Chatback

Dear Parents / carers,

My apologies for our late Newsletter...we had quite a few technology issues last week and could not access our network and therefore our files!

Can you believe it’s Week 5 already? It seems our first few weeks have passed with the speed of light! As you know we did have some issues with forming final classes but are very pleased that our 2013 classes are formed with both known and new faces. We welcome Ms Natasha Kosic to Year 1, Ms Natalie Taing to Stage 3 (sharing a class with Mrs White). We look forward to you joining us at the Meet the Teacher night this evening (25/2) and we hope these later session times in 2013 assist those parents/carers working as well as being able to organise supervision for your children to stay at home during these sessions. Remember if you have particular queries or concerns regarding your child’s academic and/or social progress please make a separate, mutually convenient interview time with the class teacher.

Swimming Carnival - a splashingly good success!

Congratulations to all our swimmers who competed in the 2013 Swimming Carnival last Thursday. Thank you for trying so hard and showing your team spirit for all our students. I would like to particularly thank Mrs Fox, who coordinated our 2013 Carnival - as you can imagine a lot of behind-the-scenes work goes into making every event at S.P.S. a successful one. My thanks also to our dedicated staff, who took on all the additional roles necessary, from administration, to time-keeping, to supervision. Thank you to our parents and school community members who came along to cheer our students. Well done to our students who have now qualified to represent Smithfield at the District Swimming Carnival, I know you will swim as fast as you can and as always, be worthy ambassadors of our school.

Parent and Visitor Code of Conduct …

A REMINDER OF SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS WHILST YOU ARE ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS…

I have been quite concerned that there have been instances reported to me where parents, whilst inside our school gates, have taken it upon themselves to speak to someone else’s child, because they have been unhappy with behaviours they have witnessed. I would like to remind all parents/carers that if you see a behaviour that is not satisfactory, please see a teacher on duty, or if at the end of the school day, come to the office to keep the school informed. If I am not available to see you, please refer your concern to the Deputy Principal, Mr Albanese and in the unlikely event that we should both be unavailable, the office staff will bring your concern to my attention. It is not acceptable whilst on school grounds, to reprimand someone else’s child - that is the role of the school or the child’s parent/carer. It is NEVER appropriate to use harsh and/or inappropriate language towards any child whilst on the school grounds, no matter what the reason.

The school is in “inclosed grounds” and as such the Principal of the school determines who is permitted to remain within the school grounds. Individuals, who do not comply with our Parent/Visitor Code of Conduct after inappropriate behaviour is brought to their attention, are at risk of being excluded from entry to the school. We are in the process of reviewing our Code of Conduct Policy for Parents/Visitors but please be aware of the following expectations whilst on school grounds:

All parents/carers and visitors are expected to:

• treat all persons associated with the school with respect and courtesy;
• monitor all pre-school children who must stay with the accompanying adult at all times;

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• allow staff to supervise, investigate and manage students without interference;
• discuss issues or concerns about the school, staff, other parents or students through the correct school procedures;
• the classroom teacher is responsible for the education, control and behaviour management of the children in the classroom and within the school grounds;
• the school stresses the importance of being professional and it insists that parents do not discuss classroom, events, and children outside the class or school;
• parents/carers/visitors must wear a SCHOOL VISITOR badge as identification whilst assisting students;

• **At no time should any parent, carer or visitor directly approach another person’s child** - This includes speaking to another person’s child within the boundaries of the school grounds, in sight of the school grounds as they are approaching or leaving school and/or on school buses transporting students to or from the school grounds.

Thank you for your cooperation and compliance with our school’s Code of Conduct.

School A to Z
School A to Z is a fantastic resource with a wealth of handy ideas and help from starting school, helping students with special needs, technology, starting high school, links to Selective High School and O.C. Class placement and student well-being issues, just to name a few.

School A to Z can be accessed through the Internet:
http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/home

via Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/schoolatoz?ref=sf&sk=wall

and a mobile **APP** for the iPhone & Android phones is also available:
http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications

Whichever access point you use I encourage you to check out this valuable site - it’s definitely worth a look!

Whereas we have an Executive team at school, as well as a Student Leadership team for 2013 and Sports Captains who did us proud in our Swimming Carnival, I like to regularly remind all our students that we are all “leaders” of our own life. Each day all of us demonstrate to those who are onlookers in our life - our parents, carers, friends, teachers, relatives and even those we don’t know - that how we behave, speak, present ourselves, our attitude to learning and life represents **what we think of ourselves** as people. Do you try to be the best person you can be? – is that obvious to others by your daily actions and attitude? If not...what are you waiting for? Hope you find this quote reaches you...

"When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another."
Helen Keller

Anne Page
Principal

**BlogEd**

Week 4 has already passed us by. It seems like only yesterday our students started back at school.

