. Miss Orlando and Miss Zadro come to us with a wealth of talent and expertise and are very excited about the opportunities they will have at PEPS. Please join me in making them feel welcome as members of our school community. We also welcome back in a part-time capacity, Mrs Moraitis who returns from Maternity leave and will run the school library each Monday and Tuesday.

My personal school year has not begun quite the way I was hoping. Unfortunately, an accident on Australia Day has resulted in a broken foot and the need for surgery. As a result, I will be absent from school for a couple of weeks as I recover. In my place, Mrs Sparks will take on the Principal’s role and will manage the transition into the new school year. Mrs Sparks is highly qualified for this role and I thank her for stepping into the position with such short notice.

**CLASSES FOR 2016**

Our dedicated staff have put considerable work into placing students in the most appropriate class environment for the new school year and the support of the community with this is greatly appreciated. The PEPS community continues to grow with our school enrolment now reaching 400 students. As a result, the school is in a position to continue with sixteen classes for the 2016 school year.

For your information, a list of current classes and specialist support personnel are listed below.

### 2016 Class Teachers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KINDER</th>
<th>Support/Relief Staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-Green</td>
<td>Mrs Mitchell</td>
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<tr>
<td>K-Orange</td>
<td>Mrs McCorquodale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-Blue</td>
<td>Mrs Bellamy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-Red</td>
<td>Mrs Handley</td>
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<td>Mrs Gardner</td>
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### 2016 Class Teachers:

| YEAR 1/2D | Mrs Daniel |
| YEAR 1S   | Mrs Smith  |
| YEAR 1M   | Mrs Malik  |
| YEAR 2/3K | Miss Kafanelis |
| YEAR 2C   | Mrs Chandler |
| YEAR 3V   | Mrs Venetsanos |
| YEAR 3/4M | Mr Meguerditchian |
| YEAR 4W   | Miss Woodward |
| YEAR 4/5Z | Miss Zadro  |
| YEAR 5O   | Miss Orlando |
| YEAR 5/6M | Miss Mourad  |
| YEAR 6C   | Mrs Curtis – Assistant Principal |

### Support/Relief Staff

- Mrs Sparks: Reading Recovery – Assistant Principal
- Mrs Martin: Learning and Support Teacher
- Mrs Moraitis: Librarian, RFF (Mon – Tues)
- Mrs Gee: Librarian, RFF (Wed - Fri)
- Mrs Allan: EAL/D - English Language
- Mrs Douglas: EAL/D English Language
- Mrs Routh: RFF – Music (Monday)
- Ms Danielle Sandalic: School Counsellor
- Mrs Osborne: Senior Admin Manager
- Mrs Joannou: School Admin Officer
- Miss R. Giddy: School Admin Officer
- Mrs Bohannon: Teacher’s aide / SLSO
- Mrs Giddy: Teacher’s aide / SLSO
- Mr Wilcock: General Assistant
- Mrs Rena Rogers: School Cleaner

As a result of our growing enrolments, you will notice the establishment of five multi-age (composite) classes being formed across Kindergarten to Year 6. NSW Public Schools are provided with teachers and staff on an age-based...
differential formula. Once the Principal enters anticipated numbers of students, Department of Education staffing will allocate a set number of teachers and administration staff to each school. It is then the Principal’s job, with input from the school executive, to organise the best mix of classes to suit the available resources. As students are placed into classes, a wide range of factors are taken into account. Although this is not an exact science, the art of classroom placement for a student is a professionally responsible decision based on a combination of academic needs, social skills (or need to improve social skills), combinations with other students, the degree and number of high needs students within the cohort, special medical conditions, teacher expertise, and teaching and learning styles. Rarely do we get this placement wrong. Whilst we will always listen to (and take into consideration) the concerns of parents when it comes to multi-age classes, it is in the end, the decision of the Principal and the school as to where the best learning setting is for each individual student.

