Coming Events

Week 6
Friday 6th June
- Assembly 12.10pm - 1/2R Item

Week 7
Wednesday 11th – Saturday 14th June
- Dance Festival
Wednesday 11th June
- Author Visit K-6

Week 8
Monday 16th June
- UNSW Writing Test
Tuesday 17th June
- UNSW Spelling Test
Wednesday 18th June
- P&C Meeting 7.15pm
Thursday 19th June
- Engadine Band Festival
Friday 20th June
- Assembly 12.10pm – 1/2K & 1/2A

Week 9
Wednesday 25th June
- Gold Assembly 10.30am
Friday 27th June
- Last day of Term 2

From the Principal

Athletics Carnival
Our school athletics carnival was held on Monday at Beaton Park and a good time was had by all. Thank you to our hard working PHPS staff who were ably assisted by our wonderful parent helpers. We are grateful for your support. A huge thank you Mr Roberts for his fantastic organization of the carnival. Congratulations to all competitors, helpers and spectators on a wonderful day. What a great team we made!

Working Bee
Thank you to our small band of helpers who assisted at the working bee on Saturday. We appreciate your help and support.

Dance Festival
Our Year 2 dancers are becoming very excited as their performance time draws near. Our dancers will be performing, this Friday at assembly, before their performance week next week. Thank you to Ms Griffiths who has worked tirelessly with our dancers to get them ready for the Dance Festival. Good luck boys and girls.

P&C Meeting
This month’s P&C will be held on Wednesday 18th June. Generally it is held the second Wednesday of the month but has been put back until the 3rd Wednesday due to the Dance Festival. All welcome.

Have a good week
Lee Venables
The Heights Happenings
TERM 2 ~ WEEK 6

Library News – Exciting Author Visit

Next Wednesday 11th June, PHPS is excited to welcome author **Belinda Murrell** and illustrator **Serena Geddes** to our school. These inspiring ladies will speak to K-6 students about the joys of books, storytelling, writing and illustrating. Belinda and Serena are the creators of the *Lulu Bell* series. *Lulu Bell* books are fantastic beginner readers for those children who are ready for their first illustrated chapter book. It’s a lovely series, all about having fun out and about with animals and family.

Belinda Murrell also writes wonderful historical fiction books, for approximately years 4 and above, such as *The Ivory Rose*, *The Forgotten Pearl*, *River Charm* and the newly released, *The Sequin Star*.

Serena Geddes has illustrated over 24 books, such as *Samuel’s Kisses* by Karen Collum and the *Totally Twins* series by our previous visiting author, Alessah Darlison. In her previous career, Serena was Production Co-ordinator at Walt Disney Animation Australia.

This presentation is **free of charge** and Belinda and Serena will have their **books for sale** (to purchase on the day and/or order). An order form for the books with prices and details will be sent home shortly.

Many thanks for your support.

Mrs Annabel Ecroyd
(Teacher-Librarian)

SRC ‘SCARF’ Day - Refugee Week Fundraiser

World Refugee day is 20th June 2014 and 15th-21st June is National Refugee Week. A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence (UN, 2014). On Thursday 19th June the SRC and PHPS will raise awareness of Refugee Week with a ‘SCARF’ day. On this day students may wear a fun scarf (with their school uniform) and bring a gold coin donation. All money raised will go to our local Refugee support group – SCARF (Strategic Community Assistance to Refugee Families). SCARF is a not-for-profit community-based service that supports refugee families when they arrive in the Illawarra, through helping with education, training and job-seeking.

Thank you for your support
Jessica and Victor (SRC Reps)

Athletics Carnival

On Monday the 2014 Pleasant Heights Public School Athletics Carnival was held at Beaton Park. Despite fears that rain would ruin the day, we were blessed with a clear day and managed to complete every event.

Congratulations to all the students who competed on the day for their excellent behaviour and good sportsmanship, and a special thank you to all of the parents who offered up their time and assistance to help with the running of events.

Notes will be going home later this term for students who are progressing to the Brokers District Carnival, to be held at Beaton Park on Thursday 17th July.

Mr Roberts
Sports Organiser

Uniform Shop

The jacket and tracksuit order **has arrived**! If you have already paid – your order will be sent home with your child this week.

If you have **not** paid – a note will be sent home this week requesting payment prior to your order being sent home with your child. **OR** you can pay and collect next Wednesday, 11 June.

Payment – can be made only by cash or cheque (payable to PHPS P&C). Sorry we cannot accept credit cards. Payments are accepted on money days (Tuesday or Thursday) or Wednesday (uniform shop day).
Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Students with Disability – 2014

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national data collection on school students with disability. This important data collection will reflect the support that is already being provided to students and will focus on the steps the school is taking to ensure that all students can access education on the same basis.

With the new data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect this information on students who have been identified as requiring an adjustment to their learning. An adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting, in the classroom and at an individual student level (like extra tuition for a student with a learning difficulty).

The information provided through this new national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability. More information about the data collection has been sent home to parents in a separate correspondence.

