Principals Message
The last three weeks have flown by with the children now totally settled into class routines. Following a number of additional enrolments, we have made a minor tweak to Stage 3 to convert 5 Khoury into 5/6 composite. We needed to reduce Year 6 classes that were overflowing into recommended numbers. In an effort to make this the best possible outcome for students, we moved some new arrivals children and provided them with more concentrated and extensive ESL support teaching. The added bonus is that Rabeeh Khoury, who speaks fluent Arabic, can converse with many of the children and parents.

Student Welfare
Some parents may have noticed that I am working with a few students, who find self-discipline a challenge. With the strong support of parents and classroom teachers we are beginning to make some headway with those children. A couple will return permanently to their classes by the end of the week (with ongoing monitoring) and another will be introduced to some new programs. Specialist programs, including ‘boot camp’ and ‘playgroup’, are being administered and monitored by the teachers to provide alternatives for children who experience difficulties managing playground behavior. I thank all teachers, who agreed to do extra duties to make these opportunities possible.

P&C Meeting
Was held on Monday, 10th February. Many thanks to all parents, who attended especially newcomers. This first meeting was quite long as we discussed and established committees and ideas for fundraising. Our president, Sarah Locke, promises that the future meetings will be shorter! All meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month (excepting holidays of course). The next meeting on 10th March at 9.10am will include a welcome morning tea and further discussion of school endeavours for 2014 including ESL (English Second Language) programs. Please note that the P&C will be supporting the Easter Hat Parade on Thursday, 10th April with a raffle and sausage sizzle. Extra pairs of hands to prepare and serve would be most welcome. Please see Sarah or another of our wonderful P&C executive:

President: Sarah Locke
Vice President: Michael Van Den Hooven
Secretary: Jos Van Den Hooven
Treasurer: Tony Papallo

Contact us:
O’Connell Street
Smithfield 2164
Phone: 9604 5475
Email: smithfield-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
School Uniform
I am really pleased that the children are all in school colours and most are in full uniform. I am particularly impressed that they wear the full brim hats to protect their necks and ears.
I would remind parents (and will be speaking to the children) that long earrings, colourful shoes, tights and nail polish are not school uniform and are not to be worn at school. They spoil the appearance of uniform and can present a danger (earrings).

Swimming Carnival/Swimming Scheme
Thank you to parents for returning notes/money in time for us to organize numbers for buses etc. I am looking forward to the Carnival on Thursday at Fairfield – the weather forecast looks perfect.
May I stress the importance of non-swimming children’s attendance at the Department of Education and Communities Swimming Scheme. Our children are so fortunate to be able to walk to the local pool to access this opportunity. The low cost of $21 for the two weeks is the cost of pool entry only, the lessons are free. All children living in Australia need to know how to swim.

Safety Procedures
Following an evacuation practice held on 4th February we will hold a lock down next week. These practices ensure that we are ready should a real emergency occur.

Have a great fortnight,

Cheryl McBride OAM
Principal