Dear Parents,

**New Staff for 2016**
Over the last few weeks we have been interviewing applicants for 5 teaching positions at Pinewood for next year. I am pleased to announce the following applicants have gained appointments to our school for 2016: Ms Faye Park, Ms Helen Crocket, Mr Simon Grant, Mrs Tania Hamaman and Ms Rochele D’Cruze. Mr Paul Dobney will also be returning to the school next year.

**Reminder - End of year musical evening - Bring along your best singing voices!**
Our end of year music night will be held on Wednesday 9th December. We hope you can all come and join us on this end of year celebration. The performance will start at approximately 7.00pm but our Parents Club will be holding a sausage sizzle starting at 6.00pm.

**Transition Visits on Tuesday 8th December.**
Next Tuesday, December 8th, we have two special transition sessions occurring. Our current Year 6 students will be visiting their new secondary schools for 2016. We wish them well and hope they enjoy their day. On the same day, our new Preps students attend their final transition morning at Pinewood and meet their 2016 buddies for the first time. It is very exciting for everyone! Thank you to our parents club for providing our new Prep students with a sausage sizzle at the conclusion of their school visit.

**Wishing Tree – Best Chance**
Each year Bestchance attempts to ease the anxiety many families feel with Christmas approaching by offering a food hamper and one new gift for each child which parents can give as their own. Wishing Tree is funded entirely by donations from the community and for many this reflects the true meaning of giving at Christmas time ... **How can you help?**... Please see the Wishing Tree flyer attached to the newsletter.

**Student End of Year Reports**
Student reports will be distributed to families on Wednesday 16th December.

**Reminder, Last Day of Term – Friday 18th December.**
Final assembly will be at 9.15am
School finishing time is 2.30pm
Crossing supervisors will be working at this time to support the school and ensure our children are able to cross roads safely.
Students start the 2016 school year at 9.00am on Thursday 28th January 2016. (Prep students commence on Friday 29th January).

**Principal’s Corner**

*Raising Confident and Happy Girls*

Several weeks ago I presented an article to the school community about ‘Raising Mighty Boys’. This week, I would like to share an article titled, ‘Raising Confident and Happy Girls’. I hope you find it interesting.

Girls have a head start on boys in the academic stakes but life these days is not all smooth sailing for girls. They are often harder on themselves than boys, more likely to be perfectionists; and have more fears. Girls, like boys, benefit enormously from having parents who are attentive to their needs.

Here are seven BIG tips for raising great girls:

1. Help girls face up to their fears. Research shows that girls have more fears than boys. These include both developmental fears (e.g. fear of separation from parents as a toddler) and learned fears (e.g. fear of dogs). Some experts believe that this increase in fearfulness is related to overprotective parenting. Help girls confront their fears, rather than avoid them.

2. Get girls outside from a young age. Girls really benefit from spending time in natural environments including through organised groups such as Guiding; camping in the bush with the family or just free play in the backyard. It increases their confidence levels and their sense of autonomy.

3. Praise girls for what they do, NOT how they look. Direct your praise to effort and improvement rather than focusing on how they look. Girl’s body image issues are still a problem. It helps if you can link their self-

worth to what they do, rather than how they look. This can be tough for some girls, so persistence is important. (See point 6 for an exception to this)

4. Help girls work out what’s worth worrying about and what’s not. Girls often take criticism and rejection personally and can take too much attention to what people say. Help them work through what’s worth worrying about and what’s not.

5. Assist girls to navigate ‘girl world’ safely. Girls, although more skilled with relationships, can also be very hard on each other in late primary school and through the secondary school years. My colleague Catherine Gerhardt says that mums should talk with girls about the differences between a clique and a friendship, and help them work out how good friends act.

6. Get dad involved from a young age. The presence of an attentive male helps girls feel secure, and a father’s approval helps girls feel comfortable in their own skins. Teenage girls can benefit from positive comments from their dads about how they dress and carry themselves in public. "That dress looks perfect on you. I love it!” can be just the tonic a girl needs when she is feeling self-conscious and fragile about how she looks.

7. Expose teenage girls to the wisdom of older women. Mothers, aunts and family friends need to step forward in adolescence to mentor girls in navigating relationships; how they conduct themselves around others. Teenage girls spend a lot of time in each other’s company, and can benefit from the nurturance and nourishments that older women can provide.

by Michael Grose (Parenting Ideas)

Karen Jenkin
Principal

RESPECT     SELF CONFIDENCE     INTEGRITY     RESPONSIBILITY    OPTIMISM
The Out of Hours Vacation Care forms will be available next week. Forms must be back no later than Monday, 7th December. The program will run from Monday, 11th January, 2016—Wednesday, 27th January 2016. The program will be closed on Australia Day, Tuesday, 26th January, 2016.

Grade 1 & 2 End Of Year Gathering
Thank you to Everyone who came to the Grade 1 & 2 End Of Year Gathering at Crocs Play Centre. Overall, the night was a great success with 127 people attending. On the night we had lucky door prizes donated by: Sadike Miller, home made candles (Sadike@live.com.au) and Kate Sykes, hand made cards: Thank you Love Cake (www.thankyoulovecake.com) A big Thank you goes to Lyn Cooper for making cup cakes for the children. Thank you to Miss Ashcroft for also attending.

