From The Principal

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to 2015. I trust you all had a well deserved holiday and a relaxing one with your children. They have grown so much over the last 6 weeks.

We welcome many new faces this year and we extend a warm welcome to our new parents in Kindergarten and other grades, as well as our new staff members Mrs Cortez and Mr Patterson.

At present, our classes are in “temporary” mode owing to the high number of enrolments that have started at our school. We are trying to locate some families that have not indicated a return date and once this has been finalised, we will announce our permanent classes for 2015. Blacktown has become a high growth area and many of the local schools are doing the same as us.

Parent Information Night has been planned for Week 5 and we ask parents to keep that evening free and organise “childcare” now, to ensure we have parents in attendance. A great deal of information is provided at these meetings and information that will need to be known for the entire year. Please note diary dates and notes will be going home by Monday. All meetings will start at 6pm and conclude by 6:45 – 7:00pm.

Communication has been a challenge over the last few years at school with many parents not reading the newsletter, not replying to absence notes and not checking bags for excursion notes, etc. Many children have missed out on excursions, carnivals etc, simply because notes have not been returned. These cut off dates are not negotiable as a great deal of planning and care is needed to ensure these excursions are extremely well organised. Our Swimming Carnival is such an example. We encourage all children/parents to respond to this note as soon as possible as this excursion always includes a large risk assessment, owing to the water factor.

We have also purchased the “skoolbag” app and urge all parents to download this app to assist with communication. All newsletters and notes will be added to this app and it will be a secure site to maintain the communication within the school. Our Facebook page will be closing by the end of Term 1. Please note this app is free.

Kind Regards

Phil Harris
Principal
From The Deputy

What a wonderful start to our school year. Our students are enjoying their new classes, new teachers, new friends and looking fabulous in their school uniforms. Our school uniform can be purchased from Lowes at Blacktown and our new sports shirts are now available. Please ensure all new equipment and clothing articles are clearly labelled with your child’s name and class so they can be returned if they are misplaced.

Walters Road Public School is a proud Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) School and teachers will be discussing with students our four expectations at school, which are:

- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be a Learner

Around our school, in classrooms and bag rooms students will see PBL signs with our colourful bee on them and pictures of students demonstrating positive behaviours that match one of our expectations. An example of this may be a sign with the expectation ‘Be Responsible’ on it showing a student putting rubbish in a bin.

In classrooms your child may receive a coloured PBL token from their teacher, for example a ‘Be safe’ token can be given to a child that is sitting safely on their chair or can move around the classroom safely without disturbing others. Children write their name on the token and the token can go into a weekly draw for a PBL certificate. If your child comes home with a lovely coloured PBL certificate it is indeed cause for celebration!!! Maybe your child could be further rewarded at home with extra time for their favourite activity. Positive reinforcement can be a useful parenting tool and when used in conjunction with your classroom teacher it can be very effective!

Please be aware that older students (often from Evans High School) must only enter school grounds if they are picking up a younger sibling and they must quietly wait outside their sibling’s classroom. Our students at Walters Road should be able to have the last 30 minutes of their school day uninterrupted and not distracted by groups of high school students socialising on our school grounds. If you have any concerns about this please contact me at school as soon as possible.

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Term One will deliver quality education to all our students and already classrooms are colourful, safe and creative places to be. Year Six students are looking after their Kindergarten buddies and I do hope our Kindergarten parents enjoy the educational journey their little ones have started. At Walters Road we are very happy to have them.

Mrs D. Walker
Deputy Principal

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Stage Reports

Early Stage 1 News
The 2015 Kindergarten teachers are Mrs Solomon (KS), Mrs Cortez- Monday to Wednesday and Mrs McHardy- Thursday to Friday (KC), Mrs Lihou (KL) and Mrs Theodorou (KT). We are an experienced team who have all taught Kindergarten in previous years and we are all very excited about our new classes.

Best Start testing has been completed and we have started to use this assessment to begin to individualise our class programs for your children. It was wonderful to have a chance to meet our newest members of the school during the testing, with the students showing a mixture of smiles, enthusiasm and nervous excitement. They demonstrated pleasing confidence and certainly showed pride as they tried to do their best.

Kindergarten students have now completed their first full week at “big school” and they are very busy learning all about the structured routines in our school and classrooms. This is a huge moment in their lives and emotions will be running high! The students will probably be coming home very tired and may need quiet time and a little extra TLC, especially during the first few weeks.

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 every day, as the weather at this time of year is often unpredictable. As the temperature cools down, please also include a jumper or light jacket in their bag.

If you have concerns about your child settling in, please don’t hesitate to make an appointment to see your child’s teacher.

