



Independent Public School

# Pickering Brook Primary School

A school community growing together since 1915

Issue 7  
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Huge congratulations to the P&C on the success of their stall at the Harvest Festival. In particular, Claire Hulcup, Chantelle Morfitt and Heather Freegard. This stall was originally created to market the school, with a little bit of fundraising on the side, but thanks to the parents who generously provided items for sale, and of course the crazy socks – the P&C made a whopping \$1600! This is a mammoth result for such a little school – congratulations and thanks to all involved. Thanks also to Mrs Tunney for coordinating the scarecrow entry. “Mark of Respect” was a great entrant – but there was certainly some tough competition! The P&C are planning a range of other wonderful events over the course of this term, and I eagerly look forward to being a part of these, and seeing both the joy they create and the funds they bring-in!

Thanks to all school visitors for honouring the COVID restrictions. Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our Mothers’ Day afternoon tea – but hopefully the students brought a delight home for their mums and didn’t just eat them on the way home!

Clubs are well underway, and these are just another example of the great things on offer here at Pickering Brook that make our school stand-out from the rest. Clubs wouldn’t happen without the generosity of staff, parents and community members giving their time to provide engagement opportunities for all students. Huge thanks to all involved.

Five members of the PBPS staff attended professional learning last week in leading school improvement. These days were incredibly beneficial in helping us to identify our priorities and processes for our next business planning cycle, and the School Board, P&C and general school community will be kept up-to-date with how the planning is progressing.

And finally – what a wonderful assembly the early childhood students put-on for us last Friday. They sang, they tapped, they drummed, and they spoke into the microphone like little champions. Stars in the making...

**Tanya Dique**  
Principal

## In-term swimming lessons

It has been brought to my attention that in the past many Pickering Brook Primary School students have not participated in in-term swimming lessons. After some investigation, it seems the main reasons are that students are in wet bathers during cold weather, and the high cost. In order to alleviate these concerns, we will run swimming lessons differently this year – they will run for only one-week, rather than the usual two-week period. In the one week model, students participate in two

lessons of approximately 40 minutes each, daily, with a quick break for toilet and drink between the two sessions; so they will get 60-80 minutes of instruction per day. This model means that parents will only have to pay the bus and entry fees for five days, rather than ten. Another change is that students will get dressed into their dry school uniform at the pool, so they are not sitting in wet clothes for the duration of the bus journey. The cost of lessons is always dependent on the number of students participating as the cost of bus hire needs to be split amongst all participating. The more students who participate, the less the per-head cost will be. We have modelled our approximate costs based on 70, 80 or 90 students attending. **One week swimming will cost between \$36.25 and \$41.75 per student.** Two weeks swimming would cost between \$72.50 and \$84.50 per student.

As this is a more affordable model, and alleviates the concern of students being cold, we will run with one week of swimming being held in Week 10 this term, Monday 21 June to Friday 25 June.

All students from Pre-primary to Year 6 will be offered a place in in-term swimming and parents who do not want their child/ren to participate will need to inform the principal in writing as soon as possible, including a reason for non-participation. This information is important so we can determine the cost per student. For parents with multiple children at the school, a payment plan is possible, where a negotiated amount can be paid to the school over a period of time.

## National school opinion survey

We will run the school survey again this year, and information from this consultation will be used for future planning. This is a great way to have your say about the school, and all parents are encouraged to participate. More information will be provided about how to access the survey very soon.

## Interschool sports carnival

We have managed to organise a winter sports carnival for our Year 4-6 students! Being a small school, competing against bigger schools can be difficult to ensure safety and fairness – for example if our footy team has Year 4-6 students and another school’s footy team is all Year 6’s, we wouldn’t stand a chance – and the kids could be hurt. So Mr Rudolphy reached-out to Orange Grove Primary School, who are a similar size to us – and they are keen to have a competition. On Friday 28 May, Orange Grove students will come to Pickering Brook, and we will visit them later in the term on the 11 June. Students can participate in footy or netball, and students will be learning these sports over the next few weeks, in readiness. More information will be provided to parents closer to these events.





The K/P/1 students' assembly item was very entertaining.



**Lego Club**

**Congratulations to our  
Merit Award Recipients**



### **Social Justice Committee**

The Year 6 Social Justice Committee spent time over the last term creating small items to give to others in random acts of kindness. This group of five students went on an excursion last week to St Barnabas in Kalamunda, where they gave out their little 'goodies', and practiced random acts of kindness. Huge thanks to Chaplain Sam for organising this event for our students and to Lara for attending with Sam. To the five students who attended – thank you for going out into the community and sharing some Joy. These small acts can make a big difference in the lives of others – and also shows the community what great kids and programs we have at Pickering Brook.



**Bike Club**





Thursday & Friday  
9:00am - 2:30pm  
9291 2050

samantha.foreman@  
education.wa.edu.au

MY OFFICE PROVIDES A SAFE AND CONFIDENTIAL PLACE FOR STUDENTS OR PARENTS TO TALK ABOUT ANY WORRIES OR ISSUES THEY MAY HAVE. THESE MAY BE FRIENDSHIP ISSUES, ANXIETY RELATING TO COVID-19, ISSUES RELATING TO GRIEF AND LOSS, FAMILY SEPARATION OR ANYTHING ELSE. BY USING GAMES AND FUN STRATEGIES, I ALSO TRY TO HELP THE STUDENTS WITH SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SKILLS SUCH AS RESILIENCE AND EMOTIONAL REGULATION. I WORK WITH THE STUDENTS ONE-ON-ONE, IN SMALL GROUPS AND IN THE CLASSROOM

### Seeking Suggestions

Is there something related to the social and emotional wellbeing of your child, yourself or your family that you would like to read about in this forum? Something you may be seeking support or more information about? Please let me know.

I look forward to hearing from you. You can email suggestions to me at [samantha.foreman@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:samantha.foreman@education.wa.edu.au).

### Social Justice Committee

What a wonderful day experiencing how Random Acts of Kindness make others and us feel! The Social Justice Committee have been working on a project to bring happiness and joy to older members of our community through acts of kindness. This has involved organising the school community to make wrapping paper and write kind greetings on cards. Today, along with the very kind Lara Ogden, I took the Social Justice Committee to the St Barnabas Op Shop in Kalamunda. Cards and flowers were given to the volunteers and any customers in the shop. Our goal was achieved to bring happiness and joy to others when we reflected on the responses the volunteers and customers gave to the students: "Thank you, that brought a smile to my face". "Thank you, this has made my day". "You are a wonderfully kind person".

It was an absolute delight to take these students out for the morning. They were a shining example of our school and the students within: polite, kind, articulate, capable and responsible.

### What Is a Random Act of Kindness?

A Random Act of Kindness is giving your best self to others without expecting or asking for anything in return. It's simply doing something nice for someone else, without them asking and without you doing it for anything in return. And yet, although the giver seeks nothing in return what is so lovely about a random act of kindness is that while the recipient benefits from the act so too does the giver. It is this emotional benefit, not sought or asked for, that makes being human and living so beautiful in that moment.

### What can our Family do?

I encourage you to make your own cards at home with your children. Take them with you when you go shopping, to the library, to the doctor, wherever. Hand them out and watch the smiles grow and the happiness spread. A child is never too young to learn. Bring your kids along with you as you go about your day being kind to others, and we can raise a generation of children who think beyond themselves and can easily spot ways to help others.



Cards wrapped in wrapping paper decorated with a flower



Cards wrapped in wrapping paper decorated with a flower