Cross Country
Congratulations to all of our students who were so involved and participated so well in our Cross Country. It was a great success and our students were excellent including their behaviour, their attitude and their participation. The determination of our students to do their best was inspirational. Can I make a special thank you to Michelle Jourdan, Peter McCarthy and the team for their excellent leadership and organisation. What a beautiful day also for the event! Thank you also to our school community for supporting the day and sharing the day and the excitement on the day. Students and staff enjoy your presence also!

P & C Mother’s Day Stall
A big thank you to Suzanne Kirby Jones and her team.

P & C Meeting- next Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Staffroom
We hope you can join us – entry is via the View St gate.

NAPLAN Testing: Next Week
Just a reminder that in the week beginning the 13th May we have NAPLAN testing for Yr 3 and Yr 5 students. Language and Writing is being tested on Tuesday 14th, Reading on Wednesday 15th and Numeracy on Thursday 16th. Can I just remind parents that it is very important that your children are prompt to school, particularly on these days as we don’t want them to miss out on our NAPLAN testing and that they are attending on these days. We do have a catch up day on Friday 17th, May but it is very important that unless students are very ill they attend Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday so that we have as few people as possible on the catch up day on Friday. It is important that they are also not late.

Congratulations to Ethan Tutt
Ethan participated in the Jaymac Japan Martial Arts Championships – an all Japan competition, during the school holidays and achieved an amazing result: 1 second and 3 third places, resulting in 4 trophies!

We really have such talented students at Picton Public School across diverse areas.

Congratulations Ethan and your family on your outstanding achievement. We are so proud of you!

Hat Survey
Parent feedback has been published in this week’s newsletter.

Kids Safety Foundation Program
A big thank you to Jackie Stephenson and her Student Safety Club members for their excellent assembly last week and follow up workshops. There are some great photos of the day to share with you this week.

Kind Regards,
Lyn Fraser, Principal

Upcoming Events
Thursday 9th May
12.00 Cyber Bullying Presentation to Stage 3
12.45 Parent Presentation on Cyber Bullying (Library)

Friday 10th May
Razorback Zone Cross Country
Police Talk to Kinder – ‘Keeping them Safe’ Initiative

Tuesday 14th May
NAPLAN Testing – Language & Writing- Years 3 & 5
P & C Meeting – 7.30pm Staffroom

Wednesday 15th May
NAPLAN Testing – Reading - Years 3 & 5
Year 1 Excursion to Rouse Hill

Thursday 16th May
NAPLAN Testing – Numeracy- Years 3 & 5

Friday 17th May
NAPLAN Catch up Day – Years 3 & 5
GRIP Leadership Day – Year 6 students

Thursday 23rd, Friday 24th May
Yr 4 Blue Mountains overnight excursion- Notes and monies due by 16th May

Wednesday 29th May
12.00 National Public Education Day Combined Assembly

K-2 Assembly Awards Week 1
KJ Harry Duffey, Alyssa Walford
KM Lizzy Hamilton, Liam Hawke
K/1S Molly Watson, Aiden Turnbull
1C Hayley Sanderson, Charlie Duffey, Charlotte Walsh
2L Joel Knapp, Jake Cardwell
2M Jake Muller, Abby Bolwell
2S Keira Unwin
Sport Danny Smith

Stage2 Assembly Awards Term 1 Weeks 9 & 10
Stewart House Clothing Appeal

Thank you to all who have made donations of money and clothing. All donations need to be returned to the school by Friday 17th May. Please leave the bags between the canteen and the school hall and place donations into the Magpie Box. Thank you for your support of this worthy cause.

Mrs Janet Shiels, Co-ordinator

4J Enjoying Purple Carrots for Crunch and Sip

Woolworths Earn and Learn Program

We encourage you to collect stickers, attach them to the sticker sheet available from Woolworths and drop them into the marked box school office foyer. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Mrs Janet Shiels, Co-ordinator

Sport Update

Razorback PSSA trials are still being conducted for Union and Boys Touch. The following Students have been selected in Razorback teams and or SSW Teams. Congratulations to these students and to all PPS students who have trialed.

