School Mission Statement

In a supportive partnership, provide for the development of each child the attitude, skills and knowledge needed to cope with the demands of living in our society.
Reading Improvement and McGrath Scholarship

I would like to congratulate the students on their huge improvements in reading this year! It is wonderful to see all our hard work paying off and the students improve. I would like to thank Frank and Eileen McGrath on their generous donation of $100 per term this year towards the Betty Flannery Reading Scholarship. This was awarded to a student who improved the most in reading throughout the term. The money remains at the school and is spent on educational activities and expenses, such as camp, uniforms, books, shoes and excursions. This term we looked at overall improvement in reading for the year and the winner was Mathew Thompson. Congratulations Matty; you have worked hard in reading!

Thank you

As the year comes to a close I would like to thank everyone for another great year at Pentland State School. In particular, I would like to thank my wonderful staff on their dedication, enthusiasm and always willing to go the extra mile! A huge thanks to Ella, Deb, Pat, Deeana, Don, Kieron and Sandra for making our school a wonderful place.

School Holidays

The school holidays begin on Friday 11th December. School resumes on Wednesday 27th January.

Merry Christmas

Last but not least, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I wish you all an enjoying and relaxing holiday. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting 2016.

Yours in Learning

Laura Peagham
P&C would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to continuing to support the school in 2016 and would love to see some fresh faces joining our committee. Many hands make light work.

Week 10, Term 4...what a glorious time of year!!

Our students have been working super hard to complete all assessment over the past few weeks. Now that we have finished assessment, report cards have been written and sent home at parent teacher interviews. You should all be very proud of your child/children’s accomplishments and progress over the past semester. Both Laura and I are very happy with the great results our students have achieved and will no doubt continue to achieve in 2016!

Now that we have completed all assessment our students have been busy in the classroom celebrating Christmas! We have been decorating the classroom, doing Christmas craft, singing Christmas songs and doing Christmas painting.

I hope you all have a happy Christmas and a safe new year and I look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready to learn in 2016!

Ella James

Classroom Teacher
My favourite thing this year was Science. I loved making helicopters, cars, planes and boats. The best part was flying and crashing and sinking them.

My favourite thing this year was swimming. We practiced and then went to Greenvale for competition. I came second in my race. I liked playing with kids from other schools.

My favourite thing this year was Science. We made planes and boats and flew and raced them. I liked the swimming carnival because I got age champion.

My favourite thing this year was playing on computers. I liked Science, Technology and Art. It was fun dressing up in Media and seeing all the other kids dressed up as well.
My favourite thing was going to the swimming carnival at Greenvale. We had a disco and Chelsea, Angela and I were dancing together. I enjoyed the swimming.

My favourite thing this year was going to Camp Darradgee and patting the chickens. I loved the high ropes and the Mohawk walk. It was also good to make friends with Ravenswood students.

My favourite thing this year was making cars to see how they move. We made boats and sank them in a dish. We made helicopters and planes and we raced them and the cars. It was fun.

My favourite thing was camp. I loved holding the baby animals and feeding Duncan the baby goat. Croc spotting was fun because we got to go real fast in the boat.
My favourite thing this year was Science. We learnt about circuits and made lightbulbs light up and made torches. I liked dressing up in Media and wearing high heels. It was fun.

My favourite thing this year was camp. We went yabbying and caught some yabbies and I made new friends. I also liked Media in Art because I got to dress up like a girl and walk around in high heels with a wig on.

My favourite things in all the years I have been at Pentland State School are......

Computers – play games
Art - dressing up in Media
Science - making volcanos
Technology - making cars and boats
Sports
Singing Christmas Songs
Bikes and Scooters
Board Games
Chappy Craft - painting 3D squares
School Camps. We played spotlight games, lazer tag, bowling, fishing at the barra farm, mini golf, making catapults, rock climbing, visiting the buffalo dairy, gigantic water slides and crawling through mud.
Pentland State School Academic Excellence

This student consistently demonstrated outstanding achievement in Maths and English, high achievements in all key learning areas and displays enthusiasm, a positive attitude and commitment to improve in academics. This year it was very close and we have chosen two winners. The 2015 recipients for academic excellence are Angela Hurren and Chelsea Harris.

JACK TEICHMAN - Sports Award. Jack Teichman’s Dad was a Police officer in Pentland many years ago. Jack grew up here and attended the Pentland School in his primary years. He loved sport.

This student consistently demonstrated the following sporting qualities through the school year; they competed in everything without always expecting to win, always tried their hardest in all sporting activities and events and had 100% participation in sporting activities. Congratulations Mathew Thompson.
BRYNN COOPER MEMORIAL for Academic Improvement. Brynn Cooper and his partner Christine were prospectors who lived in and around Pentland. Brynn loved Pentland and the area and when he passed away at a young age, his partner Christine and his family donated this trophy in his memory. The winner of this award consistently demonstrated overall academic improvement, particularly in Maths and English, displayed enthusiasm and initiative in all aspects of the curriculum and strived to improve in all key learning areas. Congratulations Elma Foster.

