

PARA HILLS WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Respect Integrity Belonging Achievement

Term 1 Week 1

WESTIES WORLD

DATES to REMEMBER

Week 2 Monday - Thursday

Life Education Van Visit

Parent Session Monday 9:00am

Week 3 Tuesday 13 February

Acquaintance Night

Week 3 Tuesday 13 February

AGM & Governing Council

Resource Centre – 6pm

Week 3

Friday 16th February

PUPIL FREE DAY

Week 5 Tuesday 27 February

NAPLAN Practice Test

Week 5 Wednesday 28 February

Yr 6 Aquatics

**POP THIS INFORMATION ON
YOUR FRIDGE FOR
EASY ACCESS**

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR, 2024

Welcome to our new school year. What a different start it has been compared to the last few. Thank you to all our families for your support in making this year's start a smooth one for all our students. We welcome our new reception students as well as the new students starting with us this year in other year levels.

AGM – GOVERNING COUNCIL

Our Annual General Meeting for Governing Council will be held on Tuesday 13th February at 6pm in our school's resource centre. If you would be interested in being a part of our school's Governing Council for 2024, please complete the nomination form within this newsletter and return to school with your child.

TERM 1 PUPIL FREE DAY

There is a Pupil free day set for this term and has been approved by Governing Council as follows:

Friday 16th February

Staff will be engaged in Mathematics professional learning on the day and deepen their understanding of our sites Maths Structure.

ASSEMBLIES

Our school assemblies will be held on Friday mornings, 9:15am every two weeks this year starting next week. We welcome parents and families to attend.

ACQUAINTANCE NIGHT

This year's Acquaintance Night will be held on Tuesday 13th February. Further information regarding times and classes will be sent out in the coming week.

Balkara Road, Para Hills West, South Australia

Tel: 8258 2216

Fax: 8281 5837

Email: dl.1045.info@schools.sa.edu.au



Government of South Australia

Department for Education

2024 SCHOOL CAPTAINS - ANNOUNCED

Late last year, Year 5 students nominated for a school captain position in 2024. This year we returned to our announcement assembly, today Friday 2nd February, where each captain was revealed, and their captain shirt was presented to them.

Successful students were chosen to be a school captain for 2024 through the process last year of their personal speech given to their peers, votes from their house team members and consideration by the panel consisting of Leadership staff members, Year 5 teacher and two 2023 school captain representatives. It was a very difficult decision in some instances.

As you can appreciate the role of school captain is very prestigious and the successful captains have and will continue to display our school values and act as a positive role model for all students.

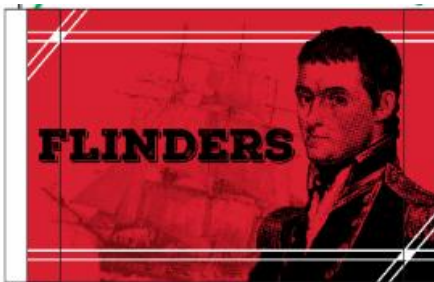
This year's School Captains are:



Alex Le, Scarlet Schultz
Blake Van Prooijen, Rylan Cannon



Arsh Parmar, Elias Isaac,
Layla Madi, Farooq Sekmani



Vishva Prajapati, Mehdi Ali,
Bismiullah Faizi, Patrick Sennett



Jacqueline Laurena, Hadi Mohammadi,
Jamie Williams, Soren Borley

Congratulations to these students and we look forward to their newsletter introduction in the coming weeks.

NAPLAN TESTING 2024 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

NAPLAN TESTING

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life.

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 may participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The assessment provides parents/carers and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests.

This year, the NAPLAN Online test window is in Term 1, 13th to 25th March. Most schools in South Australia will undertake testing online, however all Year 3 students will complete the writing test on paper.

Please make sure that, if your child is in year 3 or 5, they are at school on time each day.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

On its own, NAPLAN is not a test that can be studied for and students are not expected to do so. You can reassure your child that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program and remind them on the day to simply do their best.

It is not recommended that students use services by coaching providers or excessively prepare for NAPLAN testing.

Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and provide appropriate support and guidance.

