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

Welcome back for Term 2!

A big thank you to our students, teachers and parents that took part in the Dawn Service and ANZAC Day March! We had over 50 students march along with other schools, clubs and organisations as well as our incredible war veterans and service personnel.

The school will hold our ANZAC Day Service on Wednesday morning, starting at 9:00 am. All parents and friends are welcome to join us.

We have decided on a staged process of carrying out the change-over. Verifying our data is the first stage. This will be followed by the School Calendar and events management.

By the time the change-over is complete, Teachers will be able to post all of their lessons online that would allow students and parents to see the work scheduled for each lesson. It will also mean that parents will be able to see all results of all assessment tasks. It will also mean that the end of semester reports will be delivered online. It will also allow for much greater communication between teachers and parents.

Some of the reasons for this change in systems is to prepare the school for future growth in student numbers, and as a part of our school’s pursuit of excellence. This system will enable our teachers, parents and students to genuinely combine to provide the best education possible.

God Bless

Graham
### Term 2 Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27th Apr</td>
<td>PCS ANZAC Service 9am in the Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 29th Apr</td>
<td>K-2 Zoo Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4th May</td>
<td>Life Education Van visiting (primary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5th May</td>
<td>Life Education Van visiting (primary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6th May</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9th May</td>
<td>Life Education Van visiting (primary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10th May</td>
<td>NAPLAN (Years 3, 5, 7 &amp; 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11th May</td>
<td>NAPLAN (Years 3, 5, 7 &amp; 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th May</td>
<td>NAPLAN (Years 3, 5, 7 &amp; 9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th May</td>
<td>ICAS Digital Technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th May</td>
<td>NSW Netball All Schools Cup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th May</td>
<td>P&amp;F Meeting 7pm PCS Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th May</td>
<td>Musica Viva (K - Yr 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27th May</td>
<td>CSSA Primary &amp; Secondary State Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 30th May</td>
<td>Year 9 &amp; 10 Half Yearly Exams start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 31st May</td>
<td>ICAS Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 6th June</td>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 8 Half Yearly Exams start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13th June</td>
<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term 2 begins Tuesday 26 April**
**Term 2 ends Friday 1 July**

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**PARKES COMMUNITY CHURCH**

ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
Every Sunday - 10:00 am @ the School Hall

1st May Preacher - Mr Paul Heavers
8th May Preacher - Mr Gregory Ballantyne
15th May Preacher - Mr Glen Westcott
**PRIVATE VEHICLE CONVEYANCE SUBSIDY**

The Private Vehicle Conveyance (PVC) Subsidy is available for eligible school students, who are residents of NSW, where there is no public transport available for all or part of the journey.

To be eligible, a student must reside more than 1.6 kilometres walking distance from the nearest school bus stop, or more than 1.6 kilometres by the most direct practicable walking route to the nearest point of physical entry to school grounds.

Students who drive themselves to school are not eligible.

Forms are available from the office. Parents who currently receive the subsidy do not have to re-apply unless another child in the family has enrolled at Parkes Christian School (Kindergarten to Year 12) in 2016.

**FOOD BANK MEALS**

PCS has a Food Bank for families that are going through a tough time or may just need a little help. Our Food Bank is 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.

Many hands make light work.

**2016 FAMILY INFORMATION UPDATE**

Parkes Christian School holds a range of personal information on our students and their families for a variety of reasons. To fulfill our legislative requirements to collect information on behalf of the government, and to enable our School to provide schooling to our students. We have both a legal and moral obligation to ensure the information we hold is accurate; so we ask that our families verify this information on an annual basis.

Students will be coming home with these forms that need to be filled out and returned to school no later then Friday 13th May 2016.

The form sent home has been left blank; this is to ensure that the information we are getting is 100% correct and not just skimmed over. As we change over our school software, the integrity of the information provided is vital.

**NOTIFICATION OF LEAVING**

A reminder that Parkes Christian School requires 1 terms written notice if your child will not be returning to PCS at any stage during the year.

If a terms notice is not given, then pro-rata fees will be charged.

**FEE CONTACT**

If you need to contact us for any matter relating to fees and/or your school account then please email our Business Manager; Mr Paul Suffolk at p.suffolk@parkescs.nsw.edu.au

Alternatively you may prefer to ring Paul on 6862 4164.
Thank you to our parents, grandparents and school friends that contributed to the Woolworths Earn and Learn 2015. Our resources arrived at the end of Term 1 and they were put to use straight away.

