FROM THE PRINCIPAL

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Philippians 4:8 NLT

The Year of Excellence

This week I want to focus on one section of our Bible verse for 2016:

“… whatever is pure …”

We are rightly concerned about the food we eat. We do not want to be eating food that has been contaminated. A few years ago milk became contaminated because the feed that was given to the cows had been contaminated with chemicals from a cotton farm.

This was not an isolated incident. Around the world people are dying or becoming seriously ill from food that has been contaminated by chemicals or pollution. Currently in the town of Flint in Michigan in USA, the town water supply has become contaminated with lead. Parents are worried about the long term effects of lead poisoning on their children.

Examples of extreme pollution of our environment are not too difficult to find. Sydney’s Parramatta River has been a classic “site study” for pollution of local waterways. With oil refineries and storage facilities on it’s banks, it was always going to be a problem.

An oil slick on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, Ohio - polluted from decades of industrial waste - caught fire on a Sunday morning in June 1969 near the Republic Steel Mill.

We want our drinking water to be pure. We want our air to be pure. We want our food to be pure. How many times do you see the word “pure” used in advertising? It is a word that suggests uncontaminated. “100% Pure Honey”, “100% Pure New Zealand”, “100% Pure Argan Oil” are just some examples that we see around us at the moment.

We are right to be concerned about what goes in our mouths and in our bodies! But what about what goes in our minds?

We are bombarded with so much information these days. We are so hooked on our electronic devices and we have little control over what each little plastic box receives. We can watch the news to remain informed about what is happening around us and around the world. But is all of it wholesome? We check our Facebook feeds and how much of it is really even relevant to us? In fact, I would say that most of it is not even information – it is just “noise”.

It is interesting to hear how young people can defend the most foul-mouthed song lyrics. They will defend it by saying it has an important message against racism, for example. While the message may be getting in, so are all the words. They and we, become almost immune to that sort of language. And so it becomes a “normal” part of our lives and our language. We don’t flinch when we hear it any more. We don’t flinch when children say it. It has become an accepted part of our lives.

Guarding what goes in our minds is just as important as to what goes in our mouths. We want to set good healthy eating habits for our children so that later in life they won’t have to deal with Type 2 Diabetes, obesity, coronary disease and other “lifestyle” diseases. We need to be just as deliberate in guarding what goes in our children’s minds.

“whatever is pure, … think about such things.”

God Bless
Graham

PARKES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
A Ministry of the Parkes Community Church

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BSB: 082 780
Account No: 46 846 1582

ACN: 003 838 962
ABN: 39 003 838 962

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Philippians 4:8 NLT
Parent Teacher Interviews 2016

Parent-Teacher interviews will be held for Kindergarten to Year 12 from:

3.30pm to 7.30pm on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd March 2016.

(Interviews will be of 10 minutes duration.)

For these interviews we are using an internet-based booking system called Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO). It will save time for parents, staff and students!

Using this system you will be able to book the interview times that suit you best from any internet-connected computer. If you do not have a computer available for your use, please contact the school office and speak to Lisa directly to be allocated an interview slot.

Please access the system as follows:

♦ Go to the school’s home page: https://www.parkescs.nsw.edu.au/
♦ Click the PTO icon as shown here
♦ Enter your surname and PIN, that will be sent home with the PTO information sheet

Full instructions are provided to you after you log in.

If you encounter major problems, please contact Lisa in the front office.
Across the school information

UNIFORM
One of our Terms of Enrolment is that parents agree to comply with PCS guidelines and policies and we greatly value your support in this area. We encourage students to wear their PCS uniform correctly and with pride.

K-6 LIBRARY
All students in K-6 will be given the opportunity to borrow from our school library each week and have a research skills lesson with Mrs Moss. Please remember to bring your school library bag/homework bag each week to protect our books.

K-2 Wednesday
3-4 Tuesday
5-6 Thursday

SHIRE LIBRARY VISITS
K-4 students attend the Parkes Shire Library twice a term to borrow from their extensive range of books and to experience the displays. The second Term 1 visit will be:
Tuesday 22 March

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY
Our K-6 Primary Assembly is held every Monday at 2:20pm. Parents/Carers/Grandparents are most welcome to attend. Our Week 8 Assembly will be run by Year 1.

