Principal’s Report

Last week I attended a presentation by teachers involved in the Colyton Learning Community 2015 Literacy Project. I would like to thank the teachers involved from Colyton Public School for their work within this project. Through involvement in this process our staff have explored new instructional methods and looked at ‘teaching differently’.

We continually revisit our school vision to create a place of inclusivity. School staff and the community work together to foster an equitable environment in which students are valued and their individuality and creativity are supported. The school equips students with skills and knowledge, along with self-esteem and resilience, allowing them to develop into active and informed citizens within society.

Our staff are passionate about quality teaching and provide enriched and differentiated learning opportunities for all students, based on best practice and on-going professional learning.

We are committed to developing collaborative partnerships within our community in order to strengthen relationships, maximise resources and build a successful future.

Preparing our students for the future requires providing students with skills they will need beyond school.

- Problem solving
- Work ethic
- Think analytically
- Collaborate
- Communicate
- Utilise technology

Our school staff looks for opportunities to teach these skills in the classroom. A stage 3 proposal for 2016 highlights this enthusiasm.

The **Stage 3 STEM Project** will support an integrated approach to teaching and learning around Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in Stage 3. The initiative will involve utilising the pedagogies in the mathematics and science and technology syllabus to develop learning experiences through the use of project-based and inquiry based learning strategies.

The **Stage 3 STEM Project** will provide schools with the opportunity to evaluate teaching and learning practices in primary education. The desired impact is improved student learning through pedagogical change. The project will require a commitment from the school to facilitate collaborative, integrated teaching and creative implementation strategies.

**Greg O’Neill**
Principal

Superhero Day Term 3

Thanks to all the superheroes we have at Colyton Public School, the Student Parliament was able to raise $490.75 for Muscular Dystrophy research. The Student Parliament would like to thank everyone for their donations.

Cooking with Mrs Bonner

5D and 5H have been working on a Tuesday Morning in the Residence with Mrs Bonner. They have been cooking and discussing Life Skills. Part of the cooking process is working together to identify cooking procedures and kitchen health and safety practices. This positive learning opportunity is given to students who have worked hard in class and who
have been seen carrying out the PBL Rule of the Week.

Enjoy the photos. Thank you Mrs Bonner.

Remembrance Day Tribute

On Wednesday 11th November, Colyton observed a minute silence in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

Below are some poppies made by students and placed in our front garden, each poppy has the Remembrance Day Ode written on the back, they are a beautiful addition to our garden.

For information on Remembrance Day and the Australian experience of war, visit The Australian War Memorial website.

Home | Australian War Memorial

Thank you Katrina

A heartfelt thank you to one of our Colyton mums Katrina Murry, mother of Lachlan and Lily Smith for generously making and donating a beautiful floral wreath for our students to lay at our flag pole in honor of Remembrance Day.

Thank you from all Colyton staff and students.

Environmental Project - Thank you Reg Murray

Incorporated into our school plan are developing community partnerships. Our sincere thanks to Mr Reg Murray from the Mt Druitt Chamber of Commerce for their generous donation of $200. This money has been used to establish our herb and vegetable garden.
Keeping In Touch – Week 4

What has KM been up to?

This week KM explored forces in our Science learning. We looked at how different ramps make cars move faster. We have been thinking about push, pull and gravity. We built our ramps and tested cars on them; it was a lot of fun. Here are some photos of our learning.

Mrs Cooper and the KM students.

Community Hub News

Today Colyton Community Hub has sent a welcome message with a photo to the new refugees coming to Australia for the Refugee Of Hope welcome campaign.

نرحب باللاجئين الجدد إلى استراليا ونأمل لهم حياة كريمة

“Living With Choices”
Six Week FREE Self Esteem Group

10.00 am—11.30 am, Mondays
16th November, 2015 — 21st December, 2015

Learn how to build self esteem, take care of yourself, discover your own identity and rights, and relate better to others in this new, six week group.

Join a friendly, informal group which focuses on learning how to make choices which enhance wellbeing!


This group is being offered FREE of charge at Blacktown Women’s and Girls’ Health Centre
6 Prince Street, Blacktown

For details and bookings, phone 9831 2070 or email info@womensandgirls.org.au
Keeping In Touch – Week 4

Not returning to Colyton in 2016?

Student enrolment numbers are an important part of planning for the school year, if your child will not be returning to Colyton Public School in 2016 please inform office staff as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Going overseas? Or on holidays for more than 5 school days?

A reminder to parents/carers that you are required by law to obtain a Certificate of Exemption for any pre-planned absence of more than 5 consecutive school days. These include planned family holidays and overseas travel. If you are planning for your child to finish the school year earlier than Wednesday 16th December you will also need to apply for an exemption.

We have had a number of parents apply for exemptions as little as 2 days before the leave is to take place, as you can appreciate, late applications put a strain on our admin staff and may not always be possible to complete in time. To allow adequate time for processing we ask that parents lodge their forms at least 1 week prior to travel. Forms are available from the front office.

We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Introduction of School Opal Card

Students travelling on public buses may have received an information booklet detailing the introduction of school opal cards.

Only students entering Year 3 or Year 7 in 2016 or students changing schools need to reapply for an Opal card. All other students who currently travel with a bus pass will automatically be issued with opal cards next year.

