Welcome
Welcome to the start of a new and exciting year. We look forward to an excellent year of learning achievements in 2013. I hope you had a lovely festive break with your children and your families.
Staff have had a relaxing and reinvigorating holiday and are excited at the year ahead with their new classes. They have also commented what a delight the start of the year has been. Congratulations to parents on preparing your child for school and well done girls and boys and teachers for a great start with classes.

Kindergarten Students
We welcomed our Kindergarten students yesterday and they are just such a wonderful group. Congratulations to our families on a smooth transition last year and an excellent start yesterday. Our students looked fabulous in their uniforms and so grown up and ready for school.

Student Enrolments: Critical
At the beginning of each year our enrolments are critical and this year is no exception. Our school is in a critical transition period presently which could result in reorganisation of classes due to the loss of a teacher. This will also impact on library and other teaching positions. Unfortunately even at the end of the term and beginning of this year we have had students leave our school without our prior knowledge and this has already impacted on our enrolments. It is important for all parents to be aware that you need to inform your school of changes to your child’s enrolment. This is a courtesy at no matter what school your child attends. We appreciate that parents who were able to advise changes to enrolments did so and also indicated that family circumstances change. One child changing schools can mean staffing changes for the whole school.

The opening of Wilton Public School has also had the greatest impact on our school this year which we knew would eventually occur.

Our staffing formula is broken down into Kinder, Year 1, Year 2 and then Years 3-6 enrolments, not just on our total numbers. So please, if you anticipate any changes to your circumstances can you notify me immediately and also if you are aware of any possible new enrolments.

Swimming Carnival: Next Friday, 8th February
All primary students and interested and competent 8 year old students should have received permission notes for our carnival next week. Please ensure that the permission notes with survey details is returned as soon as possible and before next Friday as all students are expected to participate on the day. Carnivals take a lot of organisation by staff and we appreciate your support with this request. We look forward to an enjoyable day with hopefully some enjoyable weather too!! We also appreciate the support provided by parent volunteers on this day also. Thank you in anticipation!

Concreting/Back Playground/New Carpet in Library and Classroom
I would like to thank Mr Russell Apps who has worked tirelessly during the school holidays with building and grounds work. He has overseen many developments with our school and I would like to also thank Lyn Farrell for the time she gave up with concreting arrangements.

Mr Apps has established wonderful green grass for our students on the back playground which has been a major job and a major achievement.

New carpet has been laid in a number of classrooms and the library, the latter being a huge job with everything having to be removed. Mrs Maher also did an excellent job! Mr Apps, Mr Harvey, Mrs Menz and Miss Barnes are working hard to re-establish our whole library once again!

We also have concreting that was arranged throughout the holiday. I was pleased to hear positive comments from our parents, staff and students. This has cost our school approximately $18,000. We are hoping that this will improve access for you and your children and for staff.

We look forward to an excellent year at Picton Public School. I would like to commend the students on their excellent start to the year – everyone is very settled and very focused.

Many thanks for our wonderful parents who have helped us this morning in the library with our plea for help. You have done a marvelous job and we are so appreciative!

Kind Regards,
Lyn Fraser,
Principal
JUST A FEW THINGS …
(for those families new to our school)

We have a very active and large P & C membership at Picton Public who meet twice a term. We limit our fundraising activities to Terms 1, 2 and 3 as we know Term 4 is a very expensive one with Christmas and holidays to pay for!

P & C Updates will be attached to the school newsletter when we have important events coming up or we need to tell you about something. We try to give you lots of advance warning about events and fundraisers so you can also plan ahead. If you feel we aren’t doing our job properly, please let us know.

