From The Principal
Welcome back everyone.
I’m sure they were the quickest holidays on record!!
Our Kindergarten children commenced school this week and I must say they settled in so quickly. Well done to our Kindergarten team.
Our numbers this year are lower than we expected, which will result in a small restructure. What it also means, is that all the work put into “Plan A” for classes will now have to be redone.
We will commence the academic year with 20 classes. This means a reduction in one full time teaching position. We are hoping to commence new classes for 2013 either on Friday or this Monday. As you can imagine, this can take quite a while to complete.
I thank you for your patience with this. Please explain to your children that they are temporary classes and there could be changes. This hopefully will avoid some disappointment as children quickly bond with their teachers.
In our next Newsletter, we will supply the names of our 2013 staff. We ask you to look at our diary dates and plan to make time available for Meet The Teacher meetings. I cannot stress how important this for you to be there to find out about 2013 but also for your children to know that their schooling is important.
Book packs are distributed on Friday and once permanent classes are formed children will be accessing these.
Our Swimming Carnival is next week and no children can attend if there is no signed permission note. Please ensure all payments and notes are returned by the due date. No payments will be accepted after the set date.
Child Protection notes have been issued as well. These need to be returned as soon as possible.
School photos are Wednesday 13th March this year. Envelopes will be issued shortly.

A reminder that this Newsletter is on our website and the calendar is always up to date. We now have a Facebook page to assist with communication, so please like us!
Warmest Regards,
PJ Harris
Principal

From The Deputy
Hello everyone
I have received a very warm welcome to the Walters Road school community and I’d like to thank teachers, office staff, students and parents for the support and encouragement as I start the new year in a new school.

Our Kindergarten students are a joy to watch as they settle into school life so well and the older students have made an impressive start to their school year showing beautiful manners and great behaviour. Well done to our brand new Year Six students - our new student leaders have been wonderful role models for our younger students. Also, seeing senior students buddy up with our Kindergarten students was a real highlight this week.

Parents, what a busy time it is at the moment - congratulations on sending your children to school with smiles on their faces, healthy lunches, lovely school uniforms and with equipment needed to make school life easier. Let’s enjoy the news they bring back to you about friends, teachers, upcoming events such as the swimming carnival and all things to do with school - maybe they have been lucky enough to see a white rabbit hopping around!

Remember our school staff are here to help and support all our children and families - we can look forward to a very busy but very productive time of learning and living in our Walters Road community!
Dawn Walker
Deputy Principal

Other Items
**Early Stage 1 News**

Kindergarten children have well and truly settled into school. On the first day the only real tears to be seen were from the parents as they set their children off on their first days of ‘big school’. The students are into the routines of their classes and are enjoying their new friendships from the Year 6 buddies and classmates.

Our Parent Information Night is planned for week 5 and I encourage all parents to attend this night to hear about the routines, wonderful events and learning that will take place throughout the year.

Thank you to the parents who have already paid for their child’s book packs. Just a reminder to have all items clearly labelled and to always put wet weather clothing in their bags everyday as the weather at this time of year is often unpredictable.

I am passionate about Literacy, and encouraging you to spend time reading aloud with your children. - I found this little quote from the wonderful Dr Seuss book “I can read with my eyes shut” that sums it up nicely.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more you learn, the more places you’ll go."

Mrs G Grant
Relieving Assistant Principal

**Stage 1 News**

Welcome back to 2012! It’s wonderful to be working with the Stage 1 team this year. A big thank you to the Year 1 and 2 teachers who have been very helpful and I know we will make a great team throughout the year.

The students have made a positive start to the year by continuing to follow our PBL expectations – being safe, responsible, respectful learners. They have also been great role models to our new Kindergarten students, showing them the correct places to play and helping them to make new friends.

In class we have been doing some assessments to assist with planning in order to better meet the individual needs of students and we have begun some of our units of work. We have been looking at road safety this week, in particular pedestrian safety. Please assist us by reinforcing these important safety messages by modelling the correct behaviours – walk on the path (not the driveway or across the car park), use the crossing when available, walk across the road and make it obvious that you are looking both ways before you begin to cross the road.

I look forward to sharing more of our Stage 1 learning with you next newsletter.

Mrs T Harris
Assistant Principal - Stage 1

**Stage 2 News**

A very warm welcome back to all Year 3 & 4 students. This year is already shaping up to be a busy year. Could parents please ensure your child has all the necessary equipment required for school including a library bag and a paint shirt.