There is an information brochure at the end of this newsletter or copies are available from the front office.

For further information please call 131 500 or visit School Student Transport Scheme - tickets | transportnsw.info

Term 4

Week 7- Kinder Orientation Afternoons Monday 16th Nov – Friday 20th Nov

Monday 16th November Panthers on the Prowl – Stage 3

Week 8 - Kinder Orientation Afternoons Monday 23rd Nov – Friday 27th Nov

Monday 23rd November OC Orientation Night - Panthers on the Prowl – Stage 3

Tuesday 24th November OC Orientation Day

Thursday 26th November K-2 Disco

3-6 Disco

Week 9 - Kinder Orientation Afternoons Monday 30th Nov – Friday 4th Dec

Monday 30th November Panthers on the Prowl – Stage 3
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<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8th December</td>
<td>Panthers on the Prowl Graduation</td>
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<td>Thursday 10th December</td>
<td>3-6 Presentation Day</td>
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<td>Friday 11th December</td>
<td>K-2 Presentation Day</td>
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<td>-Year 6 to IMAX</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14th December</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Assembly</td>
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<td>-Year 6 Farewell</td>
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<td>Tuesday 15th December</td>
<td>Year 6 to Luna Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th December</td>
<td>Last day of Term 4 for students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 17th December</td>
<td>Staff Development Day – no students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18th December</td>
<td>School closed</td>
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**The Challenge of Disciplining Your Children**

This is a three-hour interactive seminar on constructive techniques for parents when disciplining and encouraging their children.

Parents will learn:
- What discipline means and how to set clear boundaries that children respect and learn to appreciate
- To use conflict as a tool to improve relationships
- To use different discipline techniques

Venue: Interele

Tuesday 24 November 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Cost: $25 / $15 concession

Suite 423, Level 4
14 Lexington Drive, Bella Vista

Bookings Essential – Phone 8882 7850
Transport for NSW

Fact sheet: The School Opal card

Who's eligible?
To be eligible for a School Opal card, students need to be NSW residents and may need to live a minimum distance away from their school:
- Years K-2 (Infants) there’s no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking or further.
Students completing secondary studies at TAFE, boarding school students and students temporarily in Australia may also be eligible for a School Opal card. The eligibility criteria for these students is available at transportnsw.info/school-students.

A School Opal card is provided to eligible students who need to travel within the Opal network. Paper travel passes are issued to eligible students who need to travel outside the Opal network.

Who needs to apply?
Most students or parents won't need to apply for the School Opal card. The School Opal card will be sent to a student's school automatically at the beginning of the new school year in 2018.
However, a new application is required if:
- The student is just starting school or has not had a pass for travel before.
- The student is progressing from Year 2 to 3, or Year 6 to 7.
- The student is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school.
- The student's personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Applications must be made by a parent or guardian for children aged 15 years and under. Applications must be made by the student if aged 16 years or older.

How to apply
Step 1 Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students.
Step 2 Print, sign and submit the form to the school for endorsement.
Step 3 The school will then forward the application to Transport for NSW for processing. Once approved, Transport for NSW sends the School Opal card to the home address given in the application.
The application may take several weeks and the applicant's email address is required.

If the student doesn't qualify for free travel
They may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.
Apply at transportnsw.info/school-students

Find out more
For more information on the School Opal card and the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS), please visit transportnsw.info/school-students.
Child development and road safety

Why are young children at risk around traffic?

SOCIAL / EMOTIONAL

• Sociable and want to be ‘where the action is’.
• See themselves as ‘big boys’ or ‘big girls’ and want to do things by themselves.
• Are all different, so what works with one may not work with another.

COGNITIVE

• Curious and keen to explore and learn about their surroundings.
• Limited understanding of ‘danger’ and of what to do to keep safe.
• Tend to focus only on what is important to them yet can be easily distracted.
• Understand cause and effect when in traffic differently to adults.
• Understanding of sound and direction and what these mean still developing.
• Ability to judge speed and distance of moving vehicles still developing.
• Can say safety words and slogans but not yet able to apply them independently.
• Inexperienced as road users and confused by sudden changes in the traffic environment.

PHYSICAL

• Fast and can quickly move from safety into danger.
• Small and difficult for drivers to see, especially behind a reversing vehicle.
• Reflexes and reactions still developing so stopping can take longer.
• Fragile so injuries are likely to be severe.

Children’s behaviour can’t be explained in terms of just one developmental area. It is the interaction of the cognitive, social/emotional and physical aspects of their development that puts children at risk around traffic.

Young children depend on adults to keep them safe!

www.kidsandtraffic.mq.edu.au

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The Rule for week 5 is:

Go as a Learner

In the playground

When we Go as a Learner in the playground, we:

✓ Be a problem solver
✓ Follow game rules
✓ Try new skills

When we Go Safely in all settings, we:

✓ Be seen by a teacher
✓ Use equipment correctly
✓ Report unsafe behaviour
✓ Keep hands and feet to ourselves
✓ Follow teacher instructions
✓ Wear school uniform

The Rule for week 6 is:

Go Safely

In all settings

This year at Colyton Public School students will be focussing on a rule of the week. Each week students will participate in PBL lessons which are targeted at the rule. At each stage assembly a PBL award will be given to a student from each class who has been seen following the rules and expectations of the week.