Mrs Y. Theodorou
Assistant Principal - Early Stage 1

Stage 1 News
Welcome back to 2015. Stage 1 students have settled back into school routines well and are being wonderful role models for our new Kindergarten students.

Book packs will start being used in class next Monday so please make sure payments have been made by this Friday. It can be very confusing and upsetting for a child who does not have their books at the same time as all the other children in class. Having said this, we understand that sometimes there are mitigating circumstances and encourage you to speak with the Office this week if you are having difficulties meeting this cost.

Homework will start next Monday (Week 3) and so will Home Reading. A reminder to please return the red permission slip
Week 2 – Term 1

Walters Road Public School

to your child’s class teacher and send in a Home Reader Bag, as both of these are required before we can send a book home with your child.

Mrs T. Harris
Assistant Principal – Stage 1

Stage 2 News
A very warm welcome to all students in Years 3 and 4 and I hope that you all had some wonderful family time over the holidays. Students have returned and settled well into the routines of their temporary classes. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Mr Vazquez, who is now teaching 4V. We hope he has a wonderful year with his class. The other teachers in Stage 2 include Mrs Jones (4J), Mrs Howells (3H), Miss Andrews in 3A, Miss O’Brien in 3O and myself on 4/5G.

This is going to be another busy year and we hope your child/children will make most of the opportunities offered to them this year. Stage 2 are investigating an overnight camp later in the year and we will keep you informed. The Swimming Carnival is next Friday (13th) and we would love to see all students attending to either participate or cheer for their team.

We also look forward to seeing you on the Parent Information Night, Monday, 23rd of February from 6.00 to approx. 6.45pm.

Mrs G. Grant
Assistant Principal - Stage 2

Stage 3 News
It’s great to see all of our Stage 3 students and teachers back at school and raring to go for 2015. Our students have slotted into our new stage-based classes perfectly and we are all looking forward to a busy and productive year.

Meet the Teacher
The Stage 3 Parent Information night takes place on Tuesday 24th February beginning at 6pm. All Stage 3 parents will meet in the hall. After this parents will then visit their child’s classroom, where their child’s teacher will discuss issues specific to their class. We look forward to your attendance and encourage all parents to attend this informative evening.

High School Applications
Application forms for Year 6 students entering Year 7 in 2016 will be going out in the next few weeks. Further details about completing this form will be discussed at the Parent Information evening. Forms must be returned to school by Friday 20th March 2015.

Road Safety and Wheelchair Basketball Program
Wheelchair Sports NSW has been running a highly successful road safety and wheelchair basketball program and will be visiting our Stage 3 classes on Wednesday 11th February. There is no cost involved for participation in the program. The program contains the following:

• A talk on road safety and the consequences of taking risks on the road, disability sport & living with a disability by 2 of our presenters who have a spinal disability through birth or acquired through an accident. The talk is made more powerful by the fact that our presenters can explain first-hand what life is like living in a wheelchair.

• A game of wheelchair basketball with the students to give them a taste of wheelchair sport (something they probably have never done before) plus an idea of what it is like to be in a wheelchair, if only for a short time!

Year 6 Farewell Meeting
The first Year 6 Farewell meeting will be held on Friday, 20th February at 3.30pm in 5/6D. During this meeting, we will discuss the following:

• the P&C’s contribution to the farewell.

• what the P&C contribution can be used for

• procedures for purchasing items – orders and/or reimbursements

• helpful tips from previous farewell committees

We also give an overview of the night and begin discussions on fundraising possibilities, gift bags, etc. As always, events such as this take a lot of planning, effort and teamwork to make it a success. It is our responsibility to continue the fine Walters Road tradition of providing our students with a night to remember for many years to come. We look forward to seeing many Year 6 parents at the meeting.

Mr M. Dyer
Assistant Principal - Stage 3
**Office News**

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

**Book Packs**

_Students are to begin using their book packs as from Monday morning 9th February._ All students who have paid for their book pack by 9.30am this Friday 6th February will have their book packs delivered to their class Friday afternoon. Students paying after Friday 6th will receive their pack as they pay.

If you haven’t paid for the book pack as yet the costs for each grade are:

- Kindergarten: $44.00
- Year 1: $46
- Year 2: $44
- Years 3 & 4: $41
- Years 5 & 6: $27.00

**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 full 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.

**Student Information Sheets**

Your child should have brought home a blue 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 school as soon as possible it would be much appreciated. Thank you to the many parents who have already returned this form.

**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 where we will be very happy to help.

Thanking you.

_Mrs K. Wright_
_School Administrative Manager_
Wheelchair Roadshow
In Week 3 (Wednesday 11th), Stage 3 students at WRPS will be meeting with some special visitors to the school from Wheelchair Sports NSW.

The program is innovative, thought provoking and interactive. It gives students a powerful talk on the consequences of taking risks by using personal stories. It also gives students an understanding of disability sport and the “abilities” of people with a disability.