Spirit of the School Award. The criteria for this award is:

- Outstanding citizenship and participates in the life of the school and community
- Includes all aspects of the curriculum including attendance, pride in themselves and their school, positive behaviours displayed at all times and dedication towards learning and achievement
- Positive and influential behaviour to others to participate fairly and to their fullest potential
- It is for a person who is an ambassador to the school and a Role model to other students
- Establishes and maintains excellent rapport with all members of the school community through positive interactions and communication.

This year, we found it difficult to select a winner for this award, as all students have excelled in this area. The winners for 2015 are Angela Hurren and Mathew Thompson.
**Outstanding Attendance.** The winner of this award has had only 3 days absent from school. They will receive a gift voucher from Toy World in Charters Towers. Congratulations Althea Hurren.

**Pentland Progress Association Scholarship.**

This trophy was put in place for outstanding citizenship, both in and outside school. Students must apply in their own handwriting and address the outlined selection criteria. The scholarship provides financial assistance to further education. The winner for 2015 is Angela Hurren.
Unfortunately on awards nights, along with the happiness and pride of the student’s achievements there is sorrow as well; as we say goodbye to our graduating class. This year, sadly, we farewelled Selwyn, who has been a member of our school since Prep.

Selwyn has given us many a giggle over the years with his infectious laughter and funny antics. His huge smile continuously lights up the classroom, brightening everyone’s day.

We have had many a proud moment with Selwyn as well, through Sports Days, Literacy Presentations, Science and Technology Projects, his kindness and the day to day involvement in the classroom.

Selwyn had made an impression on everyone he has met and will be terribly missed. We would like to wish Selwyn all the best at high school and in the future.
Literacy and Numeracy Fact sheet
Supporting your child

What is literacy?

Literacy is the ability to read, view, write, design, speak and listen in a way that allows us to communicate effectively and to make sense of the world.

Why is literacy important?

Literacy is vital to ensuring your child has the best chance to succeed in their schooling and everyday life. Literacy allows us to make sense of a range of written, visual and spoken texts including books, newspapers, magazines, timetables, DVDs, television and radio programs, signs, maps, conversations and instructions.

Ways to support your child’s literacy development

Research has shown that children’s motivation and achievement improve when their parents or carers are involved in their education.

There are many everyday things you can do to encourage literacy learning. These include:

- valuing and encouraging your child’s efforts with literacy
- sharing your knowledge and explaining how you use literacy in your everyday life
- encouraging your child to read and view a variety of texts such as newspapers, novels, comics, magazines, websites, email, timetables, instructions and recipes
- encouraging your child to write and design for a variety of purposes using print and electronic resources — invitations, thank you notes, shopping lists, messages, journals and electronic slide shows
- encouraging your child to speak and listen for a variety of purposes — sharing a joke, giving instructions or asking for information
- sharing a love of language
- discussing how texts look different depending on the purpose and audience — for example, text messaging uses different spelling from school projects
- talking about things that you have read or viewed that were amusing, interesting or useful
- discussing favourite authors, producers, directors or illustrators and what you like about them
- discussing new and unusual words or phrases and exploring these through print and electronic dictionaries
- playing games that develop knowledge and enjoyment of words
- making use of community resources for information, local and school libraries, clubs, community groups and websites.
What is **numeracy**?

To be numerate is to confidently and effectively use mathematics to meet the everyday demands of life.

**Why is numeracy important?**

Numeracy enables you to develop logical thinking and reasoning strategies in your daily life. We need numeracy to solve problems and make sense of time, numbers, patterns and shapes for activities like cooking, reading a map or bill, reading instructions and even playing sport.

**Ways to support your child’s numeracy development**

Research has shown that children’s motivation and achievement improve when their parents or carers are involved in their education.

There are many everyday things you can do to encourage numeracy learning. These include:

- encouraging your child to use mathematical language — how much, how big, how small, how many
- discussing the use of numbers, patterns and shapes in your day-to-day life — numbers found on library books, spatial patterns or shapes in playgrounds, in the home and architecture
- talking about occasions when you are using mathematics in daily jobs and real-life situations — cooking, map reading, building and playing sport
- exploring situations using money such as shopping, budgets and credit cards
- estimating, measuring and comparing lengths and heights, how heavy or light things are and how much containers hold
- talking about different ways to solve a problem
- using everyday tools like tape measures or kitchen scales and discussing the units of measure
- asking “does that make sense?”, “is the answer reasonable?” or “what other ways could we do this?”
- observing and using timetables, calendars and clocks for different purposes like study periods, holiday planning and catching public transport
- helping your child to work out how much things cost and what change they will receive
- playing number games using magazines, books, newspapers and number plates
- organising, categorising and counting collections of things like toys, books, clothing and shoes.