FOOD BANK MEALS
Here at school we have a Food Bank for families that are going through a tough time or may just need a little help. Our Food Bank is very low at the moment and we are asking if any parents could please make meals to help restock this important ministry of the school.
We have foil trays available for you to use, and we can also help answer any queries you may have about meals.
If you are able to help out in this area, please come and see Lisa in the office.

NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM
Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.

The scheduled dates for the NSW School Vaccinations are as follows:
Monday 29th February 2016
Monday 9th May 2016
Tuesday 18th October 2016
A note will be sent home closer to the date to remind students and parents.

Years 7-9 “Understanding Assessment and Reporting” Parent Information Evening
Monday 1st March 2016
7pm
PCS Hall
All parents of Years 7, 8 & 9 are encouraged to attend.

PARKES COMMUNITY CHURCH
ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
Every Sunday - 10:00 am @ the School Hall
6th March - School Dedication Service
13th March Preacher - Mr Jason Wynstra
**HELPERS FOR YEAR 7 & 8 MATHS**

Our maths groups are finally starting to settle into a rhythm. It is clear though, that the smoothest, most productive lessons, are the ones with a minimum of two volunteers. Please reconsider, if you are not already rostered, putting your hand up to help out; even if you can’t make a regular commitment, but are happy to be on a cancellation list for last minute filling in.

We (the students and I), would really appreciate it! Grandparents/relatives are also welcome.

Call the office and get on board with this great opportunity.

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**Maths Group Volunteers Roster:**

**Week A**

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"I have been impressed with the interest shown by most of the students as well as their acceptance of me as a helper (not being a parent of a student). Most of the groups have about 5 students and with a group that small it is impossible to not contribute. Whilst it is still early, it would seem that the trial is producing results with the level of interest from students improving."

from a parent helper

---

**HOMEWORK HUB**

Primary School: Tuesdays 3.15pm–4.00pm

High School: Tuesdays 3.15pm—4.30pm

Seniors Study: Tuesday & Thursday 3.15pm–5pm

Homework Hub is a great opportunity to spend time working on assessment tasks, home-work and general study. Teachers are on hand for students to ask questions, read drafts and assist in their understanding and there is free internet access available.

What more could you want?

Students need to have a note signed by parents/carers to attend Homework Hub.

Senior students are encouraged to take advantage of this extra time.

---

**ABSENTEEISM**

A reminder to all parents and carers to please ensure you send a note in with your child the day after they are absent.

This note needs to be sent with the child to their classroom teacher, who will then send it to the office to be processed.

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Thanks to everyone who is already helping.

Miss Amy Dearden
**Year 5 & 6 Sydney Excursion**

Year 5 & 6 had an amazing time in Sydney, please check out our school facebook page for more photos and the next newsletter for a full report.

**P&F News**

We had a terrific start to the new school year with our first meeting of the P & F on Thursday 18th February. We were excited to have some parents return after a break and also have new parents and friends come along.

We were able to cover a lot of ground, particularly in relation to the Term 3 Spring Fair. The 10th of September is the date that has been decided for the fair and we are looking forward to a wonderful family day.

Plans are now in full swing for this special day on the school calendar and we need your help. Leading up to the Spring Fair we would love people to be potting plants for the garden stall, putting aside your trash and treasure for the “White elephant” stall and of course closer to the day, cooking for the cake stall. On the day we will need help manning stalls, and assisting with things such as the car wash, children’s activities and setting up and packing away. Please put September 10, 2016 in your diaries. There will be a note go home shortly, where you can indicate your interest in the day and where you would be prepared to help.

During last week’s meeting we were also updated in regards to recent funding proposals and how we have fared in previous funding applications. The financial report highlighted the numerous items that were purchased for the school last year from P & F funds and we discussed other P & F matters.

We also briefly discussed our annual pie drive; a date has not yet been set, but this will as usual be in Term 2. There was also a proposal to hold a lamington drive leading up to the Spring Fair.

There are a number of ways you can be involved in the work of the P & F in the school. You can come along to meetings, held the third Thursday of every month, to help with decision making. You can assist with a hot food day, which takes up about one hour of your time. You can be preparing things for the Spring Fair, helping sort pies for our pie drive or working at the canteen at the athletics carnival.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 17th March at 7pm in the school hall.
You have probably been thinking that this year is PCS Spring Fair year – you would be right!

