Principal’s Message

What a wonderful time of the year! We are in that lovely transition period of planning end of year celebrations and welcoming new 2015 students. Thus far, the kindergarten sessions went extremely well, with a beautifully settled and lovely group of 70 ready to begin next year.

I look forward to the O.C. orientation on Tuesday afternoon and the Early Intervention Unit welcome on Friday (am and pm for the 2 groups). Many thanks to our special educators, Tatiana Benc and Cecilia Zelada, who have been orienting their new 2015 students and transitioning those moving to support units in High School.

Year 6 Students
Many thanks to those Year 6 students (and their parents) who are conducting themselves safely, responsibly and respectfully. The Year 6 teachers and I are particularly proud of their maturity and integrity.

Many thanks to those parents who are strongly supporting our teachers with their request to re-engage a few students who are demonstrating ‘end of Year 6 syndrome’ i.e. a drop in safety, responsibility and respect. The partnership between parent and teacher is never more important than keeping our children ‘on track’ in all contexts – home, community and school.

Resource Allocation Model
Many parents may have noticed the media release regarding the increase to school funding under the current Gonski arrangements. I am delighted that we will receive an increase of approximately $100,000 and an additional 2 days per week to support English as a Second Language program. The money will be well spent on the priorities identified by parents, teachers and students for 2015.

Multicultural Day
We all look forward to Monday, 1st December, when families are invited to join us in the celebration of multiculturalism at Smithfield P.S. This is one of our community’s greatest strengths and where our children demonstrate all the understanding and tolerance that will direct us to a preferred future for Australian society.

Please see the previous note that includes opportunities for parents to participate. We look forward to welcoming all in their or others’ ethnic dress.

Science/Mathematics Expo
A reminder that the Science/Mathematics Expo will be held on Wednesday, 10th December, from 4.00pm – 6.00pm and Thursday, 11th December from 9.15am – 11.30am. We have planned the times to make sure working parents can join us. (Please refer to last week’s note.) I look forward to welcoming as many parents and extended family as possible for our celebration of learning.
Student Reports
Will shortly be distributed to parents (15th December). I have enjoyed reading samples from every class.

Teacher Assessment Reviews (TARS), Executive Assessment Reviews (EARS) and Principal Assessment Review (PARS)
Like other professionals, all teachers are assessed for their efficiency on an annual basis. It has been my pleasure to conduct the exit interviews for each teacher and executive member. I have enjoyed scanning the children’s beginning points of achievement in February, 2014 to November. What an amazing amount of improvement! Each staff member was asked about the highlights and challenges of the year. It was also my opportunity to congratulate our wonderful team of teachers. What a blessing it is to share the leadership of the school with them!

Student Representative Council (SRC)
We have begun the process of SRC selection on Friday with the first presentation of speeches. This will continue on Friday. Following, students and teachers will vote. The announcement of the 2015 SRC will be made on presentation day 15th December.

In a small deviation from tradition, we will hold a separate formal induction ceremony in February, 2015. At this time parents will be invited to participate in the badge pinning and celebration.

2015 Class Organisation
Is currently taking place! Staff placements are drafted for imminent completion and we will begin student organisation this week. I have already begun talking to the parents of special needs students so that they are fully prepared for 2015.

Extreme Weather
Last Friday was an extremely hot day. Despite the children’s wishful thinking that we close schools when the temperature exceeds forty degrees, we don’t. However, we take measures to ensure their safety and comfort. On Friday we allowed some outside play at recess and kept the children in the air conditioned classrooms at lunchtime. Afternoon assemblies were cancelled as the hall is not air conditioned. Let’s hope it is not as hot for the Science Expo or Presentation Day.

 Stranger Danger
Last Wednesday at lunchtime we encountered a ‘stranger’ behaving in an unusual manner (speaking on the phone to no one, etc.) and watching our children. Many thanks to 2 vigilant parents who rang the police and us. I also called the police.

The following actions were taken:-
• A report to the police resulted in a strong presence and additional patrols
• Local schools were notified
• Teachers were alerted and kept children away from the fence line.

At no time were the children in danger. Unfortunately, some of the children’s imagination has built the situation beyond what it was. All children were and remain safe. Many thanks to the prompt and thorough response from Fairfield Police.