Pictured are Merryn Unger with Year 1 using the giant dice.

Simone Capple, April Birmingham and John Thomas are pictured below with some of the other resources.

Well done to Ayden Bradley who entered his first target shooting competition and won the Junior Section. Ayden is in Year 8.

PCS students in the community

The P&F have had a busy and productive Term 1 for 2016 and Term 2 is looking to be the same way.

Sensory Garden

The Sensory Garden, located between the tech shed and the tennis courts, has been completed. Initial funds were forth coming after a successful grant application was made by the P&F Grants Officer, Marty Sammut-Paul, to “Jemena Live. Grow. Explore” grants sponsored by Land Care. The school has contributed a significant amount of financial support to the project, which is now beautifully completed and ready for use by students.

Boys uniform shirts

We were given the unique opportunity at the end of last term to take advantage of a generous offer from Cudgegong Valley Public School. They had changed their school uniforms and had excess boy’s shirts in the same colour as our uniform. We were able to purchase these significantly reduced shirts and sell them to parents at a profit (for the school), still dramatically reduced from normal retail prices. This spontaneous fundraiser was not only a great opportunity for parents to save some money, but actually raised around $500 for the school.

Annual General Meeting

The next AGM of PCS P&F will be held at 7pm on Thursday 19th of May in the school hall, any interested party is invited to attend. All positions will be declared vacant and nominations will be called to fill these positions. Positions on the executive include; President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Grants Officer. The executive could not function without the attendance and support of other members of the P&F. We have been excited and encouraged to see an increase in the number of parents, staff and community members attending meetings and hope this continues in the future.

Athletics Carnival

Weather permitting; Friday 6th May is the date set for PCS’s Athletics Carnival, at North Parkes oval. The P&F will be running the canteen, offering hot food, snacks and hot and cold drinks for students, teachers, parents and friends. We will be using the lunch order style for the hot lunches and will be sending out lunch order bags in week 1. On the day we will require assistance in the canteen – unfortunately for safety reasons we cannot have students inside the canteen area, so parents are invited to help. Last year we were overwhelmed with the generous support of parents who donated cupcakes, jellies and other snack items for sale and we would really appreciate donations of these items again this year. Goods for sale can be dropped off on the day. If you are able to help please contact Jacquelyn on 0407 373 783.
Spring Fair

We are well underway with our planning for the biennial Spring Fair, which will be held on the 10th September 2016 on the school grounds. We are excited to be hosting an event that should attract visitors from our local community and perhaps even further afield, where we can showcase the school, its beautiful grounds and wonderful community. There was a little bit of miscommunication about stall holders at the end of last term, and we want to assure the school community, that the P&F made a decision regarding this topic, for this and future Spring Fairs, that states: “Vendors should be allowed into the Spring Fair who are not in direct conflict with the stalls run by the P&F or contradictory to the school ethos”. On the day the P&F will be running the BBQ, Cake Stall, White Elephant (Trash and Treasure) and Plant/Garden stall as well as being involved in a number of other areas. A note will come home shortly and you will be able to indicate the way in which you can support the school, either by man power, donation of time or items, or through financial support. For those of you who are keen gardeners, it is time to prepare your items for the plant stall and others might consider an early Spring clean, to donate items to the White Elephant stall.

If you would like to be involved in the Spring Fair we are holding our next meeting on Thursday 5th May 2016 in the school hall.

This is our major fundraising event for 2016 and we thank you for your support.

Biggest Morning Tea

Australia’s biggest morning tea is an initiative of the Australian Cancer Council, seeking to raise funds for breast cancer awareness initiatives, support for those affected and research into this insidious disease. This year PCS P&F hope to host a morning tea at the school on Friday 26th May as a means of supporting this worthwhile cause and fulfilling part of the motto of the school in “reaching out into the world”. With support from parents, cupcakes and other baked goods will be available on the day. If you are a baker and would like to lend your support, we would appreciate donations of cupcakes and other baked items. Further details will be coming soon.

Trivia Night

We had planned to have a Trivia Night in 2015, which was unfortunately postponed. The good news is that we will be hosting one in the middle of this term. We are pleased to have secured the talented Mr Ballantyne to host this event which will be held on Saturday June 18th 2016 in the school hall. It’s time to get your tables organised and start inviting friends to what is sure to be a great night of fun.

