School Newsletter

Term 1 Week 3 11 February 2016

Dates to Remember

February

- 12th - No PSSA
- 15th - Parent Information Evening
- 17th - Assembly - Class 4/5/6S 2.30pm school hall
- 23rd - School Photographs (wear white uniforms)
- 25th - Zone Swimming Carnival

March

- 2nd - Assembly - Class 2/3P 2.30pm school hall
- 4th - Clean up the school day
- 16th - Assembly - Class K/1H 2.30pm school hall
- 24th - Easter Hat Parade
- 25th - Good Friday (No School)
- 28th - Easter Monday (No School)
- 29th - School Returns
- 30th - Assembly - KMP 2.30pm school hall

Reminders

- All absences need to be explained - preferably by using the parent portal feature or by sending in a note.
- All notes that contain money MUST come to the front office.

Ready Steady Go!

It has been a great start to the 2016 school year! We were able to confirm to the department yesterday - our census day that we have 89 students across K-6. Our 4 classes are formed and we are now settling into learning programs. Our 28 new kindergarten students are also settling in well and it is good to notice them playing so well in the playground. It is also always a pleasure to see older children helping the younger children when they have difficulties.

Our parent information session is planned for next Monday night 15 February, so thank you to all of those who sent back RSVP slips to let us know you are coming. If you haven’t done this, there is no problem in coming along on the evening. We will be providing supervision in the playground for students of school age and over during this event. To help you the Silver Street gate will be opened as will the car park gate on St Peters Street.

I attended the P&C information evening last Monday and was very pleased to see so many new and old parents in attendance. A great effort was made to outline the role of the P&C as well as how getting involved can be as small as doing a shift in the Canteen once a term to standing for a position on the executive. The next P&C meeting will be an Annual General Meeting where all position will be declared vacant and placed up for re-election. At the meeting I openly thanked the P&C for the gift of funding for the school’s new interactive SMART Panels in three classrooms. These terrific panels are now fully installed and are being used for learning programs.

Neil Lavitt - Principal
Music at St Peters

The school's music program has begun in earnest with Ms Caponas working with all the classes every Wednesday. She has requested that all students of year 2 and above bring in existing or purchase a recorder. This instrument, along with the Ukulele and other instruments will be taught as part of the program. It is expected that Assemblies will be a focus for classes to present work, starting with 2/3P in week 6.

Every year St Peters PS has been a regular at the Department of Educations Festival of Instrumental Music. last year was a highlight for me attending in early August and this year we are proud to announce will be no different. The school has been accepted into the 2016 Acacia Concerts and a group of about 15 recorder ensemble will participate as part of a larger ensemble. Miss Caponas will initially work with the 4/5/6S group to choose a group to take.

In addition to working with a recorder group, Ms Caponas will be establishing a choir at the school. As a first for a number of years, the choir will rehearse and perform at assemblies, special assemblies and other special events to be decided. More details of the choir and its role will be released as they become available.

PSSA

The South Sydney PSSAs summer season starts shortly and following on from last season St Peters PS will compete in the softball competition. This competition was due to start this weekend but has now going to start in week 4 on Friday 20 February. Miss Sheridan will be taking a junior and a senior team in term 1 while in term 4, Mr Park will be continuing for the remainder of the season.

For new parents unsure what PSSA is; it stands for Primary School Sport Association. It is a major program run at a zone, regional and state level by the Department of Educations Sports Unit. It is designed to offer schools a way to play sport in a safe environment. It is an inclusive program and as such is focussed on participation rather than winning.

In addition to inter school sport on a Friday, PSSA at the zone, regional and state levels holds carnivals in swimming, cross country and athletics. They also offer trials for regional sports such as soccer, rugby, hockey and touch. St Peters holds swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals so that students may and can go on to compete at this level.

School Photographs

Every year schools have photographers come into the school to take school photographs. St Peters always tries to get these photographs early in the year when the weather is still good. This year the photographs will be on Tuesday 23 February. All students MUST wear black shoes, their very whitest white St Peters PS shirt as well as a compulsory smile. Local photographer Mr Martin Brady will be coming out to take the photographs and he has an array of picture options on the payment envelopes. If you do not have the envelope you can pick one up from the office reception. Martin has online payment options as well as simply placing the money in the envelope.

Assemblies

The school hold its school assemblies every two weeks and does this on a Wednesday at 2:30pm. We also encourage leadership by having every class get themselves involved in presenting the assembly. We strongly encourage students to attend and on the school calendar you will find the dates for the different classes. Miss Caponas will be getting involved with classes through some performances. Additionally at assemblies we present awards to students who either win them or trade in others. We will be making some small changes to our award structure this year, which will be announced and discussed at the parent information evening.
On Tuesday the 9th of February 31 kids walked to Col Jones Swimming Pool from St Peters. Kids 8 years old and over got the chance to swim at our annual swimming carnival with most kids having the chance to swim in the races, while others just participated in the novelties. Everyone had a great time and we all enjoyed ourselves. The kids that didn't want to swim in the races still cheered for their house and made the swimmers very happy.

To get a feel for what it was like to participate in this month's swimming carnival, we interviewed a number of students. Jayden is in year 2 and new to the school. He really liked backstroke because he likes going backwards and he thinks it is really fun. Thomas who is also in year 2 liked freestyle because he thinks it is easy and fun.

Perhaps the star of our carnival was Theo in year 4. Before the carnival Theo felt very nervous because he really wanted to make it to the South Sydney Zone Swimming Carnival. Well the nerves must have given him superpowers because he swam brilliantly to win every race that he took part in, including 50m and 100m freestyle, 50m breaststroke and backstroke. Well done Theo and we're keeping our fingers crossed you qualified for zone.

Jeyda enjoyed the carnival, not just because of the races but also the novelties events. Thomas enjoyed doing the novelties because he thought it was a great idea to get all the houses competing. Some students also liked walking to Col Jones and just talking to his friends. For Kiara her last St Peters carnival was a chance to challenge herself. She swam in the 100 metres freestyle and found it quite difficult. At the 60m mark she felt like giving up but she pressed on and completed the race. She was very happy because she had challenged herself with something hard and come off with a great result. In the end years 2-6 all had a fun time participating in the annual St Peters swimming carnival. We all had fun and enjoyed swimming in all the races.

By Kiara and Alex
Our three houses: Loyalty, Enthusiasm and Fairness traditionally have two house captains whose role it is to help students in their houses support them in sports. They also help out with other weekly events such as canteen and with the counting of points for the houses at assemblies.

This year houses held meetings and elected two house captains from years 5 and 6. There were some tight elections in some houses but we ended up with six great Captains: Leah, Tianan, Alex, Alisi, Jeyda and Andrew. Well done on your election guys, we know you’ll do well.
Mandarin Roots

As well as music last week, our Chinese Mandarin teacher Miss Yang started the Chinese Mandarin program at the school. This is a new initiative for St Peters and one which should be extremely exciting for many students who will get a chance to learn lots about the language and culture of the one of the worlds largest economy and a very important trading partner.

All students at the school receive instruction as part of the Mandarin program and this is delivered every Friday. Welcome to St Peters Miss Yang.

KID SAFE SELF DEFENCE
FREE OPEN WEEK
STARTS FEBRUARY 1

Krav Maga is the world’s leading self defence system, and our age-appropriate Kids Krav program challenges and inspires kids.

Recognise danger, avoid or escape situations. Develop body awareness, assertiveness, focus and respect.

Classes 4pm Monday and Wednesday at St. Peters Public School.

Term starts Feb 8. Booking essential 0408 864 851 or garth@urbankombat.com.au