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 and Support 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 say goodbye to you as the bell goes. This helps the teachers settle the students as quickly as possible.

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**Next P&C meeting and AGM**

**Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 2pm**
Parent Teacher Interviews
This year we will be holding our parent teacher interviews in Term 1. We believe that this will allow teachers and parents to discuss student progress much earlier in the year, and allow us to form better partnerships in your child's learning. Notes will be sent home in the next few weeks.
(Note: Reports will still be completed in Term 2).

Community Languages
On the advice of the Community Languages directorate, our Community Languages program has returned to allow all students to study a language at Prairievale PS. It will be organised as follows:

Kindergarten - KG, KB and KP (from K/1P) will study one language per term. This is called the Language Tasting. At the end of Term 3, native speakers of Spanish, Vietnamese and Assyrian will begin to study their native language. Non native speakers will be asked to choose one of the languages to study. They will stay in this language until Year 6.

Years 1-6 - Native speakers will continue to study their native language. All students were asked to choose a language last year. We endeavoured to place students in their first choice, however some were given second or third choice depending on class sizes. Anyone who did not return a note was placed in a class. All students will now be staying in this language class until Year 6.

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
Last week, 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 Mrs Hird 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
We would like to remind parents that students are expected to wear correct school uniform (including correct shoes, socks and hats) every day. Uniforms can be ordered in the front office and will be ready for collection within 2 days. The office also has sample uniforms for sizing.

Parent Workshops
This term we will be having 2 parent workshops.

Monday 2 March - How to use technology with your child - with Mrs Alderson
Monday 23 March - Maths - with Mr Krmac and Mr Sprange

These workshops will be held in the library at 1:55pm. We hope you can join us.

Have a good couple of weeks,

Nikki Perrin
Principal

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.
Coffee club
We would like to invite all parents to our school coffee club. Come along and meet some friendly people, have a chat, ask questions, all while enjoying a lovely cup of coffee and yummy cakes and biscuits. This week Miss Mair will be making ANZAC biscuits! Meet us in the staffroom on Friday at 9am.

Mrs Antoanet Warda
Community Liaison Officer (CLO)

Water is the best drink for anyone who is thirsty. Water is a good choice as it does not have any added sugar.

In Australia, water is safe to drink straight from the tap or boiled if you prefer. In most areas, tap water contains fluoride, which helps children to develop strong teeth.

Tips to help your child to drink more water
- Take a refillable bottle of water when you go out.
- Put a bottle of water in with your child’s lunch.
- Keep cold water in the fridge at home.
- Give your child a water bottle when they play sport.
- Serve water for everyone with the family meal.
- Show your child that you enjoy drinking water.

Limit fruit juice, soft drinks, sports drinks and cordial
Fruit juices, soft drink, sports drinks and cordials should not be given to your child everyday as they contain a lot of added sugar. If you do give your child juice, soft drink, sports drinks or cordials remember to:
- water these down until very dilute. You can then replace them completely with water
- serve in smaller cups
- limit the number of cups of all sweet drinks your child has each day

The facts about fruit juice
- Fruit juice is high in natural sugar and can contain added sugar too.
- Eating a piece of fruit is much better than having a glass of juice.
- Children do not need any fruit juice at all.
- ½ cup of fruit juice each day is enough for your child, if you choose to provide it.

Milk is another healthy option
- Milk helps your child develop strong teeth and bones.
- Children over 2 years of age can drink reduced fat (not skim) milk.
- Reduced fat milk has less fat than full cream milk but still has all the nutrients that young children need.
- Soy milk is suitable if needed. Choose one that is high in added calcium.

For more information and ideas on healthy eating and physical activity go to www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au
Swimming Carnival
Swimming Carnival
In maths we have been applying place value to order, read and represent numbers of up to five digits, as well as using appropriate mental strategies to solve problems.

We have created these amazing artworks using the foreshortening technique. See how our portraits appear to be falling back when you look from a particular viewpoint?

We have been getting to know each other and working cooperatively to carry out some interesting investigations. We have learnt that problems can be solved in many ways.
February
Wednesday 18  School Banking begins
Friday 20  PSSA Begins
Coffee Club in Staffroom (Every Friday)
Friday 27  Clean up Prairievale

March
Monday 2  Parent Workshop—Technology
Tuesday 3  School Photos
Scripture begins
Monday 23  Parent Workshop—Maths

April
Wednesday 1  Cross Country carnival
Parent Teacher Interviews
Thursday 2  Easter Hat Parade
Last Day of Term 1
Tuesday 21  Students return to school
Friday 24  ANZAC Ceremony