Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We keep saying there is a great deal happening in education at the moment and I thought that I would give you a brief outline of some of the initiatives that we are currently involved in or that will affect us in the near future. You may have heard of some, if not all of them in the media.

**Empowering Local Schools National Partnership** – our school is one of 229 schools in NSW that is part of this program. It is aimed at giving schools a greater opportunity to make decisions based on their local context. This program is funded by the Federal Government and is basically being used as a trial for a State Government initiative called **Local Schools, Local Decisions**.

**Learning Management and Business Reform (LMBR)** - Over the next 18 months all schools will be moving to new finance and student management software systems. As one of the 229 Empowering Local Schools sites we have already started this process with some of our budgeting tools and will be moving across to the new finance system in June and the new student welfare system in July.

**Every Student, Every School** - is an initiative providing learning and support for the 90,000 students with a disability, learning difficulties or behaviour support needs in our public schools through a strong focus on professional learning and support for teachers and support staff.

**Great Teaching, Inspired Learning** – This report only came out last week and makes recommendations about teaching, including: initial teacher education at university; entering the profession as a beginning teacher; developing and maintaining professional practice; and recognising and sharing outstanding practice. Currently teachers who commenced employment after 2004 are required to go through an accreditation process with the NSW Institute of Teachers. This report suggests that all teachers will required to seek accreditation over the next five years.

Congratulations to Breeana Leef, Liliana Mijatovic, Chloe Lehner, Zoe Galea and Joshua Baraba who represented our school so well at the Horsley Zone Swimming Carnival last Tuesday. Chloe Lehner did exceptionally well and will now represent our school and the Horsley Zone in backstroke at the Regional carnival next week. Thank you to Mrs Morris and Mrs Gee for supervising the children at the carnival.

On Monday a note will go home with information about **parent/teacher interviews**. The interviews will be held on **Wednesday, 3rd April**. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at the interviews.

Finally, I have just received information that a former Smithfield West student – Kelepi Tanginoa will be making his NRL debut for Parramatta against Canterbury this evening. Kelepi has been selected on the bench and will be wearing the number 17 jersey. On behalf of our school community I would like to wish Kelepi all the best for his debut.

Ken Smith
Principal
SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

Smithfield West Public School will maintain the same procedure for school contributions with no increase for 2013. The Department of Education and Communities provides only basic funds for the school’s operation. Annually, we ask parents to support their children’s education through the payment of school contributions. Whilst these contributions are voluntary we rely considerably on them to provide valuable resources to enrich and extend your child’s learning program. Information about your contributions is detailed below and every effort is made to keep costs to a minimum.

School Voluntary Contribution per student $40.00
School Voluntary Contribution per family $60.00

A school receipt will be issued for all payments. I thank you for your continued support of Smithfield West Public School.

K. Smith

International Competitions & Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Our students again have the opportunity to sit exams coordinated by the Educational Testing Centre of the University of New South Wales. The exams are in Computer Skills, Science, English, Mathematics, Writing and Spelling. Students received this note today seeking entries for the competitions. Children may enter one or more of these competitions. All competitions are included on one note. The cost of each competition is $8.00 with the exception of the Spelling and Writing Competitions which are $11.00 and $17.00 respectively. This is due to the fact these papers must be individually hand marked. Please send entries to the locked box in the office and note the closing day for entries is TOMORROW Friday 15 March 2013.

C. Georgilas

PSSA

PSSA – On Friday 15 March PSSA Newcombeball, Oz-Tag and T-Ball teams will be playing Fairfield West Public School in the fifth round of the PSSA competition at Brenan Park (top).

On Friday 22 March PSSA Newcombeball teams will be playing Fairfield West Public School and the Oz-Tag and T-ball teams will be playing Kemps Creek in the sixth round of the PSSA competition at Endeavour Reserve.

Parents and friends are most welcome to come along and support teams. PSSA sport commences at 9.30am. Good luck to all teams.

R. Howitt

ASSEMBLY AWARD RECIPIENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KR</th>
<th>Brendan Novak, Justin Muscat, Serina Gorges, Jessica O’Keefe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Sura Ahmed, Jaden Ha, Taylah Hawera, Lucinda Kakoz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KW</td>
<td>Harrison Napper, Shakayla Hunt, Mohomad Morabani, Sarah Haasmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>Johnny Stamiris, Kingston Nuku, Seth James, Alyssa Le</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1P</td>
<td>Cooper Harris, Sofia Muhamad Ibrahim, Patrick Nguyen, Tiffany McDougall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2B</td>
<td>Lily Tieu, Declan Smee, Rosemary Baleos, James Al Khouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Ryadh Albu Ali, Aishah Muhamad Ibrahim, Anthony Sath Sposito, Samantha Poloa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Michael Yako, Diana So, Nardin Yousif, Aiman Alnaqib</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4G</td>
<td>Eliza Tran, Thomas Nguyen, Michael Gosche, Emilio Ureta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4S</td>
<td>Tan Huynh, Vanessa Yousif, Jana El-Baf, Tiari Whakenke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5P</td>
<td>Daniel Nguyen, Ella-Rose Smee, Jessica Herring, Marko Uzelac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6R</td>
<td>Rabieh Trabulsi, Kelly Gosche, May Skerratt, Alex Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6S</td>
<td>Melisa Guney, Eric Tran, Shakira Badiha, Christopher Kiwarkis</td>
</tr>
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Zone Swimming News

