Chatback

Dear Parents / carers,

Welcome everyone to Week 11 – the final week of Term 1 and already it is time to say my final “goodbyes” to you all. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Executive team for their leadership and support of me as I learned about Smithfield P.S. and to every staff member and our school community who welcomed me so warmly and contribute to the success of this wonderful school. In particular, my thanks go to Mr Vincent Albanese for his outstanding leadership, knowledge and professionalism in the role of Deputy Principal. Mr Albanese will provide dependable, quality leadership as Smithfield’s Relieving Principal until a permanent appointment is made and I know I leave the school in capable hands.

We also bid farewell to Mrs Silvera who has been an invaluable teacher on our Preschool for over 15 years. We wish her well at her new appointment and we know our community will miss her sorely.

I encourage every student and member of Smithfield P.S. to bring their renewed efforts in learning and life at SPS in Term 2, as success in any project or indeed for life in general, is not a one-off - it’s about continued perseverance in order that we reach our goals, no matter how little or huge.

Here’s a snapshot of what happened in Term 1...

- SPS 2013 Kindergarten starts!
- PSSA
- SPS Swimming Carnival
- Students compete in District and Regional Swimming Carnivals
- Community Workshops
- School Art and Drama Group start
- Parent Information Evening is held
- Students attend “Anti-Bullying” Performance
- School Swimming Scheme
- School Photos
- Harmony Day is celebrated
- Easter Hat Parade
- Stage Planning Days

ANOTHER REMINDER…STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS TERM 2 – 2 DAYS

Staff Development for Term 2 is over 2 Days:
Monday 29/4 AND Tuesday 30/4
Students return Wednesday 1st May

During 2013 all teachers at Smithfield P.S. and throughout N.S.W. will be engaging with the learning and implementation of the new NSW English Syllabus documents which will be the required syllabus document in all schools from 2014. We will repeat this process in 2014 for the Mathematics and Science documents with a view to implement these in 2015. To assist with this process, all NSW teachers will engage with further professional learning during a second School Development Day in the first 2 days of Term 2. Students in ALL public schools will have an additional pupil free day (Monday 29/4 AND Tuesday 30/4). There will be no classes for students until Wednesday 1st May.

I am reposting the information from our last Newsletter in case you missed it, to help with understanding the new curriculum your child will engage with. Useful information and documents for parents in English and additional languages can be found at the website listed below. I have also included useful links to documents including the Parents’ Guide to the NSW Primary Syllabuses. http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/parents/

Holiday reading
Looking for holiday reading? If you are unsure of an appropriate book for your child, why not try something from the Premier’s Reading Challenge list? Great lists of books sorted by age group can be found at: https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html

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School holiday activity ideas
If you are looking for something to entertain the kids during the holidays, here are some inexpensive ideas that will keep them entertained:

- flying a kite
- helping in the garden – maybe your child could have part of the garden as their own
- practising skills like soccer, catching, throwing, skipping or hitting a ball against a wall
- playing with the family pet
- helping to organise a garage sale
- making an obstacle course and competing with their friends, siblings and you.


I would like to thank the staff and SPS community for a great start to 2013. This school is the happy, safe and productive learning environment it is because of the fantastic efforts of every member of our school community...staff, students, parents and carers. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday as well as continued success and prosperity in your individual and collective futures. My final quote to you is from one of my heroes – a man who believed in dreams and never giving up on possibilities...Mr Walt Disney – and with his words I bid you farewell...

“Goodbye may seem forever.

Farewell is like the end, but in my heart is the memory
and there you will always be.”

Walt Disney

Anne Page - Principal

BlogEd

And there we have it! It seems like only yesterday we started 2013 and settled into our new classes. I must have blinked because that was some 11 weeks ago now! In those 11 weeks our school has transformed.

New leadership. New ideas. New P&C committee. New sporting champions. All of these things have shaped our school and community. An ever evolving space where not only our students learn but also community members become involved with the school.

We look forward to an exciting Term 2 that will see us commemorate ANZAC Day in our first week back, Cross Country, NAPLAN, School Disco and class excursions. All this packed into 9 school weeks! I look forward to meeting new faces at the first P&C meeting on Monday 6 May in week 2 and listening to the plans and ideas of how our school community can help to support our school initiatives. I can smell a Cross Country BBQ!

One of our new initiatives that will begin next Term is our participation K-6 in Mathletics. Access to Mathletics will incur a cost for each student of $10. In Term 2 a note will be sent home asking families to support this new initiative so that Mathletics can be used at school and at home.

From Term 2 K-2, S2 and S3 will have access to one set of 16 iPads to use everyday. Our teachers have been successfully integrating iPads in their writing, reading and mathematics lessons with great student interest and participation. These 3 sets of iPads have been budgeted for and purchased over the last 2 years realising the role ICT plays in student learning.

Have a relaxing Autumn break one and all. I look forward to seeing everyone back in Term 2 with bright smiling faces ready for an action packed 9 weeks.

Vincent Albanese
Deputy Principal

AROUND SCHOOL

What a fantastic display of Easter Hats we had at Smithfield PS during the Easter Hat Parade. Thank you to all who participated to make this a fabulous event.

The mystery surrounding the Easter Bunny continues. Where DID all those chocolate eggs come from?
Go4Fun – FREE Healthy lifestyle program for overweight children aged 7-13

Go4Fun is an evidence-based healthy lifestyle program for children aged 7-13 years above a healthy weight. The program is run after-school during the school term and is FREE for eligible families. The program meets all Australian guidelines and NHMRC recommendations for the Management of Overweight and Obesity in Children, and progress reports are available for referring family doctors. Go4Fun is run at various locations across South Western Sydney Local Health District. Online enrolment and locations at www.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/populationhealth/Go4Fun.html or contact Leah Choi on Leah.choi@sswahs.nsw.gov.au or 02 9780 2811 | 0457 507 606.

