PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

What a busy week we had last week. Thank you to those parents who were able to help transport students to the Day of Excellence performance at Kariong Mountains High School. It was wonderful to see the talent we have, not only at our school, but from schools across our learning community.

We also had a fantastic day at Peats Ridge Public School celebrating NAIDOC week. Our students participated in a range of activities related to traditional aboriginal culture. The day concluded with a performance from the Beatty Clan Crew which turned out to be another opportunity for our students to display their dancing and performance skills.

Class Newsletters

Our term newsletters are usually handed out in Week 3, however last week was an incredibly busy week so some newsletters will be handed out this Friday.

Mountains Summit

Yesterday Year 6 students presented speeches detailing issues they felt were having an impact on life on the mountain. Three students were chosen to speak at Peats Ridge Public School tomorrow for the chance to be selected as a delegate for the Mountains Summit. This summit will be held on 21 August 2014 at the Gosford City Chambers and will involve politicians and councillors.

Small Schools Athletics

Good luck to our competitors this Friday at Mingara. All permission notes need to be handed in as soon as possible. We have been asked to provide helpers on the BBQ from 12.15 to 1pm. If you are able to assist, please note this on the permission note or see Mr Mitchell.

2014 Presentation Day

This year’s Presentation Day will be held on Wednesday 10 December 2014 at 9.30am.

Thank You

The Somersby P&C have very generously given the school $750 for new classroom and home readers. To protect these wonderful new resources we will be having a “contacting” session in the coming weeks. A date and time will be given in upcoming Newsletters.
Thank you, once again, to the P&C and school community for your generosity and support. I look forward to seeing you at tomorrow’s meeting!

Professional Learning
Today and tomorrow I will be attending the “Driving Curriculum” conference at Hornsby. The conference is designed to help support the introduction of the new Mathematics and Science Syllabuses.
Miss Ebert will teach Year 3/4 on Tuesday and continue with her regular day of Wednesday.
Mr Mitchell will be the teacher in charge for those two days.

Staff Update
Next week Ms Robyn Hamilton will return for her regular Tuesday in the office.
Thank you to Tanya James for filling in for Robyn during this time.

Central Coast Public Education Awards of Appreciation.
Each year schools from across the Central Coast are able to nominate two people from their school community who have helped make a difference to their school.
This year the staff would like to nominate Ms Ingrid Scott and Mrs Jane Azopardi for their hard-work and effort put into volunteering their time to teach scripture each week.
We greatly appreciate their dedication.
The awards ceremony for this will be held at Northlakes High School next Tuesday 12 August 2014.

Kirsty Squires

Athletics
Notes and money for this Friday’s athletics carnival should have been handed in by now. Please note that the $8 is payable to the school, not at the carnival itself.
I will send home a transport organisation note tomorrow if all notes are in. For students who qualify for the Zone Carnival an athletics training day will be held at Central Mangrove School on Friday 15 August 2014. More information will be provided when it comes to hand. Due to the close proximity to the Small Schools’ Carnival, return of notes will need to be prompt.

Year 5/6
Year 5/6 will be attending a Science Day at Kariong Mountains High School on Wednesday 20 August 2014. The theme for science week is: “Food for our Future-Science Feeding our World”. An Expo will be held on the Wednesday evening at Kariong Mountains High School.
A permission note and lunch order will be sent home today.
Thank you to the Year 6 students who found the time to prepare their Mountain’s Summit speeches.
Congratutations to: Sarah, Nathan T, Maddison and Mackenzie for being selected to attend Wednesday’s session at Peats Ridge Public School.

PJ DAY
Next Wednesday is PJ Day. Year 6 will be using it as a fundraiser with the proceeds of the gold coin donations contributing towards the Year 6 gift to the school. Students (and some staff members) are encouraged to
wear their PJ’s and bring a pillow and a blanket. A movie will be shown in the afternoon session.

Neil Mitchell

Library
The library monitors and I have been working very hard on some exciting new changes to our school library. The idea is to make better use of the wonderful space we have and make all books more accessible to everyone. Our aim is to have our changes completed by book week so that parents can come and see what we’ve done. We ask for a little patience in the meantime. We all know that a little mess needs to be made before the big tidy up.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
The countdown is on... 17 days until the end of the Premier’s Reading Challenge. I know some of you are only a book or two away from completing the challenge. Please see me if you need help to enter your books.

Book Fair
Book Fair will be held during Book Week as usual, on 18, 19, & 20 August 2014. Your library monitors are running a few activities in the lead up to Book Fair. The first one starts tomorrow, "Guess how many book worms are in the jar". Library monitors will be recording your guesses during lunch and recess on Mon, Tues & Wed during week 4 and 5. The winner will be announced in week 6. It is 20c a guess and all money raised will go towards buying new resources for our library. During week 5 we will also be holding a colouring competition around the theme of "Garden of Knowledge". Winners will receive a gift voucher to spend at the book fair. This year the book fair will be open for a "Parents Only" session where you will be given the opportunity to start all important Christmas shopping without having the kids in tow. More information soon. Don’t forget, the more you buy, the more books and resources we receive for our school.

Public Speaking
Students progressing to the next round will have received a note yesterday, outlining what time they need to arrive at Chertsey Public School. Please see me if you didn’t receive this note. Well done again.

Laura Knight

P and C News
P&C Meeting Wednesday, August 6
The P&C will hold its regular monthly meeting tomorrow night at 7pm in the school library. Come along and hear more about what’s happening at our school and how we can help our children’s education.

Platypus: An adult male platypus is around 500mm long and 1-2.2 kilograms in weight. The female is smaller at 450mm about 0.7-2 kilograms in weight. The duck-like bill is covered in bluish, leathery skin and the fur is a velvety dark brown velvety on the back and creamy yellow underneath The feet are webbed.

Habitat: When not playing in a stream or river, the platypus spends the rest of its time in a very simple burrow in the side of the bank (often in tangled tree roots). The entrance is about 1 to 2 metres above water level, usually distinguishable from other holes in the river banks by an oval entry and it may be double-ended.

Diet: Much of its diet includes adult and larval invertebrates like worms, yabbies and insect larvae. But sometimes it eats small vertebrates. They have electro-magnetic “feelers” in their bills to sift small prey from the mud, silt and gravel in the bottom of their habitats.

Reproduction: The
females make a second burrow for nesting, reaching up to 20 metres in length. When the female enters the burrow to lay her eggs she blocks the burrow every few metres to keep out floods and predators and to keep it warm. She lays 2-3 white eggs in a nest made of dry grass and leaves. The eggs hatch after 2 weeks. The babies remain in the nest for 4 months emerging in December or January. Then they are about 300 mm long. **Behaviour:** Things get busy in the early morning or late afternoon but this may vary somewhat depending on the season and temperature. There have been reports of fighting between individual platypus suggesting they may be territorial in specific areas. An important element of their behaviour is meticulous grooming; usually on a log or rock or sometimes in the water. **Did you know?** The male platypus has a spur on the inside of its back leg which it uses as a “defence”. The spur contains poisonous toxins that can cause a painful, although not fatal, injury. It can produce a low growling sound when disturbed. The platypus along with the echidna are the only monotremes in the world.

For more information, go to: http://www.reptilepark.com.au/animalprofile.asp?pid=29&id=159

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**Tree Planting Tuesday Fun .....**