P & C Hat Survey
Thank you very much to parents for taking the time to complete and return the hat survey. We have appreciated the specific comments from parents to gain your feedback. The survey is included again this week in the newsletter so please complete and return to the office.

Xstrata Acknowledgement at Combined Assembly
Thank you to Donna Duck for her organisation and presentation of the plaque to Xstrata Coal last Wednesday at the Combined Assembly. A special thank you to Fiona Robinson from Xstrata for joining us at the assembly. As a school we are very grateful for the support Xstrata provided in 2012 which meant we were able to complete the purchase and installation of interactive whiteboards in every classroom across the school.

Relieving School Education Direction Visit
Yesterday Michelle Wood, the Relieving SED for Macarthur, visited our school to meet with the Executive Team. Michelle is relieving in this role whilst Peter Smith is on leave. Thank you to the Executive Team for their excellent contribution.

Wollondilly Community of Schools Meeting
Tomorrow we have our Wollondilly Community of Schools Meeting with all the schools in Wollondilly area. I look forward to meeting with all the Principals at this meeting.

Parent Teacher Interviews: Monday 25th March
On Monday notes were sent home for Parent Teacher interviews for all classes except for 5P which were sent previously. The parent teacher interviews will take place on Monday 25th March (except for 5P and 3/4O whose interviews will take place as per their individual class notes). We look forward to parents being involved, meeting with teachers and discussing the progress of your child for the start of the year in 2013.

Canteen and P & C Tasty Tempter Day
Just a reminder that our first Tasty Tempter day for 2013 is happening next Tuesday 12th March. All orders must be placed by Friday 8th March. Please note that this day is also a mufti day with donations being collected at the school gates and going toward P & C Fundraising for 2013. We also have a P & C Meeting on Tuesday 12th March with a guest speaker coming from the Crunch and Sip Program which we have implemented at our school to encourage healthy lifestyles for our students. Our Stage Leaders will also be coming along to officially be introduced to our P & C and to discuss homework within their stage as well.

Kind Regards,
Lyn Fraser,
Principal

Upcoming Events
Thursday 7th March
Wollondilly Community of Schools Meeting – Lyn Fraser attending

Monday 11th March
P & C Easter raffle tickets sent home

Tuesday 12th March
Canteen and P & C Tasty Temper and Mufti day
7.30pm P & C Meeting – Guest Speaker – Crunch and Sip Program, Introduction of School Executive Staff, outlining Homework Policy

Thursday 14th March
Selective High School Placement Test

Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd March
Year 5 Bathurst Overnight Excursion – Bus departs at 6.45am, returns 6.30pm on Friday

Monday 25th March
Parent Teacher Interviews (except for 5P and 3/4O)

Thursday 28th March
Hat and Mask Parade – Whole school involved
Easter Raffle Drawn

Friday 29th March – Monday 1st April
Easter Long Weekend

Kinder 2013
What a wonderful group! 😊
K-2 Assembly Awards Week 5
KJ Alyssa Walford, Luke McCarthy
KM Asher Unwin, Zara Statham
K/1S Liam Sutcliffe, Elaina Warren
1B Jake Cotton, Rhys Dawkins
IC Chenoa Batey, Caelan Mitchell
2L Zac Somorac, Sophia Whishaw
2M Abbey Rose Bond, Shayla Sanderson
2S Tia Bogurar
Art Taylor Rice
Sport Jaimie Dillon, Ethan Woollams, Darby Scott, Oisin Chretien

Stage 2 Assembly Awards Week 6
3B Madison Greenwood, Sam Williams, Brodie Spanos, Tegan Lawes, Harrison Goodall, Jade Giacomelli
3M Adeline Hamilton, Leilani Batty, Ryan Hendricks, Liam Parker, Grace Toga, Trystan Matthews
3S Emma Day, Amy Coles, Jamie Harvey
3/4O Jasmine Gibbons, Cameron Ellis, Tyler Schols, Caitlin Bush, Charlotte Senior, Kasey Woollams
4J Cassie Stein, Declan Lawlan, Jordan Latham, Casey Godfrey, Hayden James, Taran Henderson
4M Tadhg Chretien, Lilly Brooks, Georgia Brown, Emily Earnshaw, Holly James
Art Ruby Giltrow-Gorrie, Morgan Kent, Lilly Tutt
Sport Jasmine Gibbons, Riley Sutcliffe, Morgan Kent, Tyler Hodson, Tyler Schols, Mitchell Sanaghan, Madison Greenwood, Bree Jambursic

K-2 Maths Homework Ideas to Try
Thank you to the wonderful Kinder and Year 1 students who completed the Maths Challenge and brought me their results. I've had some interesting maths conversations this week!
Thank you to Ms Stephenson who has the following suggestions for this week:

- Allow child to set the table and count out places, plates, cups, knives, forks, spoons etc. How many items all together?
- Read the use by dates on grocery items. Find these dates on the calendar.
- Weigh food at the supermarket or at home. Use terms such as gram, kilogram, weighs.

