

Pelican Flat Public School

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Term 1, Week 5 2015

Term One	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT SUN
6	2 March Assembly Premier's Reading Challenge Begins	3 March	4 March Library	5 March	6 March	7 8 Mar
7	9 March	10 March	11 March Library	12 March	13 March Newsletter Crazy Hair Day Hot Dog Day – Canteen Red Day	14 15 Mar
8	16 March Assembly	17 March	18 March Year 6 Taster Day - Swansea High School Library	19 March	20 March Harmony Day	21 22 Mar
9	23 March	24 March	25 March T-Ball Gala Day	26 March	27 March Newsletter Cross Country Carnival 1pm	28 29 Mar
10	30 March Assembly Premier's Sporting Challenge Leadership Day - Swansea High School: Year 5 & 6	31 March	1 April Library	2 April Easter Hat Parade and Morning Tea Pie Drive Deliveries PBL Reward Day	3 April Good Friday School Holidays	4 5 Apr
Hols	6 April Easter Monday School Holidays	7 April School Holidays	8 April School Holidays	9 April School Holidays	10 April School Holidays	11 12 Apr
Hols	13 April School Holidays	14 April School Holidays	15 April School Holidays	16 April School Holidays	17 April School Holidays	18 19 Apr

Certificate of Excellence

Congratulations to Cassie Herdman for receiving our Certificate of Excellence for Week 4 and 5. Cassie was chosen for you outstanding behaviour and application to her learning. Teachers were also very impressed with her attitude and sportsmanship displayed at the swimming carnival. Congratulations Cassie, we're all very proud of you.



2015 Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all students who competed in the Zone Swimming Carnival this week. It is such an amazing achievement to make it to the next level, something you should all be very proud of. A special mention needs to go to Mr Agnew who organised the entire carnival with Mr Westcott from Nords Wharf Public School. This is such a huge event to organise and by all accounts it ran very smoothly. Thank you to everyone for representing Pelican Flat Public School so well.

Locked Gate

As many of you would already know we had an incident at school last week. A decision was made to lock the school gate every morning to ensure the safety of all students. At 9am the gate will be closed by our student leaders so all parents and visitors in the school grounds will have to leave via the staff car park. If you are coming into the school grounds during the day please use the staff car park entry. If you have any concerns please feel free to contact me to discuss it further.

Scholastic Book Club

Book Club went home today and needs to be returned by Monday 16 March.

Red Day – Friday 13 March – Hotdog Day

Rickie has organised a special red day on Friday 13 March to celebrate Crazy Hair Day. Students have had notes go home and they need to be returned by Wednesday 11 March to ensure enough stock can be ordered. **Please note the change of date for Hot Dog Day.** If you are available to help out on the day could you please contact the school and let us know. Any help would be greatly appreciated. The hotdog note is attached to the newsletter.

Crazy Hair Day– Friday 13 March

On Friday 13 March we will take part in the World's Greatest Shave Crazy Hair Day to support the Leukaemia Foundation. Students can come to school dressed in mufti and have their hair as crazy as they like. For this privilege students need to bring in a gold coin donation. Students will also be able to purchase a hotdog and a bag of lollies on this day.

Why World's Greatest Shave Crazy Hair Day?

Today, 31 Australians will be given the devastating news that they have leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or a related blood disorder. That's more than 12,000 people in 2015. Although survival rates are improving, blood cancers like these are the third biggest cause of cancer death in Australia. The Leukaemia Foundation receives no ongoing government funding, so supporting this event makes their Vision to Cure and Mission to Care possible. The money we raise will go towards research, which is needed to find better treatments and cures for leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders. Your donation will also support families when they need it most, providing leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma patients with a free home-away-from-home near hospital during their treatment.

The money you raise will support the Leukaemia Foundation's important work to beat blood cancer:

\$36 can give emotional support to help someone overcome the initial shock of being diagnosed

\$58 can provide free transport to someone who is too ill to drive before and after chemotherapy

\$80 can give a regional family a free place to stay close to treatment in the city, for one night

\$120 can fund a scholarship to give essential support to a major blood cancer research project, for one day

Premier's Reading Challenge

All students will begin the Premier's Reading Challenge at school next week.

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools.

The Challenge aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

The Premier's Reading Challenge is an initiative of the NSW State government with Dymocks Children's Charities (principal partner) and Microsoft (technology partner).

For more information: <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/faqs.html#about1>

Library

Library books need to be brought in on Wednesdays as this is when all classes will do their borrowing. Library overdue notices will be sent home every Wednesday and we ask that even if students think they have returned books that they take another look at home anyway.

Ukulele/ Guitar Group

Our Ukulele and guitar group will start on Wednesday. Students who have decided to participate in the group need to bring their instruments in. The remaining students will be participating in singing with Mrs Dunn.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

School Assemblies

Our school assemblies are held fortnightly on Monday at 2.30pm. Our next school assembly is on Monday 2 March.

Cross Country Carnival

The Cross Country Carnival will be held on Friday 27 March at 1pm. The carnival will take place in the school grounds. We invite all parents and family members to come along and watch on the day.

Year 7 2016

Our Year 6 students will start participating in the Swansea High School Transition to High School program later this term with their first Taster Day on Wednesday 18 March. A note will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Hunter Sports High School has sent some information to the school for anyone interested in applying to attend in 2016. If you are interested in applying to Hunter Sports High please see the office for more details.