STAGE 2 & STAGE 3 MATHEMATICS GROUPS – 2016
With our focus on continuous improvement as part of the school’s strategic plan, Mathematics learning groups have been established across Stages 2 and 3. Current educational research supports the concept of targeted, explicit teaching of mathematics at the level of individual need as having significant benefit on student learning outcomes. Using detailed assessment data and professional discussions with the previous year’s teachers, stage based groups have been established and are now in operation. In order to explain the structure of our maths program and to answer any questions, a parent information session will be held tonight, in the school hall, commencing at 6:00pm. We hope parents take this opportunity to get better informed about their child’s learning in Mathematics.

2016 PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS
Next Monday and Tuesday evening, we will be conducting our annual Parent Information Evenings. On Monday 8th February, Kindergarten teachers will be conducting information sessions for kinder parents. The sessions will be held in your child’s classroom and will cover topics and issues relevant to the class and Parramatta East PS in 2016. The Kindergarten information sessions will commence at 6:00pm and conclude at 6:30pm. On Tuesday evening, 9th February, class teachers from Year 1 to Year 6 will be conducting their information sessions for parents. The sessions will also be held in each classroom and will cover topics and issues relevant to 2016 classes at Parramatta East PS. The information sessions will commence at 5:30pm for Year 1 and 2, 6:00pm for Year 3 and 4 and 6:30pm for Year 5, 6 and 4/5Z. Session will run for approximately half-hour and we hope all parents can be part of this valuable opportunity.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The 2016 Parramatta East PS Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 17th February at Parramatta Aquatic Centre. This year we will once again combine our swimming carnival with students from Parramatta North PS who will compete in a parallel carnival alongside our students. We will also welcome visiting students from Burke Ward Public School, Broken Hill, who will join us for the first time as part of our work within the City/Country Schools Alliance. Thank you to Mr Meguerditchian and Mrs Douglas for your work in organising this event.

2016 SPORT HOUSE CAPTAINS
I would like to congratulate the 2016 Sport House Captains who were elected at house meetings held last Friday and look forward to working with them throughout the year.

GORDON – Matthias and Amira
KENDALL – Arbaaz and Zara
LAWSON – Jason and Ruby

GENERAL SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS
In 2016, Parramatta East Public School is again seeking from parents a voluntary, General School Contribution. Funds raised through this contribution are used to supplement educational resources and programs in our school. This year, the School Contribution amount has once again been left unchanged at an amount of $45 for one child and $55 for families with more than one child attending our school.
The funds raised are used to pay for the following:
- Library books and computer resources
- Sporting equipment

Our school would welcome your contribution as this will significantly enhance the resources made available to students and I thank all parents for their generous School Contribution support given to the school and the students in previous years.

ANAPHYLAXIS - STUDENTS AT RISK
The Department of Education and Communities has issued all government schools with a general use adrenaline autoinjector (an EpiPen) for their first aid kit. This does not replace the need for parents to continue to provide the school with an adrenaline autoinjector and ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis signed and dated by their doctor when their child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis. Parents of children at risk of anaphylaxis are required to supply the school with a signed copy of the latest ASCIA Action Plan for their child and a current autoinjector as soon as possible.

The school’s general use adrenaline autoinjector is intended to be used if:
- An undiagnosed student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
- There is a misfire of the adrenaline autoinjector that has been prescribed for a student
- A student requires further adrenaline autoinjector to be administered after his or her own adrenaline autoinjector has been administered.

Please contact the school if you would like further information in relation to this matter.

P&C ASSOCIATION ‘WELCOME GET TOGETHER’
The Parramatta East P&C Association is a great way to meet other members of the school community and to get involved in Parramatta East school life. The P&C is very active in supporting school initiatives and conducting fund-raising for the benefit of all students and in order to welcome back the school community and new families to our school, the P&C will be conducting a ‘Welcome Get Together’, commencing at 6:00pm on Monday 15th February. This will be held just outside the school hall and food and drink will be provided. This gathering will be followed by our first P&C meeting for 2016, which will commence at 7:00pm in the school library. We would love to have as many families as possible attend this event and joining the P&C and look forward to seeing you there on the night.