For more information about how you can help your child with literacy and numeracy visit [www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map) or contact your child’s teacher or school.
On Friday 27th November, Pentland State School Staff participated in professional development on Speech Sound Pics.

Speech Sound Pics (SSP) is an intensive focus on phonemic awareness and oral language skills, wires brains for coding, and ensures that the students understand that letters and letter strings represent the Speech Sounds. Because a 'Speech to Print' approach is taken, starting from what the students know, and building on this current knowledge, through meaningful and purposeful learning and because the students have a visual representation for ALL of the spelling choices, not just a limited number. We are hoping to improve the spelling, reading and writing abilities of our students.

Parents will be hearing a lot about SSP in 2016, as we work towards implementing this fun and exciting program in our school!
Chappy's Cool Computer Club

This term we started a computer club for older students who wanted to learn more about computers and what makes them work.

We started with an amusing exercise, for all students that were interested, in how to think like a computer (I don’t think the students will let me make them a sandwich again).

In subsequent weekly meetings we discussed what the ground rules were, what we wanted to look at in Computer Club, how numbers work in computers, what is actually inside the box, computer jargon and we have now started to learn about programming through an exercise instructing a 'robot' to do simple tasks.

While some students are disappointed that Computer Club is not all about playing games every week and others are disappointed that we have not raced ahead to their favourite topics, I think most (if not all) of them have learned new things about computers and will appreciate the opportunity to apply this knowledge in Computer Club next year.

Chappy Jarvis

Sporting Schools - Swimming

This term for sporting schools we have been lapping up the town swimming pool. Thankfully for us, the weather has been hot and going for a swim during school time was the perfect way to cool down. Not only have we been cooling down, we have been learning swimming strokes, pool safety and swimming skills. It is unreal to see the progress some of our students have made this term in their swimming skills. Special mention must go to Joshua Kazmaier for his enthusiasm and fantastic progress in swimming. He can now swim independently from one side of the pool to the other!! Excellent work Josh! We are hoping to continue swimming in term one next year if all goes to plan!
Life Education Van

On Friday 27th November I had the pleasure of accompanying the students in the Life Education van which was parked in the school. Everyone learned about healthy food options and exercise, as well as safety in relation to medicines and drugs. A great day was had by all and everyone enjoyed a visit from Healthy Harold the giraffe. We got take home booklets and stickers too😊

Playgroup Postings

Our regular Playgroup sessions came to a close for the year last week, with a very enjoyable day being had by all concerned.

Our theme for the week was ‘Christmas’ and the children made some very presentable collage Christmas trees, Christmas tree decorations and painted Christmas plates. Added to this, there were 2016 calendars with the children’s own artistry on the top, which would make wonderful presents for family members.

All items were finished very well and lots of fun was had in making them.

Playgroup will be held again next year, probably on Wednesdays, but information about the commencement date and the regular day that playgroup will be held, will be given to parents at the beginning of next year.

All the playgroup parents and children would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas, with lots and lots of rain!!
What Is Our Greatest Treasure?

I was at the Community Christmas Carols in Charters Towers on Sunday Night. For some reason, that made little sense to me at first, they had decided that the carols would be pirate themed. I don't know if you've ever seen children dressed up as Christmas Pirates, but it was a little bit mind-boggling.

As the evening went on and the story unfolded, it was found that the pirates were on a treasure hunt and inevitably they reached the conclusion that the treasure they were really looking for was the baby Jesus in the manger.

Now, as a Christian, I agree that Jesus is our greatest treasure that we should all seek at Christmas time. But... I want to think beyond the obvious, the trite, the expected and the Christian viewpoint.

Setting aside the obvious Christian answer, I'd like you to think about "What is our greatest treasure"? As I'm writing this article in a school newsletter, I would suggest that most readers should answer "Our children" or "Our family". If this wasn't your answer, feel free to turn the page now or to read on and argue the point with me later.

Our treasure is that which is most important to us!

The World Values Survey (http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSOnline.jsp) investigates what is important to people in 52 countries, representing 90% of the world population from poorest to richest across multiple faiths and values systems. When asked the importance of Family, Friends, Leisure Time, Work, Politics and Religion; Family consistently ranked highest across the world (except in Egypt where at 99/100 it scores one less than Religion at 100/100). Almost 99% of Australians rate Family as important or very important.

As we head into the holidays, what will we do with this treasure that is so important to us?