PHPS Technology Use Agreement

Students at Pleasant Heights are provided with many opportunities for the innovative integration of technology into teaching and learning programs. The increased use of online communication at school through classroom computers, laptops, iPads and the new Surface RT tablets have greatly enhanced students’ learning experiences and outcomes.

Every student in Years 3-6 at Pleasant Heights Public School has access to a Surface tablet for use at school each day. The tablets provide students with many opportunities, including being able to connect to the digitally based 21st century, developing ICT skills, learning creative, problem solving skills, having choice in learning, and experiencing a deeper level of engagement with their learning.

Responsible use of technology, with guidance from teachers, will as much as possible, provide a secure and safe learning environment for all students. While at school, students will be restricted by the NSW Department of Education and Communities filtered internet service. All social media sites and inappropriate sites are blocked while students are at school.

To further support ICT teaching and learning, a PHPS Student Technology Use Agreement will be sent home to all students in years 3-6. This policy document defines for Pleasant Heights students, the appropriate and acceptable use of information and communication technology. The internet and online communication devices at school are made available for the use of students under the conditions as outlined in the policy.

Parents are asked to read the Technology Use Agreement carefully with your children, before signing and returning it to school. The school recognises the need to prepare our students for a rapidly-changing world, where technology plays a large role in our personal, social and educational lives. As such, student and parent support of the Technology Use Agreement is appreciated.

Mobile Phones and Devices

A new school Acceptable Use of Mobile phones policy has recently been updated. A permission note for the possession and use of mobile phones, portable computer games, MP3 players/iPods, cameras and similar devices in school by students is available to parents from the school office. Any student bringing one of these devices to school is required to have a copy of this permission note signed by their parent/caregiver.

We understand that mobile phones may provide students travelling to and from school with a degree of security. Cameras and iPods are also regularly used by students when on school excursions. For this reason, the Pleasant Heights Policy for the use of Mobile Phones, Portable Computer Games, MP3 Players/iPods, Cameras and Similar Devices
in Schools by Students (Revised May 2014), is being sent home today to stage 2&3 parents.

**Informative Parent Website – School A to Z**

School A to Z is a website offering parents practical advice about homework, tips on learning, well-being, technology and resources to help support your child’s social, physical and mental development. The site gives even the busiest parents access to some of Australia’s best teachers and experts, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also find answers while you’re racing home from work or waiting for training to finish, thanks to the free mobile apps that feature hundreds of definitions about maths and English terms, illustrated examples and instructional videos, as well as kid-friendly educational maths and spelling games. There are currently 900 items on School A to Z, and parents can have their say about what else they’d like to see on the site. With such helpful advice so readily available, the School A to Z website and mobile app are certainly worth a visit.

School A to Z can also be accessed through the Links page on the Pleasant Heights school website.

**Social Media, Kids and Privacy**

Regardless of your child’s age, the world may already know a lot more about them than you suspect. According to recent research:

- 92% of children under the age of two have a digital presence (it starts with proud parents posting newborn baby photos on Facebook or Instagram)
- a quarter of Australian children aged between eight and 12 use Facebook, despite the minimum age for a user being 13
- more than 20 per cent of tweens publish photos of themselves on the photo-sharing website Instagram
- young people between the ages of 14 and 19 have an average of 453 fans, friends or followers on social media.

Even if you don’t know a lot about social media yourself, you can help your child stay safe online simply by asking them about the social media accounts they are using, and regularly reminding them the importance of keeping their personal information private.

The Information and Privacy Commission NSW has created a lot of practical information for parents and children, to support 2014 Privacy Awareness Week. It includes:

- security tips for parents and teens
- resources to help prevent identity theft
- information on cyberbullying
- guides to protecting your digital reputation
- information about mobile apps and the data they may collect.

You can also find a parent’s guide to social media – including Kik Messenger, Instagram, Vine and Facebook - in the School A to Z technology glossary.

**What Parents Need to Know about ‘Kik’**

It seems that every few months a new social media platform or mobile app emerges and becomes popular with young people in our school community.

Suddenly “everyone” is on it, according to our children. It’s hard for most adults to keep up.

Many parents will have recently heard about Kik Messenger and are wondering if it’s safe for children. Here are some facts from the School A to Z website’s technology guide:

**What is Kik Messenger?**

Kik Messenger is a free texting app available on iPhone, iPad, Ipod touch, Android, Windows, Samsung Galaxy and Blackberry phones.

**How does it work?**

Account holders use Kik to text photos, videos and “Kik cards” - which can include YouTube
videos, GIFs and drawings - to other users for free.

**Why is Kik useful?**

Kik is particularly popular with younger teens who generally have a limited texting plan or use an iPod touch because the application gives them access to free messaging.

**What do you need to keep in mind about your children and Kik?**

The new version of Kik is rated +17 in iTunes because it allows users to send content from other sites like YouTube and Reddit.

The biggest problem is that users often share their private Kik username on other public social networks like Twitter, Instagram or Tumblr.

Any user who knows your child’s username can then send them a Kik message. Instagram and Twitter are full of #kikme requests, with teens posting their usernames. There have been many reported cases of inappropriate adult contact because of this.

