News from the Principal

My Name is Mrs Natalie Piccinin and I am privileged and honoured to introduce myself as the Principal of this wonderful school. Over the past two weeks I have had the opportunity to meet many of the students, the staff and some parents. I can see that this is a place where great learning occurs in a safe, respectful and harmonious environment.

I have been teaching for 28 years and have worked in many schools in the Fairfield area, these include 14 years at Canley Vale PS, 7 years at Harrington Street as Assistant Principal, 6 years at Fairfield PS as Deputy Principal/Relieving Principal and most of 2014 as Relieving Principal of Prairievale PS. I am married with four children whom attend or have attended public school. I am passionate about Public Education and enthusiastic about learning that engages all students to achieve their individual best.

I am so proud to be leading Mount Pritchard and will work together with the staff, students, and wider school community to build a school that is a centre of excellence. You will hear me speak of the importance of preparing our students to be active and responsible citizens and learners in the 21st century. You may hear your children or their teachers talk about the four Cs - Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking. These skills will be a focus as we introduce the new Syllabus of English this year and Mathematics and Science in 2015.

During the next few weeks you will receive an invitation to come and be part of our Parent Focus group. This will be an opportunity for you to share your views about your children’s learning. The parent focus group will be held on Friday 21st November at 9.15am in the school library. This will also be our first Parent Coffee Club meeting which I hope to continue each fortnight on Friday mornings. The Parent Coffee Club will be an opportunity for you to meet with me over a cup of tea or coffee and discuss issues or concerns about your children’s learning.

There are some exciting events happening during the next few weeks and I hope to get the opportunity to meet with more parents during this time. I look forward to developing a strong relationship with all members of our school. If you would like to talk with me regarding important issues please ring the office to arrange for an appointment.

Sincerely

Natalie Piccinin

Introducing MP Bear to the school community of Mount Pritchard Public school.

MP Bear was a gift to the school presented to me by the Principal of Fairfield Public School Mr David Smith. MP Bear is our school mascot. A competition has been running to find MP Bear a new name. His cousin at Fairfield Public school is called ‘Sydney Fairfield’. The competition is open to all students. Entry forms are at the front office until the end of week 8. We hope to announce his new name before the end of the year.

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<th>Dates of Interest:</th>
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<td>28/01/15 - FIRST DAY OF TERM YEARS 1 to 6</td>
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Captains Report

Term 4 is going to be a great term for the school especially Stage 3 and even more for Year six. This is our last term of primary school and while it’s very exciting it’s also a little sad.

We have had many activities already, such as Crohns fundraiser, school camp and many more. One very exciting event was a visit from Dr Brendan Nelson, President of the Australian War Memorial, representatives from Google and Victor Dominello, Assistant Education Minister who came to launch the Remember Me Soundscape website. Year 6 students are reading and recording the names and age of death at those soldiers who put their lives on the line in World War 1. These names will be heard at the Memorial throughout 2015 and will be kept at the War Memorial as part of our history.

Also the Crohns Fundraiser was such a great success with everyones help and donations we raised $2301 and I, Abbey would like to say a very big thank to everyone for their lovely help and support. I hope that all the students had a great day and loved watching Mrs Knight and I do the ice-bucket challenge.

School camp was so much fun and all the students went on night walks and woke up at the crack of dawn to see the animals wake up, and for the teachers that went with the Year 6 students it was a late night too hahahaha.

Yesterday we held the perfect speeches, every single one was great. Good luck to all the Year 5 students who gave their speech, the wait until Presentation Day is even worse than saying the speech, we all know because we have been through it, but you will be ok.

We are expecting a lot more activities such as Year 6 fundraiser, students vs teacher game and more discos YEAH! So have a great rest of term and MAKE sure you have FUN!!!! - Abbey-Jane & Neminja

P&C NEWS

Thank you again to everyone who participated in the Chocolate Drive and congratulations to the Top 3 sellers.

1st Prize—Caterina Webber
2nd Prize—Jan and Hamze El Masri
3rd Prize—Abbey Murphy

The canteen and uniform shops last day for this year will be Friday 12th December

Our Jersey Day was very successful and we were able to donate $150 to Crohns & Colitis Australia. Thank you for your support.

Uniform shop is looking for volunteers, preferably for Tuesday morning from 8:30am to 9:30 am. If you are interested in helping for one hour please contact Angelia Zappia.
KD responded creatively and imaginatively to _The Magic Hat_ by Mem Fox by making their own magic hats. They also responded by drawing and writing about what they might change into if the magic hat landed on their head.

KS has investigated growing patterns. They used lots of different objects and made interesting patterns which increased or decreased. They also learnt about fractions by cutting fruit and fairy bread in half and in quarters.

