Dear Parents / carers,

Welcome back everyone to the 2013 School Year and ...

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU FROM US for 2013!

This is my first chance to say “hello” from me and can I say what a warm welcome I’ve received from the staff, students and parents I’ve had the opportunity to meet so far at Smithfield Public School. What a wonderful school this is and I look forward to getting to know you over time.

On behalf of the Executive team, our entire teaching and support staff, may I say welcome to all our families to the 2013 School Year and also to our new families and new Preschool, Kindergarten and OC students who bring their smiling faces to our school everyday. Some of our new students K-6 have come from other NSW schools or even from interstate or across the seas! Welcome to Smithfield P.S.I! We look forward to happy and productive relationships with you all and success for your students at our wonderful school.

Thank you for your patience as we have delayed putting students into their 2013 classes until we were sure of our numbers and also due to quite a few

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Jacqui Ranera-Griffin

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**NEW FACES: ENHANCING LEARNING**

Ms Butcher is full of enthusiasm and is bringing her bright smile to S3 in A Block.

Ms Truscott brings enthusiasm and experience to her role as S2 teacher in C Block.

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**Term 1 Calendar**

**February**

21 Swimming Carnival

**March**

4-15 Swim School

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**CLO NEWS**

2013 is a very busy year for parents. Below is a list of events that parents can attend in Term 1.

- 11 February - P&C AGM meeting in the Community Room (M Block)
- 19 February - Parent Helper meeting 9.15 till 9.30 Community Room (M Block)
- 04 March - Schooling in NSW Public School 9.15 till 11.00 in the school Hall
- 18 March - Meet the Principal Morning Tea 9.30 till 10.30 in the school Hall
- 08 April - NAPLAN Information Session 9.15 till 11.00 in the Community Room (M Block)

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**Personal Computer and Technology Tafe Course (FREE)** - Term 1 and 2 Thursdays 12.30 till 2.30 Community Room (M Block)

**Mother’s Group** - Thursdays 9.15 till 11.00 Community Room (M Block)

There a a few more events that details need to be finalised. Please keep an eye out for all the notes. Looking forward to meeting new parents throughout the year. If you have any questions about any of these events. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the school office.

Jacqui Ranera-Griffin

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significant changes to staff K-6. Due to falling numbers, we were actually going to lose a class this year, but I have managed to use the National Partnerships funding to keep us at the 2012 staffing levels.

At the time of writing I am still finalising some class and support roles for our school but am pleased to advise you of the following appointments for 2013.

- Mr Vincent Albanese will take the position of Deputy Principal for 2013. Mr Albanese will still supervise Stage 3. I am looking forward to working in a cooperative senior leadership role with Mr Albanese as we lead and manage the school;

- Mrs Susan Hangan has been appointed Assistant Principal (Curriculum), and whilst off-class for 2013, will retain supervision of Stage 1. Mrs Hangan will bring her invaluable experience to support the school staff in engaging with the new NSW Curriculum that will start implementation in 2014;

- Mrs Maria Siwak was successful in the position of Assistant Principal (Quality Teaching/ESL) for 2013 and will be in a support role for not only all ESL students but in the professional development and support of the staff;

- Mrs Lisa Myers (AP) will be the Reading Recovery teacher for 2013 as well share the Learning Assistance Support Teacher role. Mrs Myers will also supervise the Preschool;

- Mrs Kylie Muras (AP) will supervise Stage 2;

- Mrs Gokce Ozen will be the acting AP for Kindergarten;

- We congratulate Mrs Louise Goulder, Ms Jane Hardaker and Ms Maryanne Truscott on their permanent appointments to Smithfield. They will be teaching Stage 1, Kindergarten and Stage 2 respectively;

- We welcome Ms Faye Butcher and Ms Clare Frazer who will be teaching Stage 3 and Year 2 respectively.

Please be aware that at the time of writing, we are still awaiting to complete the staffing for at least 2 classes. This has been an unavoidable delay to a number of unforeseen circumstances. We are working daily to have our full complement of staff at Smithfield as soon as possible.

### Swimming Carnival

The swimming carnival is scheduled for Thursday 21 February. I know this is early in the term but the school doesn’t choose the date. This is the date we were allocated. The carnival is for students from Years 2 who are turning 8 in 2013 and students in years 3 to 6. We hope to see many of you at Fairfield Pool on Wednesday.
T1 CAPTAINS

Name: Alice
Class: S3 Aren

Name: Bjo
Class: S3 Mulaosmanovic

Wetherill Park Westerners

2013 SOCCER REGISTRATION DATES

Registrations will be held on the following days from 12pm to 4pm at our club rooms at Emerson Reserve, Mansfield Street, Wetherill Park.