Students will participate in:
- A 20 minute talk on road safety and the consequences of taking risks on the road, disability sport & living with a disability by 2 of our presenters who have a spinal disability through birth or acquired through an accident. The talk is made more powerful by the fact that our presenters can explain first-hand what life is like living in a wheelchair.
- A game of wheelchair basketball with the students to give them a taste of wheelchair sport (something they probably have never done before) plus an idea of what it is like to be in a wheelchair.

There is no cost to the students and the program will be held on-site in the WRPS School Hall.

Soccer Registrations Now Open
St Patrick’s Soccer club is now open for registrations for boys, girls, men and women of ALL ages. St Patrick’s offers a great environment for everyone to play this great sport.

To play for St Pats you can register online at www.myfootballclub.com.au or you can attend one of our information or training days.

When: Saturday 7 February 2015 from 9.00am to 1.00pm, or
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 February 2015 from 5.30 pm till 7.30 pm

Where: Burt Saunders Reserve, Kiata Crescent, Doonside, next to Featherdale Wildlife Park

For more information about registration please go to our website www.stpatssoccer.com or call Silvana Marchigna on 0422 747 225.

The 2015 season is starting soon so register NOW to secure your spot at St Pats.

Blacktown Premier Spurs Soccer Club Inc.
P.O Box 4053
Marayong NSW 2148
Email bpspemier@hotmail.com
Website: www.premierpsoccer.com.au

Join the “Champion” Blacktown Premier Spurs Soccer Club
Online registrations will open on the 2nd January 2015 (U5 - Youth League Boys & Girls)

2015 registration includes Soccer Starter Pack Valued at over $100.00

Go to: www.premierpsoccer.com.au and follow the links

Don’t miss out, register early & keep your kids active with the largest participation sport in Blacktown and the world SOCCER!

About Blacktown Premier Spurs Soccer Club:
A family orientated soccer club playing in the Blacktown District Soccer Football Association (BDSFA) competition. Spurs field teams in the U5 – Youth League, Senior Men’s and Ladies League’s and Girls competitions.

Last season Spurs had almost 300 players registered...

For more info visit:
Blacktown Premier Spurs Soccer Club Inc.
P.O Box 4053
Marayong NSW 2148
P: Terry Isaacs 0419307964
Email: tpemier@hotmail.com
Website: www.premierpsoccer.com.au
Mitchell High School
Information Evening / Open Night

When: Tuesday 10 March
Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Where: Mitchell High School Hall
Keyworth Drive Blacktown

Mitchell High School Offers:
- An excellent co-educational comprehensive high school (Years 7 – 12)
- Experienced and enthusiastic teaching staff dedicated to quality teaching and learning
- A strong record of academic, sporting and cultural achievements
- Opportunities for student leadership through the Student Representative Council (SRC) and public speaking development through debating
- Self Select Class in Year 7 for highly motivated students (through application)
- A harmonious multicultural community supported by a strong welfare team
- A school with an international focus through strong overseas links
- Comprehensive technology activities
- Extensive school grounds, covered outdoor learning area and learning centre
- An active parent body (Parent & Citizen Committee)
- International and exchange students programs.

For more information contact our Enrolment Officer or visit our school website.

Delivering excellence through innovative & unique learning opportunities for student success

Week 2 – Term 1

Walters Road Public School

Club 2000 Seven Hills
Physie & Dance

Classes start on Monday 16th February, 2015.
Come along for your free first lesson!!

**MONDAYS:** Vardy’s Road Public School
Seniors: 13, 14 & 15yrs
1st, 2nd yr & Novice Seniors
Open Seniors
Ladies: All Ladies

5.00 – 6.00pm
6.00 – 7.00pm
6.30 – 7.30 pm
7.30 – 8.30pm

**WEDNESDAYS:** Vardy’s Road Public School
Preschoolers: 3 & 4 Years
Juniors: 5 & 6 Years
7 & 8 Years
9, 10, 11 & 12 Years

4.00 – 4.30pm
4.30 – 5.30pm
5.30 – 6.30pm
6.30 – 7.45pm

Enquiries please contact:
Robyn: 0414 983 189
Kelly: 0418 623 154
Pam: 9631 1068

Email: club2000sevenhillsphysie@hotmail.com
Website: www.club2000physieanddance.com

Come along and discover the fun of Physie!
Physie is a form of dance, incorporating marching, exercises, jazz, dance, ballet and gymnastic movements. It supports core strength, flexibility, posture and co ordination. It is a wonderful recreation choice girls and ladies aged 3–73 of all shapes, sizes and ability! It is a fantastic way to keep fit and make new friends or bring along your friends too!

Your first lesson is free!!