Principals Message
Last week’s contingent of swimmers left for the Zone Carnival. It was the largest group who have made qualifying times since 2011. Congratulations to parents who have continued/supported the basic skills learnt at the government schools swimming program. The results were outstanding – please read Mrs Fox’s report. Many thanks to Tasha Ross, Natalie Empeigne and the enthusiastic parents who accompanied the children and fulfilled organisational roles at the carnival.

Parent Workshop
Last Tuesday Maria Siwak, supported by Vanessa Asper and Jacqui Griffin prepared an interactive workshop on the Best Start Assessment Tools for K – 2 children. We were so disappointed that only 2 parents attended (mind you, they received excellent and individualised attention). Next Tuesday, 18th March we want as many parents to attend a workshop on reading strategies. Once again, our amazing teacher educators, Maria and Vanessa, will present the most current, explicit strategies to assist children.

Work, Health & Safety
As reported in the previous newsletter, we are updating our practices and policy implementation. Our last lockdown practice revealed a few flaws that we will address. A newly constituted team is intent on ensuring that our school is attractive and safe in all aspects.

Many thanks to those parents who moved to the nearest building for the lockdown practice.

New Assistant Principal
On the last day of 2013, Lisa Myers was offered and accepted a position as a Reading Recovery Tutor. This has created a vacancy to be filled by merit selection. The panel will meet on Wednesday morning to determine the selection criteria and write the advertisement.

The panel members are:

Cheryl McBride Panel Convenor
Sarah Locke Parent representative
Bita Christos Staff representative
Quyen Thai Multicultural community representative

We look forward to a successful process and a wonderful addition to our leadership team.
Parent Engagement
Many thanks to those parents with whom I have made contact over the past few weeks. Your response to, and involvement in your child’s learning has been outstanding. The outcomes have been very positive.

ESL (English as a Second Language) Teaching and Refugee Students
On Wednesday afternoon, teachers will participate in some professional learning on the provision of explicit ESL teaching skills for refugee and LBOTE students. As our population continues to grow in its ethnicity we need to be skilled and knowledgeable about their needs. Jill Pennington, our resident Thursday expert, and Kim Coutts from Fairfield P.S. will provide the input. We thank them both for their time and commitment. Lynne Fox will present a synopsis for parents at the first P & C meeting in Term 2.

P & C Meeting
Yesterday we met at 9.00am to facilitate parent governance and decision making in the school. Fund raising, canteen administration and programs for support were discussed. Jane Hardaker will also present a synopsis of the new Science units and learning intentions for 2014. I was pleased that many interested parents attended.

PBIS (Positive Behaviour Intervention Strategy)
Phillip Whitefield, PBIS consultant, has now visited our school on two occasions, to assess our current situation re student welfare (discipline/reward systems; teachers'/parents'/students perceptions and attitudes, etc). A team of teachers/leaders will be trained in PBIS strategies to, in turn, provide direction and learning for our staff and parents. We look forward to a whole school, strong, consistent, positive system.

Government Funding of Schools
As many parents are aware, I am a passionate supporter of Public Education and the Gonski campaign to equitably fund schools. At times, the media seeks comment to provide opinion/clarification on educational issues. I thank Amy Charlesworth (student in Year 6) and Michael Van Den Hooven for supporting comment on ABS news last week. I think we made a good team!

Many thanks,
Cheryl McBride OAM
Principal

First Child Tax Offset Entitlement
In 2001 (over 12 years ago) the Government introduced the ‘Child Tax Offset’ and surprisingly many Australians did not know about it and have NOT claimed any benefits.

HAVE YOU MISSED OUT ON THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS?

If your child was born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2004 you may be eligible to receive up to $12,500 of entitlements.

The government has now put a deadline on this entitlement so please email childoffset@twelve.com.au to receive more information or call us on 02 9524 2744.
**Jollybops**

On Monday, 24th February, teachers invited the Science show performers, Jollybops to our school. Students, K-6, explored a range of scientific concepts in Physics and Chemistry, such as Solids, Liquids and Gases, Energy and Temperature. Student volunteers were invited onto the stage with the Jolly Professor and Rusty the Robot to help with different science experiments. We had students changing water to powder, exploding balloons, freezing items and shattering them using nitrogen, gas explosions and much more. Students were in awe laughing, thinking, predicting, observing and talking about science. “I love Jollybops, this is the best school” was a quote from a student in 1 Hardaker. Thank you Jollybops!

This experimental learning will remain in our children’s memories. We anticipate some new interest in our most recent Science Program, Primary Connections. We look forward to speaking with parents about our children’s learning in Science at the P&C meeting on Monday, 10th March at 9:10am.

Many thanks

Katerina Liapis and Jane Hardaker

(Science coordinators)

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**TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER**

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Finland, Norway and Denmark will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaustralia@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!
Swimming Carnival 2014

On Thursday 20th February Smithfield Public School set out to Fairfield Leisure Centre for the annual Swimming Carnival.

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

There were some impressive results and all students swam their best.

The house placings were as follows:

1st – Bossley
2nd – Chisholm
3rd – Brenan
4th – Kenyon

CONGRATULATIONS BOSSLERY!!!!!!!!!

Swimming Champions were:

Junior Girls – Chloe Ang
Junior Boys – Christopher Huynh
Senior Girls – Jennifer Du
Senior Boys – Jeremy Ang

The Zone Swimming Carnival is next Tuesday 4th March and we wish all 34 competitors the Best of Luck!

Thank you

Tasha Ross and Lynne Fox

Zone Swimming Carnival Results 2014

Students to compete at the SSW Carnival on Tuesday 18 March at Gordon Fetterplace Aquatic Centre, The Parkway, Bradbury.

- 30 students represented at zone carnival
- Placed 3rd out of 16 schools - BRILLIANT!
- 7 students through to the
  SSW Swimming Championships - EXCELLENT!