SAT 2 FEBRUARY SAT 9 FEBRUARY
SAT 16 FEBRUARY SAT 23 FEBRUARY

We have teams in all grades:
Minis, Juniors, Seniors, All Age Men,
All Age Ladies, Over 35s.

Concessions available for 5 and 6 year olds.
New players are required to provide original proof of age.

Contacts:
Harry - 0417 223 941 | Michael - 0419 225 859

Wetherill Park is a community based club and boasts a diverse membership base.
Our focus is player development and we cater for all levels of ability and skill.

St Gertrude’s Parish Smithfield

6 Justin St, Smithfield NSW 2164
Tel 9604 1199 Fax 9609 6585
Email office@stgertrude.org.au

Confirmation 2013

Enrolments for the Sacrament of CONFIRMATION will be accepted at the 6pm Saturday Mass, and all the Sunday Masses in the Smithfield Parish on the weekends of 2/3 March and 9/10 March, 2013.

Enrolment forms are available from the Scripture Teachers or in the Parish Churches, or phone Halina or Maureen on 9725 4317.
As professional educators, we place students in classes after carefully analysing a variety of academic and social criteria. This may mean that students are not with the same classmates as in 2012, although we do try to ensure that they have one or two familiar faces in their class. Classrooms are about learning and getting along with the teacher/s and peers in their class and of course they can always meet up with all their friends in the playground. Being able to form a wide range of happy, productive and polite relationships with a number of people of all ages assists students as they become older, to get along with the many different people and personalities they will come across in their life.

Whether students are in “Year” or multi-aged Stage classes, every class has students achieving at a wide range of ability levels and teachers will cater to the educational needs of every student along the learning continuum linked to the syllabus.

A reminder to parents to notify the school about your child’s health
We welcome information from parents/carers about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about all allergies and any medical treatment required if contact with an allergen occurs, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school. **Please provide this information in writing to the principal.** This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

**Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.**

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your child/children’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.

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### Reading Recovery & Executive Support

| Preschool         | Mrs Lisa Myers [AP] | Mrs Lynne Fox  
|                   | Mrs Himali Ranaweera | Mrs Sylvana Cham (M,Tu)  
| Library           | Mrs Shannon Scully (including EIU) | Mrs Tatiana Benc  
| Support Unit Exec | Mrs Jessica Rowland | Mrs Mariela Silvera  
| Support Unit Early Int | Mrs Himali Ranaweera | Mrs Rhonda Matterson (M-Tu)  
| Library           | Mrs Himali Ranaweera | Mrs Sylvana Cham (Wed-Fri)  
| RFF Support       | Mrs Yvonne Tuschhoff | Mrs Yvonne Tuschhoff  
|                   | Mrs Sylvana Cham (M-Tu) | Mrs Cecilia Zelada  
|                   | Mrs Margaret Jones (W-Fri) | Mrs Tatiana Benc  
|                   | Mrs Yvonne Tuschhoff | Mrs Yvonne Tuschhoff  
|                   | Mrs Yvonne Tuschhoff | Mrs Yvonne Tuschhoff  

### Update your details

Have you moved, got a new email address or changed phone numbers? Please inform the front office with any changes in your living situation so we can contact you if the need arises.

I leave you this week with a quote from Carl Jung who wrote these words many, many, many years ago - yet they are just as true in 2013. Education and teaching is not about filling students with information - but exciting them about learning to learn...

> "One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child."

Here’s to a New Year of continued fantastic educational and relationship learning between us all in 2013...I look forward to meeting with you again at the next Smithfield Echo...

Anne Page  
Principal

### BlogEd

Welcome back to Smithfield PS!

And what a busy start to the year. Many new faces are around our school from teachers to students. Welcome everyone.

Smithfield Public School is really buzzing this year with many exciting projects underway. We have 3 sets of iPads for classroom learning, giving student access to digital print, art software and engaging activities that blend in with the classroom learning program. Every class from Preschool to year 6 has an Interactive whiteboard making our classrooms dynamic learning spaces where our students love to learn and be part of the class.

As Ms Page has mentioned earlier, I will be working from the school office in the role of Deputy Principal. I look forward to a productive year working with curriculum implementation across K-6 and working with our community to make our school an even greater place to be.

Vincent Albanese  
Deputy Principal
Calling out for Classroom Helpers

Parents/Carers

Parent/carer helpers not only help their own child but the whole school community. This is a rewarding activity both for you and for the school. Parent helpers give a gift to the whole school that is very special to each and every child.