KT has been learning about positional language and in particular their left and their right. The students worked collaboratively to create their own teddy bear puzzle which they had to put together and label.
Christmas is better than Birthdays

By Nicholas Green 2T

I strongly believe that Christmas is better than birthdays. I will tell you my three reasons.

First of all you get to layby things you want for up to $200. Also if you are lucky you get a couple of expensive presents like a BBQ.

A second reason is. You get to give Rudolf a carrot and Santa Claus a cookie and milk. On Christmas Day you get to check if they ate it.

The final reason is you get to write a wish list to Santa Claus. So on Christmas Day you get the toys you always wanted.

In conclusion, I believe that Christmas is better than birthdays.
Stage 2 Whizz Kids
Photography with Mrs Raymond
Finding symmetrical objects in our school environment

Our Excursion To Bondi - Sculptures By The Sea

On the 6th of November 2014, year 3 and 4 left Mount Pritchard PS at 8:30 in the morning to go see the wonderful sculptures at Bondi Beach. It took us about one and a half hours to get there because of the city morning traffic.

When we got there, we ate recess on the green grass at the famous Bondi Beach. We were invaded by seagulls as they loved our food. We had a toilet break and started walking along the path to see the sculptures. We saw giant babies that were crawling up the hill (with no faces!!!). We also saw sculptures that were made out of wood, metal and plastic.

Our favourite sculpture was made out of bottle caps and it looked like a blanket. We took so many different photos of the colourful sculptures. The artists are so creative.

All of stage 2 got a picture taken of them including our awesome teachers. We had lunch under some giant palm trees followed by a play on the beach. We built some huge sandcastles, dug holes and buried ourselves in the sand. Some boys even played tips. Time flew really quickly and before we knew it, we were on our way home.

By:
Loralie 4R
Malcom 4T
Megan 3L
Jayda 3L
Dear Mrs Knight,

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email to you today due to the fact that I, Abbey-Jane Bergan disagree with the punishment given to Jack Will because of his actions towards Julian Albans.

I strongly believe that a week’s suspension should most definitely not be given due to the fact of what lead up to Jack Will punishing Julian Albans. He has been under emotional stress for a few weeks now and Jack Will’s actions were all for a good reason. Julian Albans has multiple times called August Pullman (Jack’s best friend) an ugly freak which is also unacceptable. Having people or one person continuously call your best friend an ugly freak, what would you do? Just let them?

Also, Jack’s behaviour is so unexpected because he has never done this before. He never gets into trouble, never naughty, he is great at doing his work and always well behaved.

I believe that Jack and Julian are both in the wrong here so a week’s suspension should only be given to both children. If not, it should not be given at all. Jack knows what he did was wrong and is very sorry for his actions but we have to take into consideration that he was under emotional stress, he was pushed to the limit and it will not happen again.

So I hope, Mrs Knight, that you take my email into consideration and not give Jack Will a week’s suspension for the following reasons.

Yours sincerely,

Abbey-Jane Bergan

A response to the book “Wonder” by Abbey-Jane Bergan

Mrs Johnson’s maths class were working in groups to try and make a square metre.

This term Stage 3 are reading the book “Wonder” by R.J Palacio. It is a great book about acceptance, tolerance and seeing things from the perspective of others. In the book the English teacher Mr Browne give his class precepts to respond to so Stage 3 have been doing it too. Here are some responses.

Precepts

“Sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together” - Marilyn Monroe

I chose this precept because Marilyn Monroe is someone I idolise and this quote is not beating around the bush. It speaks the truth and it is not some sappy, girly quote. I also believe that Marilyn Monroe was somewhat similar to a philosopher - maybe not Socrates or Plato, but still very influential.

The quote itself relates to how a lot of relationships or opportunities may not work out. If, for example, a relationship falls apart, the hurt is temporary and you will find yourself in a better place and with a better relationship.

Petra Malic

“Don’t think of the cost, think of the value” - Unknown

To me this precept means don’t think of the effort, instead think of what it will do for you. To only think about the effort it will take is selfish, but you could be rewarded by the result of that effort and who will benefit from it.

Jasmine Nguyen

Year 6 Camp. We visited the Sydney Observatory, Madame Tussauds & Taronga Zoo.
Anna Kim, Petra Malic, Maddison Canham-Cribbs, Milan Tomanovic, Hamze El Masri, Deacon Cosentino and Tamiya Pamies were the wonderful library monitors for terms 1 and 3.

Jasmine Nguyen, Jared Fui-maono, Anna Nguyen, Tutoe Tuifua, Shayla Tran, Isabella Mochetti-Wallace, Thomas Mossialos and Frank Sdrolias were the wonderful library monitors for terms 2 and 4.

