Welcome back to lovely Pelaw Main Public School and welcome to our new students and families across all grades, as we move into a new era of education in 2015. At the end of 2014, our school community developed a new vision statement for our school, to coincide with the development of new school strategic directions within our three year school plan.

Our vision statement is: Pelaw Main Public School develops and supports safe, respectful, lifelong learners, in an equitable and positive environment. The school community works collaboratively to ensure the well-being of all students.

Our new strategic directions are directed towards catering for 21st Century Learners, developing capacity of our teachers to diversify their practice and planning to develop strong relationships with our wider community to enhance the well-being of our students.

New Staff

I would like to warmly welcome two new staff members to our school, who will be working across several classes in learning support roles throughout 2015. Mrs Lenore Sparkes has been selected, via merit selection, to undertake the role of an Instructional Leader within our K-2 classes. Mrs Sparkes will be working for three days at Pelaw Main (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) and will be sharing the role with Stanford Merthyr Infants School on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The Instructional Leader position involves identifying teacher professional learning needs and providing high quality professional learning and in-class support. Mrs Sparkes will work to build teacher capacity to identify the literacy and numeracy learning needs of students in the early years of schooling.

Mrs Karen Milford is our school’s new Learning and Support Teacher (LAST), replacing Mrs Kerri Ross, who retired at the end of last year. Mrs Milford will work in a similar role to Mrs Ross, working collaboratively with classroom teachers to support assessment for learning of their students with additional educational needs and identifying specific learning and support needs.

Mrs Milford will provide direct support for students with additional learning and support needs through a range of strategies.

School Mascot

Our school mascot, Ribbit, is awaiting a visit to a new classroom next week. Ribbit is hosted by the class with the best attendance for the week. That class also receives a certificate to award their great attendance. Try to be at school every day this year!
School Website and SMS Services
I noticed a spike in page viewing on our website after an SMS was sent to parents, advising of the general requirements for stationery etc to start the school year. Your child’s classroom teacher will also be sending home a class newsletter, detailing these general and specific requirements to have the best possible educational experience in 2015. The SMS service is new to our school and it operates on a database system. If you are not receiving SMS from the school as yet, please let the school know, so we can update the database to include your mobile number. The messages are generally sent to the preferred contact, as listed on your child’s enrolment form. If you are unsure of whom that is, please contact the school for confirmation.

Our website contains a lot of information about our school. If you don’t regularly visit the website, go on and have a look at some stage in the next few weeks. Newsletters are available electronically on our website, and we are endeavouring to place permission notes etc on there as well. Previous minutes from P&C meetings can also be found on the website.

School Swimming Carnival
Our annual school Swimming Carnival, for students in Years 3 to 6, will be held on Tuesday, 3rd February, from 10am at East Maitland Pool. Students will be travelling by bus, to and from the event, at a cost of $7. This includes pool entry, as well as the bus fare. Permission notes have been distributed so please ensure these are returned promptly by next Monday, with the excursion money. Students in Year 2 this year, who are turning 8, and are strong swimmers, are also invited to attend. Notes are also available to print, on our school’s website.

Composite classes
Students in Year One, from K/1W, were selected to go in that class, generally, because of their sound academic ability and independence. Composite classes like this offer many opportunities for both sets of students, as it offers differentiation to cater for the diversity of students’ learning styles & abilities.

Kindergarten Assessments
Students in Kindergarten will be undertaking their Best Assessment for Literacy and Numeracy next week. Kindergarten students in Mrs Wendt’s K/1W class will be undertaking the assessment on Tuesday, 3rd and Wednesday 4th February. Students in Mrs Harris’s class will be undertaking the assessment on Thursday, 5th and Friday, 6th February. A description of this assessment was provided to parents in the Kindergarten Information Booklet given out at the orientation sessions last year. Please contact the school if you require further information about how this assessment is completed.

Merit Card Tracking
Next Friday, 6th February, an A3 poster, for each child, will be coming home to allow them to track their merit cards on a visual display at home. This could be used as part of a home reward system as well. Let me know what you think of it.

