K-2 Athletics Carnival
Finally we got a fresh but sunny morning for our K-2 Athletics Carnival! The carnival was a great success and the students thoroughly enjoyed all the organised events. Many thanks to Shannon Gray who assisted setting up the events for the day and of course thanks to the many parents who watched and cheered on our champion athletes!

Education Week Assembly & Open Classrooms
Education Week is the perfect opportunity for parents and our local community to see some of the amazing things our students are learning and doing at Banksmeadow Public School. Our Education Week Assembly highlighted our talented creative arts students with performances from our dance groups, band, choir and guitar groups. In the afternoon our classroom doors were open for parents to join in the classroom activities.
Open Night
Our annual Open Night will take place on Wednesday 22nd August at 5pm. This evening is for new parents to visit the school and learn about the programs we can offer their child. Please inform any parents you know who may be interested in attending to RSVP at the school office.

Preschool Applications
The Preschool enrolment committee will be meeting shortly to review all Preschool applications for 2013. If you know any families who have children turning 4 by the 31st July next year, please remind them to come and get an application form from the school office ASAP. Offers for places will go out to the community in the next couple of weeks.

Dance Fever
The children are really enjoying their lessons every Monday in the Dance Fever program. All permission slips and program payments of $30 per child should now be at the school office. Towards the end of the term, all the schools participating in the Dance Fever program will perform in a Dance Challenge at Homebush. In the Dance Challenge, students perform the dances they have learnt at school. They perform both partner dances with other Banksmeadow students and a whole school routine. The children and the parents who attended last year's Dance Challenge raved about the experience and there are many students who have already shown a keen interest in participating again. A note will be going home shortly about whether your child will be participating in the Dance Challenge at Homebush at the end of the term. We will need to know shortly whether your child will be attending to ensure they can learn the whole school routine for the evening's performance.

Dance News
Showcase at the Juniors is the local area schools Performing Arts festival. A ticket order form will be going home shortly for families with children in the Junior and Senior dance groups. Each family will be offered two tickets each and there may be opportunities for some families to get a 3rd ticket as well. Tickets will cost $12 for adults and $5 for children. The date for the performance is Thursday 30th August at Souths Juniors.

OLYMPATHON
On Friday 10th August we will be holding an Olympathon. All students K-6 will be participating in Olympic activities. Children have received their sponsorship form and can be sponsored by family and friends for each event or by donation. All sponsorship forms are due back to school by Thursday 9th August. All sponsorship money should be collected and handed in to the office by Friday 31st August.

Science Week
Week 5 is Science Week and we have organised for the Questacon Science Squads to visit our students on Wednesday 15th August. The Science shows are always very educational and interesting, explaining many scientific phenomena. The cost is $5 per child. Permission slips and money needs to be returned to office by Monday 13th August.

Principals Message
Thank you to all of the parents who attended our Open Day. All children enjoy performing for their families and having the opportunity to show their work and what they are doing in the classroom. Congratulations to all of our performing arts groups who put on a great show yesterday.
Earlier in the week while attending a regional meeting I learnt about a great initiative between the Sutherland Business Education Network (BEN) and Sutherland Shire Council. While it has a focus in the Sutherland Shire any parents can access its website, shireparents.com.au. They have a great newsletter which has short articles on very relevant issues for parents of school age children. They also run information evenings and online webinars which anyone can attend. The St George & Sutherland Community College is running an information session, Transitioning from Primary to High School, on Tuesday 14th August, 7pm to 8.30pm, at SGSCC in Sutherland Rd in Jannali. For information and bookings go to www.sgscc.edu.au or contact SGSCC on 8543 7426. Unfortunately I am not aware of these type of support services in our local area.

Cathy Lucantonio