



# *On The Grapevine*

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

*March 2013 (Issue 2)*

### ***Gifted and Talented class***

Our school has been chosen to host a Gifted and Talented class for the Parramatta region for one day per week for 2 terms. This is an exciting venture as students and teachers will be able to exchange ideas and our teachers will have the professional development opportunity to visit and team teach the class. We look forward to welcoming the students and their teacher to our school Week 2 next term.

### ***Easter Hat Parade, Grandparents' Day and Book Fair***

Parents and community members are invited to our Easter Hat Parade this Thursday at 9:30am in the Infant's playground. Enjoy the parade of hats and the special student performances. Don't forget to wander up to the Library and grab a bargain from the book fair.

### ***Awards for Excellence***

Congratulations to these students for achieving the following awards:

Principal's Award Bronze 1 - Riley

Principal's Award Bronze 1 – Clare

### ***Soccer whizz***

Congratulations to Jon A for being selected to represent Merrylands/Parramatta zone in the Sydney West Area Boys Football Championships to be held on 8 April. Good luck at the trials.

### ***School Assembly***

Our last assembly for the term will be held on Thursday 4 April. Parents and friends are invited for a coffee and chat afterwards.

### ***Start date for term 2***

Please note that students resume school on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May. This allows for 2 Staff Development Days to cope with the demands of implementing the new syllabus which incorporates the National Curriculum. This builds on previous professional development that our teachers have been attending with nearby schools in our Learning Alliance.

### ***Life Education***

The Life Education van made another successful visit to Rydalmere East last week, instructing pre-schoolers to Year 6 on making safe and healthy lifestyle choices.

### ***Meeting with the Minister of Education***

Recently I had the opportunity to meet with our State Education Minister, The Hon. Adrian Piccoli to discuss the effects of the recent changes to education policy. This was kindly organised by our local Member for Parramatta, Geoff Lee. Mr Piccoli was interested in the feedback from the principals.

### ***Harmony Day***

The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. This year the theme is *Many Stories – One Australia*. It is a day of cultural respect. At REPS we're celebrating on Wednesday 27 March by wearing orange accessories.

### ***Building update***

The refurbishment of Block E is progressing well with carpet laid and walls painted. We anticipate these rooms will be ready to start Term2.

The COLA is just about finished, just waiting for the plumber to complete the drainage. Due to WH&S regulations the fencing will need to remain until this has been completed.

### ***Parenting classes***

Sharlene from Parramatta Mission will be running Parenting classes at our school on 3 consecutive Thursdays starting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Please register for this course by contacting Sharlene Pasqual at Parramatta Mission on 0448 825 219. There are several flyers about this course posted around the school.

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

Ms Ivanek has *speed dating* in the Library. Students are given 2 minutes to read the photocopied first couple of pages of a book before rating it. This scenario was reported by the local paper and we look forward to reading their article. Watch out for it.

*Keryn Hinchcliffe*

Principal  
25 March 2013

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

<b>27 March</b>	Parramatta Council Sustainability lesson
<b>27 March</b>	Harmony Day
<b>28 March</b>	Easter Hat Parade, Grandparents' Day & Book Fair
<b>29 March</b>	Good Friday and start of Easter Break
<b>2 April</b>	Guide dog visit
<b>3 April</b>	Stage 1 excursion to State Library
<b>5 April</b>	Interschool sport Gala day at REPS
<b>12 April</b>	Last day for Term 1



**Congratulations to Our Ozzie Mozzie Award Winners:**



Ansh

Destyni

Clare

### ***Debating Camp***

On Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 March Jon, Joel, Olivia, Maeve and Mia attended the Western Sydney Debating camp at the Katoomba Conference Centre. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to develop their debating technique and skills such as planning, rebuttal, developing a team line and how to project your voice. Each student was placed in a team with students from other schools and then split into affirmative and negative teams. They then used their new skills to debate the topic "School hours should be longer". Thank you for 2 fantastic days.

*Jess O'Flaherty*



Joel, Jon, Olivia, Mia & Maeve at Debating Camp

### ***Working at the Car Wash***

A huge thankyou to all the parents and staff who supported our Year 6 fundraiser at the carwash today. We will all be sporting our sunglasses in the car park to protect our eyes as the cars glisten and gleam in the sunshine. A particular mention goes to Carol in the canteen, who provided tea and coffee and cakes to the waiting clientelle. Carol is always very supportive of Year 6 fundraising activities, and we appreciate her untiring efforts greatly. Great job to my busy little 6C bees. You can wash my car anytime!

*Lesley Coker*



Year 6 working hard at the car wash



Marsden High School is holding small group tours for families of Year 6 students on Wednesday 27th March 4-5pm  
Call MHS on 9874 6544 to book a tour

## ***School zone safety***

A reminder to parents about the operation of school speed zones around the Easter holidays.

School zones exist for the safety of children and families; they will operate on Thursday 28 March, then resume on Tuesday 2 April.

Forty-kilometres-an-hour school speed zones operate across New South Wales at all school sites on gazetted school days, which are all days the school is open, even pupil-free days.

Find out more: <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/children/schoolroadsafety/schoolzoneprogram.html>

## ***Practise to be a journalist***

This website could definitely make practising writing and spelling more interesting for all of us. Make a newspaper clipping with your own headline and story. Your child may even start imagining themselves as a publisher or journalist. <http://www.fodey.com/generators/newspaper/snippet.asp>

## ***Safety locks***

Between 2011 and the end of 2012, 39 children aged nine or younger were hospitalised in NSW as a result of window falls. New lock laws in apartment buildings will soon help to keep our kids safe. Child safety locks are now required to be installed on apartment windows.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/new-window-lock-laws-for-nsw-stratas/story-fn3dxiwe-1226596394666>

## ***Back by popular demand***

Mention head lice and most of us instantly develop an itch. While head lice and nits, (the eggs of head lice) are certainly annoying and persistent, they're not dangerous. Here's everything you need to know to rid your kids of head lice and nits. <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/Pages/nitbusters.aspx>



## ***P&C***

On the day of the Easter Hat Parade P&C will have tea & coffee and light refreshments for sale as well as raffles and a guessing competition.

Easter Raffles tickets are available now and will be drawn on the day. Pictures of prizes are at canteen and the office.

Afterwards there will be a Cake Stall; hot food will be for sale as well as tea, coffee, cold drinks, sweets & treats and more. Prices will start from 50c

We will have hot cross buns and baked goods for sale with many thanks to Bakers Delight Ermington for their continued generosity and support.

REPS is running a **Power Wash** washing powder drive. Power Wash comes in 25kg bags and is delivered to your door for \$50\*. It lasts you for ages and will save you lugging heavy laundry powder home from the shops.

Simply complete the order form and return the form with \$50 cash or cheque (cheques to be made out to REPS P&C) to the P&C box in the office by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The school receives \$10 for every bag sold.

Product Information: Concentrated Laundry Powder Biodegradable; Contains 500g per kg Alkaline Salts. Power Wash is formulated for general laundry washing in manual feed machines. Can be used for top and front loading machines

Directions for use: Use 1/3 to 1/2 cup for light soil load and 1/2 to 2/3 of a cup for heavy soil load. It is recommended that the bag be stored in a dry area and most people decant a few kilos into a bucket.

Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(the driver will leave the bag at the front door, or with another person's order)

No of Bags \_\_\_\_\_ Total Money enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Power Wash will be delivered within 2 weeks following the 3<sup>rd</sup> May .

\* The driver will make a number of drop offs, so orders may be either delivered to your house or with an order at a nearby house for you to collect.