Introducing our 2016 School Captains who were inducted at the 2015 Presentation Evening. Congratulations, Captains! Have a great year leading our student body!

WELCOME KINDERGARTEN!!
After completing Best Start assessments over the last three school days, Kindergarten will officially commence school tomorrow. We are so pleased to welcome the following Kindergarten children to Parkes Public School: Megan, Ella, Evelyn, Evie, Emma, Chelsey, Anna, Laura, Janayah, Stuart, Kane, Grace, Isaac, Cooper, Aula, Calon, Kayden, Dylan, Joel, Chelsea, Macey-Jane, Sienna, Lily, Abbey, Bryanna, Hayley, Rosie, Bethany, Alannah, Daniel, Lucas, Dustyn, Judah, Tyler, Brendan, Harry, Hareem, Bella, Mahlia, Allanna, Savannah, Nikki, Charlotte, Milly, Jeanie, Charlotte, Anderson, Tristan, Djarwyn, Kaijah, Rhys, Lachie, Heath, Joshua, Vanessa, May-Lee and Jassmine.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENTS IN YEARS 1 TO 6
Last week ten new students joined our school. We hope you are all very happy at Parkes Public School! We are very glad to welcome you: Araluen, Kyran, Liam, Kaitlyne, Danielle, Gabriel, Nathaniel, Chelsea, Darren and Kayleigh.

It is also a delight to welcome the mums and dads of our new students. It is lovely to have our new families and we look forward to working in partnership with you to best meet the needs of your children.

NEW TEACHERS
This year we also welcome two new teachers to our staff. Mrs Zoe Ruckley is teaching Year 2 and comes to us from Peak Hill Central School. Zoe did some teaching in our school a number of years ago. Mrs Coral O’Neill returns to us from Perth where she was a Deputy Principal. Mrs O’Neill taught here during the 1990’s before transferring to Forbes. She is teaching Year 4 this year.

PREFECT INDUCTION
Our Prefect Induction will be held at 12.00pm next Tuesday, 9 February in the assembly hall. Prefects, sporting house captains and AECG representatives will be inducted during this formal event. Special guests will be the current boy captains at Parkes High School, Hugh Mackenzie and Lachlan Hoyle, who are both past students of Parkes Public School.

Parents and friends of inductees are invited to attend.
FAREWELL MRS BUCHANAN
Mrs Buchanan announced her retirement last Wednesday. Whilst we are very delighted for Mrs Buchanan we are very sad to see her go. Mrs Buchanan has been an outstanding classroom teacher and executive member of staff who has taught at Parkes Public School for over 35 years! Her wealth of knowledge and wisdom has shaped the lives of many young children and colleagues over those years. We have been extremely fortunate to have Mrs Buchanan as a member of staff for so long and we wish her a wonderful retirement!

CONGRATULATIONS GRACIE JONES!!
How exciting to hear the news that Gracie Jones, our 2015 girl vice captain, was named Junior Australian of the Year for the Parkes Shire. What an incredible and most deserved honour! We are very proud of you Gracie!

Libby Hoyle, our 2015 school captain was nominated for the Parkes Shire Cultural Award, another very deserving young lady. Congratulations on your nomination, Libby!

BREAKFAST CLUB
The Breakfast Club program is particularly beneficial to those children who leave home very early in the morning or who have an early breakfast and are quite hungry by the time they get to school. Teachers notice that children learn more easily if their tummies are full.

We are in desperate need for volunteers to assist with Breakfast Club this year. There are currently not enough volunteers to run the club each morning. If you are able to assist from 8.30am until 9.00am on any week day, please contact Mrs Breaden.

The children love the special care they receive from the Breakfast Club volunteers and the volunteers often voice how much they enjoy helping the children. It really is a win-win situation!

Children seeking to attend Breakfast Club must have signed permission notes. Permission notes can be collected from the office.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES TIMETABLE
Infants Assembly - every Wednesday afternoon from 2.10-3.00pm in the assembly hall. Parents are welcome. Parents are notified when your child's class is performing an item.

Primary Assembly - every second Friday afternoon (odd weeks) from 2.15-3.00pm in the assembly hall. Parents are welcome.

Infants Scripture - every Tuesday morning from 10.35-11.05am.

Primary Scripture - every Thursday from 11.45am-12.15pm.

CHOIR NEWS
Welcome back and thank you for your wonderful singing in 2015. The exciting news is that this year we will attend the Choral Festival to be held at the Opera House in November.

