Welcome back, everyone!
We are looking forward to a very busy and productive Term 4!

Congratulations to our first students to reach level purple:

Our students in Years 3 to 6 participate in a behaviour level system. All PBL commendations earned by each student are counted throughout the year. Students progress up levels as they earn more and more commendations. The top level is purple level. Students reach purple level after gaining 50 commendations throughout the year.

Every year the first girl and boy student in each grade (from Year 3 to 6) to reach level purple is taken to lunch by Mrs Breaden. The students choose where they would like to go. Sometimes there are more than two children from each grade if two or more students reach level purple at the same time.

GRANDPARENTS’ DAY
Sunday, 25 October is the official Grandparents’ Day. We will celebrate this important date on Wednesday, 21 October. We invite all grandparents to our school at 12.30pm to visit their grandchildren’s classrooms. Grandparents are encouraged to listen to their grandchildren read during that time. Grandparents are also invited to lunch with their grandchildren in the playground during the normal lunchbreak and to attend the Infants assembly at 2.00pm.
Congratulations to our debating team!

Congratulations to the Parkes Public School Debating Team who participated in the Interzone Finals held at Bletchington Public School during the last week of Term 3. The debaters were the negative team for the topic ‘That misbehaving pop stars should be banned from performing in Australia’ against the Bletchington Emeralds Team. Adjudicators from the NSW Arts Unit applauded the quality of the delivery and the sophistication of the arguments of both teams. As Parkes Public debaters were very convincing in rebuttal, they were awarded the debate. The team of Katie Dunford, Gracie Jones, Libby Hoyle and Holly McColl can be very proud of their success.

Year 3 Excursion to Wellington Caves and Fern Gully
Don’t forget that permission slips and money needs to be paid to the front office by Friday, 9 October. There will be no late payments as the bus company needs to know numbers.

The bus departs from the primary bus shelter at 8.30am and we will return by 4.00pm.

If there are any concerns please see Mrs Watson, Miss Newbigging or Mrs Shore.

Board of Studies - Recourses for Parents
Guides for parents are now available from the Board of Studies.

There are four guide books:
• Helping your child learn about grammar
• Helping your child learn to write
• Helping your child learn to read
• Helping your child learn to do Mathematics

Each book is $16.20 but the four can be purchased in a package deal for $52.00.

Orders can be made online from shop.bos.nsw.edu.au or by phoning 02 8855 5295.

Learning Difficulties Parent Helpline
A helpline has been set up by the Learning Difficulties Coalition. It is supported by the DET and is open during school hours. The helpline offers information about assessments, resources, websites, booklists, facts sheets and more. The telephone helpline number is 02 9806 9960. The helpline can also be contacted on www.ldc.org.au and info@ldc.org.au

Autism Spectrum Australia
‘Recipe for Success’ workshop is being held over three days from Tuesday 20 to Thursday, 22 October in Bathurst. It is free for family members supporting people on the autism spectrum. Registrations are open on the website: www.autismspectrum.org.au

Carpet Cleaning
Next Saturday the DET’s contracted carpet cleaners will be in our school for the annual carpet clean.

Kid’s Ark East Timor
Money is collected Mondays. This week we collected $10.00.
I do hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday! I always enjoyed the break from packing lunch boxes when my children were at school!

I can’t wait to take Alexander, Jorja, Olivia, Emily, Darcy, Libby, Katie, Samuel, Maddison and Deniel out to lunch. It is one of my favourite things I do each year!! Congratulations to you all. You are outstanding citizens of our school!

Congratulations to our school debating team and to Mrs Buchanan and Mrs Deland on winning the Interzone Final. Debating is not a simple skill but our team is certainly talented and quick thinking!

This week I am including the first part of an article from Michael Grose about how to assist your child in using social media responsibly and safely.

As parents we teach our kids to talk politely and clearly so that they know how to speak to others when we’re not around. In effect, we give our kids social scripts to fall back on when they talk to friends, teachers and relatives. There’s no guarantee they’ll look an adult in the eye when they speak to them, but our discussions, reminders and lessons about manners will hopefully hold up when we’re not around.

The same applies to social media. Our conversation and lessons will prepare them to be savvy users when we’re not around. Here are some ideas to get you started:

“Is this worth posting?” The relatively impersonal nature of social media means that we can post information and pictures with relative immunity. Also its immediacy means that we can do so without much thought. This means that kids need to be very critical about what they see online. ‘Is this accurate?’ and ‘Is this worth posting?’ are two valid questions children can ask when they read posts placed by others.

“Have you taken a big breath?” A child who blurts out everything that comes into his mind without thinking is sure to put plenty of people offside. ‘Think before you speak’ is the type of message that every child should have in mind. The same applies to social media. Just because they think something doesn’t mean they post it. ‘Take a big breath’ may just about be the most important message to give your kids about social media.

Further points from this article will be included next week.

I encourage parents to purchase the Board of Studies guide books outlined in this newsletter. Our school will be purchasing a set for teacher reference. Parents are welcome to look at the school’s copies before ordering. The discounted price for the complete set is only for Term 4.

Have a great term everyone!