Dates to remember:

5th May – Spring Fair Meeting 7pm school hall
6th May- Athletics Carnival North Parkes Oval
19th May – AGM and normal P & F meeting 7pm School Hall
26th May – Australia’s Biggest Morning tea
10th June – Pie Orders due
16th June – P & F meeting
18th June – Trivia Night 7pm School Hall
24th June – Pie drive delivery and sorting out of pies
10th September – Spring Fair

There will be other Spring Fair meetings and these will be advised through the newsletter and facebook pages.

Please uphold the P&F in your prayers, so that we may continue to support the school, its students, staff and wider community and have an impact on the world we are serving and reaching out too.

Jacquelyn Greenland

PCS P&F president
0407 373 783
CWA PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Topics are now available for this competition which will be held on Tuesday 31st May at the Wiradjuri Study Centre in Condobolin.

The topics are as follows:

Year 3 and 4:
- I just don’t understand
- I can’t wait
- ‘Whatever happened to my kitchen?’ said Mum.

Year 5 and 6:
- If I could be someone else
- Family matters
- Sport is a health hazard

Year 7 and 8:
- Overcoming Barriers
- Books vs iPads
- Pictures

Year 9 and 10:
- Living between cultures
- Making the best of it
- Tomorrow

More information is available from your Primary class teacher or Miss Harris for High School.

Encourage your child to prepare and practise a speech. This is a great opportunity to develop essential speaking skills. Two students will be selected from each stage to represent our school.

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FIJI REPORT
Bula Vinaka (Warm Greetings)
From Fiji As School Begins Repair

Two members of the Parkes Fijians Association, Suliana and Ilaitia Naqau, visited Fiji on 5th April for a funeral and also had a meeting with the Nasautoka District School staff. Plans are to repair the main school block and get the students back to familiar surroundings; as at the moment when the rain falls, students must move desks to find a dry place as the building leaks. A composite class is currently using a temporary tent donated by UNICEF.

The school carpenter presented a list of materials needed on the 12th April which were sourced from hardware suppliers. These materials were funded by the donations raised in Parkes. The Parkes Rotary Club also donated 10 laptops which will be installed once the IT room is rebuilt. It has been seven weeks since the cyclone hit Fiji and so far no government assistance has been received. The school staff are so grateful to the people of Parkes. Parkes Christian School previously visited on a mission trip in 2015 so the staff are aware of where the assistance is coming from. Most of the school building and staff quarters were partly destroyed with three of the school buildings beyond repair. The funds raised in Parkes are being used to rebuild the main school block. Once repaired this will free up the church and tent that are currently being used as makeshift classrooms. The Parkes Fijians Association would like to express their sincere thanks to all that have contributed to this worthy cause.

“My church pastor always mentioned, ‘we cannot assist the whole of Fiji but we can change someone’s life’ by getting their school building back in operation” said Ilaitia; “We still have used clothes that have been donated to us to send to the village. We will do this in the near future.” If you would like to donate to Nasautoka village please drop off your donations at 176-180 Back Trundle Road or by calling Ilaitia on 0452 125395.

LEMONS

When life gives you lemons give them to the Christian School!

If you have any lemons growing wild on your tree from now until the Spring Fair in September we will gladly take them off your hands.

The school is making lemonade and would greatly appreciate your donations of lemons. They can either be dropped into the office at anytime or if you’re feeling up to it, they can be squeezed and the juice can be brought in in a zip lock bag. Any questions be see Hollie Oates.
The NAPLAN information for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 is being sent home this week with students. It gives dates and general information regarding this National test.

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure that students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Excessive preparation is not useful and can lead to unnecessary anxiety. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you are encouraged to make a time to speak with their teacher.

NAPLAN tests are constructed to give students an opportunity to demonstrate skills they have learned over time through the school curriculum, and NAPLAN test days should be treated as just another routine event on the school calendar. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day.

How is NAPLAN performance measured?

NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, and is designed to illustrate the range of student performance across the country. It is not expected that all students will be able to answer all questions correctly. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia. Further information is available at http://www.nap.edu.au/

NAPLAN Results: A NAPLAN report will be issued by your child’s school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent home. Your child’s school is your first point of contact for any questions about their NAPLAN report.