NO HAT NO PLAY
I would like to remind parents that Parramatta East P.S is a ‘Sun-Safe’ school. This means we take time to teach the children about appropriate sun protection and require students to wear their school hat during playtime. The PEPS rule requires all students to wear a ‘School hat’ as these hats conform to our School Uniform Policy. New school hats are available from the uniform shop at a price which is substantially less than the expensive, designer hats.

SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST – 10th March 2016
The selective high schools test is held annually for Year 6 students wishing to enter a selective government high school. In 2016, the Selective High School placement test will be held on Thursday 10th March. For key dates and more information parents may visit the website www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/shsplacement/index.php

NORTHMEAD CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL - 2017 GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM
Over the past several years Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School has been implementing a Gifted and Talented Academic Program, the entry to which has become extremely competitive. Selection into this academic program is based on an entrance examination. The examination will be held on Thursday 24th March 2016 from 9:00am to 1:00pm at Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School. The cost of this examination is $65. Notes have been sent home to all Year 6 students at the beginning of this week. To register your child for the entrance examination the application form must be returned to Northmead’s office, with payment by Tuesday 16th March.

Mr Robert Ieroianni
Principal
COMING EVENTS FOR TERM 1 - 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 3rd Feb</td>
<td>6:00pm - Stage 2 &amp; 3 parent information night -</td>
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<td>Maths Groups</td>
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<td>Monday 8th Feb</td>
<td>Kindergarten Parent Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9th Feb</td>
<td>Year 1 – 6 Parent Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 15th Feb</td>
<td>P&amp;C Welcome to Parents 6:00pm – School hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th Feb</td>
<td>6:00pm – School Band information night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 17th Feb</td>
<td>2016 PEPS Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 1st Mar</td>
<td>Parramatta-Merrylands PSSA Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8th Mar</td>
<td>6:30pm – Dental Health – Parent info session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th Mar</td>
<td>2017 Selective High School Testing day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th Mar</td>
<td>Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 21st Mar</td>
<td>2016 School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23rd Mar</td>
<td>Years 1 -6 Parent Teacher interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th Mar</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade</td>
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<td>Friday 25th Mar</td>
<td><strong>GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY</strong></td>
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<td>Monday 28th Mar</td>
<td><strong>EASTER MONDAY HOLIDAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8th Apr</td>
<td>LAST DAY TERM 1</td>
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**SCRIPTURE CLASSES**

Any parent not wanting their child to attend weekly Scripture Lessons (Catholic, Islamic and Anglican) will need to provide the school with a note requesting them to attend Non-Scripture.

My child............................................................................................................ in class ..............................................................

Will not be attending their allocated scripture lesson (Catholic, Islamic & Anglican).

They will be attending non scripture instead.

Please circle one of the above and return to the class teacher.
P&C News

Uniform Shop
The Uniform Shop will be open every morning for the first two weeks of term from 9.00 – 9.30am. From the third week of term we will revert back to our regular times on Tuesday and Thursday 9.00 – 9.30am. We accept cash only. We keep all uniform items in stock, any out of stock items are generally back in stock within two weeks. All proceeds from sales are donated back to the school for more resources for your children.

School Banking
We have now reached over 100 School Banking students!! The Commonwealth School Banking Program will begin in Week 2. Please hand your deposit books to your teacher every Wednesday morning. Please do not forget to fill in the deposit slip with your 1. Account Name 2. Account Number 3. Date 4. Deposit Amount. Only cash deposits are accepted. Please look out for the new Parent Information Packs that will be sent out this week. You will find the list of new Reward Items in 2016 as well as information on how to participate in School Banking.
This year I would like to welcome Mrs Sharon Freeman and Mrs Ukti Desai as volunteer School Banking Coordinator’s. They will be joining Mrs Helen Rahaman and Mrs Sudha Pullakandham. I would like to thank them for giving up their time to help with processing your deposits.

