Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks to those of you who have already paid the school contributions and resource fee. If you are still yet to pay please note that the online system is often easier and more convenient than sending the cash in with students. Please contact the office if you would like to set up a payment plan. Sometimes paying $10 a week is more affordable for families.

A reminder that on Monday and Wednesday mornings of every week, students are to line up, under the covered area outside the hall. This is a supervision decision. On Monday we share in a quick morning assembly greeting and messages, and on Wednesdays staff return from their administration meeting. This is the same arrangement as last year.

Our teachers have taken part in further professional learning around the aspects of the morning routine as well as further demonstrations in guided reading. We are participating in a fluency workshop this afternoon. The deepened background knowledge and explicit teaching of reading has improved the direct instruction of our teaching and ultimately is responsible for the improved results of our students. I thank our teachers for always wanting to be the best teachers they can for our students.

**Excursions**

Please ensure excursion notes and monies are handed in on time. All students will have one excursion or incursion each term to enhance their learning and background knowledge. Students draw on these experiences to make sense of their learning, in enhancing their writing and in making academic and social connections to the world. Thank you to our teachers who go above and beyond to plan and deliver these experiences and to our parents who support these opportunities. Our students are fortunate to be learning in such a well-supported environment.

**Coming Soon**

Whole School Assembly 11.20am Friday 26 February

- First Banking Day: TBA
- Meet the Teacher & Community BBQ: 22 February
- National Young Leaders Conference: 29 February
- Scripture Starts: 1 March
- Yr 2-6 Swimming Carnival: 3 March

**For more Term activities refer to the Calendar at the back of the newsletter**
Drop off and pick up

Please encourage your children to wait inside the gates for you to pick them up of an afternoon and that you watch as they enter the gates in the morning. If your children walk to and from school they need to remember to be safe near the roads and not to stop at the shops or their friend’s house on the way, this is proving to be a safety issue. School gates will continue to be locked by 9.15am and re-opened again at 2.45pm.

Playground conflict

We have been working on teaching students how to solve conflicts both in and out of the classroom. East Hills Public School has a set of procedures that all of our staff adhere to when solving problems. We encourage students to use their voice when trying to solve a problem on their own, if that is unsuccessful they are to seek assistance. This assistance could be a listening ear from a friend, speaking with a teacher or letting parents know so they can contact the school. The classroom teacher is the first person to be informed and will resolve the matter. If need be, it can be referred on by the classroom teacher to the assistant principal. Please encourage your child to try to solve or report problems when they happen. It is important that we support and teach our students how to resolve issues to ensure a safe, happy and respectful learning environment.

Wishing everyone a harmonious week ahead,

Donna Casey

SCHOOL FEES AND MAKING ONLINE PAYMENTS

Payments for fees can be made any time as students are invoiced for all payments that are due. The office can print a statement for parents at any time.

Last year we made it possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting $ Make a payment

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is also a category called Other this to cover items not covered in the previous headings, Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the $ Make a payment you must enter:

- the students name, and
- class and reference number OR
- the students name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.
Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

There has also been an upgrade to the system and POP payments are now user friendly on all mobile devices, such as mobile phones and ipads.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office.

SCHOOL MORNING ROUTINE
Parents and caregivers are reminded that ideally children should not be at school before 8.30am unless they are attending the onsite OOSH service. If students must arrive at school before 8.30am they are to sit on the silver seats under the cola until 8.30am when a teacher begins duty.

YEAR 6 FUNDRAISING
Year 6 will be selling ice blocks for $1 each every lunchtime for the remainder of term 1. Please support the year 6 students in their effort to raise money for their end of year farewell and activities.

This activity has the approval of the Principal.

DANCE REHEARSALS
Don’t forget that if your child was selected in one of our Dance troupes they have dance rehearsals at the following sessions and are required to bring comfortable dance/sport clothing to change into on the day of their rehearsal.

Junior Troupe Red
Wednesday lunch - 1:20pm – 2:00pm

Junior Troupe Blue
Wednesday afternoon – 2.00pm – 3:00pm

Senior Troupe
Thursday lunch/afternoon – 1:20pm-3:00pm

THE “TELL THEM FROM ME” STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.
I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 26 February. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

**SCHOOL STUDENT TRAVEL**
As from Monday 15th February, 2016 Interline bus drivers will be asking students with opal cards to tap on and tap off.

This will be a trial for when the moratorium finishes on the 1st of March 2016.

All students who currently have an opal card are advised they must tap on, when entering the bus and tap off, before departing the bus.

If they are ineligible for free school travel there are two (2) options available:
1. Purchase a term pass opal card
2. Purchase a child / youth opal card

It is strongly recommended that for non-eligible students that an opal card is acquired as paying cash will be a more expensive option to them.