NAPLAN REPORTING

NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards. There is a standard for each assessment area at each year level. Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected for the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling. Student achievement is shown against 4 levels of proficiency: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

PARTICIPATION IN NAPLAN

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 may participate in NAPLAN testing. If a child is absent on a testing day, the school may arrange for them to complete the missed test/s another time during the school's test schedule.

If a student has a disability, they may qualify for adjustments to their tests. Students with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate, or students who have recently arrived in Australia with a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

There are provisions for parents/carers to withdraw their child from NAPLAN testing. Schools are familiar with this process and a decision should be made with your child's school. Speak to your principal in the first instance.

If you ***do not wish*** to have your child complete the NAPLAN Online test this year, please contact the school to ***complete and sign an exemption form*** for your child.

MORE INFORMATION

For queries about NAPLAN, speak to your child's school. You can also find information about NAPLAN testing at www.nap.edu.au.

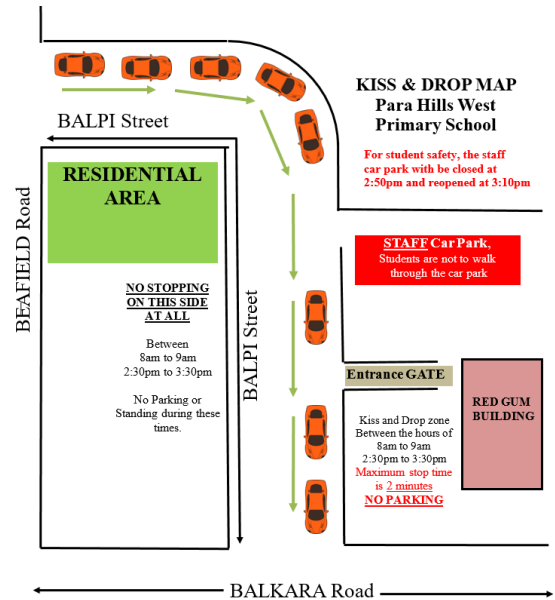
TRAFFIC SAFETY AROUND OUR SCHOOL

With the new school year just started we thought it would be a timely reminder about traffic safety around our school both in the morning drop offs and afternoon pick-ups.

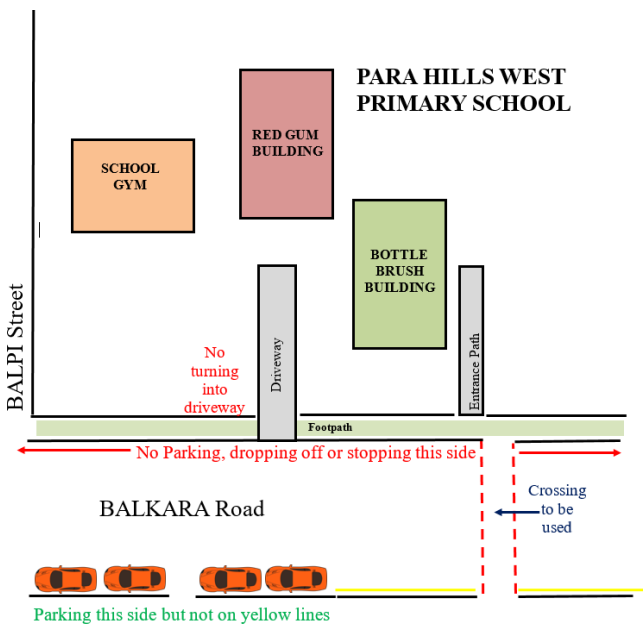


Firstly, the designated speed around school zones when students are present is 25kmh. This must be observed to ensure the safety of all children and their parents as they walk to school.

Secondly, we have only one street as a designated drop off and pick up area. This is along Balpi Street (only the school side of this road). You must remain with your car and are not permitted to stop and park your car and leave it unattended during these times 8:00am – 9:00am and 2:30pm – 3:30pm. If you wish to stop and park and walk into school with your child, you must then park your car along Balkara Road and park on the opposite side to the school. *The entire length of Balkara Road (school side) is a no stopping and no dropping off area – school buses exempted.*



Thirdly, making U-turns along Balkara Road, especially during afternoon pick up time can be quite dangerous and can cause traffic flow issues. We request that you *do not conduct U-Turns* at this time as it causes many issues for the flow of traffic. We would ask that you continue to drive in the same direction and find another street to turn around on.



