**Principal’s Report**

I hope all our families have a lovely Spring holiday break. Thank you for all your hard work this term, either in supporting our P&C, in helping out in your child’s classroom, or in the canteen or Breakfast Club, or by simply getting your child to school to be an active learner every day.

Our attendance rate has continued to be at around 91% across the school, meaning that this term, each child had, on average, around 4 days absent. I also know that, when we award the students who had 100% attendance over the term, there will be quite a few students receiving this award.

**Bike Safety Day**

On Tuesday we received a visit from some very enthusiastic members of the local cycling community who gave an informative talk to every student in our school about bike safety. Following the talk, Stage 2 and 3 students who had chosen to ride to school went to Jacob’s Park for a more intense session on using bikes safely, bike maintenance and general tips for riding bikes around Pelaw Main and in the bush.
Towns With Heart Colouring Competition
Congratulations to Chelsea White, Ella Ballin-Wilson and Chloe Huntington for receiving prizes in the ‘Towns with Heart’ colouring in competition. They were awarded their prizes at Rotary Park last Saturday.

Exemplary Student Lunch
Congratulations to the following students who were selected to have an Exemplary Student lunch draw with me this term: Olivia T – KH, Corey B – K/1P, Toby C – 1K, Lara C – 2C, Hamish W – 2C, Rylee N – 3W, Jemima P – 3/4K, Zane S – 4L, Anna G -5/6G, Dylan F – 5/6B. I had a lovely lunch with them yesterday, thank you!

Breakfast Club
Our Breakfast Club will be officially sponsored by Red Cross Good Start Breakfast Club, starting next term in Week 2. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, the students will be able to choose from cereal, toast, fruit and milo. We are going to start encouraging students to sit at tables while eating their cereal, this being the major change with our Breakfast Club routine. Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who are supporting this program. New helpers are welcome, just contact the office for more information. There will be no Breakfast Club in the first week of next term.

Partners in Learning Survey
Thank you to the families who have responded to the Partners in Learning online survey. This survey closes today and the data will be collected for analysis to determine the future needs of the school community in our three year school plan. We had 27 responses.

Selective High School Placement
Year 5 Selective School placement at Merewether High information
There will be an information session for Year 5 students and parents who are intending to sit the Selective School Test in 2015 for entry into Year 7 2016. This information session will be held on Wednesday, 8th October from 5pm at Bensley Hall, Merewether High School.

Online Safety
Please ensure your child is being safe over the holidays, either when out and about, or when online. I have included a 'top ten list' below for keeping children safe while online.

1. Nothing replaces parental supervision and education for kids about cyber-safety.

2. Set a technology curfew.

3. Remind your child to never give out identifying information such as your home address, school name or telephone number in a public message such as chat or newsgroups.

4. If your child posts photos online, use privacy settings to limit access to people they know well.

5. Remind your child that people don’t always tell the truth online, and they can’t take anything at face value.

6. Reassure your child that they can tell you anything, without fear of losing the laptop or internet access.

7. If they get a message or email that’s threatening or rude, they should 'STOP, BLOCK, TELL'. First step is to tell your child to stop responding to the abuse and then block those people sending threatening or rude messages if they continue. Let your child know that if they are being bullied, or know someone else who is, they should tell a trusted adult.

8. Never click on any links that are contained in emails from people they don't know. As well as sexual content, they could contain a computer virus.

9. If you suspect your child has been contacted by a predator, try to save a copy of the chat log (or whatever form the contact takes) for evidence. Call Crime Stoppers 24-hour line 1800 333 000 to make a formal complaint.

10. Your child will be using computers and the technology for the rest of their lives – you’re in the great position of being able to get them off to a safe, positive start.

First Day of Term 4
School returns for Staff AND Students on Tuesday, 7th October.
KH and K/1P Excursion
On Thursday, 11th September, KH and K/1P students visited the Awabakal Environmental Education Centre at Dudley. Everyone had lots of fun while extending their learning about natural environments. They enjoyed many activities, which included walking along a nature trail using their senses to discover the environment, discussing the effect of rubbish on the environment and participating in a scavenger hunt. All students had a wonderful experience at Little Swamp learning how the area was used by the Aboriginal people and dip netting to collect macro invertebrates from the small fresh water lagoon. Through the collection of animals, the students discovered how healthy the environment was and how important it is to look after it.

Permission & Information Notes
Next Term, we will be placing all permission and information notes that students receive in class or across the school, on the school’s website. On the home page of the website, you will find a tab at the top that says School Notes. All notes are available to print and return, if your child has not brought one home or they have been absent from school.

Information about the Great Aussie Bush Camp (information that has already been given to students) has been placed on the website and is available for viewing.

Stanford Merthyr Year 2 Transition
Stanford Merthyr Infants School Year 2 transition days will be held on Friday week 3, 4 & 7 of Term 4.
Careers Through Reading
Careers through Reading - The University of Newcastle’s Aim High Team is coming to our school to run the Careers Through Reading program in Term 4, for Year 5 students. University students will lead small reading group sessions and start conversations about lifelong learning and post-school education opportunities. The program is being used to strengthen the existing literacy block already provided in the school. During five visits, students will continue to learn to
- Interact confidently with their peers
- Speak confidently in group discussions
- To listen strategically
- To read with comprehension
The cross-curricular activity-based model for Careers Through Reading aims to strengthen the students’ love of reading whilst linking the importance of reading for positive educational outcomes.

KKLC Debating Competition
Our Year 5 and 6 debating teams travelled to Mulbring Public School on Monday to participate in the second round of the Kurri Kurri Learning Community Debating competition. Our Year 6 Team won their debate while the Year 5 debate was taken out by the Mulbring Team. Our students represented our school proudly. Well done!

Kindergarten Orientation
Dates for our Kindergarten Orientation are as follows:
Thursday, 23rd October – 2:15pm – Parent Only Information session
Thursday, 30th October – First student orientation session + parent workshop and afternoon tea.
Thursday, 6th November – Second student orientation session + parent workshop
Thursday, 13th November – Third student orientation session + parent workshop

K-2 Home Reading Achievements
Congratulations to the following K-2 students who have made the following achievement in Home Reading.

- 75 nights KH – Charlotte
- 1K – Braydon, Kye
- 100 nights KH – Olivia W
- 1K – Sophie, Nissa, Caylan, Toby
- 125 nights 1K – Shawn, Kobi D, Alex, Cooper
- 150 nights 1K – Tahlea, Brady, Issac
- 175 nights 2C – Trinity, Cade

Canberra Excursion
On their recent visit to Canberra, our students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion, the Australian Government contributed $20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school on completion of the excursion.