Choir will begin next Wednesday, 10 February. I will meet students at the Primary gate at 1.00pm. Mrs Leonard and Mrs Bland

SCRIPTURE ORGANISATION FOR 2016
Scripture will begin in Week 4. Scripture will be non-denominational and children will remain in their normal classes for scripture. Ministers and lay people from the various churches will assist with the teaching of scripture. Class teachers will remain in the classrooms to supervise their students whilst scripture is occurring. All classes work from a booklet which has been endorsed by the Department of Education. The material is non-denominational.

Students who do not attend scripture usually read outside their classroom where they can be monitored by their teacher.

CROSSING SUPERVISORS
Mr Tony Sansome and Ms Kelly Edwards are our crossing supervisors and they work alternate weeks. They will be in attendance on our crossing every school day from 8.15am until 9.30am each morning and 2.30pm to 3.30pm every afternoon. Please remind your children that they must pay attention to the directions given by the crossing supervisors.
It is lovely and exciting to be back at school. It has been great to welcome our new students. Kindergarten children have been coming in for Best Start assessments over the last few days and they have been very settled. I look forward to them officially commencing tomorrow! I am certain our very comprehensive transition process has enabled an easier start for our children. I am looking forward to getting to know the new families and to rekindle relationships with our existing families.

Please remember that I am very happy to meet with you to discuss any concerns or ideas you may have. I may be contacted through the school office. I am not always available at the 'drop of a hat’ but I am very happy to schedule appointments or return phone calls. As I say every year, if you are worried about something, please don’t sit at home and hope the problem will go away. If we don’t know about an issue we can’t fix it. If you have concerns about your child’s progress, social problems etc the first port of call should be the class teacher. The class teacher will have up-to-date knowledge about your child.

Communication with school is an important factor in ensuring your child has a happy and successful year. If stressful events are happening in your home or child’s life please notify your child’s teacher so that they can support your child as best they can. If parents are ill or there has been a death in the family (pet or person), if parents have separated, or a parent has lost a job, these are very important factors that can create a lot of anxiety for children. If we at school know about the issues we can help support your child.

Teachers are best contacted through the school office staff or by sending a letter to your child’s teacher.

If your child has any ongoing issues please ensure you meet with the child’s teacher in the near future. Please don’t assume because you told last year’s teacher some information that this year’s teacher will know. Teachers are expected to be confidential in their role and unless a situation is imperative for the whole staff to know only the person you told will have the information. Teachers do pass on academic and health information but not always the very personal details. Any information you would like your child’s current teacher to have please contact them!

We hope you have a wonderful school year working in partnership with our staff to bring out the best in your child.

Have a happy week, everyone!

Mrs Breaden
LIBRARY NEWS

Scholastic Book Club
Eight times a year (twice a term) Book Club pamphlets from Scholastic Book Club will be given out to students. Issue 1 order forms were sent home last week and orders will close on Friday, 12 February.

To purchase books or software, complete the form on the back of the sheet and return with the correct money in a well-sealed envelope. **If paying by cheque, please make payable to ‘Parkes Public School’**. If organising a payment voucher from your credit card, please fill out the voucher, for the full total of the order. Children place their envelopes in the collection box that goes around in the morning to each class.

When Book Club forms are handed out the date for closing orders will be published in the following newsletter. It will take approximately two weeks for the orders to arrive after the closing date. If you do not wish your children to see the books ordered, please make a note on your order form along with a contact phone number. You will be contacted when the books arrive and they can be picked up from the school office. This is a service offered by the school to allow you to purchase books. There is no obligation to buy.

Last year our library received many free resources as a result of the support from students and families. This was greatly appreciated!

Library Days
Library borrowing days are as follows:  
- Monday - 5W, 3N, 2R and KH  
- Tuesday - 5D, KE and KL  
- Wednesday - 4O, 3/4S, 6W and 3W  
- Thursday - 4R and 1L  
- Friday - 1/2A, 1B, 6S and 2E.

Children who would like to borrow will need to either have a library bag or pillow case to protect the books being transported from home to school.

Unfortunately there are a few students who still have outstanding loans from 2015, and these books will need to be returned or paid for before these students can borrow in 2016.