I encourage you again, these holidays, to spend time with your family. Appreciate the treasure you have. With one of my treasures living independently and not coming home for Christmas, I can attest to the truth that they grow up so rapidly. Will you look back on these years with regret or fond memories?

How can you increase the value of your greatest treasure?

Enjoy life with your family. Spend quality 'family time' with them. Treasure them.

I wish you and your treasures a very happy holiday and safe return next year.

Chappy Jarvis
Pentland Race Day "Shave for Vanessa" a Big Success

I would like to thank all who contributed to the Shave for Vanessa done at the recent Pentland Race Day.

Thanks to the generosity of this community we were able to raise over $1700 for this fundraiser. Most of this was pledged to go directly to Vanessa and her family. On race day alone we raised $1000 and I shaved my head, legs and arms as a result.

We have been able to give Vanessa about $1200 to date. I am waiting for some remaining pledges to come in and hope to give her the remainder early in the New Year.

We’re still accepting donations for the shave, and I will still shave my eyebrows if we successfully reach $2000 raised (less than $300 to go).

Vanessa has said that one of the first things she’ll spend the money on is to get her own car back on the road. The car she’s been going back and forth to Townsville and Charters Towers in is not air-conditioned. Her own car is air-conditioned, making it considerably more pleasant for the whole family (particularly the babies) as she and Chantelle make these necessary trips.

Let’s all keep Vanessa in our thoughts and prayers. I will be keeping my head shaved until Vanessa no longer needs treatment, just as a reminder to us all that she is still on the journey and still needs our care and concern.

Thank you again,

Kieron “Chappy” Jarvis
Prawns with Three Sauces

Ingredients

- 2.5kg cooked medium prawns
- Pistachio Tarator
  - 50g (about 1 slice) day-old crusty bread, crusts removed, torn
  - 215g (1 1/2 cups) pistachio kernels
  - 2 garlic cloves, coarsely chopped
  - 60ml (1/4 cup) fresh lemon juice
  - 2 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
  - 2 tablespoons Greek-style natural yoghurt
  - 125ml (1/2 cup) water
  - 1/4 cup chopped fresh mint
- Semi-dried Tomato Aioli
  - 125g semi-dried tomatoes, drained
  - 2 egg yolks
  - 1 tablespoon dijon mustard
  - 2 tablespoons white balsamic vinegar
  - 250ml (1 cup) grapeseed oil
  - 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
  - 1-2 tablespoons warm water
- Honey & Almond Dipping Sauce
  - 200g honey
  - 1 tablespoon fish sauce
  - 3 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
  - 25g (1/4 cup) flaked almonds, toasted

Method

Step 1
For the pistachio tarator: Place the bread in a bowl and pour over enough water to cover. Set aside for 5 minutes to soak. Drain, squeezing as much water from the bread as possible.

Step 2
Process the pistachios and garlic in a food processor until very finely chopped. Add the bread, lemon juice, oil and yoghurt and pulse until combined. Gradually add the water, pulsing until the mixture is thick and smooth (you may not need all the water). Add the mint and pulse until well combined. Season with salt.

Step 3
For the semi-dried tomato aioli: Process the tomatoes in a food processor until a coarse paste forms. Add the egg yolks, mustard and vinegar and process until well combined.

Step 4
With the motor running, gradually add the oil in a thin steady stream until combined. Add the lemon juice and process until well combined.

Step 5
Gradually add water until it reaches dipping consistency. Season with salt and pepper.

Step 6
For the honey & almond dipping sauce: Place the honey, fish sauce and lemon juice in a small saucepan over medium heat. Stir for 1-2 minutes or until the mixture is well combined.

Step 7
Stir in the almonds. Set aside to thicken and cool completely.

Step 8
Peel the prawns if desired, leaving the tails intact. Place the prawns on a large serving platter. Serve with the sauces and lemon wedges, if desired.
Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman
with a vampire?
A: Frostbite.

Q: Why does Santa Claus like to go down the
chimney?
A: Because it soots him!

Q: What do Santa's elves do after school?
A: Their gnomework!

Q: What do snowmen like to eat for breakfast?
A: Frosted Flakes!

Q: Why does the dog hand up his stocking at
Christmas?
A: He was waiting for Santa Paws.

Q: What is Santa's nationality?
A: North Polish!

Q: What is the fear of Santa Claus called?
A: Claustrophobia

Q: What nationality is Santa Claus?
A: North Polish!

Q: What does Tarzan sing and Christmas?
A: Jungle Bells!

Q: Why is it cold on Christmas?
A: Because it's in Decembrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!
Jack & the Beanstalk

By James Barry

With a special appearance by Santa with a gift for every child under 12!

Saturday 12th December – 6.30pm
Sunday 13th December – 2.00pm
At the World Theatre
Tickets $10
Available at http://tinyurl.com/ShowingAtWorldTheatre or at the box office