We will have an account opening day on Tuesday 16th February. Peta McGavin from the Commonwealth Bank will be at the school from 9:00am to sign students up to the program. You will need to bring photo ID. Kindergarten students that applied for a Youthsaver account during Orientation Day last year would have received their account books in the mail. If you have any enquiries relating to School Banking, please email pepsbanking@gmail.com or leave a message at the office with your contact details.

P&C Welcome Evening
The P&C Association is a great way to meet other members of the school community and to get involved in Parramatta East school life. Our Welcome Evening will be on the Monday 15th February commencing at 6pm outside the school hall. Everybody is welcome and light supper and drinks will be provided. This will be followed by our first P&C meeting for 2015, which will commence at 7:00pm in the school library. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

Volunteers
All P&C roles will be open for the Annual General Meeting in March. Roles that need to be filled include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Fundraising Coordinator. Please consider helping your children by becoming involved in the P&C. Email us at ppe.pandc@gmail.com and let us know what role you are interested in.

Thank You
Due to other commitments I will be discontinuing my role as P&C Secretary. I would like to thank our P&C President Estella Machado for her support and words of encouragement throughout 2015. I believe the P&C is such an integral part of our school as it is a space for the parents/carers of our community to work together to support our students and teachers in making PEPS the outstanding school that it is.
I would like to encourage you, as a parent/carer, to attend our Annual General Meeting in March to help fill these roles in 2016. We are looking for people with fresh ideas who are passionate about making positive changes that will improve the environment in which our children learn.
Wishing all our students and their families a great year ahead!

Linda Dunwoodie
P&C Secretary
The PEPS Recorder Ensemble is a fun, exciting way to learn to read, play and perform music. The children are expected to practice regularly at home, so they are able to progress well throughout the term. Through games and lots of group participation, recorder and ensemble skills are developed. It is an excellent first step in preparation for learning other instruments, and is an easy and fun instrument to begin with. The children in the recorder ensemble participate in a number of concerts each year, and have a wonderful time!

For those returning, we will be continuing learning some of the pieces we were working on at the end of last year, as well as new music, of course! We will also be working on our Festival of Instrumental Music for the Opera House once we have it in February – the music will, once again, be fun and exciting to learn! Beginners will be learning many of the basics of music and recorder playing, through activities and games, as well as some of the Opera House Music.

Each year there are only 2 intakes to the PEPS Recorder Ensemble – at the start of terms 1 and 3. This is to allow the students the best opportunity to grow their skills in a progressive program. New enrolments are now open to any student in years 2 to 6 in 2016, who wish to learn recorder. The ensemble is open to all levels of experience, and Mrs. Anner aims to inspire, challenge and grow each student at their individual level of skill and experience.

The fees for new enrolments of $85 will cover the lessons for a term, a recorder and the music. (That works out at approx $6 per week for music lessons!!) We are using recorders supplied through the school, to ensure the recorders are in tune with each other (a vital ingredient for a nice sound!!!!).

Returning student fees are just $60 per term. Returning students are also able to hire alto or tenor recorders to learn if they wish. The hire fees are: alto - $10 per term, tenor - $20 per term, bass - $30 per term.

If you would like to participate in the recorder ensemble in 2016, please return the permission note below. Lessons are beginning in week 2, so return this form quickly if you’d like to be involved!! Please note that the fees for each term are non-refundable.

Mrs Anner

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PEPS RECORDER ENSEMBLE – Term 1, 2016
PERMISSION NOTE

Please return to the office by Tuesday 9th February.

I would like to enrol my child, __________________________________ of class _________ in the PEPS Recorder Ensemble for Term 1, 2016.

NEW ENROLMENTS:  ___ I enclose $85, being the full fee for the term.

FOR THOSE RETURNING:  ___ I enclose $60, being the full fee for the term.
Optional recorder hire:  ___ I would also like to hire a recorder (Please circle one and include payment).
                       Alto - $10  Tenor - $20  Bass - $30

Signed ___________________________________________________________ (Parent/Guardian)

Date __________________________________________