Your challenge this week: How many glasses of milk does a 1 litre (or 2 litre) carton hold? Draw a picture to represent this and show Mrs Boyd for a sticker.

Best Start News and Ideas for Homework
All student K – 2 should receive their ‘Feedback on Student Progress’ sheets during Week 6. They are full of practical ideas for helping at home with Literacy and Numeracy. These practical ideas can be done in conjunction with spelling and reading homework and offer students a way to apply knowledge learned at school. Many are things you can do as you travel in the car, chat about while preparing dinner or as you settle at bed time.

If you have any questions please see your class teacher or Mrs Boyd.

Premiers Reading Challenge
If your child would like to participate in the Premiers Reading Challenge in 2013 they can now register. Students can register using their DEC login at www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au
Liz Boyd

Help!! Books Need Covering!!
We currently have many new books from the Woolworths Earn and Learn Program at school that we need covered. If you are able and willing you can either come to school to cover some or collect a bundle and take them home to do.

Come to the office if you can help.

THANKS!!
Lyn Farrell, Admin Manager

Receiving the School Newsletter by Email
We are encouraging as many families as possible to receive the newsletter by email. If you have not advised an email address to the office, please complete the slip below and return it to the Magpie Box.
Thank you for your support in this matter.

Chickenpox Alert: Please be aware that a 2nd confirmed case of chickenpox has been reported for a Year 1 student. If your child displays any symptoms please keep them at home and consult a doctor.

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION 2013

Student Name___________________________________________ Class ________________

Annual School Contribution

$43.00 – 1 student at school $65.00 – family

VISA / MASTERCARD (Please circle)
Name on card: ________________________________________________ Amount: $_____________________________
Number on card: ___ ___ ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ ___ CCV: ___ ___ ___
Expiry Date: ________________________________ Signature: ________________________________
More great photos now available on our website!
Big Matt

Big Matt is the best guide ever. He owns 2 pairs of pants, angry pants and happy pants. He was the best. Thank you Big Matt. Amie

Sailing

Sailing was a lot of fun but again we failed. Imogen steered over the buoy. Jen steered out of the boat and I was just bad at it. Naomi

Raft Building

Raft building was really fun. My group used three barrels and seven logs. Our raft fell apart. The logs fell off after we had packed up all the stuff we used to build the raft. Everyone got to jump off the jetty. Hayden

Kayaking

Row. Row, row your boat gently down the stream, merrily, merrily, merrily life is such a dream. We are just kicking along then suddenly, rrrrr, splash. Hayden got trapped under the kayak and I am just singing along. Kayaking in not my thing. Emma

Big Swing

Up, up, up….. I looked down and saw everyone pulling me up. Wow they looked like ants below me. It’s hard to believe that I am 11.5 meters high in the air. 3, 2, 1....arrrrrrrrrg, the ground loomed, I was going to hit it. It was like being a bird high in the air swinging into the blue. On the giant swing you go from 0 to 65k per hours, how scary.... Jemima

Rock Climbing

Rock climbing was a massive accomplishment for me. I have always been afraid of it. I may have come last but I reached the top of the wall 3 times. Jillian

Archery

The archery was fun as. Azza got the bulls eye and I got one on my last shot. We got to swim in the pool because Mr Boniface got a bulls eye. Brock

BMX

BMX was fun. I went on the harder track and was the only girl to do that. It was also scary because Lachlan broke his arm doing BMX. Sophie

Initiatives

In initiatives we had to solve problems without an adult. Bella and I learnt the snow ball dance. Tashi
Dear Parents,

At our last 2012 P & C meeting, concerns were raised in relation to the sun protection provided by the current school cap and the desire to have all students protected from the sun and wearing the same school hat. At present, a large majority of students wear the cap (see Image 1) or a similar style of cap purchased from retail outlets. It was also noted that when representing Picton Public School at sporting events we are the only school not wearing a wide brimmed hat.

The Cancer Council of NSW recommends that school students should wear a hat which provides protection for the face, ears and neck. Concerns have been raised about the lack of sun protection the current caps provide, where the ears and neck are exposed.

At Picton Public School, we currently sell two different styles of hats through our uniform shop. The cap and also a wide brimmed surf hat (see Image 2- this hat does not wash well and loses colour). We are aware that the current surf hat fabric traps heat in the crown and we are currently looking at a similar style but lighter fabric to alleviate this problem and provide a cooler alternative. This hat also has a stiffer brim and does not drop down over the students face (see Image 3- note- this hat is lightweight fabric but did not photograph as black as it is). All hats will be on display in the foyer for your perusal.

We have also been made aware that some parents feel that the popularity of the cap which is worn by the majority of students, makes it difficult to encourage the wearing of the wide brimmed hat as their child feels out of place. Both hats are priced at $10.

As we live in a country that has sunshine for the vast majority of the year, we will all be aware of the importance to protect our skin and cover up, particularly for our children who spend many hours out in the sun. Picton Public School currently has a ‘NO HAT, PLAY IN THE SHADE’ policy, which means if your child does not have a hat available to wear, they will be directed to play in the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA).