Students are adjusting well to our new lunch and recess breaks and so they appear to have settled well into school routine.

We also look forward to seeing your child at the swimming carnival on the 15th Feb, which is next Friday. It is going to be a fun day for all students.

**Stage 2 Teachers**

Mrs Maack, Mrs Cassar, Mrs Lihou, Mrs McHardy and Miss Grennard

**Stage 3 News**

Welcome back to all Stage 3 students for an exciting year in this our 50th anniversary at Walters Road Public School. I would officially like to welcome Mrs Knox, Miss Drinkwater (soon to be Mrs Lewis!) and Mrs Mason to Stage 3, joining myself and Mrs Howells in forming a great Stage 3 team.

This will be a busy year for Stage 3 with a lot of information going home throughout the year. Keep an eye out over the next week for many notes going home, particularly Year 6.

On Friday 1st March, there will be a Year 6 parent meeting in 5/6D’s classroom to start preparing for the Year 6 Farewell. Year 6 will also be visiting Evans High School for some ‘taster lessons’ on Wednesday 20th February. A note for this will go home soon.

Mr M Dyer
Assistant Principal - Stage 3

**Swimming Carnival**

This is a message to all students in Years 3-6 and a select few Year 2 students.

Please ensure that you bring in your permission note and payments to the office by 9.30 am on Tuesday 12th February 2013. It is essential that notes are correctly filled out in pen, with all details completed correctly. Parents, please ensure that you correctly fill out the section on your child’s swimming ability. Students competing in races must be able to swim 50m unaided. Otherwise, your child is to go in the novelty events where they will compete in many fun, structured races.

Year 2 students who attend must have already turned or be turning 8 years old this year. Year 2 students must be able to swim 50m independently, as they will not be able to enter the novelty events.

Mrs Lebens & Mr Dyer
Swimming Carnival Organisers
Anaphylaxis Information
If your child is diagnosed at risk of a severe allergic reaction, particularly anaphylaxis, the Anaphylaxis Procedures contain information for schools and parents designed to minimise the risk to students. If your child has an allergy it is important to let us know – see Action steps for parents.

Find out more:

Office News
A big welcome to all our new students, and a welcome back to those students returning from last year.

Student Information Sheets: Your child should have brought home a form this week that requires important up-to-date details. If you could please complete and sign both sides of the form and return to the class teacher as soon as possible it would be much appreciated.

Book packs: Students are to begin using their book packs as from Monday morning 11th February. All students who have paid for their book pack by 9.30am tomorrow morning (Friday 8th February) will have their book packs delivered to their class Friday afternoon.

Payments: Payments can be made by credit card or EFTPOS each morning up until 9.30am. Cash payments must be paid via our envelope system. School envelopes or any envelope from home can be used. Please ensure you have your child’s name, class, what the payment is for and the amount clearly marked on the envelope. Students can place the payment into the chute in the office foyer before going to class.

If you haven’t paid for the book pack as yet the costs for each grade are:
Kindergarten: $43.00, Year 1 & 2 $41.50, Year 3 & 4 $27.50, Year 5 & 6 $29.00.

School Contribution:
Four draws to win uniform vouchers this year!

Draw 1: All students who have paid the $35 school contribution by the end of Week 5 (1st March) will go into the draw to win a $100 voucher to Lowes.

Draw 2, 3 & 4: Another draw for $50 will be made for any students who have paid by the end of Term 1, Term 2 and Term 3.

Medication:
The Department of Education has very strict guidelines about medication being brought to school. Parents of students who require medication to be taken during school hours, must contact the Office first.

If you have any queries please phone or call into the office. The ladies in the office, Fiona, Cathryn, Lyn and I will be very happy to help you.

K. Wright
Administration Manager

Welcome back for another year of exciting Library-based activities! We are off to a flying start already, with the first issue of Book Club having been distributed this week. For any parents new to the school, who are not familiar with Book Club, please feel free to come and see me or phone me, if your child is not able to satisfy your queries. Orders are due back to me, not the front office, on or before February 14. In an effort to facilitate their gradual ease into school routines, Kindergarten students will not be given Book Club brochures until Term 2. Having had a technical glitch late last year, the annual stocktake now continues. I will let you know when borrowing re-commences.

Lyndal Higgins (Teacher-Librarian)

Representative Trials
Attention All Year 5 and 6 Talented Sports Players.

