

## NEWSLETTER

1st February 2024

### Principal's Report

Welcome back everyone to our 2024 school year. We are looking forward to what promises to be an exciting and enjoyable year of learning as we continue to provide great opportunities to see our children grow and develop as contributors to our school community at PLPS.

I would like to extend a special welcome to our new students and their families who have joined our PLPS school community. We have 90 Prep students who will commence all together tomorrow. We also have a number of new students in years 1 – 6 enrolled. I hope 2024 is the beginning of a wonderful relationship between our school and new families to our school community.

As well as new students beginning at our school, we also have staff who have returned to our teaching team. I would like to welcome back Ms Jessica Sheppard and Ms Kelly Macdonald and also welcome Mr Andy Lyon.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will farewell Ms Vanessa Wilson, Ms Shaye Smith and Ms Emily Nation for a period of time, as they commence their maternity leave. We wish them all the best with the new additions to their family.

The month of February sets the trend for a busy first term and there are some key dates for parents to include in their diaries.

On Monday next week, parents will receive information on Compass regarding our 'Meet the Teacher' conversations. The meetings have been scheduled for Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> after school from 3:30—6:30pm. This meeting provides an opportunity for parents and teachers to meet and introduce themselves, as well as share any information that parents believe may impact upon their child's learning in 2024. Parents can book their preferred conversation time/s. via Compass. Bookings will open next Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm. Bookings will close to parents at 12noon on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.

The first of our year level newsletters for 2024 will be distributed to parents at the 'Meet the Teacher' conversations. The newsletter will share with parents the key areas their children will be engaging in this term, including reading, writing, mathematics, and our inquiry units. As well as curriculum material, relevant dates for each year level and other important information for parents about some of our school processes, will also be included. We hope this assists parents with an understanding of the learning your children will experience during term 1.

Next Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, our students will have a great opportunity participating in a workshop with local Indigenous Artist and Educator, Sam Richards from Connecting Two Worlds. The sessions include sharing traditional and modern Indigenous culture to students through an interactive incursion so that they can learn about the people that lived on this land in the past, and about the people that still live here today. The sessions include:

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Brief History
- Flags and the Meaning of the Colours
- Show and Tell of Artefacts
- Dreamtime Stories

Next Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, our senior students in years 5 and 6 commence the summer inter-school sport season against other local schools in the district. Our school teams will participate in the sports of basketball, cricket, tennis, volleyball, and softball. Students have already signed up for their allocated team and it is great to see some students having a go at something new. As well as endeavouring to perform at their best and trying to achieve success, our students are also aware of their responsibilities whenever they represent our school in the wider community. There is an expectation that our students exhibit a strong sense of sportsmanship, respect the umpires and their decision-making in all games and encourage their teammates. We look forward to the enjoyment our students have through their participation, accompanied by excellent attitudes. Thank you to Mr Seton and Mr Vann for their organisation and supporting our students in their preparations for the games. We wish them all the best of luck and fun.

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobiles phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours. The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year. The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state. This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions.

By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause. I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school. In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school office who will pass on a message as required.

A copy of our school's local mobile phone policy, which implements the government's mobile policy in line with our local context, is available here:

[PLPS Student Mobile Phone Use Policy](#)

**Parent support:** The [Mobile phones in schools webpage](#) provides links to resources for families to help them balance their children's time using mobile phones.

If you have further questions, please contact the administration office.

**Kerrie Kingston-Gains**  
Principal

# Admin News

## DIARY DATES

Friday 2nd February - Icy Pole Friday commences (Every Friday - Term 1)

Friday 9th February - Friday 15th March - Summer Interschool Sports  
(selected students)

Monday 19th February & Tuesday 20th February: 'Meet the Teacher' Conversations

## Assembly Dates

Whole School Assembly will be held in the school gymnasium

Monday 12th February - 9am

Thursday 29th February - 9am

Tuesday 12th March - 9am

Thursday 28th March - 9am

## Hats

Hats are part of our school uniform in Term 1.

It is strongly recommended that all students have their hats on when they play at recess and lunch time out in the yard.

Please remember to label your hats too!

### **PLPS Bucket Hats**



We currently have our old style bucket hats available for sale from the office at the discounted price of \$10.00

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

#### **Sharing of food**

Sharing of food items is NOT permitted at PLPS, due to reasons associated with health, safety and family beliefs and choice. Food cannot be distributed to other students: this includes food items to celebrate birthdays.

Non-food items can be shared for birthdays, if so desired.

When food items are being used within the teaching and learning programs at school, communications will be posted on Compass to parents and carers outlining the food items being used. Parents will have the option to discuss implications for their child or opt out of these activities.



## School Hours and Pick Up

Our school hours are between 9am and 3.15pm each day. We understand that due to traffic and other unforeseen circumstances parents/carers may not be able to pick up their child/children on time. If you are running late to pick up and it is after 3.30pm your child/children who are waiting in the school yard will be asked to wait in our school admin building, as there are no teachers on yard duty after this time. If parents are aware that they will be running late, could you please advise the school office before 3pm or as soon as possible. If parents/carers are regularly unable to pick up their child/children on time they will need to book into after school care. OSHClub can be contacted on 0438 559 017.



## ICYPOLE FRIDAY

**We will be selling lemonade icy poles at lunch time on Fridays during term 1.**

**Icy poles are \$1.40 each and can be purchased from the Canteen.**

## LATE ARRIVALS

**Every child arriving after the 9am bell must come to the school office to collect a Late Pass to take to their teacher.**

## EARLY LEAVERS

**Should parents wish to collect their child/children from school early, they must sign them out at the office. Please allow yourself extra time for collection as we only call students to the office once parents arrive.**

**Our lunchtime runs from 1:40-2:25pm and it can be extremely difficult for students to hear announcements whilst playing outside. If you need to collect your child during this time could you please arrange to collect them before or after lunch.**





SCHOLASTIC **BookClub**

SCHOLASTIC **BookClub**

SCHOLASTIC **BookClub**

**SCHOLASTIC**  
**Book Club**

**Scholastic Bookclub 2024**

Bookclub offers a convenient way for you and your child to select and purchase worthwhile and appealing books. The books have been expertly selected to span a range of reading levels and interests and are offered at reasonable prices. The wide range of newly published titles and old favourites represents a thoughtful mix of books from Australian and international publishers.

Bookclub operates at least 8 times a year. Your children will have already received their bookclub brochure, which has the order form inside. Simply select any books you or your child would like to purchase and return the order form to the school, with correct payment, or order online with LOOP for credit card purchases by the closing date (FEB 14<sup>th</sup> for Issue 1). The school sends all the orders in together, and then the books are delivered to the school. The books will then be delivered to your child's classroom to take home.

Furthermore, the school receives free books from Book Club that allow us to regularly update our class and school libraries with just-published and favourite books.

There is no obligation to order, but I know of no better way to encourage reading than to give children the opportunity of choosing their own books.

Yours Sincerely,

Narelle McMillan - Library Technician

Reasons to **LOVE** Book Club

- fantastic variety
- carefully curated by age
- affordable

SCHOLASTIC **BookClub**

**DON'T FORGET!**

SCHOLASTIC **Book Club** orders are due: **14th Feb**

SCHOLASTIC **Book Club LOOP** for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents. To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit: [www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP](http://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP)

GET IT ON Google play | Download on the App Store