Homework Club 2015
We are foreshadowing that we will join with Reverend Chris and his volunteers to create a larger homework club in 2015. It is likely we will hold it on a Thursday, (3.10 – 4.30pm) so that children can come with the challenges they are experiencing in homework. Our teachers will also volunteer their time. Children can come to the homework club, have a bite to eat and a small amount of play. They will then be supported in their homework. At the end those children whose families wish them to join in a devotion with Chris may do so. Others will join the teachers in the library.

Letter of Commendation
Please find attached a lovely letter from Chris Athavle, reverend of the Baptist Church and scripture teacher at our school. Praise does not come often and we really value the kind words of our nearest neighbour.
Reminders for the Christmas Hamper
Parents please support our drive to construct some hampers for the Christmas draw on 10th December. Many thanks to those who have responded – the more we receive, the more hampers we can raffle. Please note the following reminder:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reminders</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Packet of Lollies – K</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Can of food – Stage 1</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Packet of Biscuits/Chips/Nuts-Stage 2</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Drinks/Christmas decorations-Stage 3</td>
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Raffle tickets will be on sale at $1.00 per ticket.

Have a wonderful fortnight

Cheryl McBride OAM
Principal

BRONZE & SILVER AWARDS
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE STUDENTS WHO HAVE CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATED SAFE, RESPONSIBLE AND RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOUR AND HAVE ACHIEVED A BRONZE LEVEL OR SILVER LEVEL

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<th>Derek Tran</th>
<th>3 Stansbury</th>
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<td>Bryson Ly</td>
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<td>Jayden Britten</td>
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<td>Christina Le</td>
<td>1 Hardaker</td>
<td>Salisti Yousif</td>
<td>3 Standbury</td>
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<td>Sakura Huynh</td>
<td>1 Hardaker</td>
<td>Hinckley Tapuso (Silver)</td>
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<td>Erolini Fagasavaii</td>
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<td>Fahad Moayad</td>
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<td>Martin Folladosa</td>
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<td>Kate Rodionoff</td>
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<td>Zahara Noukhallalati</td>
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<td>Jack Sinkovich</td>
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<td>Santa Tawfeeq</td>
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<td>Raphael Warwar</td>
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<td>Olisha Daniel (Silver)</td>
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<td>Anton Jovanovic</td>
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PSSA Success!

Smithfield had a fantastic Summer PSSA season this year. Five teams made it into the semi finals: junior Newcombeball, boys T-Ball, boys and girls Softball and girls Oz-Tag. Three of these teams progressed to the finals that were played at Endeavour Reserve on Friday 14th of October. The boys T-Ball and girls Oz-Tag teams lost in very close matches. The boys softball final was even closer, the match finished in a draw and Smithfield were declared joint premiers with Fairfield Heights. Congratulations to all players on these teams, you showed outstanding sportsmanship and your best Smithfield Spirit!

I would like to thank all of the teachers who have coached PSSA teams this year: Mrs Fox, Mr Khoury, Mr Micallef, Mrs Ashby, Miss Maturana, Mrs White and Mrs Ross. Without dedicated teachers who happily commit extra time to coaching and training teams, it would not be possible to provide your children with the opportunity to compete in PSSA sport.

Maryanne Truscott
SMITHFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH
The Horsley Drive & O'Connell Sts, Smithfield
Founded in 1842

Ms Cheryl McBride
Smithfield Public School
O'Connell Street,
Smithfield
NSW 2164

14th November, 2014

Dear Cheryl,

We are writing to express our thanks to you and the teaching staff at the school for the significant help and encouragement we have received in this academic year.

We have noticed some very significant improvements in our classes in this year. They are in the following areas:
- Increased desire to learn and participate in class.
- Increased respect for teachers and politeness in communication.
- Increased happiness in the students as they progress in the understanding of topics.
- Greatly improved retention of information in ad hoc class quizzes.

We have thoroughly enjoyed teaching Scripture at Smithfield Public and have had the added benefit of the attendance of some children at our Homework Club. We look forward to serving the community in this way in 2015.

Yours Faithfully,

Chris Athavle
Pastor
Mobile: 0401661810

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” 1 Tim.1:15
BETHEL CHAPEL