We are all volunteers at the P & C and give up many many personal hours to make all our fundraisers successful and we appreciate any support you can give us. We love having helpers on board at all our events. We are a very inclusive P & C and want as many parents and carers as possible to join in and give us a hand. The best way to find out about what is going on is to join the P & C for 50c and you will get requests for help and also the minutes of all the meetings emailed to you regularly. You don’t have to come along to a meeting unless you want to vote on funding or take a place on the Executive.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Donna Duck - 2012 P & C President

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TEA AND TISSUES
MORNING TEA

Thank you to our wonderful P & C members who provided the delicious morning tea today for our new Kinder parents and carers and also to those members who stayed on to chat with the parents. It was lovely to meet so many new people and renew some older acquaintances.

Enjoy your time at PPS!

*FUNDRAISING TARGET**

In the next few weeks, the P & C will be making lots of decisions about the year ahead. One of those decisions will be setting our Fundraising Target and looking at all the fundraising activities that we do at Picton Public. This year we have our biennial Family Fun Day which is always a huge event. So watch this space to keep up to date!

Raised to date: $0

2012 Target: $TBA
The P & C AGM will take place on 12 February 2013 at 7.30pm sharp in the staff room in the Admin Block.

If you wish to nominate or be nominated for a position, please complete the nomination form attached to this newsletter and send in to the school office prior to Monday, 3pm 11 February 2013.

Please make sure you have your membership paid up to date.

Next week we will include a brief explanation of what the Executive roles involve.

The Good Guys School Dollars Program

Thank you to all the wonderful families who have been sending in their school dollars from Bret Quinn, The Good Guys, Blaxland Road, Campbelltown.

For every $25 you spend at the Good Guys, they will give the school $1 in school money to spend on items for fundraising raffles, etc. So don’t forget to ask the next time you make a purchase and drop them off to the school office.

Please fill in your docket number and the date of purchase so that the dollars can be validated. They will not accept any dollars that are not completed on the reverse.

DON’T FORGET TO ASK FOR YOUR SCHOOL DOLLARS FROM THE GOOD GUYS CAMPBELLTOWN WHEN YOU ARE SHOPPING THERE!

Is your child a student at Picton Public and do they have a close relative that works with Telstra???

Telstra has a great community program which provides a one-off grant of $1,200 (conditions apply) to qualifying community groups (like our P & C) who assist in providing worthwhile resources to students. If your child is a sibling, step-child, niece/nephew, grandchild or foster child of a person working on a permanent basis with Telstra, please provide your details to the office and we can get in touch. The P & C has a few smaller projects that we would love to do, but haven’t got the funding available. Don’t forget to ask the aunties and uncles!
NOMINATION FOR A 2013 EXECUTIVE POSITION ON THE PICTON PUBLIC SCHOOL P & C ASSOCIATION INC.

I wish to nominate ____________________________ to stand for election for the executive position of President*/VicePresident*/Secretary*/Treasurer* (* please delete positions not applicable) to be determined by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 12 February 2013.

Nominated by: ________________________________

Nomination seconded by: ________________________________

Please read the following guidelines:

- All 2012 positions are declared vacant at the commencement of the AGM.
- You must be a financial member of the P & C prior to the AGM to accept nomination for a position or be able to vote. Please forward your membership fee of 50c if you have not already done so.
- You must be a financial member of the P & C to nominate a person to run for an executive position.
- If you are standing for nomination for a position, you MUST attend the AGM to formally accept your nomination.
- Please return all nomination forms marked:
  “The Principal P & C AGM Nomination”

to the school office prior to 3pm, 11 March 2013.
Want to become a member of the P&C?

We keep meetings short and to the point as we know your free time is limited. We start at 7.30pm and try to be out by 8.30pm if possible depending on the items tabled for discussion. All you need to do is pay 50¢ membership and you can come along to meetings and have voting privileges. Hope to see you at a meeting soon. We meet on the 3rd and 7th Tuesdays of the term in the Admin Block.

P & C Membership Application/Renewal

Your name: _____________________________________________________________

Your child’s name and class (for receipt purposes): ____________________________

Email (to receive minutes): ________________________________________________

Please return this form and 50¢ to the Magpie Box on the front verandah marked P & C Membership.

Thank you!