Another busy fortnight with specialist programs beginning, garden–kitchen lessons planned, computer information sessions conducted and a group of students representing us at the 2017 Valid: Have-a-say conference.

This week families will be inundated with paperwork including a statement, newsletter and 2017 Market Roster, so please ensure that you check your child’s bag.

Visitors to PLPS this week have commented on the way our students work and contribute to discussions regardless of year level. There is a ‘buzz’ as students go about their work and begin to explore new ideas and thinking.

Last week I had the pleasure of accompanying Archie Tingay, Laura Hall, Thomas Ray and Winnie Johnston at the Have-a-say conference. Each year the students rise to the occasion and demonstrate what amazing young people they are becoming. PLPS is the only school that offers assistance with this national conference and organisers and attendees both look forward to catching up with the students. Students take on numerous duties ranging from wait staff, beauticians to sports coaches and at the same time get to know people with disabilities as people just like themselves.

The start of the school year is always busy and as we come to know new families and reconnect with those returning we can begin to frame some activities for families. Already we have had requests for sessions on resilience, mindfulness, nutrition and social skills development. If you have other ideas that may be of interest please let me know. Watch newsletters and the notice board for dates and details.

Welcome to Miss Bailie-Mace and Mr Perez, who are very excited to be joining our teaching team this year.

Reminders

- Please name children’s uniform items. Already the lost property is beginning to accumulate.
- Have-your-say about the future plans for the Borough during this new council period and complete the survey on line. Students will be making their contributions next week too.
- **2017 SCHOOL FEES - Please check the balance on your attached statement before making a payment and if requiring a payment plan please see Fay.**

Appreciations

- Parents for assistance with class programs
- Naomi for library and admin help
- Year 3 and new parents in the senior school who attended the BYOD information sessions this week and teachers for their organisation
- Ms Fewkes for organising swimming trials at Kardinia and parents for driving students
- Mrs Wren for art room supplies
- Keith and Pam Potter for donations of books to our library
- Queenscliff bookshop for their national give-a-book day gift
- Lou and Norna for gardening work
- Gayle for donation of plants for our garden kitchen

Fay Agterhuis
Have-a-say conference 2017

From the 8th to 11th of February, four students from PLPS went to the Have-a-say conference, at Deakin University in Geelong. We were all waiters and then we did a variety of activities including badge making, indoor games, hair and makeup and soccer. In these activities we assisted the conference goers to participate and develop their skills. It was fun and a great experience for us. We learnt a lot about people with disabilities, they are like us and we have lots in common, and we learnt how to communicate with them by listening carefully and being patient. We made some good friends and then we saw the “red faces” acts and the awards. We would like to thank Mrs A for taking us and we are very grateful that we got to go to the Have-a-say conference.

Archie, Laura, Thomas and Winnie

Please add to your home calendars:

* **Curriculum Days 2017 ~ students not required at school:**
  * Wednesday, 1st March
  * Friday, 9th June

* **Report Writing Day Pupil free day,** Monday, 6th November  
children not required at school

* **Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday,** Tuesday, 7th November

* **Cultural Visits**
  - Queenscliff Kids Literary Festival 19th May
  - Opera 29th May
  - “Rock It” 14th November
  - QMF Kids Concert 4th November

* **Camps**
  - 3/4 Sovereign Hill Camp 14 & 15th March
  - 5/6 Melbourne Camp 3, 4 & 5th May
  - Prep Breakfast 24th October
  - Grade 1 Dinner 26th October
  - Grade 2 Sleepover 2nd November

* **Term Dates**
  - Term 1 31st January - 31st March
  - Term 2 18th April - 30th June
  - Term 3 17th July - 22nd September
  - Term 4 9th October - 22nd December

* **Swimming Program Grades 00-06:** 11th -21st September @ Splashdown  
*Please note student participation in the school swimming program is a pre-requisite for inclusion in any open water activities during 2017*

* **Sports**
  - PLPS Cross Country 28th March
  - Whole School Sports 8th November

* **NAPLAN Years 3 & 5:** 9th - 11th May