Mrs Dolbel, Librarian
What Is Kindness?
Kindness is showing you care, doing some good to make life better for others. It is being thoughtful about people’s needs. Kindness is showing love and compassion to someone who is sad or needs your help. Kindness is treating yourself and others gently. It is caring about the earth and all living things.

Why Practice Kindness?
Without kindness, no one would listen when people or animals need help. Everyone would be looking out for himself. The world is lonely without kindness. When someone reaches out to another in an act of kindness, it helps them both. People’s lack of kindness to the earth damages the air, water and the land. This causes people and animals to suffer, too. Being kind allows us to feel connected to everything and everyone.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL WILL BE HELD THIS FRIDAY, 5 FEBRUARY.
Only students who are in Years 3 to 6 or those in Year 2 who are turning 8 this year and can swim 50m are able to participate.

All students are to come to school in the morning. Buses will transport the children to the pool and bring them back to school at the conclusion of the carnival. Children will go home from school as normal on Friday afternoon. It is anticipated that the carnival may finish earlier than usual and we could be back at school by 2.30pm.

SPORTING HOUSE CAPTAINS - 2016
Congratulations to the following students who have been elected sporting house captains and vice captains for 2016!

Blaxland
Crystal Seiler - Vice Captain
Caitlin Herft - Captain
Jayden Pope - Captain
Jacob Fredericks - Vice Captain

Lawson
Jemima Hall - Vice Captain
Jade Smith - Captain
Austin MacGregor - Captain
Braith O’Malley - Vice Captain

Mitchell
Paige Hanson - Vice Captain
Sharna Ross - Captain
Dokata Bourke - Captain
Darcy Noakes - Vice Captain

Wentworth
Sierra Beazley - Vice Captain
Jordan Moody - Captain
Jake Barnes - Captain
Alec Tait - Vice Captain

Value of the Week
KI NDNESS
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2016 PARKES BOARS JRUFC

Try Rugby Program: Fridays 5.30-6.30pm from Friday, 19 February (registration evening) to Friday, 8 April at Spicer Oval, Parkes. Cost $10 which includes a shirt to take home. A gold coin donation BBQ will run each week. The Try Rugby program involves participating in activities to build both rugby and non-rugby specific skills in a safe yet stimulating format. Each week players will participate in a variety of activities and may play a modified game.

New!! Under 5’s division has been included this year for the younger players who want to get involved and have some fun learning new skills.

Walla Rugby Competition
Games: Sundays, commencing Sunday, 1 May through to Sunday, 15 August 2016. Participating clubs throughout the Central West each host a Gala day where players take part in three games each week. Game format is as follows: Under 7’s- onfield coach, no contact, two handed touch only. Under 9’s supported full contact (coach on field) and Under 11’s modified full contact. Both boys and girls are welcome to play. It is not compulsory to enter all gala days so parents and coaches can decide week to week which gala days to attend. It is a great day of fun where players get a good amount of game time, practise learned skills, make friends and gain self confidence.

Training: Thursdays 5.30-6.30pm at Spicer Park beginning in April.

Registration: Friday, 19 February, 5.30pm at Spicer Park (or any Friday after that).
- $65 Under 7’s
- $75 Under 9’s and Under 11’s
- Fee reduction of $10 per extra sibling and $10 if you participate in the TRY RUGBY program.

For further details please contact:
Michelle MacGregor 0439 498 033 (co-ordinator),
Doug Moore (U5’s) 0417 585 816,
Brendan Guy (U7’s) 0405 160 140,
Richard Rice (U9’s) 0428 623 210 or
Wayne Osbourne (U11’s) 0429 621 800

“Come join one of the fastest growing junior rugby clubs in country NSW”

MITCHELL CONSERVATORIUM

We wish to advise all parents that we now have Music Studios in Forbes and Parkes for music lessons for all age groups.

Our teaching programs cater for a wide range of instruments, singers and composition students. Should there be sufficient interest school group tuition can also be offered. Lessons can be organised for after school or perhaps during school time.

For further information please contact Jan or Jane in the Forbes office from midday Monday to Friday on 6852 3766 or send an email to lachlan@mitchellconservatorium.edu.au. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

FREE HOMEWORK CENTRE
Does your child need a hand with his or her homework? Or are they struggling to complete assignments.

Neighbourhood Central is offering a free homework program for Indigenous high school students in Parkes and Peak Hill.

Peak Hill Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm
Parkes Wednesdays 3.45-4.45pm

Spaces are limited! To register please call Brendan Read on 6862 4140.