Our classes are settled and our students are working diligently.

As many have noticed, we are trialling some new approaches to playground routines in the morning and have increased teacher duties in the afternoons. Students K-2 now use the top playground under the W COLA from 8:45am until 9am when they are collected by their class teachers to move to class. Students 3-6 are on the bottom playground from 8:45am and line up directly at their class steps at 9am where their teachers are ready to collect them and move to class.

Our morning learning times are the most productive and we hope to make the most of this time by getting to class quickly.

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**T1 CAPTAINS**

Name: Alice  
Class: S3 Aren

Name: BJ  
Class: S3 Mulaosmanovic

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**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.

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**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.

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Updated regularly with Calendar events, School notes, Policies and general information the Smithfield PS website is available 24/7. Point your browser to our page and check out what is happening.

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Dates for February

25 P&C Meeting
Teachers are now supervising our 3 exit points from 3pm. We have a teacher supervising The Horsley Drive bus lines, another on O’Connell bus duty and a third teacher now supervising the ‘kiss and drop off’ zone on Neville St. We are aware that there are some parents who can be held up in the afternoons because of traffic or otherwise but we do expect our students, your children, to be collected in the afternoons by 3:15pm.

Supervision of our students on the school grounds begins at 8:30am. Before 8:30am we cannot assure adequate supervision of these children. We well understand that many parents have commitments at work which require them to leave before 8.30 am. However, there is available within the school a Before and After School Care service which operates from 7:00 am every school morning. Whatever arrangements you make, you need to understand that you remain legally responsible for your child prior to 8.30 am when supervision begins.

Finally, I hope that you can make it to tonight’s ‘Meet the Teacher’ sessions that are being held from 5:30pm - 6:10pm and then repeated from 6:15pm - 7pm. We understand that many parents can’t make our 3:15pm sessions so this year we are starting at 5:30pm. The sessions are being repeated for the benefit of parents who may have children in 2 different stages. This should allow for you to meet the teachers for all your children.

Come along and find out what the classes will be covering in their curriculum this year and who the teachers are.

I am looking forward to seeing our community attend in great numbers.

Vincent Albanese
Deputy Principal

**FRIENDSHIP SKILLS FOR KIDS**

by: Michael Grose

Here are 17 important social skills that help kids from primary school age onwards make and retain friends.

The list is not exhaustive. Many of these skills were identified by Dr. Helen McGrath, author of the school social skills program - Friendly Kids, Friendly Classrooms.

You can use this as a little checklist for developing your kids' friendship skills

1. Ability to share possessions and space
2. Keeping confidences and secrets
3. Offering to help
4. Accepting other’s mistakes
5. Being positive and enthusiastic
6. Starting a conversation and holding a conversation
7. Winning and losing well
8. Listening to others
9. Ignoring someone who is annoying you
10. Giving and receiving compliments
11. Approaching and joining a group
12. Leading rather than bossing
13. Arguing well – seeing other’s opinions
14. Bringing others into the group
15. Saying No to other who pressure you
16. Dealing with fights and arguments
17. Being a good host

**CLO NEWS**

Below is a list of events that parents can attend in Term 1.

**04 March** - Schooling in NSW Public School 9.15 till 11.00

**11 March** - P&C Meeting 2pm in the Community Room (M Block)

**18 March** - Meet the Principal Morning Tea 9.30 till 10.30 in the school Hall

**03 April** - Reading Workshop 14.00 till 15.00 in the Community Room (M Block)

**08 April** - Naplan Information Session 9.15 till 11.00 in the Community Room (M Block)

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)

Please keep an eye out for all the notes. If you have any questions about any of these events. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the school office.

Smithfield Public School celebrates the arrival of new educational equipment.

As students and teachers settle back into the 2013 school year, Smithfield Public School will be celebrating the arrival of an array of new learning supplies thanks to the support of the local and school community with the Woolworths Earn & Learn 2012 program.
We received approximately $4000 worth of learning resources that have been shared with all stages including Preschool, Special Ed and Early Intervention.

We would like to thank the school community for collecting all the stickers and making the program such a success.

Thank you to Woolworths for supporting our children’s education.

Jacqui Ranera-Griffin
CLO

SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2013

On Thursday 21st February Smithfield Public School set out to Fairfield Leisure Centre for the annual Swimming Carnival.

With beautiful weather, excellent staff and parent support and student participation the carnival was successful.

There were some impressive results and these along with the Junior and Senior Swimming Champions will be announced next Friday at assembly.

The house placings were as follows:
1st – Bossley
2nd – Chisholm
3rd – Brenan
4th – Kenyon

CONGRATULATIONS BOSSLEY

The Zone Swimming Carnival is fast approaching on Tuesday 5th March and competitors will receive their permission notes and information on Monday 25th.

Mrs Fox
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