This year the format of the Blacktown PSSA Representative trials/selections has changed. Trials will be held over two Fridays in either week 4 and 5 during the day from 10.00-1.00pm at Harvey Park. These trials are often very competitive so therefore, please remember that only students with ‘excellent skills and ability’ are encouraged to trial.

The range of representative sports to be trialled includes: Cricket, AFL, Touch Football, Softball, Football (Soccer), Rugby League and Netball.

If your child is in Year 5 or 6 and is interested in trialling for one or more of the above sports, please ask them to come and see me as soon as possible so that I can discuss further the details and if suitable, invite them to the trials.

Other sports
Other sports to be trialled at a later date include Tennis, Hockey, Basketball, Orienteering, Golf and Rugby Union. Again, please ask your child to come and see me if they have excellent skills and ability in these sports and would like to be considered for trials.

Gina Grant
PSSA Representative Trials Co-ordinator

Positive Behaviour Learning (P.B.L)

Reading Recovery Program
Reading Recovery is an early intervention literacy program targeted at Year 1 students. The program aims to improve literacy levels and reduce the number of students struggling with reading and writing.

Reading Recovery has existed in NSW schools since 1984, and has been an ongoing NSW government commitment since 1996.

Last year, Walters Road was been fortunate enough to receive funding to commence with the Reading Recovery Program. This program offers additional help to Year 1 students to become better readers and writers and Mrs Grant will again be the Reading Recovery Teacher at our school.

Children who are identified and selected for the program will attend daily 30 minute sessions for assistance with their individual reading and writing. Those students will remain be on the program for a period of between 10 and 20 weeks. The Reading Recovery program is supplementary to the ongoing literacy activities in the classroom.

Further information will be available in the near future to the parents of those Year 1 students who are selected to participate in the 2013 Reading Recovery Program. Please contact Mrs Grant should you require further details about the program.

Gina Grant
Reading Recovery Teacher

SOCCER REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN
St Patrick’s Soccer club is now open for registrations for boys, girls, men and women of ALL ages. Located in Blacktown’s sporting hub, St Patrick’s offers a great environment for everyone to play this great sport.

Registration Dates
When: Saturday 2 February 2013 and Saturday 9 February 2013 between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm; and Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12 February 2013 between 5.30 pm and 7.00 pm.
Where: Anne Aquilina Reserve, Eastern Road, Doonside (directly across from Blacktown International Sportspark)

For more information about registration please go to our website www.stpatssoccer.com or call Silvana Martignago on 0422 747 235.

The 2013 season is starting soon so register early to secure your spot at St Pats

Just A Reminder
The riding of bicycles, scooters and skateboards in the school grounds is prohibited. Students 9 years of age and older who wish to ride a bicycle to school must get a permission note from Mrs Lihou before doing so. Only a limited number of bicycle licences can be issued.

Mrs Lihou
Bicycle Licence Co-ordinator

2013 Homework Planner
Kids and families run more smoothly when there’s a plan. The 2012 homework and study calendar includes key dates and school holidays. You can print it out month by month, or by the whole year. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/2013-homework-planner

Doing well in class
Our expert panel shares tips about how parents can help their younger and older kids reach their full potential at school and motivate them for learning. Watch the video. Find our more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/getting-off-to-a-good-start/good-start-chapter-one

Primary school
Eight ways to get your kids organised
Are you ready for morning madness, late assignments, yesterday’s half-eaten lunch sweating in the schoolbag? Just like adults, children cope much better if they can manage their time and their environment wisely. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/smart-foods-to-boost-learning

The Kool for Schools program has begun again this year. For every $25 you spend at The Good Guys at Prospect and mention the schools name we get $1 back in vouchers. Please don’t forget to mention Walters Road Public School.
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Sacramental Process starting soon!

Families with children in Years 3 or above, who are members of St. Michael’s Parish are invited to register.

How to do it?

Please pick up an Enrolment Package from the back of the church when you come to Mass on weekends or visit the church for your private prayer on weekdays.

The Registration Form needs to be returned (in person) to Sister Grace at the Parish Office by 28 February.

Sr Grace is in the office every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:15pm to 4:15 pm. If these days and times are not convenient for you, please contact Sr Grace on 9622 9149 or 0420 754 733 or email srgrace@stmichaelsparish.com to schedule a more convenient time.

If your child has not yet been baptised, please contact St Michael’s Parish Office as per details above for more information.

God bless you and your family.

Sr Grace Rodlowska,
Sacramental Coordinator