Grade 3 End Of Year Gathering
On Wednesday the 16th of December, Grade 3 will be having an End Of Year Gathering at Monash Aquatic Centre. Please come and join us from 6.30 pm. Pay as you enter and please note: Adult /child supervision is required. Thank you, Grade 3 Class Reps.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE
Thank you for all your kind donations so far - FINAL DONATIONS IN BY FRIDAY so we can make up the wonderful Hampers!

RAFFLE TICKET SALES
Money & stubs are due back Monday 7th December.

End of year musical evening- Bring along your best singing voices!
Our end of year music night will be held on Wednesday 9th Dec. We hope you can all come and join us on this end of year celebration. The performance will start at approximately 7.00pm but our parents club will be holding a sausage sizzle starting at 6.00pm.

Students are to wear Christmas colours – school uniform is not required.

School Office Hours
8.30am—4pm
Lily Y.        2M
For having a positive attitude towards all classroom activities and always doing her best.

Lucas B.       2M
Working hard in Maths Group and trying hard to complete his work. Keep it up.

Jordan G.       2M
For working hard to improve his reading by asking questions in reading groups. Well done!

Dharshana M.    Prep M
For her excellent work during our writing sessions. Well done Dharshana.

Anudi R.         Prep R
For settling in well to Pinewood Primary School. Anudi is a kind and considerate class member who tries her best in all activities.

James T-M.      5K
For your kind and considerate nature. You have been a forgiving and supportive friend to your peers. Well done James!

Nada A.         1A
For approaching all learning tasks with enthusiasm and for the kindness she shows towards others. Well done!

Grace J.        5C
For your excellent product presentation during our Economics Fair. You are an exemplary role model. Great job!

Wilson W.       5T
For working so well on his “explanation” poster. He stuck to the task and did an excellent job following instructions.

Keeley S.        1T
For the confidence she shows when approaching classroom activities. She is an excellent role model to others. Well done Keeley.

Thalia J.       3K
For working hard at settling into your new class and new routines. Well done Tilly.

Jonathan W.     6H
For always maintaining a positive attitude to his learning and his willingness to give anything a try.

Oliver W.       6U
For always having a positive attitude towards learning for utilising work-time effectively. Keep it up Oliver!

Matthew K.      6U
For his excellent ‘Getting Along’ skills when working in pairs and small groups. Well done Matthew!

Min H.          6H
For his consistent contribution to class discussions and his ability to work well with others in group activities.

Patrick S.      4R
For always encouraging his peers and for working diligently in all classroom activities. Well done Patrick!

Joy K.           Prep H
For showing such interest and enthusiasm during show and tell sessions. Well done!

Abhinaiya K.    4M
For the great effort she has put into her discussion writing. Keep up the great work.

Sandesh K.      3M
For trying hard in all areas of the curriculum to improve his work.

Anna V.          Prep L
For settling well into Pinewood and for always having courteous manners. Well done!

Veronika M.     2D
For her excellent fascinating Friday presentation. We all enjoyed hearing about your karate gear!

Kelly F.        3B
For always striving to do her absolute best. Well done Kelly, you have an admirable work ethic.

PE Award          Prep R
For their fantastic soccer passing skills.

School Banking day is
TUESDAY
Could your family be ‘Lizard Keepers’?

Would anyone in our school community have the space and inclination to care for one of our bearded dragons during the holidays? As pets, they are quite easy to look after. Tank (1 metre long), lighting and resident lizard can be delivered to your door. All instructions on their care included (with a grateful smile).

Enquiries to Greg Tate a.s.a.p
LIBRARY NEWS

The Premiers’ Reading Challenge is over at Pinewood for another year. There were 401 children who completed the challenge. These children read a total of 20,977 books. What a fantastic effort.

We would like to thank all the staff and parents who encouraged the children to complete the challenge and helped them select and read books. A special thanks to parents who came up to school and helped add books and also to parents who assisted the children at home with their entries.

The certificates were sent to the school this week and handed out in library lessons.

The following students not only completed the challenge but read 100 books. Well done.

Moumal Al-Saady, Moutamn Al-Saady, Chris Ardeleanu, Alexandria Arzanas, Amelia Bishop, Nicolas Davis, Emily Davis, Jackson Fabian, Kelly Fergeus, Sethumi Fernando, Kelvin Fong, Amanda Foo, Taya Fraser, Diljot Gahir, Aiham Jawad, Charlie Jurberg, Thomas Jurberg, Hendrix Mitchell, Tess MacPherson, Jenny Oh, Georgia Russell and Ryan Tan.

The 2015 Honor Roll can be found at the P.R.C. website.

For more information go to http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/

Helen Dent and Linda Hayden

The Economics Fair

On Thursday 26th November, the Year Five students participated in an Economics Fair as part of our inquiry unit on small businesses. The students were required to create items to sell, using only recycled materials. All the money raised went to Muscular Dystrophy Australia.

The students worked in small groups to make a recycled product. It was outstanding to see the amount of effort and creativity that went into creating the products. All the students gathered to look at the design briefs that were created on the iPads and projected on the Apple TV. One student in the group presented it and the other students set up and got ready to sell their recycled product.

The Economics Fair was a huge success. All the students sold their outstanding items and we managed to raise $252.95 for Muscular Dystrophy Australia. I felt that working in a team not only taught us about Economics, it also showed The Pinewood Way!

By Mia Van Oosterwijck