Whether covering books with contact or setting up a display of the children's artwork, their assistance is an invaluable asset. Their help gives the teachers more time to spend with the children in the classroom. These are some of the school activities that parents can get involved with:

- Listen to children read in the classroom
- Covering books
- Volunteer to assist at school carnivals and on Sport days
- Assist teachers with students during out-of-school excursions
- Assist with fundraising activities and special school events
- Join a school committee

There will be a meeting on Tuesday 19 February 9.15 till 9.30 in the Community Room (M Block). At this meeting the visitor and volunteer workers policy will be explained and documents will be signed.

If you cannot attend this meeting please contact Jacqui Ranera-Griffin at the school office to organise a convenient time.

Jacqui Ranera-Griffin
Community Liaison Officer (CLO)

Anne Page
Principal

To become a helper at Smithfield P.S., it is a school requirement that you have a meeting with a staff member and documents are signed.

After School Parking

Please be considerate when you are parking near the school. I have received complaints from our neighbours on O’Connell and Neville Streets. Please do not park across driveways, the local residents need to be able to enter and exit their driveways.

In the Kiss and Drop zone on Neville Street you can only stop for 2 minutes. When you use the Kiss and Drop please consider others. As a car pulls away move forward and leave space for someone to pull in behind. If there is no space try driving around the block.

Parking officers and police will be monitoring the situation. This could be an expensive exercise if you choose to disobey the rules! I’m sure you would rather save your hard earned dollars for more enjoyable activities than to pay a parking fine.

House Captains 2013

Congratulations to the House Captains and Vice Captains that were voted into their positions by their peers just this last week. All ready to get your teams prepared for the Swimming Carnival in a few weeks time.

Chisholm: Natasha and Ethan (C), Shamel and Corey (VC)

Bossley: Louise and Josip (C), Emily and Wilson (VC)

Kenyon: Katarina and Jherome (C), Isabella and James (VC)

Brenan: Cindy and Alex (C), Hayley and Tristen (VC)
How to help kids who are hooked on online gaming

97% of children play video games* 2% are addicted

The recent story of an Adelaide mother who is struggling with her 17 year old son’s addiction to the online fantasy game Runescape probably rang alarm bells with many parents who suspect or know their teenager is in front of a screen far too often and for far too many hours at a time.

Research shows that in America 97% of all children play video games and 2% are addicted*. According to the Entertainment Software Association (ESA) in the USA 25% of players are under 18 years of age and 60% are male.

The American Psychiatric Association will add “internet use disorder” to the research appendix of its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) in May 2013. Dr King, researcher at the Adelaide University School of Psychology said “this is the first time internet-related disorders will be acknowledged in the DSA.”

Writing in the latest issue of the Royal Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, Dr King confirmed that mental health experts are debating whether to define the illness as “internet addiction” or “video gaming addiction”.

The 5 tell tale signs of online addiction
• Pre-occupation with gaming and hiding gaming use
• Social withdrawal or isolation
• Disengagement from school life
• Loss of interest in other activities
• Defensiveness and anger

How to help children with a gaming addiction
1. Parent tag team: it is important that both parents take the addiction seriously and back each other up. They must approach their child together so that the child knows they cannot divide and conquer their parents by playing one off against the other in an effort cover up their addiction, appealing to the weaker parent for support only enables the child to continue and to some extent hide their game playing from the other parent.

2. Encourage educational games: there are plenty of games that have an education base, encourage a child to play these instead of violent online games. There are also websites that engage players with other players from around the world to see who can complete educational tasks, like maths problems, the quickest. The participants are given points and can progress to different levels. It can give the player the same sense of empowerment, satisfaction and achievement as online commercial games.

3. Set time limits: parents need to establish clear time limits with a child. Enter into a contract if necessary. Sit down with the child and discuss what is a reasonable amount of time to play a game, by involving the teenager in the decision making process, they are more likely to adhere to the boundaries set.

4. Look for the school connection: is a child turning to online games because they are not doing well at school? It is hard to tell what comes first: the poor marks or the online games. Not performing well at school impacts a child’s self-esteem. They may retreat more into the game to cope with negative feelings about themselves. At least in the virtual world they can control things. Try to encourage their studies and find out if they are finding any areas difficult.

Tips on how to help children with a gaming addiction

*Pew Internet & American Life Project. USA
Writer Helen Splarr. Editor Dr Ramesh Manocha.

Crunch & Sip

Over the past year, students have been taking part in Crunch & Sip. This a set break to eat fruit or vegetables and drink water in the classroom.

This break takes place at 10:00 am as an additional time for your child to ‘re-fuel’ and assists in concentration in the classroom.

We would like to remind you to provide your child with fruit or vegetables for 10:00 am as well as food for recess. If you have younger children, it would help them if you cut their fruit or vegetables into small pieces.

Thank you for your support.

Miss Palamara