Find out more on the School A to Z website.

### Stay Smart Online Week 2014

This week, 2 – 6 June is Stay Smart Online Week. Students in Years 3 – 6 will be completing activities in class to help them understand the simple steps they can take to protect their personal information online. Parents are encouraged to view the Stay Smart Online website for ideas and important information about staying safe and secure online while using mobile devices when social networking, banking, shopping, and navigating the internet.

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<td>Classroom &amp; School Resources</td>
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2 – 6 June 2014

Stay Smart Online Week, formerly National Cyber Security Awareness Week, aims to help Australians using the internet – whether at home, the workplace or school – understand the simple steps they can take to protect their personal and financial information online.

The 2014 Stay Smart Online Week is the seventh consecutive annual event conducted by the Australian Government in partnership with industry, the community sector and all levels of government.

This year's theme - 'On The Go' - reflects the importance of staying safe and secure online while using mobile devices when social networking, banking, shopping, and navigating the internet.

Top Tips

1. **Securing your mobile device**
   - Investigate anti-virus software to install on your phone
   - Keep your device's software and apps up to date
   - Lock your device with a passcode, password or biometric when not in use
   - Learn about the best way to create and store passwords
   - Only download apps from reputable publishers
   - Check permission requests before downloading apps
   - Do not use public Wi-Fi for online banking, shopping or other financial transactions
   - Reset factory settings before disposing of an old device
   - Follow Stay Smart Online on Facebook

2. **Securing your desktop or laptop computer**
   - Install security software from a verified provider and set it to update automatically
   - Keep your application software and operating system up to date
   - Secure your home and office Wi-Fi with encryption and a password
   - Back up your data regularly
   - Use strong passwords
   - Use different passwords for different uses
   - Learn about the best way to create and store passwords
Do not respond to emails that ask you for a password or financial information
Be cautious of emails asking you to click on links or attachments
Do not use public computers for online banking, shopping or other financial transactions
Subscribe to the Stay Smart Online Alert Service

3. **Protecting your online accounts**
   - Use strong passwords and locks and change them regularly
   - Use different passwords for different uses
   - Use two-factor authentication whenever possible
   - Learn about the best way to create and store passwords
   - Lock your mobile device with a passcode, password or biometric when not in use
   - Secure your home and office Wi-Fi with encryption and a password

4. **Safely connecting and sharing**
   - Regularly check your privacy settings on social networking sites
   - Stop and think before you post any photos, personal or financial information online
   - Be nice online and consider others' feelings and reputations
   - Report or talk to someone if you feel uncomfortable or threatened online
   - Use strong passwords and a different password for each social networking site
   - Don't share your passwords with anyone
   - Follow Stay Smart Online and The Cloud: Dream On on Facebook

5. **Protecting your child**
   - Talk with your child about staying safe online
   - Report or talk to someone if you feel uncomfortable or threatened online
   - Teach your child to report or talk to someone if they feel uncomfortable or threatened online
   - Talk with your child about protecting their reputation online
   - Talk with your child about the importance of good behaviour online
   - Sit with your child when they are online and monitor online activities
   - Stop and think before you post any photos, personal or financial information online
   - Report or talk to someone if you feel uncomfortable or threatened online
   - Use strong passwords and a different password for each social networking site
   - Don't share your passwords with anyone
   - Use activities and teaching resources to prepare your child and yourself
   - Turn off the location services on your child's phone
   - Download the Government's Cybersafety Help Button

6. **Buying online**
   - Do your research and shop around
   - Only deal with trusted and reliable businesses and sellers
   - Check quality, warranty and return/refund and complaints' policies
   - Check the buying and selling tips on the sites you are using
   - Keep your personal details private and secure
   - Always use a secure payment method
   - Never send bank or credit card details in an email
   - Never send wire transfers to anyone you don't know and trust
   - Use strong passwords and locks and change them regularly
   - Learn about the best way to create and store passwords
7. **Selling online**
   - Install security software from a verified provider and set it to update automatically
   - Secure your home and office Wi-Fi with encryption and a password
   - Develop clear policies for staff using your computer or network
   - Offer clear terms and conditions
   - Always use a secure payment method
   - Avoid bank transfers and direct debits
   - Never send wire transfers to anyone you don't know and trust
   - Check the buying and selling tips on the sites you are using
   - When using a selling platform, make sure it is trusted and reliable
   - Back up your data regularly
   - Use strong passwords and locks and change them regularly
   - Learn about the best way to create and store passwords
   - Beware of scams, including by fake suppliers and customers
   - Independently confirm that payment has been made before supplying goods
   - Contact your financial institution, selling platform, police and SCAMwatch if you think you’ve been scammed
   - Subscribe to the Stay Smart Online Alert Service

**Why is staying smart online important?**

The internet has increasingly become part of our daily life. It provides a way for us to socialise, shop, transact and do business, which means we are sharing more and more personal and financial information online. In doing so we potentially expose ourselves to a number of online risks which we need to be aware of and properly manage. It is important that we better understand how to stay safe and secure on the internet.