PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE
Walk Safely To School Day
This Friday 23 May is Walk Safely To School Day. It would be great if parents could organise for their children to experience walking to school, even if it is only part of the way. Perhaps in the future parents who drive their children to school might like to consider dropping them a few hundred metres away from the school gate so they can walk part of the way every day - it’s something to consider longer term. In the meantime, enjoy your walk on Friday.

Staffing - New Deputy Principal
Recently we completed the process to select a new Deputy Principal. The successful applicant was Ms Tanya Black. Ms Black has an excellent background in education as a teacher, Assistant Principal, Reading Recovery Tutor and an Instructional Leader. We look forward to welcoming her to our wonderful school soon. I know everyone will make her feel very welcome when she arrives.

NAPLAN
Last week students in Years 3 and 5 completed the annual NAPLAN (National Assessment Program- Literacy and Numeracy). The tests assess skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, every second year in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. An individual student NAPLAN report for your child will be issued later this year. In Australia some 32% of all Australians were born overseas and nearly 50% of us have one or both parents born in another country. In South-Western Sydney, 65% of all children in public schools are of non-English speaking background (NESB). At Auburn West Public School, this figure is about 97%. This inevitably impacts on test performance. Our children are intelligent, however it takes years to become highly literate in English as a second language. The great news is that our students continually improve as they progress throughout their school years as they become more competent with English. In fact, the top HSC students in NSW are often from families where English is their second language.

New Play Equipment and Electronic Sign
In previous newsletters I have provided information about our new playground equipment that will be installed over the next few months. In addition to this equipment, over the next few months we will also have a new electronic school sign installed to replace the current sign. The electronic sign will enable us to change the message more frequently and to include multiple messages - in colour.

Star Badges
Good luck to all of our wonderful students for our Star Badge assembly next week. Congratulations to all students who receive a Star Badge. Do your best boys and girls and you might be next!

Half Yearly Parent-Teacher-Student Meetings
A reminder to keep time free during the week starting 23 June for our half-yearly parent-teacher-student meetings.

CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL
On Tuesday 6th May years 3 to 6 participated in the annual school Cross-Country carnival. It was a beautiful, sunny day, the perfect weather for racing. It was delightful to see so many students participating with enthusiasm, demonstrating the way they value being fit and healthy. Both students and teachers enjoyed the day and are excited to send off our wonderful zone representatives on Wednesday 21st May.

AUNTY WENDY COMES TO AUBURN WEST!
The Kindergarten and Year One students recently went ‘bush’ in the company of Aunty Wendy. We had a great time being part of her mob, singing songs about Aboriginal people, Australian animals and joining in with an imaginary fishing trip and campfire dinner. We learned that bush tucker is good for us and that Aboriginal people care deeply about family and their country. It was a fun filled incursion with lots of singing, dancing and story telling.
TERM 2 2014 EVENTS

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<td>Wednesday 21 May</td>
<td>National Simultaneous Storytime: Too Many Elephants in This House</td>
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<td>Friday 23 May</td>
<td>Walk Safely to School Day</td>
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<td>Parent Program: Raising Resilient Children</td>
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<td>Sydney Writers Festival</td>
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<td>Tuesday 27 May</td>
<td>Year 3 to Rouse Hill House and Farm</td>
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<td>Friday 30 May</td>
<td>Parent Program: Reconciliation Week: Sea of hands art activity</td>
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<td>Friday 6 June</td>
<td>Parent Program: Afghani Cultural Sharing</td>
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MOTHER’S DAY 2014
Over the last two weeks the parents have been gathering in the Parent Room each afternoon to gift wrap the mother’s day items for sale at the AWPS Mother’s Day stall.

Last Friday the mothers worked on the mother’s day stall, selling the gifts to all the children.

Thank you to the parent helps who worked on the Mother’s Day stall on Friday: Cemila, Leyla, Shahila, Harpreet, Gurdev, Nada, Wafa, Sanaa and Zehra.

Thank you to all those parents who assist so readily to making our school a great place for the students.

The Parent Program Team
(Mrs Jalili, Iyidili, Galvin and Nairouz)

COMMUNITY GARDEN: SUPER SALAD FRIDAY
On Friday the parents did their first community garden salad day. First they harvested the lettuce and leafy greens from the garden. Next they washed the greens ready to make the salads. After much chopping and the addition of a small amount of bought produce the parents were able to make up 3 different types of salad for the students: Tomato salad, Bean salad, and Egg salad.

Students from the community language classes, ESL classes and kindergarten came along to see the parents prepare the salads and then helped themselves to a plate full of super sumptuous salads. The students were very appreciative of the healthy food that they were eating as they know that healthy food is the best food for growing children.

The Parent Program team wish to thank all the parents that assisted today.

Parent Program Team: Mrs Iyidili, Mrs Jalili, M Galvin and Mrs Nairouz