**SCHOOL ASSEMBLY**
Our next whole school formal assembly will be held on Friday 26 February in our School Hall at 11.20am.

Your attendance at our assemblies is always welcome! Thank you for your continued support.

The following children will receive Award of Excellence at Friday's Assembly:
Declan Pearson x 2

The following children will receive Principals Awards at Friday's Assembly:
Andoni Koundouris
**DANCEFEVR MULTISPORT**

**ATHLETICS COACHING TIPS**

Long jump

- Attack the run-up. Make sure you sprint 100% at the take-off board. When coming into take-off board make sure you don’t shuffle your legs.
- Take-off with one foot.
- Jump up and out. This will ensure maximum distance.
- Land in motorbike and never fall backwards.

High Jump

- Make a ‘J’ shape run up. Have a practice run through, so you are comfortable with how you have to approach the bar.
- Know which leg is your preferred leg. This will let you know which side you need to start your run up. The leg closest to the bar kicks up first.
- ‘Kick, Swap, Drop’ – Approach the bar parallel, closest leg KICKS up and over, you then SWAP legs to kick your back leg over the bar, you then DROP both feet down to land.
- Always land on your feet.

**LIVE LIFE WELL**

**NO TIME FOR BREAKFAST?**

Try some of these quick breakfasts children can enjoy “on the go”.

- reduced-fat yoghurt, or a yoghurt drink.
- reduced-fat milkshake
- healthy cereal in small plastic bag (a small carton of milk can add a calcium boost)
- slice of banana loaf or other low fat fruit loaf.

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**The simplest way**

... to add healthy snacks to lunch boxes

Kids have little tummies and need small amounts of food often. Try these simple + healthy snack ideas in your child’s lunch box:

- Plain air-popped popcorn (without salt or butter) mixed with sultanas + dried apple
- Dried fruit snack packs: buy them ready made, or make your own at home in reusable containers
- Fruit salads: buy small tubs of diced fruit in natural juice, or cut up small pieces of fruit + make your own!
- Crackers + veg: Slice up some avocado or tomato + send with some rice crackers
- Little vegie bags: cherry tomatoes, capsicum, carrot and celery sticks
- Frozen fruit bags: freeze grapes, orange quarters or strawberries + then send to school!

Remember: kids love small portions, so cutting up fruit + veg will help make sure they don’t bring it home at the end of the day!

For more information visit
www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

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Chickpeas

I would like to send out a very warm welcome to the new Kindergarten students and their families. The students in the Chickpeas have done a fantastic job adjusting to the school routines and rules.

In class, students are forming a close connection with their peers and teacher. We are focusing on always having our ‘Listening Body’ and how to rotate during literacy groups.
Fun or focus

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Dance | Drama | Singing | Acrobatics

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Wattle Grove Studio | Village Way, Wattle Grove
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www.selectdance.com.au | selectdance@optusnet.com.au

Panania Senior Citizens Centre, Keela Girl Guides Hall, Weston Street, and
Parramatta High School
Come and try a lesson at our small but friendly local dance school.
Established since 1995
Smaller class sizes for lots of individual attention.
Experienced teachers.
Fun, low key dance competitions.
Annual performance. Examinations optional.
Low key dance class uniform.

Call Lorraine on 0412601907
www.LorraineAcademy.com

2016 Enrolment date: Thursday 28th January: 5pm till 6.30pm
Panania Senior Citizens Centre, Cnr Anderson & Peffer Streets
Please call/come 0412601907 with any questions/concerns. Thank you

Free seminar
Building social skills in children 0-6 years

Megan Taylor
Megan is a Clinical Psychologist with over twenty five years experience working with adults, adolescents, young children and their families.

This seminar aims to teach parents practical skills in enhancing their child's self-esteem and build strong relationships. You will gain practical ideas to raise confident resilient children and having a positive outlook.

This session is suitable for parents of children from birth to 7yrs.

Wednesday 24th February 2016
6.30 – 8.30pm
Elizabeth Room
Mount Pritchard and District Community Club (Mounties)
191 Reservoir Road
Mount Pritchard

Bookings are essential, phone 0407 708 626 to book your place.

Families Together is for families living in the local government area of Fairfield,Liverpool and Bankstown.
Children's services workers, teachers, family support workers and other professionals will not be given a place.
Families Together is funded by the Department of Education and sponsored by Fairfield City Council.
Child handling is not available for this seminar. Children are not permitted to attend.

Please note: If you are out to smoke please smoke outside as we would like to know when asked to please avoid the classroom area.
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<td>Feb</td>
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<td>1 Kindergarten students start</td>
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<td>11 Kindergarten Vision Testing – 11:30 – 11:20pm</td>
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Updated 02/02/2015