



# *On The Grapevine*

## **A quality education in a caring, innovative environment**

*August 2012 (Issue 2)*

### ***Time of major reform in schools***

This is certainly an exciting time in education. Many major reforms are proposed and slowly being implemented. It is important that the staff is up to date and informed of latest developments and this often requires attendance at meetings, information sessions and workshops. We appreciate the support and understanding of our school community. Information about all the changes will be presented at the next P&C meeting.

### ***Outstanding student behaviour***

Our primary students visited the library last week for a forensic workshop. The presenter was very late and consequently decided not to use the hands on activities for the students. Whilst waiting for the presenter's arrival Adam and Ryan gave an interesting talk about Murder under the Microscope. Mrs Coker reported that although the presenter spoke, without aids, for approximately an hour, our students were respectful and attentive. Well done REPS students!

### ***Silver Award!***

Congratulations Emma Z on receiving the Principal's Silver Award Level 1.  
Principal's Bronze Award Level 3: Owen, Maeve, Owen  
Principal's Bronze Award Level 2: Khaled S, Alexandra  
Principal's Bronze award Level 1 Toby, Adam, Brody  
Ozzie Mozzie: Heidi

Playground Hero: Alex M

### ***Hear it first!***

Are you getting school information immediately it is available? We send important messages and the newsletter to all community members who have provided their email address. We sent the 2011 Annual School Report (ASR) to the email recipients when we were unable to upload a copy to our website. Hard copies are also available at the office.

We also sent a draft copy of our new brochure for parent feedback. Hard copies are also available in the office if you would like to have a look. They will be printed very soon.

We anticipate our new improved website will go live sometime next week and encourage you to have a look. The ASR, permission notes, term calendar and newsletter will also be available from our updated site.

### ***In the classroom***

I had the pleasure of visiting the kindergarten class last week to observe a *Sentence a day* lesson. Every Kindy student was engaged in the lesson and the pieces of writing were outstanding. The students constructed meaningful simple and compound sentences, attempted to spell unknown words independently, located difficult words on display to assist with their writing, used capital letters and full stops, read their own writing with expression and drew appropriate illustrations that matched the writing content. Well done kindergarten!

I always enjoy visits from students who come to read to me. This week Cain and Chloe had me totally engaged in a story about the Bear family who went shopping for toys!

### ***Refurb of Block E***

I am thrilled to announce that we have received advice that Block E will undergo a total refurbishment/ fitout. I met yesterday with relevant peoples to discuss design ideas. The space will be specifically designed to meet the needs of our support class students. Mrs Danielle Muldoon attended the meeting (with beautiful baby Charlotte), bringing her wealth of experience and knowledge and her ideal 'wish list'. The process includes community consultation and feedback. We may have the first sketch of plans with approximate costings in about a month.

### ***Staff updates***

We welcome back student teacher Miss Cathryn Monardo who will be working with Mr King in 1/2K. Last year Miss Monardo worked with Mrs Angelique Brown and 4/5B. She enjoyed her time here so much she has returned!

Mrs Nerida O'Callaghan has undergone major surgery but is recovering well. We wish her all the best and look forward to her return sometime next term.

Mrs Judy Hungerford will be on long service leave from the beginning of Week 10 this term and returns at the beginning of Week 3 next term. We welcome Miss Beth Ayling during her absence.

Mrs Lesley Coker will be taking long service leave for the last three weeks of this term. We welcome Mr Drew Mitchell for 5/6C.

### ***Thank you parents***

I was absolutely delighted to see, on my return, the stepping logs in our playground. Thank you to the parents who attended the working bee and designed this area. I suspect moving the logs was quite a demanding job because they are very heavy!



Primary students balancing on the stepping logs.

Also a huge thank you to the parents who organised and supported the Bunnings Barbeque fundraiser last weekend. This is a major fundraising activity and the monies raised are for supporting school programs, activities and resources. See the P&C section for the honour roll of parent helpers.

The P&C paid for all students to participate in the 5 week Footsteps dance program that finished last week. The feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive and we have booked another 5 weeks starting next term to help us prepare for Repstravaganza on 14 November.

### ***Homework Lab***

Homework Lab is held on Wednesdays from 8.15am in the Library. I enjoy talking to the students about their learning and help them work through any difficulties they may be having with their homework. I love listening to students who want to practice their reading and discuss the text.

