Dear parents, students and friends,

Teachers are now in the process of finalising and proof reading their reports. Completed reports will be sent home today, Monday 20th June. Our Parent/Teacher interviews are scheduled for Wednesday 22nd June, this week.

Interviews will commence at 2:30 pm. This will be a normal school day and students will attend specialist’s classes during this hour. Appointment times will be available at 15 minute intervals commencing at 2:30 pm after teachers finish their lunch break, with the last interview appointment available at 7:00pm.

As we will be holding Parent/Teacher interviews this week, being last week of term. This week is also allocated to planning and our usual weekly timetable will be altered to allow teams of teachers to be released to plan together for term 3.

MELBOURNE ZOO

Children in grades Prep to year 2 attended the Melbourne Zoo on Friday. Despite the inclement weather all students had a great time and from all reports a very informative and educational experience. Students had time to stop and observe the animals and enclosures. Students also attended a presentation in the Educational facility.

DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

At Dragon Boat Festival is a traditional and statutory (public) holiday originating in China, Taiwan and associated with a number of East and Southeast Asian societies. Dragon Boat Festival is also celebrated as “Poets’ Day”, due to Qu Yuan’s status as China’s first poet of well renowned standing. The festival occurs on the 5th day of the 5th month of lunar Chinese calendar. This year, it was on Thursday, 9th June.

Two of the most widespread activities for Dragon Boat Festival are eating (and preparing) rice dumpling (粽子) and racing dragon boasts. Other traditional activities include a game of making an egg stand at noon (if a person makes an egg stand at exactly 12 noon, he/she will have luck for the year).

This year, the children studying Mandarin at Preston South Primary School had an opportunity to make a modified rice dumpling which was formed by paper (as bamboo leaf) and sweet (rice filling).
ASSEMBLY
Friday is the last day of Term 2 and we will be having an assembly at 2.10 pm and 2.30 pm dismissal. I would like to thank all the staff, students and parents for a very successful and eventful semester. As the term draws to a close, I know that students and teachers are all looking forward to a well-earned holiday! We have had an amazing amount of extra curricula activities on top of the usual classroom programs.

LONG SERVICE LEAVE
At the commencement of Term 3 I will be on leave for two weeks. I will be travelling to Cyprus with my family. Mrs. Ristovski will be the Acting Principal. Her class will be taught by Mr. McIver an experienced teacher who has previously taught at Preston South Primary School. Miss Makacoska will also be on leave during this time to attend her sister’s wedding in Macedonia. Her class will be taught by Ms. Jeanette Watts.

P.S.P.S - HOST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Recently our school held a professional development day for the staff at Newlands Primary School. Teachers at our school demonstrated our Instructional Model based on the Vgotsky Gradual Release of Responsibility. The Gradual Release of Responsibility Model of Instruction begins with a clear learning outcome or goal. The teacher explicitly teaches to the outcome and any concept, idea or strategy that meets the outcome. The teacher then models this, specifically showing the students how to do it. At that time, the teacher has designed learning experiences where the students can work in small groups or on their own to practice. This practice time is guided by the teacher. The teacher observes and supports to ensure that the students are growing in their ability to meet the learning goal(s) of the day. The teacher also includes opportunities for the student to individually demonstrate the degree to which they have learned the outcome.

I want to thank all the teachers who opened their classrooms to showcase the wonderful work we are doing here.

YEAR 5 /6 STUDENT INQUIRY:
Australian Government - throughout the term students in years 5 & 6 studied Australian democracy, past and present as well as women’s rights and the stolen generation.

Students created a documentary using iMovie of a Bill (law) they wanted to change. Students then presented these to their parents and we invited parents to the ‘celebration of our learning’ evening last Thursday.

Students worked in groups and demonstrated a great understanding of the Australian Government and their skills with using ICT were outstanding.

*****Newsletter by email*****
In line with our sustainability policy we would prefer to send out our newsletter via email. If you would like to receive this electronically please confirm your email address by sending a message to Preston.south.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au