I’m sure you have also been thinking.....mmm, how could I help with the Spring Fair?....Yes, I knew it!.....I have some solutions for your conundrum....

The PCS Parents & Friends would love your help!

Here are a few examples, to get you thinking:

- Contribution of fresh stall goods including home cooking and fresh produce (who doesn’t want to go home with some fabulous home-made goodies for afternoon tea after the Fair?)
- Donation of goods eg fuel, grocery hamper, meat parcel, dinner for two (or more, if you’re keen)
- Clean up/prep volunteer – we need your muscles! (yes, the bit at the end that we all love – a chance to do some back patting and say well done and get the place sorted for School on Monday)
- Working on a stall (we will have a full list out next month)
- Pot a plant (yes, do it now!) Feel free to make your contribution really STAND OUT (no, please don’t paint your pots yellow – I mean pot that plant in something creative). Kid’s – please check with dad before you use his smelly boots. My Agave’s from the last Fair are going great!
- New items for hampers or a whole hamper
- White Elephant items in good condition – no collector items (unless it’s like, umm, 1972 tickets to Neil Diamond’s Hot August Night concert at the Greek Theatre, then, I might need to speak with you) No kid’s, Neil Diamond is not something that your dad did when he asked mum to marry him. That’s the other ‘kneel’.
- Cake baking – we have the mix – show us what you can do!

Don’t have the time? That’s OK, you can help us out in other ways, like....

- Cash $$$ (this can be used to purchase hamper goods and other requirements for the day)
- White elephant goodies – kid’s toys that are no longer needed that you can grab as you head out the door

What now? There is still heaps of time to be thinking about how or what you can contribute. We will be sending out a ‘tick box’ list next month, so that you can let us know how you can contribute and we can plan how to bring it all together! Great!

PCS P&F SPRING FAIR | SATURDAY | 10 SEPTEMBER 2016 | BE THERE | CONTRIBUTE | HAVE FUN
SPORT UPDATE - TERM 1

Hi everyone!

A quick update of what we have coming up in the world of sport at our school this term.

Notes for sporting events/training will be sent out closer to the date.

Please note those students who are travelling to Dubbo for the Touch Gala Day will need to see Miss Peterson at some stage to enter their details in their online registration.

Open Rugby League Gala Day Thursday 17th March 2016, Parkes
CSSA State Swimming – Primary 7th March, Secondary – 21st March, Sydney

9/10 boys/girls NSW Touch Football Gala Day, Thursday 24th March, Dubbo
Pink Stumps Day Friday 1st April 2016, PCS
School Cross Country, Friday 8th April 2016, PCS

See Miss Peterson if you have any questions about any of the above!

AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP MEETING
WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH

We will be holding our first Autism Support Group meeting on Wednesday 2nd March in the PCS Hall Foyer. It will run from 9am-11am. If you have a child or care for someone with ASD then please come along for a coffee and chat. If you have any questions please feel free to ring me at school Tues-Thurs or send me an email a.wilson@parkescs.nsw.edu.au

See you there!

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE 2016

The NSW Premiers Reading challenge starts on: 7th March 2016

It aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure and to enable them 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 number of books students must read and the booklists they must read from to complete the Challenge are:

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<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Number of books you must read</th>
<th>Minimum number of PRC books</th>
<th>Maximum number of Personal Choice books</th>
<th>PRC booklists you can read from</th>
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For more information or two download the books for your child year level, go to [https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html](https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html)

Enjoy reading!!
Thank you, Mrs Moss
Bikes out of Sheds Social Ride

Sunday 13th March is the day to pull the bikes out of the shed and join a happy group of cyclists down at the East St end of the Pak Park cycle path and enjoy a ride around the two kilometre circular route. It doesn’t matter if you are riding a trike, a penny farthing or a flashy road bike. Just come down and enjoy your selves with the crowd where there will be experienced riders to help you with seat heights, flat tyres and even advice on riding. Bring your children and their grandparents. No need for flashy clothes. Just turn up at 8am and enjoy your selves.

There will even be a bicycle mechanic at the start for minor repairs to the bike which has been sitting in the shed for who knows how long.

For more information see http://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au

or call Peter 0448 166 016