Netball: Brooke Campbell and Emilee Purnell selected in Razorback Netball.

Soccer: Georgia Ivanovic selected in SSW Girls Soccer (as Goal Keeper)

Touch: Brooke Campbell selected in Razorback Touch.

League: Ragan Gilbert SSW 11s Rugby League

Ethan Bondfield SSW Opens Rugby League

Hockey: Georgia Ivanovic and April Hamilton selected in SSW Hockey Team.

Ms Fraser, Organisers

Congratulations to our very talented students. Ms Fraser.
We enjoyed meeting Susie O’Neill. Susie competed at the 1992, 1996, and 2000 Olympic Games, winning eight medals, including individual gold medals in the 200 butterfly in 1996 and the 200 freestyle in 2000. She won 10 gold medals at the Commonwealth Games, the most by any Australian in any sport.

O’Neill was named Australian Female Athlete of the Year in 1996 and 1998, and in 1997, was given the Order of Australia.
Intention to apply: Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

Government schools use a range of strategies to meet the educational needs of gifted and talented students. One strategy is opportunity class placement which provides intellectual stimulation and an educationally enriched environment for gifted and talented students.

Offers for opportunity class placement will be made on the basis of the Opportunity Class Placement Test results and school assessment. The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on Wednesday 24 July 2013.

If you would like to apply for opportunity class placement in Year 5 in 2014 on behalf of your child, you need to do so soon.

1. Apply on the internet and submit your application online. You will need to have an email address (not the student’s email address), access to the internet and a printer. (preferred DEC option)

   Detailed instructions on how to apply online will be available from 29 April 2013 at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

   or

2. If you do not have internet access, complete a commercially printed application form and return it to this school by 17 May 2013.

   The applications will be processed by the school in exactly the same way whether you apply online or submit a commercially printed form. Parents are to submit only one application for each student.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]
Principal

30/4/13

Cut along the dotted line and return the completed slip below to this school by next Friday.

Intention to apply: Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2014

Student’s name: ________________________________ Class: __________________________

I am interested in applying for opportunity class placement in 2014  Yes □  No □

If Yes:

I have internet access and will be applying online  Yes □  No □

OR

I do not have internet access and would like to receive a printed application form (not available until 6th May) □
Results of School Hat Survey 2013

53 Surveys were returned and 72% of responses were in favour of changes i.e. introducing the wide brim hat. As mentioned in last terms newsletter this change will be discussed at our P & C Meeting next week. (next Tuesday 14th May 7.30pm in staffroom)

Please find below a summary of the general comments for you to peruse. Thank you to everyone who replied, your feedback was greatly appreciated.