P&C News

AGM

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the P&C AGM on Wednesday evening. All positions were declared open and the following positions have been filled.

President:	Brett Harvey
Vice President:	Rebecca Harvey
Secretary:	Vacant Position
Treasurer:	Melissa Mills
Fundraising:	Simone Foster
Canteen Manager:	Rickie Wilson
Playgroup:	Britt Fisher

Thank you to everyone who supported our school in these roles last year and thank you to everyone who has volunteered to take on a role this year. We are still in need of a secretary, if you would like to know more about the role please contact the school.

Any parents or community members are able to attend P&C meetings however if you wish to be a voting member you need to pay your \$2 membership to Melissa Mills. All decisions at P&C meetings are voted on.

Pie Drive

This term the P&C will run a Pie Drive. The order sheet is attached to the newsletter however if you need more order sheets please contact the school and we will send one home. The orders will be able to be collected on Thursday 2 April at the Easter Hat Parade or before students go home in the afternoon.

Easter Raffle

The P&C are holding their annual Easter Raffle and are asking for donations for the raffle to start coming into school. We appreciate anything big or small. Donations can be delivered to the canteen.

School Hats

Due to our supplier changing the style of hats that are available to purchase we have had no choice but to change our existing hat. A decision was made at the P&C meeting that we would have the available hat with the small PFPS light blue logo. New school hats will be available in two weeks. A message will go out on Skoolbag when they arrive.

School Camp

It was decided at the P&C meeting that from this year school camps would be a two year rotation of a big camp such as the excursion taking place this year and a smaller less expensive camp such as camping in a more local location. This decision was due to the rising costs of excursions and the pressure that this expense places on families.

Year 6 Shirts

The P&C will purchase Year 6 shirts for Year 6 students this week. When all students have had the opportunity to vote on a design they like a decision will be made and shirts will be ordered. This may take a few weeks but as soon as they arrive students will be able to wear them to school on any day. I do ask that when we are out of the school on office school business that students wear their normal school shirt.

Skoolbag App

The P&C have agreed to pay for the annual Skoolbag subscription which is \$750. Thank you to the P&C, your support paying for this for our families is greatly appreciated.

Pelican RSL Raffles

Thank you to Jo and Sue for continuing to run our raffle nights at the Pelican RSL Club. I was speaking with Andrew and became aware that for some time now Jo and Sue have been taking on extra nights to raise funds for our school. Thank you to Jo and Sue and thank to Pelican RSL Club for your ongoing support.

Belmont 16s Raffle

Last year the P&C were asked if they would like to put in to sell raffle tickets at the Belmont 16s for two nights in 2015. The dates we were allocated were 21 and 22 May. Brett Harvey and Shane Wilson have volunteered to run Thursday 21 May and we are asking for volunteers for Friday 22 May. If you are available to sell raffle ticket on this night could you please contact Simone Foster.

Playgroup

Playgroup will recommence on Tuesday 24 March at school in Room 7 from 9am to 11am. This room is located next to the canteen. All children welcome from 0 to 6 years. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided. All you need to bring along is your babies/toddlers morning tea and yourself. We ask for a \$2 donation each week you come along. We hope to see you there.

Canteen News with Rickie

A lot of exciting events are coming up in the canteen. Firstly we have hotdog day on 13 March (please note date change from the note). On March 18 we will be having Sushi Day. Mel Newman has kindly offered to make sushi.

Canteen Opening Days

Monday: Snacks and ice cream – **No Orders**

Tuesday: Snacks and ice cream – **No Orders**

Wednesday: Full Canteen

Thursday: Full Canteen

Friday: Full Canteen

'Emergency +' App

Save the app that could save your life.

'Emergency +' is a national app developed by Australia's emergency services and their Government and industry partners, helping people to call the right number at the right time, anywhere in Australia. The app uses a mobile phone's GPS functionality so callers can provide emergency call-takers with their location information as determined by their smart phone. 'Emergency+' also includes SES and Police Assistance Line numbers as options, so non-emergency calls are made to the most appropriate number.

When calling Triple Zero (000), remember to stay focused, stay relevant, and stay on the line. Before you call, ask yourself:

- * Is someone seriously injured or in need of urgent medical help?
- * Is your life or property being threatened?
- * Have you just witnessed a serious accident or crime?

If you answered 'Yes' to any of these questions, call Triple Zero (000). Triple Zero calls are free.

All about apostrophes

Not knowing where to place apostrophes can haunt people for their entire lives. Here's an easy guide to help your child understand what they mean, how to use them and get them right, now.

Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z/-/english_glossary/8Qum/551/apostrophe+denoting+ownership

When older kids struggle with reading

Should you let your reluctant teen reader choose magazines over books? If your child is still struggling to read and write, and they're heading into high school, there are ways to get them on the right page.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/when-older-kids-struggle-with-reading>

Multiplication times tables

Does your child need encouragement? Explain to them that learning times tables = instant, painless recall in exams. Here's School A to Z's help sheet:

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/eppcontent/glossary/app/resource/factsheet/4024.pdf>

Sorting fact from fiction

Help your child develop their "dodgy website" antennae when doing homework. Here are ways your child can tell a good website – or any document – from a bad one.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/sorting-fact-from-fiction>



Don't forget to download our Skoolbag app to keep up to date with all of the latest news. Skoolbag is now available on your ANDROID device.

You can find us on facebook. Just look for Pelican Flat Public School.



Regards,

Louise Dunn

Principal