*Keryn Hinchcliffe*

Principal  
24 August 2012

## ***Dates For Your Diary***

<b>24 August</b>	In- school performance 'And the winner is...'
<b>27 August</b>	Father's Day Stall
<b>29 August</b>	Zone athletics field events ( please note new date)
<b>28 August</b>	Excursion to Maritime Museum 4B & 3H
<b>29 August</b>	Infants Athletics Carnival
<b>29 August</b>	Police visit K-2
<b>31 August</b>	Father's Day Stall
<b>3 September</b>	P&C meeting 6.30pm in the Library

### ***2012 REPS ATHLETICS CARNIVAL***

On Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 the School Athletics Carnival was held at Barton Park in North Parramatta. The sun was shining which was a perfect start to a very successful and enjoyable day. Primary students and eligible Year 2 students competed in both track and field events. I was so impressed to see student participation at a record high. Many children competed in most or all events. They were keen to have a go and earn participation points for their Sports Houses. The children are to be congratulated for their outstanding enthusiasm, energy and effort.

Thank you to all the wonderful parents who assisted the teachers throughout the day. Your help was most appreciated.

Special mention must go to four outstanding athletes who broke six school sports records: *Fraser G (Jnr 200m, 33.94 sec)*, *Jonathon A (Jnr Boys Long Jump, 3.67m & Jnr Boys Shot Put, 8.42m)*, *Emilio G (11yr Boys Long Jump, 3.90m)* and *Olivia B (Snr Girls Long Jump, 3.45m & Snr Girls Shot Put, 6.82m)*

Good luck to the many children who will be representing our school at the Zone Track and Field carnivals this week and next week. It is our biggest team ever!

*Angelique Brown*

### ***Premier's Reading Challenge***

Here is a reminder to all students who have almost completed the Premier's Reading Challenge. Please have all books entered on line by early next week as I will need to validate each entry prior to September 1.

If you are interested in completing the 2012/13 Premier's Reading Challenge, the new challenge begins on September 1. You can register on line. Any queries, please speak to Mrs Brown.

*Angelique Brown*

### ***Celebrating the Arts***

Well done to the choir students who attended the rehearsal at Northmead High School. You all sang and behaved beautifully. If your child is in the hip hop dance or the choir, you should have received a note with the dates and costs. You should also have signed the publicity form attached. A note will go home with specific details about the rehearsal and performance day and night of the 12<sup>th</sup> September.

### ***Murder Under the Microscope***

This term, all of the students from 5/6C have participated in an online science competition called 'Murder Under the Microscope.' The students had to investigate and solve an environmental murder. The class had to work in teams, to figure out the villain (cause), the victim (effect) and the crime site. These past 5 weeks, the class have been receiving messages and videos containing clues and valuable information to help them solve the crime. The students also had to complete quizzes and avoid red herrings such as a mysterious man named Floater or Agent X. When the kids found out the victim, villain and crime site, they had to send in an accusation. Eventually, a special video was sent telling all of the nationwide investigators the results. The villain was Gamba Grass, which can ignite very easily, the victim was the Northern Quoll, a nocturnal, pugnacious marsupial and the crime site was the Pentecost River in Kununurra, WA. The students had lots of fun. The class made the correct accusation.

We would like to send a big thankyou to Mrs Ivanek and Mrs Coker for helping us the whole way through.

*Adam Evans of 5/6C*

## ***Repstravaganza***

It's full steam ahead now for our end of year concert. The children have started learning the finale song and they are keen to showcase their dances, instrumental pieces and vocals for the community. Stay tuned for the dates and information about our exciting performance.

*Lesley Coker*

## ***P&C***

### ***Fundraising Sausage Sizzle, Bunnings 19 August***

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the P&C Fundraising BBQ last Sunday. We raised \$722.

Our fabulous volunteers included:

Williams family, Garcia family, Barber family, Mills/Snell family, Thomas/Smith family, Piper family, Matthews family, Mitchell/Bailey family, Garrett family, Deveridge family, Beasley family, Hawkins family.

The next fundraising Sausage Sizzle & Cake Stall will be:

### ***Election Day, Saturday 8 September***

at the Ermington Community Hall, River Road (*note there is no voting at REPS this year*).

We will need volunteers to bake some biscuits, cakes & slices + to help sizzle the sausages & sell cakes on the day.

Cakes etc can be delivered to the school canteen on Friday 7/9 or directly to the Community Hall on the Saturday morning.

For more information contact Suzanne Barber mbl. 0400 474 797, email.

[psbarber@ozemail.com.au](mailto:psbarber@ozemail.com.au) or Carol Piper Mbl. 0406 730 995. Thank you for your support.

### ***Father's Day Stall***

Will be held at school on Monday 27 August and Friday 31 August

Gifts from \$1 to \$10.

Next P&C meeting is Monday 3 September at 6.30pm in the Library.

### ***Flyers available from the front office***

- Little Athletics registration 24 & 31 August - [www.tigerwests.com.au](http://www.tigerwests.com.au)
- Ringo's Drum school [www.ringodrums.com](http://www.ringodrums.com)
- Bunnings Father's Day Family night at Lidcombe