Dear Parents,

Firstly I’d like to begin this newsletter by thanking all of the members of the Prairievale PS for their patience and understanding during the start of this year. It is always a busy time and we are happy to finally be able to commence our Community Language, Library, Support and Homework programs this week.

Kindergarten

Our Kindergarten students have settled in nicely and have already started to work hard and learn lots of new things. We would just like to remind parents that it is important to have students in a regular routine as soon as possible. This includes being at school before the bell, allowing them to line up with their class, carry their own bag and saying goodbye to mum and dad as the bell goes. This helps the teachers settle the students as quickly as possible.

Next P&C meeting and AGM

Wednesday 27th February 2013 at 7pm
Scripture
Next Tuesday we will be starting Scripture for 2013. We have sent home notes asking parents to indicate which Scripture class they would prefer their child to attend. These need to be returned by this Friday. No changes to Scripture classes will be allowed after this date as we will need to form classes and allocate rooms.

Student Safety
Thank you to all students and parents who have been avoiding the car park areas when coming to and leaving school. This is especially important with our new Kindergarten students as little people are often difficult to see when cars are reversing and we want to keep all children as safe as possible here at school.

Please remember that any parents wishing to enter the school between 9:30am and 2:30pm should come to the front office for a visitors sticker. Any parent wishing to drop off hats, jackets or lunches can leave them with Mrs Culmone at the office and she will ensure that it gets delivered to your child. Please do not go directly to the classrooms. This is a child protection issue.

Swimming Carnival
Two weeks ago, we held our Annual Swimming Carnival at Prairiewood Leisure Centre. It was a fantastic day! Thanks go out to all of the students who participated in swimming and novelty events. There was a great amount of sportsmanship and it was terrific to see so many students having a go. It was also great to see so many parents coming out to support us on the day, and thank you to the teachers for their hard work including Mrs Allum and her team for their organisation, and Mrs Lawrence and Ms Alderson who were our terrific lifeguards. We couldn’t have had such a great day without you. I have included photos of the day later in this newsletter.
Uniform
This week we will begin our uniform reward counts in classes. I understand that there are some concerns regarding our school uniform and have included the following from the DEC’s Guidelines for Uniforms in schools.

The wearing of school uniforms by students will assist school communities in:

• defining an identity for the school within its community
• developing students’ sense of belonging to the school community
• providing an opportunity to build school spirit
• enhancing the health and safety of students when involved in school activities
• promoting a sense of inclusiveness, non-discrimination and equal opportunity
• reinforcing the perception of the school as an ordered and safe environment
• increasing the personal safety of students and staff by allowing easier recognition of visitors and potential intruders in the school
• promoting positive community perceptions of public education
• making school clothing more affordable for families by eliminating the risk of peer pressure to wear transiently fashionable and expensive clothes.

Whilst we prefer that students wear the school shirt containing the school logo, no student is ever punished nor excluded if they are not wearing correct school uniform.

Please remember that we ask that you DO NOT bring electronic devices to school.

The school takes NO RESPONSIBILITY for any electronic devices that are lost or broken at school.
Cyber Safety
Last week I needed to deal with an issue with students involving the improper use of Instagram. As Instagram cannot be accessed by students at school, it was clear that the inappropriate comments were posted at home. It becomes my issue to deal with, however, when these comments impact on staff, students or parents.

Yesterday, the Police Youth Liaison Officer from Fairfield LAC spoke to our Year 5 and 6 students regarding the use of social media. Some important messages that were discussed are:

Remember that everything written on the internet is there forever. Once it’s posted, it can’t be undone.

Don’t post anything on social media that you wouldn’t say to someone in person. The same relationship rules apply in cyberspace as they do in the physical world.

Never share your password with anyone.

It is a crime to create a profile where you pretend to be someone else. Any person over the age of 10 can be charged with fraud if this occurs.

I ask that you monitor your child’s use of social media and talk to them about the points raised by the Youth Liaison Officer. Please be aware that instances of fraud or cyber bullying can be referred to the police in addition to being dealt with via Departmental and school discipline policies.

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS

I DO NOT wish for my child’s photograph to be used in the following:

☐ School Newsletter
☐ School Website
☐ School Promotional Pictures (Eg uniform posters)

Child’s name ______________________________ Class ___________

Signed ______________________________ Date __________________

Keeping children safe on the internet is a shared responsibility between home and school and I ask for your support on this matter.

Have a good couple of weeks,

Nikki Perrin
Principal
Swimming Carnival
Swimming Carnival
4H has settled well into their new class. They have been spending time getting to know the other students and finding out who they work best with. This semester in HSIE 4H will be learning about how the British colonised Australia and in science they will be investigating how simple machines work. Some students have tried out for PSSA teams and many have been successful. On Friday when students went to PSSA the remaining students did sport at school and sketched pictures of the Lorax. They were fantastic.
PPS Calendar

February
Tuesday 26    Scripture begins
Wednesday 27   Meet the Teacher afternoon ** Free Bbq**
               P&C AGM in Staffroom @7pm

March
Monday 4       School Photos
Thursday 7     K-6 Assembly
Friday 8       Speech therapist parent workshop
Monday 18      Harmony Day
Thursday 28    Easter Hat Parade

April
Friday 12      ANZAC Ceremony
               Last Day of Term 1

May
Wednesday 1    Students return to school
Thursday 9     Cross Country carnival