Please return this survey to the school office by 8th March, 2013.

Yours sincerely,

Lyn Fraser
Principal

Donna Duck
2013 P & C President
Parent Feedback – School Hat Survey 2013

We value your comments and would be pleased if you would indicate your responses below:

| ☐ | I would support the removal of the cap from the hats available in the uniform shop |
| ☐ | I would actively encourage my child to wear the wide brimmed hat rather than the cap |
| ☐ | I would not support any change and am happy with the current hats available |
| ☐ | I would support a transition period for the introduction of the hat eg 12 months |

Comments:

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Image 1

Image 2

Image 3
NEXT EVENT: 12 MARCH 2013

TASTY TEMPTER LUNCH ORDER AND MUFTI DAY

TASTY TEMPTER LUNCH ORDERS AND MUFTI DAY

Next Tuesday the Canteen is having its first Tasty Tempter Lunch Order Day for 2013. A note was forwarded home last Monday with all details included. Our P & C provides the volunteers to help the canteen get those special lunches packed and out to the children and we receive a $1 donation per special lunch order which boosts our fundraising target.

So get those orders in as soon as possible. Please note orders will not be accepted on the day.

On that day, children are welcome to wear appropriate mufti (casual) clothing. Please ensure shoes are fully enclosed and a hat is provided. A coin voluntarily donated at the entrance gates is most appreciated and helps boost our fundraising.

Of course these fundraising events are not possible without the help of our school community. If you would like to come along and help on Tuesday morning from approximately 9.30 until 11.20 please email Donna on mairyan@biapond.net.au or call/text on 0409 607753. We would love to have you on board.

GIANT EASTER RAFFLE

is just around the corner - watch this update for more information.

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

Last week you would have received a note from Lyn Fraser in relation to School Contributions. The P & C strongly supports this initiative as it has a huge impact on the resources available to your children during their time at PPS. A detailed breakdown of expenses was provided on the rear of that note.

The P & C voted to increase contributions to $43 per child or $65 per family, the first increase in many years. Our school welcomes any contribution no matter how small it may be - every dollar helps.

Government funding is being continually reduced and this has a flow through effect to each and every public school across the state who have reluctantly had to make drastic budget cuts.

Your support through this initiative and fundraising in general directly supports your children and their learning. It helps keep art supplies on the table, a home reader or library book in your child’s bag and safe sports equipment on the playing field and this just scrapes the surface of where your contribution goes.
Last year 40% of families paid the Contribution, can we make that 50% this year???

Thank you to those families who have already paid - your contribution is already making a difference to learning at Picton Public. Thank you for your continuing support.

Donna Duck

**FUNDRAISING TARGET**

Fundraising target amount to be fixed at the next P & C meeting.

Raised to date: $0

2013 Target: $TBA

PARKING AROUND OUR SCHOOL

Due to the irregular shape of the block that the school is situated upon and also due to the fact that we are bordered by a major road with parking restrictions, our school community experiences a lot of traffic congestion and general lack of parking availability. In the last decade, we have had many on site meetings with local police, council, bus companies and the Roads and Maritime Services trying to find a reasonable solution to ease these problems. There is no quick fix unfortunately, but as a school community we can all do our part to help in the smooth flow of traffic in, out and around the school.

- Use the 10 minute parking zones as a 'kiss and go' zone. Most of our parents and carers just want to drop off and keep going. Unfortunately it is becoming apparent that quite a few drivers are parking in these zones and going into the school for extended periods. If you need to go into the school consider parking a little further away which will leave these zones clear for the ‘drop off’ parents/carers.
- These restricted zones are regularly policed and quite a few of our families have been hit with a hefty fine for exceeding the 10 minute limit - don’t risk it.
- Don’t double park – it is dangerous and again you run this risk of a fine.
- Don’t be tempted to drop off in the bus zones at the top or bottom of the school - many drivers have received a fine.
- And most importantly don’t call your child across the road to your car. Please collect your child from the school site and walk across with them. The peripheral vision in younger children is not fully developed and they can miss something as large as a bus coming from the side.

Let’s all work together to keep our kids safe!

NEXT P & C MEETING
12 MARCH AT 7.30PM

Our next P & C meeting will take place on 12 March 2013 at 7.30pm sharp in the staff room in the Admin Block.

We have a special presentation from our ‘Sip and Crunch’ Coordinators who will be talking about this exciting new program at our school. Stage Leaders will also be attending to talk about homework and answer questions.

Hope to see you there.
ONGOING FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS AT PPS

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.

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!

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!
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2013

LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2013 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each students level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from 14-16 May 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 14 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 15 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 16 MAY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation)</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Measurement, chance and data; and Space)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td></td>
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In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 17 May – A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille and black and white versions of the tests are available for students with vision impairment.

Access to disability adjustments or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school Principal, and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests you must sign a parent/ carer consent form. Consent forms are available at your child’s school.

Please make an appointment with the school Principal if you would like further information about your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at:
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