Both groups were wonderful school leaders who showed how responsible, reliable and helpful they could be.

The children not photographed will be in the next school letter.

Book Fair

The children really enjoyed the recent book fair in the library. Over $1,100 worth of books were sold which enabled the school to purchase $300 worth of books.
Our school Public Speaking Competition began in term 3 with a class competition being held in every classroom from Kinder to year 6. We heard some amazing speeches from some very talented public speakers. After each class had chosen their winners, the students competed in a stage competition, having to say a prepared and an impromptu speech. From that, our school representatives (from stage one to stage three) were selected to compete in the District Public Speaking Competition at the beginning of term 4. The school representatives were

Stage One - Emily Hughes
Stage Two - Michael Hughes
Stage Three - Rachelle Vegvari

All three of our competitors did a wonderful job. We are proud of their efforts and we are happy to announce that Rachelle came second in the whole of Liverpool District.

Mrs H. Lalic
/Public Speaking Co-ordinator/

Last term, the Mount Pritchard Busy Bees won our local zone in the Premier's Debating Challenge. The team then went on to compete in the Inter-Zone, Quarter Final and Semi Final for the South Western Sydney region.

The Busy Bees were defeated by Georges Hall PS in the Semi Final debate. The topic for the debate was 'Children should vote to change their school uniform'. The Busy Bees were the affirmative side. After some great arguments and rebuttals from both teams, the debate was awarded to Georges Hall PS. The students were humble in their loss and were still in great spirits after the debate.

Abbey-Jane Bergan, Bernard Chau, Petra Matic and Joshua McCullough have put our school on the map for their excellence in debating. The team were devoted, diligent and collaborative in their journey. I am so proud of their achievements this year.

Miss C Hide
Debating Coordinator
Sport Report

We are over the halfway mark in the final season of PSSA for 2014 and our teams are playing just as enthusiastically now as they were in week 1, despite some interruptions from the weather!

**Touch Football**

Last Friday we played Sadlier PS where unfortunately, our seniors and juniors lost their games. To their credit, they didn’t give up until the whistle was blown. Well done Jamace for getting over the line for the seniors in the final minutes of their game. Maksim took a daring but successful dive over the line to score for the juniors.

**Mixed Newcombeball**

Our last game was against Hoxton Park PS. It was definitely a close one! So close, both teams were exchanging match points until eventually we came away with a much deserved win! Well done Micah who displayed great leadership amongst the team. It was all tied up in the junior game but unfortunately we weren’t able to go to a third and final set due to the length of the seniors’ game. Michael was a standout performer throughout the game for the junior team.

Miss Towner

**Girls Basketball**

The junior and senior girls Basketball team are an enthusiastic group of girls who have performed well under interesting circumstances. The new Basketball court is looking fantastic and will be great for future games. Our game against Bonnyrigg Heights PS was an amazing lesson, brilliant teamwork and skills as they cruised to an easy victory in both the senior and junior games. We were back to our competitive best against Hoxton Park PS and just lost in two close games.

Mr Dale

**House Sport**

Over the past couple of terms, students have been working hard on improving their fundamental movement skills through a variety of games and activities. It’s not always about being the best at a particular sport but rather having the necessary skills to participate in them with confidence. They have been able to put these skills into practice in the following sports; Hockey, Tennis, Soccer, Touch and Cricket.

Miss Harvey

**Reminders**

**Appropriate footwear**

It has come to our attention that some students have been wearing thin canvas shoes and Rabens during sport and PE lessons. These shoes do not provide sufficient support and may lead to students sustaining an injury. Please support us by ensuring your child wears runners or leather wrapped shoes on these days. Students have been informed if they don’t wear the correct footwear, they won’t be able to participate in sporting activities.

**Sufficient drinks**

Please ensure your child has enough water to take to sport each week. We are seeing increasing number of students not bringing any water. With the hot weather well and truly here, it’s important students stay well hydrated before, during and after sporting activities.

Thank you for your understanding with these matters.

A Stacey

PSSA Coordinator
We are currently in the process of moving the planter boxes to a new location (sorry Mr Mason!). During the Christmas holidays Mr Mason will move all the planter boxes to the end of Block I near the picnic table. Our aim for next year is to allocate one planter box per class. This will ensure that every child has access to the gardening program rather than just a few from each class. Our flowers outside block I are growing well. The children are enjoying their beauty. The mango and lemon trees have also been moved to allow for greater access and enjoyment from the children.
Heartbeat Program at UWS – Campbelltown

On Monday 3rd November Mrs Dinale accompanied Dean and Zachary together with Dean’s mum on a trip to the University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown to take part in the Heartbeat Program. They joined many other Indigenous students in Years 3 and 4, parents and teachers from schools around Liverpool and Campbelltown at this special day.