Mrs Breaden

DON’T FORGET

Wellington Caves
Money due this Friday, 9 October

No Hat, No Play!!
- Teachers will be diligent in enforcing this important rule.
- Broad-brimmed hats are the only acceptable hats to be worn at school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 14 Oct</td>
<td>Year 3 Wellington Caves Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 16 Oct</td>
<td>K-2 Sports Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 19 Oct</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting - 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 21 Oct</td>
<td>Grandparents Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 2 Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Orientation Day at Parkes High</td>
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<td>Thursday, 3 Dec</td>
<td>Primary Socials</td>
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<td>Monday, 7 Dec</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly - Farewell to Year 6</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 8 Dec</td>
<td>K-2 Presentation Assemblies</td>
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<td>Thursday, 10 Dec</td>
<td>Presentation Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 14 Dec</td>
<td>Class Parties</td>
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CONGRATULATIONS to the following infants students who have been awarded a mufti day:

- Chloe Mudiman
- Finlay Quince
- Gracie-Mae Cummings
- Shae-Lee Lord
- Olivia McMaugh
- Alana Murray
- Nash Moore
- Sophie Tanks
- Angel-Lee Reid
- Blake Brennan
- Lucas Edwards
- Liam Ross
- Faith Clarke
- Oliver Hunt
- Heidi Monkerud
- Max Longhurst
- Tia Dunn
- Lilia Howard
- Brendan Dunn
- Lucy Noakes
- Josephine Lynch
- Luka Parkin
- Samuel Quince
- Mitchell Wirth
- Angelique Bland
- Kasee Skillin
- Charlotte Gould
- Adam Barnard
- Archer White-Crawford
- Wade Parker
- Nicolas McMaugh

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who gained a:

**White Merit Certificate**

- Caitlin Brown 3W
- Dominic Brown 3/4S
- Olivia Murray 4R
- Hayden O’Malley 4R

Student of the Week

**Name:** Christian Falconer

**Age:** 12

**Class:** Pioneer

**Teacher:** Mrs Ward

**Teacher comments:** Christian participates enthusiastically in Mathematics. He particularly enjoys practical Science activities. Christian makes thoughtful contributions to discussions.

**Favourite activities:** Sport, computers, learning what is available and how to use it. All things to do with Minecraft. Helping mum and dad.

**What career interests you?** I would like to be a computer game designer/programmer.
Kindergarten visit Dubbo Taronga Western Plains Zoo

On Wednesday, 16 September, Kindergarten students travelled to Dubbo Taronga Western Plains Zoo for their annual excursion. The excursion links in with the students' English unit: *How do zoos protect endangered species of animals?* and Science unit: *Living things.*

At the start of the day the students visited the meerkats who were curiously standing up on rocks looking back at the visitors. The baby meerkats were out playing together in the sun. It was then onto the Australian animals where the wombat was awake and eating. Students then headed to the rhinoceros and hippopotamus. The students eagerly watched as a male hippo received a wash and a feed. The elephants put on a display of strength as they lifted logs of wood with their trunks. One of the highlights of the day was watching the Sumatran Tiger climb up a pole to find a hessian bag at the top. She ripped it open to find her lunch. There was a lazy family of lions out enjoying the sun. The three playful cubs were trying to wake their mum and dad with no luck. The students enjoyed eating their picnic lunch whilst watching the Siamang Apes swing on ropes and stop to eat tuffs of grass.

Students all enjoyed the excellent experience and were able to return to school and in the following week, complete quality work through meaningful activities.

We would like to say a very big ‘thank you’ to all the helpers who gave up their whole day to assist on the excursion. Without the help of the following people we would not be able to take 60 Kindergarten students to the zoo. Thank you to Helen Longhurst, Dan Fredericks, Katrina Rich, Melissa Ashcroft, Nicole Guy, Lynda Swain, Scott Mann, Rodney Fernando, Angela Lewis, Simone Chambers, Mrs Neems, Miss Chambers and Miss King.

Photos of some students and animals at Dubbo Taronga Western Plains Zoo.
Best wishes to Jordan Moody, Hannah Martyn and Holly McColl who will be representing Western Region at the State Athletics Carnival next week!

**K-2 Sports Day** will be held on Friday, 16 October.

**Rex Smith/Lois Jones Hockey Gala Day**
The gala day was held on the last Wednesday of Term 3. Congratulations to our teams who played very well on the day. The girls were joint winners with Middleton Public School and the boys were runners up to Holy Family School.

Thank you to the parents who attended the day to support our children.

**Value of the Week**

**FRIENDLINESS**

**What is Friendliness?**
Friendliness is being a friend. It is taking an interest in other people. It is going out of your way to make others feel welcome or to make a stranger feel at home. When you are friendly, you happily share your belongings, time, ideas and feelings. You share the good times and the bad times together. Friendliness is the best cure for loneliness.

**Why Practice It?**
Friendliness keeps you and others from feeling lonely and left out. It helps people feel that they belong. When something good or bad happens, it feels good to share it with a friend. Friendships don't just happen - they are made by people who are willing to be themselves with each other.

**How Do You Practice It?**
Friendliness begins with liking yourself and believing you have something to share with others. Be kind to people you don't know. You can be friendly just by walking down the hall, looking into people's faces and smiling. They will probably smile back. Show your friends you are glad to see them, by asking how their day is going and sharing your news with them.