Supportive Comments

- Cap not enough protection, hat should be compulsory and all the same i.e. no cap. Looks untidy if different.
- Already wears wide brimmed hat.
- Children prefer cap, brimmed hat safer though.
- Welcome hat that provides good protection, doesn’t fade and looks better.
- Make wide brim hat compulsory, with a transition period. 2014 leadership team could lead the way. My child wears but easier to enforce if all wearing it. Thank you.
- Any wide brimmed hat – I have endured health issues from not wearing a hat.
- Love wide brimmed hat but not popular with children. Hope caps can be phased out – 6 months?
- Support change from cap to bucket – feel toggle is dangerous. Do not give kids a choice, make it one style only and compulsory.
- Remove cap, introduce wide brim before next summer please – maybe September.
- Ban non-school hats i.e. baseball caps of various colours. Brings image of the school down. Good price. Caps don’t cover the face properly.
- Hard to enforce when cap is a ‘cooler’ (trendy) option – but great idea.
- More protection, have 12 month transition.
- Concerned wide brim hat may be cumbersome e.g. for sport. Wide brim hat – hottest months; legionnaire’s style?
- Happy to encourage my child – still feel both should be available.
- Caps not sun protective, don’t like cord, bucket hat works. Only work if caps banned – no transition, hard on teachers to enforce. Uniform standard is appalling in the school. Offer to pay for hats if students can’t afford.
- Would like wide brimmed hat with no option as all children would wear the same.
- All children should wear same hat – wide brimmed not as practical – smaller brim would be better i.e. surf / bucket hat – used to be available (peer pressure with wearing caps).
- Cancer council recommends wide brimmed hat and sunglasses, my child wears surf style hat, long sleeve shirt for outdoor play.
- Take away cap – have wide brim hat = everyone the same = everyone safe and happy. School policy is no hat, no play in the sun, class lessons when outside need to do the same.
- Prefer wide brimmed hat, child wouldn’t wear so would love support of school (encourage at assembly).
- Have only purchased wide brim hat with cord, would support only option. However, if cap remained maybe cap wearers should play in the shade for sufficient protection.
- All students should wear a school hat, much better than caps.
- Love that you are addressing this issue – thank you. Caps unacceptable and irresponsible to have in uniforms shop – children burnt as caps don’t provide adequate protection. Coloured caps should not be allowed, black only. Easier to get children to wear if all in the same. Bucket hats need to be in smaller sizes.
- Introduce ASAP as much better sun protection.
• If no cap option, easier to enforce with own child, (however concern many wear any cap from home). Should be 'no school hat, no play'.
• Would rather cap removed – if not hat compulsory Terms 1 and 4, cap optional Terms 2 and 3. If cap is worn, treated as no hat policy.
• Would like to see hats worn as compulsory as other parts of uniform – good to see children wearing same headwear. Has a mesh top been suggested?
• Wide brimmed hats should replace the caps, then if everyone wears child won’t feel odd one out.
• Would support wider hat, feel we need a school hat – school uniform needs to be worn everyday by all students. Concern about children just wearing any hat.
• An important concern – children will accept change once compulsory. Perhaps brims can be slightly smaller / narrower to prevent sagging.
• Remove completely the cap, no choice but to wear the wide brim hat then no one would feel different.
• Difficulty making compulsory – once current stock of hats sold, wide brim sold only, make hats compulsory for external sports, cultural events.
• Don’t really care what hat as long as everybody wears it. As with school uniform – too many variations – feel we don’t look good as a school uniform – out of date, untidy.

Not in Favour

• Can’t afford to replace present hats which our kids are happy to wear.
• If students are happy leave, provide sun screen.
• My children would not wear wide brimmed hat.
• My children wear caps and I am happy with.
• My children won’t wear wide brim – if you change, our school’s reputation and image in the community will change i.e. that students wear their school uniform.
• A cap is better than no hat at all – children feel it’s easier and fits in their bag.
• Variety of hats presently covers the various likes of all students; another thing to police, shouldn’t we be proud they (children) are wearing school caps proudly.
• Nice to have hat (and caps) that children want to wear. Previous experience the hat looked ‘daggy’ – lost its shape, wind blew off. There are different designs for caps.
• PPS cap is the best – popular, like the look; fits in school bag; easier for girls with a ponytail; easier for sport.
• No need to change – children will not wear wide brim, not in sun for long i.e. at school, Vitamin D deficiencies also a concern.
• Wide brim looks hot, what about legionnaire’s style, would white be better than black as cooler, softer lighter fabric and so fits into school bag.
• Both styles available – let parents decide. Would prefer enforcement of our ‘school caps’ – not every colour and style.
• Ask the children to wear sunscreen rather than change the caps.
• Caps okay, my children wear PPS cap, not other types.

Thank you to everyone who responded. Parents gave this survey much thought and came up with very interesting and creative ideas. Thank you! ☺

Lyn Fraser
Principal
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72 Lumsdaine Street, Picton NSW 2571
P: 02 4677 0211 M: 0414 372 420 susanjenks@ozemail.com.au