



# Pilliga Public School

Regina Stoltenberg, Principal

*The little school that's BIG  
on learning*

**SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER**  
**Term 2, Week 4**  
**Friday, May**  
**24th, 2013**

## CALENDAR

HEALTHY HAROLD:  
Wednesday, May 29th  
PBL TEAM MEETING:  
Thursday, May 30th,  
3.15pm  
PILLIGA PUBLIC SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY SUPPORT  
GROUP MEETING: Tues-  
day, June 4th, 9.00am  
COMMUNITY CONVER-  
SATIONS: WEDNESDAY,  
June 5th

## ADVANCE NOTICE

SCHOOL EXCURSION:  
June 17th, 18th, 19th,  
20th

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Our students participated in a photography competition sponsored by Narrabri and District Community Aid Service. The photographs, that were produced through the technology of our School i-pads, created much discussion around their creative construction. Two of our students took out prizes: Esther won first place and received a holiday voucher to the Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo, and Luana took out second place, receiving a milk-shake maker and a carry bag. Well done, girls!

**21st Century learning** occurs in a cooperative, supportive environment, driven by the needs of students. The less-competent students in a group learn through the modelling of more skilled and knowledgeable students and teachers. For most of us, this is an alien concept, chained as we are to our desks and pencil and paper. However, research has shown that truly child-centred learning is learning that lasts a lifetime.

At Pilliga Public School the teaching and learning day is made up of times of sitting at the desk with pencil and paper, with times of working together in a group, or completing tasks on the computer, or researching and building individual knowledge through the technology of the i-pad. Other learning environments at school are the playground and our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Classroom.

Another concept in cutting edge teaching is self-evaluation and task monitoring. Our students are becoming competent (if not always 100% truthful!) at evaluating their own work and monitoring their progress. This process is supported by our use of rubrics and matrices. These are fundamental skills required in the 21st century workplace, and your children are learning this at our school.

Mrs Currey and I are working on the mid-year reports, which will be released to you at parent-teacher interviews in Week 9. In the next few weeks I will be seeking your preferences for interview times. In the meantime, I am sending you a copy of the Individual Teaching Programs developed as a result of the Personalised Learning Plan consultations at the end of last year. Please read through these documents; this is the information that is accessed by all staff so that we can best meet your child's learning needs. Your feedback will be on the agenda of our parent-teacher interview.

We are technically half-way through the term and there are still many more learning moments to come. It's important that we work together to give your children the best opportunities for marking their marks in the world ...

*Regina*



### TESSELLATING TWINS

Lillianne and Luana worked cooperatively to produce a faultless tessellation. Although the girls know that tessellations are patterns with spaces, the hands-on process of making the pattern has reinforced the concept.

Other mathematical concepts we will be looking at this term include mass, volume, money and time. Of course, we reinforce the arithmetical processes of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division daily.

Please encourage your children to recognise these concepts in their day-to-day life. In this way, maths becomes a "real" learning experience.





## NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACE

Pilliga Public School has been designated as a Neighbourhood Safer Place by the NSW Rural Fire Service. Our site was selected based on the RFS criteria of an open space and a satisfactory maintenance regime. It is a safer geographical location for use in an emergency bush fire event. Consequently, ember screens and hazard reduction door fittings have been installed at the School. The primary purpose of a NSP is the protection of human life. The RFS will arrange for a sign to be erected at the front of the School informing the community of its protective status.

Attached to this Newsletter are some forms for completion in the event of a student being absent. It is a legal requirement that we have written verification of absence, stating a reason. These notes need to be forwarded even if you phone the School and let us know your child will be absent.

## Live Life Well @ School

Mrs Currey had two days of learning this week, participating in the Live Life Well @ School Project, sponsored by Hunter New England Health in conjunction with the Department of Education. We are required to teach students about active, healthy lifestyles and good nutrition. Our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program lessons received some high praise, and teachers from other schools are envious of our kitchen classroom. There are some information sheets attached to this Newsletter.



Please call in; we'd be proud to show you around ...



## Healthy Harold returns!

Healthy Harold will be back in our car park in the Life Education van on Wednesday. This year the focus will be on how our body works and what

function each of our body parts has and its interrelation with the rest of our body... Consequently, the educator will be using the anatomically correct names for human body parts. Please complete this slip and return it to school by Wednesday. The School will be meeting the increased cost for all students.

I give permission for my child/children .....  
to attend Healthy Harold on Wednesday, May 29th, 2013.

Signed: ..... Date: .....



## Going Asian in the Kitchen Classroom