On Tuesday 5 March, five students from Smithfield West Public School competed in the Horsley Zone PSSA swimming carnival at Prairiewood Leisure Centre.

All competitors swam to the best of their ability against some very fierce competition. Congratulations to Chloe Lehner who came 3rd in 10 year old girls backstroke. Chloe will now represent the Horsley Zone at the Sydney South West SSA Championships. Thank you to our parents who offered their assistance and support. G. Morris and A. Gee

Easter Hat Parade

On Thursday 28 March, Kindergarten to Year 2 students will have the opportunity to participate in the annual Smithfield West Public School Easter Hat Parade.

All the students have to do is design and create a decorative Easter Hat or Bonnet and bring it to school on Thursday 28 March.

The parade begins at 9.15am and concludes with the Easter Egg Raffle being drawn by the P&C. Normal school routine resumes at 10.30am. All parents and friends are welcome. M. Bodnar & B. Cahill

Prairiewood High School

Many students are stressed about schoolwork and how to eventually succeed at the HSC.

How can you help your child achieve their best?

Prairiewood High School is committed to providing the highest quality education for all students. Following a survey undertaken by students, some issues have been discovered that need to be addressed by both the school and parents. These issues relate to stress, pressure to succeed, amount of homework/tutoring and other welfare concerns.

A special meeting to discuss these issues has been organised on Wednesday 27 March at 7.00pm in the school hall. It is important that all parents attend this meeting.

The school has invited Dr Tanveer Ahmed to be the special guest presenter at this meeting to address these issues.

P&C Easter Raffle

Two weeks ago the eldest child in each family received a booklet of raffle tickets. Tickets are 50 cents each or 3 for $1.00. Children are not expected to go door to door selling tickets. If you do not want to participate in this activity simply return the tickets. However, there will be lots of prizes, being baskets of chocolate Easter eggs. Please return all money, unsold raffle tickets and raffle tickets stubs to classroom teachers before Monday 25 March. Please ensure names and phone numbers are on each butt sold. Thank you. H. Yazar

Easter Egg Donations

The P&C is seeking your support – EASTER EGGS and BASKETS NEEDED please.

The K-2 Easter Hat parade will be held on Thursday 28 March at 9.15am in the Hall. The P&C will be running an Easter Raffle and rely on donations of eggs to make the baskets. Please support this wonderful fund raising activity by dropping off Easter Eggs at the front office by Friday 22 March.

Each child who donates Easter Eggs will be put into a draw for a special prize.

Child’s Name: _________________________________ Class: ________

Head Lice

There have recently been some reported instances of head lice at school. Would you please check your child's hair carefully and begin appropriate treatment if necessary. Treatment must be continued until all evidence of lice has disappeared.
SWPS is offering parents with students in Years 3-6 the opportunity to come along and participate in a series of workshops that will help you, help your child. You will be trained in a series of activities that you can do at home to help improve your child’s success in Maths. You will be provided with resources to assist you in making Maths fun at home. You will be shown how to monitor your child’s improvement and have the opportunity to discuss and share strategies, concerns and successes with other parents.

There will be one workshop in Term 1 and two workshops in Terms 2-4 to review and discuss the progress of your child and to provide you with more ways to help. There will be a morning and evening workshop available. Workshops will commence on Thursday, 4 April 2013 and future workshops will be held in weeks 4 and 8 of each term (dates TBA). Remember, we are seeking your commitment to this program by attending ALL workshops throughout the year.

If you require more information, please contact Mrs Georgilas (9604 3161). Please complete the form below if you are interested in attending the workshops.

Ken Smith  
Principal

Chrys Georgilas  
Assistant Principal

Dear Mrs Georgilas,

I, ______________________ am interested in attending the ‘Maths at SWPS’ program. I understand and am committed to attending all workshops.

I would prefer to attend:  ☐ Morning sessions 9.00-11.00am  ☐ Afternoon sessions 4.00-6.00pm

( Please note that both sessions will only be made available if we have enough people interested)

Child’s Name: _______________________________  Child’s Class: ____________

Parent Signature: ____________________________  Date: ________________