School Assembly
Our new School Leaders, including house captains, will be presented with their badges in our first school assembly for the year, next Friday, from 2:30pm. Parents of our new school leaders are invited to attend, to pin the badges on their child, and to sign the code of conduct agreement for all school leaders. Letters for our school leaders have been sent out to parents.

Canteen News
The School canteen will re-open on Tuesday 2nd February. The canteen is open Monday, Wednesday and Fridays.

Breakfast Club
Breakfast Club needs parent/career volunteers on Tuesday and Thursdays mornings. If you’re interested please see the ladies in the office. Breakfast Club will commence on Tuesday morning 10th February were the children can choose from cereal, toast, fruit and milo for breakfast.

Uniform Shop
The uniform is open 8.45am to 11am Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
Stress or Anxiety

Need help managing stress or anxiety? If your child or teen has difficulties with anxiety or just seems to have too many worries, we would like to introduce you to BRAVE Self-Help – an interactive, online program for the prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent anxiety. It was developed by a group of researchers from the University of Queensland and now, with the support of beyondblue, this program is now freely available to all young people aged 8-17 years old who are living in Australia. BRAVE Self-Help provides strategies for children and teenagers to better cope with their worries. There are 4 programs available, one for children aged 8-12 years, one for teenagers aged 12-17 years and one for parents of children at these ages respectively. The program can be accessed as often as you like, from the comfort of your own home. For more information, or to register for the program, please visit www.brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au.

Scholastic Book Club

The best gift any parent can give a child is the love of good books and the joy and benefits of good reading. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school. Our school is once again participating in Scholastic Book Clubs this year. Twice a term during the school year, I will send home a Club flyer with a different selection of books offered. You'll find award-winning books, as well as old and new favourites. I recommend them because the books span a wide range of children’s reading levels and interests and because they are inexpensive (some books cost as little as $1).

It is easy to order. Just look over the flyer with your child, select the books you want, mark them on the order form on the back of the flyer, and return the order form to the office with payment by the due date. Please make sure your order is in a secure envelope. Families can place multiple orders in the same envelope if needed. The books will arrive around two weeks after I send the class order to Scholastic.

You can also pay for your order online if that is an easier option for you. The website is on the order form. You pay by credit card, after nominating the school from a drop down box. You do not order the books online. You return the order to school, with the payment receipt number included. I then have to send this off with the order, as a record of your payment. We have not opted-in to LOOP (Linked Online Ordering & Payment) as yet. Payments made online need to have the receipt number recorded and returned to school with the order. Each class received their flyers today. There will be additional order forms in the Library, if you would like to look at some of the other flyers for different year levels. Each flyer always has a ‘Gold Coin Donation’ book. These books are highly recommended and also make great presents! The orders for this issue of Bookclub are due to the office, no later than Monday 16th, February. Unfortunately, no late orders can be accepted, as I will place the order the night it is due.

Owning your own books is something special! I hope that you will encourage your child to order books this year. Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for our school, however, there is never any obligation to order. I know of no better way to encourage reading than to allow children to choose the books they want to read. If you have any questions about any of this information, please see me. Mrs Burton

Shaun Graham - Principal

Eureka Taekwondo
Traditional Martial Art For Self Defence
Just Turn Up Or Phone For Info, all ages welcome.
Starting At Pelaw Main School on Monday 9th February 2015 4.30pm to 5.30pm. 6th Dan Master Instructor Steve Turner Ph: 0400 002951 or email: eurekataekwondo@gmail.com
Mondays 4.30pm to 4.30pm, 1 Free lesson
Presented by The Hunter Outreach Program, Family Action Centre and Cessnock Family Support Service

Bringing Up Great Kids Parenting Program

Bringing Up Great Kids is a reflective parenting program to support parents to review and enhance patterns of communication with their children.

Australian Childhood Foundation: www.childhood.org.au

Venue: Cessnock East Public School
Date: 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March 2015
Time: 10am – 1pm

To express your interest, please contact:
Lesley 4921 5758
Email: Lesley.Asher@newcastle.edu.au
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL


Topics covered include:
• Messages from the Past
• The Message Centre
• Giving and receiving messages
• The Message Behaviour
• Messages about me
• Passing on messages

Morning tea will be provided

Presented with the support of:

Newcastle Australia

Cessnock Family Support Service Inc.