The program aims to introduce Indigenous students to university, the enormous possibilities and opportunities of further education and to promote and educate the students about healthy eating and a healthy active lifestyle.

Aboriginal Student Achievement Awards

Nicholas in class 2T received the Kari Award at UWS Campbelltown on Friday afternoon for the Aboriginal Student Achievement Awards. He was joined by his proud parents, his teacher Mrs Trotter and Mrs Dinale.
Last Thursday, Mount Pritchard Public School welcomed the Australian War Memorial and Google Australia to launch a new online application for school children across the country to use as part of the First World War Roll of Honour Soundscape project. The application is called *Remember Me* and allows Australian schools and students with an internet connection to record the names of the 62,000 servicemen and servicewomen who died in World War 1 as part of the Memorial’s Soundscape project. The names and ages of those who lost their lives serving in World War 1 will then be played over speakers in the Memorial’s Commemorative Area in Canberra. Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson and The Hon Victor Dominello MP were present at the launch. “The Soundscape project brings relevance to the younger generation of Australians who may not know a lot about the men and women who fought and died for Australia during World War 1,” said Dr Nelson. Over the next few weeks our Year 6 students will be recording the names of men and women from our local area who died in World War 1.
Keeping Our Children Safe

The **Daniel Morcombe Foundation** aims to make the world a safer place for children through **Day for Daniel**, an annual event which promotes child safety awareness.

On Friday, 30\(^{th}\) October, the students and staff at MPPS joined tens of thousands of people across Australia by holding a Red Day for Daniel.

The school turned into a sea of red in support of this very important cause.

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Remembrance Day

On Tuesday 11\(^{th}\) November our staff and students commemorated Remembrance Day which is the nationally recognised day of commemoration to remember the serviceman and women who gave their lives in wars, conflicts and peace operations. We reflected on the service and sacrifice of more than 102,000 Australians. All the students were very respectful throughout the service and our prefects did a wonderful job running the ceremony.

Mrs Sutherland & Mrs Hannan
**MONEY COLLECTIONS:**

Please post all payments in the letterbox outside the office. All money must be in an envelope clearly labelled with your child’s name, class, amount and reason. Please do not take to classrooms or give to teachers.

We are no longer able to provide your child with an envelope, therefore please make sure this is done at home. Money can be placed in either of the following: sandwich bag, paper bag, envelope, or wrapped in paper and sealed.

**HEAD LICE:**

There have been reports of Head Lice at our school. Please check your child’s hair regularly for nits/lice. If you find any eggs or lice please commence treatment as recommended. Information on how to find and treat head lice can be found at


**STAFF CARPARK:**

We are continually having parents drop off their children in the staff car park. This is extremely dangerous and we request that the pedestrian entrance is the only one you use.

**2015 ENROLMENTS:**

We are starting our planning process for classes in 2015, notes have gone home requesting you to please complete the slip and return to school as soon as possible. This is only necessary where your child(ren) will either:

**Return late to our school in 2015 (that is after Wednesday 28th January 2015) Or Not return to our school in 2015 (not applicable to Year 6 2014.**

My child(ren) ____________________________________________ will be returning to Mount Pritchard Public School in 2015 but will be on holiday at the start of the school year. He/she/they will be back on/by ________________________________.

OR

My child(ren) ____________________________________________ will not be returning to Mount Pritchard Public School in 2015. He/she/they will be enrolling at __________________________________________________________.

Signed _______________________________________________ Date ____________
Term Dates 2015

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<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday 13th July - Friday 18th September</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
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Selective high schools


Where’s the octopus

Wow - it’s videos like this that show kids how cool studying science can be. Watch it with them:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?

*NEWS FLASH* FROM MOUNT PRITCHARD PS

Parents will be able to make Online Payments from 15th September 2014

We are setting up the process in the office to make it possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac Bank. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the school’s Website by selecting Make a payment.

http://www.mpritchard-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, book contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is also a category called Other this to cover items not covered in the previous headings. Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the Make a payment you must enter:

- the students name, and
- class and reference number OR
- the students name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number if you have been issued with a school family statement.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against yourchild's account. As the receipt is issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

For any inquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the school office on 9823 9820.

Mrs K Naylor
Relieving Principal
Mount Pritchard Public School’s newsletter contains paid advertisements which assist with the cost of publication. The publication of such advertisements does not imply endorsement of any product or service by the NSW Department and Communities or Mount Pritchard Public School.

Phally’s Family Day Care Service

- Open for School Holiday/Vacation Care
- Caring for children from 6 weeks - 12 years
- Centrelink Childcare Benefit Available
- 7 years experience