Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe this is the last newsletter for the year! The time has simply flown by so quickly. 2014 has been a wonderful year at Ermington West PS, made possible by our dedicated teachers and staff, supportive parents and enthusiastic students.

We hope everyone has a relaxing holiday break and an exciting celebratory season. Thank you to the entire school community for all of your hard work, passion for learning and support over the year.

**Picnic Day**

We are still hoping to proceed with the planned picnic day on Friday, however the recent weather isn’t helping us out! We will make a decision tomorrow, based on the condition of the park and the forecast for Friday. In the event that we cannot go ahead, we have planned an alternate day at school, where the teachers have planned activities for the students to rotate through. A note will go home tomorrow, regardless.

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**PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE**

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**RULES AND VALUES**

| Week 10 | Rule: Be safe : Be in the right place at the right time, doing the right thing. | Value: Respect |
| Week 11 | Rule: Be responsible : Always be polite. | Value: Care |

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Please also check our school’s on-line calendar at:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 4</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10 December</td>
<td>Combined Scripture Service</td>
<td>All students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12 December</td>
<td>Picnic Day</td>
<td>All students &amp; families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15 December</td>
<td>Dance 2BFit (final) – 2:15-3:00pm in hall Year 6 Graduation Night Years 5 and 6 Years 5 and 6 &amp; families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17 December</td>
<td><strong>Last day for students</strong></td>
<td>All students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 18, Fri 19 December</td>
<td>Staff Development Days</td>
<td>All staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2015</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 27 January</td>
<td>Staff return – Professional Development Day</td>
<td>All Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28 January</td>
<td>Students in Years 1 to 6 return to school</td>
<td>Years 1 – 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 29 January</td>
<td>Kindergarten students commence school</td>
<td>Kindergarten students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**NOTES CURRENTLY IN CIRCULATION**

Please also check our school’s website at:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Target Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERN Enrolment Forms</td>
<td>OVERDUE – please expedite</td>
<td>All families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Picnic Day</td>
<td>8 December – NOW OVERDUE</td>
<td>All families</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special Thank You
Mrs Lee, (Kate 3/4P) for the decoration of the hall for the CAPA Showcase evening and Presentation Day. The decorations looked amazing and made the events even more exciting.

Mr Culhaci, (Sophie 1/2D) for fixing our sound system for Presentation Day. Mr Culhaci spent a considerable amount of time adjusting the sound system and we greatly appreciate his time.

Thank you also to Mr Evans (Charlotte 6I and Mitchell 3/4P) for assisting us with the pack up after both the CAPA night and Presentation Day.

Korean Plant-a-School Program
Ermington West PS has secured funding for the continuation of our Korean language program for 2015 and 2016. Miss Kim will continue to teach Korean language and culture to students in 2015. The following is an extract from the agreement.

The Learning and Leadership Directorate of the NSW Department of Education and Communities (the Department) and the Korean Education Centre (the KEC) of the Korean Consulate General consider Korean to be a language of growing importance in NSW and agree that greater collaboration between both institutions will strengthen and increase the study of the Korean language in schools and colleges.

The Korean Plant-a-School Program assists NSW public schools to seed and sustain the teaching and learning of the Korean language by providing financial and consultancy support. This program is funded by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of the Korea through the Korean Education Centre (KEC) of the Korean Consulate General.

Future Pedagogies
We also received notification that EWPS was successful in an application we submitted for a project with Macquarie University. For your interest I have attached the email.

On behalf of the team at Macquarie ICT Innovations Centre (MacICT), we would like to thank you for your recent expression of interest in Future Pedagogies. Our assessment team consisting of Professor John Hedberg (Macquarie University) and Judy Gerber (NSWDEC) made a decision regarding your school’s submission. As the project coordinators, we are pleased to inform you that your school has been selected for inclusion in the project. We appreciate your time in completing the Expression of Interest and describing the pedagogies currently employed in your school context.

The project team received a wide range of submissions and the final selection was quite competitive. Only a small number of the submissions were accepted. We considered all responses in making final decisions, from examining ratings (Questions 8 and 9) in the closed questions and carefully reading the two open-ended responses (Questions 7 and 12). We spent a considerable amount of time discussing the merits and strengths of each submission in light of the goals of our project.

We feel privileged to be able to work with your school on Future Pedagogies.

School Vision and Strategic Directions
EWPS staff will continue to develop the 2015-2017 school plan during the Staff Development Days on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 December. Please remember that the school office will be staffed by a casual employee to assist with any telephone enquiries. Vacation care will be in operation for any families requiring this service.