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.

MIND THEIR LANGUAGE
by: Michael Grose

Standards may change, but the job of parents hasn’t altered. Teach kids to use language that doesn’t offend others. The message to get across to the next generation is – if it’s offensive then choose other words or say nothing at all.

What do you think when you hear kids swear in public?

If you’re like me, you feel decidedly uncomfortable when kids of any age turn the air blue with profanities. Swearing shows lack of respect for others and a lack of awareness for their surroundings.

Teaching kids to use appropriate language is trickier now than in the past. For a start, standards have changed where many words – such as the F word – that were deemed inappropriate in the past are often heard on radio and seen in mainstream newspapers. And words that everyone agrees are inappropriate are frequently used in public forums, to the point that the boundaries of appropriate-ness have become blurred.

Standards may change, but the job of parents hasn’t altered. Whether it’s teasing or swearing it’s all the same. The message to get across to the next generation is – if it’s offensive then choose other words or say nothing at all.

Socially-smart kids alter their language

Socially-skilled kids of all ages will adjust their language to suit the situation they are in. They may speak one way with their friends, but use a completely different vocabulary with adults. They are aware that what works with their best friend just won’t cut it when in grandma’s company. This awareness shows social acuity and a flexibility to adjust to different environments. It needs to be extended to all sorts of situations, including where adults and younger children are present.

They didn’t hear that from me!

What do you do when you know your children swear despite your best intentions?

Don’t over react. Try to work out its purpose. Children swear for many reasons, including to experiment with language; to attract your attention; to make themselves appear bigger or older than they are; and even as a challenge or expression of personal power.

Inappropriate language can also simply be a reflection of your children’s peer groups. ‘Everyone else swears so there’s nothing wrong with it’ is a common attitude of many children and young people.

Teach them that language may be appropriate in one context or be acceptable by one group but it is not acceptable in every situation. While not condoning swearing, get across to children that they need to learn to control their use of language and adjust it to suit the situation they are in.

When swearing becomes a habit

If swearing has become a habit for kids, make up alternative words to replace the swear words. One family I know had replaced certain words with different fruits. They had a fruit for every situation!

Alternatively, use a penalty or fine system to make kids aware of their poor language. When you hear a family member swear, fine them an agreed amount. At the end of the week or month give the money to a worthy cause. Of course, this strategy is easier to implement when parents join in as well.

Take a long, hard look at ... er ... yourself!

It’s also helpful to examine your own choice of language to judge if it is an acceptable model for your children. Yep, sometimes kids will pick up their parents’ language and repeat it at the worst possible time, such as when relatives are over.

The job of adults is to develop a sense of social awareness in the next generation so they can easily navigate a variety of different groups and social situations. Teaching appropriate language use is at the very heart of teaching kids to be socially-skilled. That’s something we all should swear by!

When kids swear:
1. Avoid over-reacting when your kids swear. Look for the reason.
2. Discuss with older children the concept of matching their language with the audience.
4. Use a penalty or fine system when kids swear in front of you.
5. Model the language you want kids to use.

CLOS NEWS

COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM
Our Coles Sports for Schools Program sporting equipment arrived this Term. We have received over $1000 worth of sports equipment including some much needed jerseys for PSSA. Thank you to all the school community for collecting all the vouchers. Thank you to Coles for helping our kids to stay active and healthy.

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN PROGRAM
Smithfield Public School has registered again this year to be part of the Woolworths Earn and Learn Program. For every $10.00 spent at Woolworths Supermarkets you will receive a point to be placed on a point’s sheet which the school can redeem for valuable teaching resources. Once point sheets are completed, return them to school and place them in the
Woolworths Earn and Learn Box. The program starts on Monday 8 April and runs until Sunday 9 June. This year there will be 2 boxes in the school. One will be at the school office and the other will be located at Pre-school.

This will be our third year participating in the program. Let’s see if we can beat our record of 48140 points. Start collect those points!

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.

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

Jacqui Ranera-Griffin
CLO

P & C NEWS

We are preparing for our annual Mother’s Day Stall. The buying is done. We will be unpacking and wrapping on the 3rd May, 9.05am in the hall. Stalls are on Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th.

As a P&C we contribute to the school by making donations and overseeing the running of the canteen. To continue doing this we need to have a full P&C committee.

Without a full committee the canteen will close and have to be tendered out. With that we will lose our uniform shop and we cannot fundraise for donations to the school.

The position can be shared by 2 people: i.e. –secretary and minute taker, if either of the 2 cannot make it to the meetings.

S.Robson  M.Osborne
P & C President   P&C V.President

Anxiety and Depression in Children and Adolescents - Parents

This workshop explores the symptoms displayed by children and adolescents with depression and/or anxiety. It examines treatment, diagnosis, causes and related risk factors. There is a focus on what parents can do to support these children.

Date: Tuesday 14 May, 2013
Time: 6.00pm-8.30pm
Venue: Learning Links Mt Pritchard– Lvl 1, 46B Reservoir Rd, Mt Pritchard 2170
Cost: FREE*

Suitable for: Parents and Carers ONLY

For enquiries and bookings please phone Dana on 8568 8200

* This workshop is funded by the Department of Education and Communities.

HORSLEY ZONE CHAMPION

Well done Justin on achieving Senior Boy Champion at the Horsley Zone Swimming Carnival. This is an incredible result!

Also, congratulations on swimming your best at the NSW Carnival and achieving results in the top 30 for all 5 events. This is an amazing feat and Smithfield is extremely proud of you.