Principal’s Message

This is the last newsletter of 2014. As I celebrate my first anniversary as principal of Smithfield Public School I may I thank everyone for their ongoing warm welcome and support. 2014 has been a year of good achievement. My heartfelt gratitude goes to Lisa and the hardworking, committed P & C members, the magnificent teaching and leadership team and our beautiful children.

Multicultural Day

The children enjoyed a multitude of experiences and activities emanating from all parts of the globe. Many dressed in their clothing from different countries/ethnic backgrounds Many participated in musical/dance/artistic endeavours. Above all, much learning and understanding occurred as a result of the auditory/visual and hands on tasks.

Appointment of Deputy Principal

As a result of the merit selection process conducted some weeks ago, I am pleased to announce that Jodi Harris, currently Assistant Principal at Lansvale Public School, will be joining us as Deputy Principal in 2015. Jodi comes to us as a highly respected, widely experienced practitioner. We look forward to welcoming her.

Other Staffing Changes

Our congratulations go to Himali Ranaweera and Sasha Tribisonna who have received positions at other schools for 2015. Himali gained the teacher librarian’s position at Oak Hill Public School following a merit selection process and Sasha has achieved permanency at Claremont Meadows Public School. Sasha was targeted as an excellent teacher graduate (we knew she was good!)

Science/Maths Expo

Everyone has been working so hard to present our first curriculum expo! We look forward to an exciting opening on Wednesday afternoon at 4pm and encourage all parents, grandparents, community members to attend. Our choir and dance groups will perform and our winning NSW Junior Maths Olympiad team will be recognised and honoured. Please block out your diary for Wednesday night. We will also draw the Christmas hampers. Many thanks to our P & C members!

A sausage sizzle and Christmas gift stall will also be provided by our P & C.

Farewell to Les

Les, our wonderful crossing supervisor (on Neville Street) of 10 years, will be retiring on Wednesday, 17th December. We thank Les for his excellent care of and service to our community. As the first and last face to be seen when children enter our school from the south side, families and school staff have always felt well supported and warmly welcomed. We will farewell Les on Monday morning’s assembly (15/12/14) at 9.00am.

Late Children

So often in 2014 I have noticed teachers coming late to training or professional learning meetings or returning to classroom preparation duties. This is due to children being left waiting for parents well after 3.00pm. May I remind parents that it is their responsibility to ensure that their children are safely cared for immediately after the school day has finished.

This week I will write to all repeat offenders to inform them that their children will be taken to the After School care facility where parents will be charged a casual rate of $20 per afternoon. Please note: this is not applicable to the very occasional urgent circumstance when a child is left behind. We understand when emergencies occur. We also know when our goodwill is being exploited.
Placement of Children With Disabilities

I am delighted that we have won the right for local children, including our Early Intervention Unit, with disabilities to have access to educational opportunities that will enable them to access the curriculum in a meaningful way. More than 50 local children will now be placed in support classes with small enrolments, a specialist teacher and learning support officer. Many thanks to our local principal colleagues for their support and the intervention of Minister Piccoli. Additional classes have been established for 2015 at Prairievale, St John’s Park, Horsley Park, Merrylands, Bonnyrigg, Cabramatta and Cabramatta West Public Schools. Many thanks also to our supportive parents.

Last Week of School (15th-19th December)

What a week! On Monday we look forward to Presentation Day (9.15-11.00), Christmas parties (11.30am) and a visit from Santa. Please note that a separate communication regarding Santa photos has been distributed. You are more than welcome to purchase a Santa photo with your child’s class. Please submit orders by Friday. On Tuesday evening, Year 5 and the SPS staff, will formally farewell Year 6 at the Smithfield RSL. We look forward to seeing everyone in their ‘glad rags’, dancing, singing and celebrating.

On Wednesday afternoon we will enjoy a Year 6 farewell assembly and finally say goodbye to our senior students. As is trading, all students and staff will form an arch as the children leave. Please note that we want this to be a really happy, positive experience (no silly behaviour or pranks will be tolerated!) We will then farewell all children for the 2014 school year.

On Thursday/Friday teachers will meet to focus on: Anaphylaxis training, Homework Policy, Student Leadership Policy and 2015 classroom preparation.

On behalf of the SPS staff, I wish you a happy and safe festive season. Enjoy your children over the vacation. We look forward to their return on 28th January, 2015

Please note that the uniform shop will be open 9.30-2.00pm on 27th January, the day before the children come back to school.

Cheryl McBride OAM

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

Amelia Bernard
Mackenzie Van Den Hooven
Zumra Vatansever Bronze +Silver
Lionel Khou Silver
Owen Thai
K Labrasceur
K/1 Hangan
2 Gregoire
2 Gregoire
K Labrasceur
K/1 Hangan
2 Gregoire
2 Gregoire
Stephanie Grujic
Nathan Duong
Domenic Fresta
4 Bui
4/5 Truscott
4/5 Truscott

Canteen Notice

Please, please, please check the canteen noticeboard.

As we are coming to the end of the year the canteen will not have all the options on the menu available. Please make sure your child checks that the food that they have requested is available. You do not want your child to miss out on recess or lunch.

Thank you for your support

Canteen Staff

Multicultural Day

On Monday 1st December Smithfield Public was a kaleidoscope of colour and a beehive of activity. We celebrated our multicultural nation and were entertained by a band of performers from Cultural Infusion. The day promoted a message of cultural harmony, tolerance and mutual respect. Students participated in a range of workshops showcasing folk dances from China including the traditional lion dance, calypso and soca beats rom the Caribbean, drumming from Africa, flying acrobats and Aboriginal bush food and medicine. The day highlighted how the cultural differences among us can strengthen our society.

Maria Siwak