The school vision statement: We are Building the Future Together will be met through three strategic directions:
Teachers as lead learners
Partnerships in learning
Students as leaders and learners

Shannan Judge
Principal

1st Ermington Scout Group
A BIG WIDE WORLD OF FUN!
If you love fun, games and learning new skills then you'll love being a member of your local Scout Group.

info@ermingtonscouts.asn.au 0421 651 447
Merit Certificates and recognition of other special achievements are awarded to students each week and presented at the weekly assembly. Congratulations to the following students who recently attained awards:

**Merit Certificates:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KE</td>
<td>Patrick H, Charles C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2D</td>
<td>Cooper H, Mine U.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2H</td>
<td>Hephzibah H, Hamish C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4P</td>
<td>Shyann C, Kate L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5S</td>
<td>Jasmine C, Jason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6I</td>
<td>Bradley C, Chris G.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student of the Week:**

Value: “Participation”  
Primary: Melanie C.  
Infants: Gabe O.

**Bronze Striver:**

Chloe B, Cora A, Tameeka C, Charlotte E.

**Silver Striver:**

Cora A, Tyrone M, Tiymika L, Reyana D, Filip S.

**Gold Striver:**

Milan S, Callan M, Sebastian L, Nicholas V, Warren B, Ani N, Kieren L.

**Principal's Banner:**

Lars V, Simran K, Olivia V, Bianca C.

**Sport Awards:**

Chloe B, Tevita S, Elena S.
Thank you to attendees at the final P&C meeting for 2014 at Dooleys Silverwater. It was wonderful to share a meal together and celebrate the successes of the year. We made a great start on our focus areas for 2015 and brainstormed ideas around fundraising, communication and community development. The P&C also approved a financial contribution to the school of up to $10,000 for a music program in 2015 that will benefit all children K-6 at Ermington West. What an exciting program to look forward to in the new year!

A Planning Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 10 January at 2pm to discuss the events and activities calendar for 2015. Please join us to share your ideas for fundraising and community building activities next year.

The canteen relies solely on volunteers to provide a service to families at Ermington West. Please consider volunteering time in 2015 to ensure the canteen can continue to operate. The canteen will open next year from Week 2 on THURSDAYS ONLY. If sufficient volunteers come forward, we may be able to open on additional days. The P&C is revising the canteen menu. If you want to join the Canteen Committee (no meetings, just email discussions) and have your say in what items are sold, please get in touch.

Join Parents of EWPS Facebook page and “like” the competition post before 16 December 2014 and you could WIN a family pass to the Sydney Observatory.

Parents of EWPS makes it easy to connect with other families about school issues - big or small. We’ve recently celebrated Neda’s book launch, shared school notes that “got lost” on the way home, and members got quick answers about how to order uniforms if you can’t get to school on Friday mornings.
PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

Wow! Students at Ermington West Public School sure know how to put on an entertaining show! Those who attended the Performing Arts Showcase will agree it was a night to remember. High energy, loads of talent and smiles all round! Well done to all students! Thank you to the staff for their many hours of hard work behind the scenes to produce such an amazing show. The P&C would also like to thank our BBQ team: Rachel, Scott, Willem, Chuck, Vanessa, Soula, Jodie, Alanna, Shannon, Lisa, Jay, Paul, Abby and Yesser.

PRIZE WINNERS

Congratulations to Lucky Door Prize winner Kate Lee, who won a double pass to the performance of “A Christmas Carol” at the Belvoir Street Theatre and Sophie Culachi who won Strike Bowling vouchers – enjoy!

LONG-TERM VOLUNTEERS - THANK YOU

The P&C are always incredibly grateful to all volunteers who give their precious time to benefit our school community. Three women in particular have been instrumental to the success of the P&C over many, many years. As their youngest children move onto new adventures at high school, we extend our gratitude to Alana Gardol, Davina MacKenzie and Linda Prosser as they depart Ermington West. We can’t possibly list all the ways they’ve contributed (we’d need a far bigger newsletter!) but Alana, Davina and Linda, please know that you’ve certainly left your mark and will be greatly missed! All three are recipients of Volunteer Recognition Awards from MP John Alexander for service to their community and were presented with Certificates of Appreciation at the December P&C meeting – congratulations!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2015

Contribute to the success of Ermington West and volunteer with the P&C

Frozen Friday Are you already at school on Friday collecting your children? It’s easy to help for just 30 minutes selling ice blocks on Fridays in Term 1 from 2.45pm – 3.15pm.

Canteen Committee Do you want a healthier canteen? Do you have some ideas about what the canteen could be serving our children? Join the online Canteen Committee and help redesign the canteen menu.

Canteen Assistants Do you have time once a fortnight or once a month to help in the canteen? Volunteers are required for Term 1 to support the Canteen Co-ordinator. Without volunteers, unfortunately the school cannot provide a canteen service in 2015.

Uniform Store Helpers The Uniform Store requires helpers to assist the Uniform Store Co-ordinator on Friday mornings between 8.30am – 9.00am.

To express an interest or for more information email: ewpspc@optusnet.com.au message: Parents of EWPS Facebook page

The P&C would like to thank all Ermington West families for supporting P&C activities in 2014. Have a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you next year!