Fourthly, if you do park on Balkara Road we ask that you walk with your child/ren and cross at the designated crossing area to also help ensure that safety of pedestrians is met and prevents unexpected incidents / accidents involving pedestrians crossing anywhere along Balkara Road.

If we could all obey these rules then the safety of our children will be maintained.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

As COVID-19 is still active in our state we ask families to follow the following protocols when being faced with testing positive for COVID-19.

1. If your child tests positive to COVID-19, you are required to let our school know. Please contact the office staff as soon as possible.
2. Your child will need to stay home for at least 5 days and can return to school when symptoms have cleared.
3. If someone else in your household tests positive for COVID-19, and your child has no symptoms and tests negative, your child may come to school - the child only stays home if they test positive or show symptoms.
4. If your child is considered a close contact from a school case, we will let you know. This will then mean your child will need to be tested 5 out of the next 7 days. They can still attend school unless they test positive.

We hope this helps clarify what you need to do from our school and Department for Education perspective.

Please remember to also contact SA Health if you or others in your family test positive for COVID-19

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE NEWS

Premier's Reading Challenge



The challenge is on again!

This year I am trying something new!

When you bring in your 1st completed Premier's Reading Challenge sheet to the library and hand it to me, you can choose a prize.

Happy reading everyone!

June Nash - Library





We are pleased to announce that we will continue to be a part of the Children's University (CU) and our Year 2 to 6 students are invited to participate.

The Children's University offers learning opportunities to students and aims to engage students in non-formal learning and to help children develop self-efficacy, confidence and build aspirations by promoting **the learning that takes place outside school hours**, and linking to subjects that can be studied at university. It is designed to be a pathway to university study in later years. **Parent support for your child is essential.**

How it works: Students engage in *Learning Activities* either run out of hours by the school (lunch times) or by recognised local venues and are signed off for the amount of time they participate in these activities. Some examples of out of hours *Learning Activities* could be participating in local sports, dance, scouts or similar clubs. Validation of up to a maximum of 10 hours per year per activity.

It works in partnership with other Learning Destinations such as zoos, art galleries, libraries, local councils and museums who are able to validate hours if your child visits with family.

Each student is issued with a *Passport to Learning* in which the hours of each validated activity are recorded. Once they have reached the required number of hours children will graduate from CUA. Certificates are presented at graduation ceremonies held at the Adelaide University late in the year.

Cost: CUA charges an annual fee of \$16:50 **per student** which includes a *Passport to Learning*.

To enrol you will need to fill out an enrolment form (Below) and pay the fee to the front office.

If you are interested in joining in 2024 please return the form below to the front office to show your interest. For more information please look at the website : childrensuniversity.com.au

If your child would like to become a member of CUA for 2024 please complete the below form and return it to **the Front Office at school by Monday 26th February.**

June Nash

Para Hills West Primary School Children's University co-ordinator.

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT FORM FOR 2024

Child's Name _____ Class _____ Year _____

Would like to participate in the Children's university in 2024. I understand that they will need to be involved in activities outside school hours and that I will be needed to support them in getting to some venues. I have read information regarding the CU and understand the concept.

I understand that I will need to pay the fee before my child is issued with a passport.

Signed Parent /Guardian _____

**PARA HILLS WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the *Para Hills West Primary School Governing* will be held on

Tuesday 13th February in the Resource Centre at 6:00pm.

Please indicate below if you wish to nominate for the Governing Council or the Governing Council Sub Committees and return to the school's front office.

✂.....

NOMINATION FOR GOVERNING COUNCIL

- I wish to nominate for the PHWPS Governing Council 2024 with the understanding that it is a two year tenure
- I also understand that at the end of that tenure I can be re-elected for the PHWPS Governing Council

Parent Name: _____ Eldest Child's Room No: _____

GOVERNING COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEES

Parents who are Governing Council members are asked to be on one subcommittee or affiliated committee.

- Parents who do not want to be a Governing Council member may choose to be a member of one of the sub committees below

If you wish to nominate for a committee please fill out the form below and tick which committees you would like to be a member of.

Parent Name: _____ Eldest Child's Room No: _____

- Finance
- OSHC (Out of School Hours care)
- Grounds
- Fundraising
- Promotions