Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 3! I hope that the holidays were enjoyed by all!

Parent/Teacher Interview
Just before the holidays I was delighted to meet/greet most parents as teachers conducted interviews focused on the children’s achievements. The feedback from everyone was positive and constructive. Many thanks for your enthusiastic attendance.

Dolly Magazine
During the holidays, I met with Rosie Squires, editor of ‘Dolly’. She was very interested in gaining another perspective of the challenges that adolescence brings, especially for Years 5 and 6 children.

‘Dolly’ shares an association with a number of credible organisations that support the well-being of children and young people e.g. the Kids’ Helpline.

Later in the year Rosie and some journalists will visit our Years 5 and 6 children to ascertain their response to a trial support package for transition to high school. Depending on our children’s ideas the package may be rolled out to other Australian schools. I think this is a great opportunity for Smithfield P.S. senior students.

School Development Day
Last Monday, teachers gathered for some further training and development on the Australian Curriculum - Mathematics. The sessions were well received and assessed very highly. The afternoon was spent focusing on identification of learning needs and uploading the individuals’ information. Many congratulations to Vanessa Asper and the Mathematics committee and Bita Christos (Learning Support).

During the afternoon of School Development Day Danielle LaBrasceur, Jacqui Ranera-Griffin and I met to conduct an informal interview for the relieving Assistant Principal’s position recently vacated by Vincent Albanese. As you know, I placed an advertisement for an expression of interest last term. After interviewing a number of talented teachers, Cathy Sansbury from Ashfield P.S. was offered and accepted the position. Cathy will take up the appointment on Tuesday, 22nd July.
Canteen
On Monday members of the P & C Executive, staff and I met with Christina McIntyre to put together the documentation and package to lease the canteen. The advertisement will be placed in the local newspaper next week. We are hoping to attract a number of quality applications.

Accreditation
As many parents would know, the teaching profession has undergone profound change in the way in which teachers are developed along the continuum of excellence and experience. The teaching standards, at a national and state level, mandate teachers’ progression and maintenance of quality. Our less experienced teachers are all either completing or have completed their accreditation at the level of Professional competence. This requires the gathering of evidence to demonstrate teaching achievement levels across all domains of education including practice, knowledge of curriculum content, knowledge of how children learn, behaviour management strategies, assessment and reporting, etc.

Some of our more experienced teachers have commenced their journey toward higher levels of Professional Accomplishment and Professional Leadership. The rigour and demand, particularly at leadership level, are great. I respect and admire our teachers for putting themselves at the ‘cutting edge’ of education. By 2016 all teachers in NSW will have to undergo this process. It is expected that all senior leaders in school will hold the standard of Professional Leadership, prior to applying for the principal’s position.

Networks of Schools
Educational research tells us that teachers learn best when they are supported, not only by their school leadership, but by the shared expertise of a number of schools.

With this in mind, I will be encouraging teachers to network with other school, both local and otherwise to gain new ideas and experiences.

This week Maria Siwak and Vanessa Asper will visit Campbellfield and Sarah Redfem P.S.’s to view a Literacy/Numeracy mentor working with K-2 teachers. Jacqui Ranera-Griffin will visit a cross school parent workshop in the Macquarie Fields’ area. Pia Maturana will visit Curran P.S. to watch teachers interrogating their students’ learning outcomes data.

On Thursday after school Maria, Vanessa, Pia, Faye Ashby (nee Butcher) and I will attend an action research session conducted by Mark Diamond (Instructional Leader) and facilitated by Berlinda Cook (principal, Canterbury P.S.) We look forward to this learning opportunity.

(E.S.L.) Teaching – English As A Second Language
After school on Tuesday, a number of our teachers will attend an ESL community forum at the NSW Teachers Federation House in Surry Hills. The forum will focus on the need to reinstate ESL experts to develop and train our teachers, support our students and provide resource/advice for our community. It will also focus on the need for qualified ESL teachers in our schools rather than appointing generalists to undertake a number of different roles. Along with academics, I have been invited to speak on behalf of principals who share our concern.
Chocolates
As I am sure you know, last Thursday/Friday, the P & C dedicated members distributed chocolates to every family. Whilst we do not advise the regular consumption of sugary foods, we do recognise their attraction on an occasional basis. We ask that all families support this fund raising activity. All proceeds will go back to the children in the form of enhanced resourcing and learning programs, e.g. Did you know that the P & C recently contributed $13,000 to our technology program? The wireless portals, hardware and apps will enable all children, P-6, to access technology at any time from any place in the school. This enables 21st learning. Many thanks P & C! We love what you are achieving.

Kind regards.

Cheryl McBride OAM
Principal

P&C message - Reminder

Thank you for all those parents that have purchased or returned the Entertainment Books that were handed out to all students in Term 2.

If you still have the Entertainment book sitting at home. Could you please return the book to the school office by this Friday 25 July.

Thank you again for supporting our school.

P&C
Smithfield Public School in partnership with Families Together invite mothers, fathers, grandparents and carers to

Guiding your child’s behaviour

Presented by
Briget Gurton
Consultant Psychologist
Kids Konnect Psychological Services
B.A. (Hons) Psychology
M. Psych (Forensic)

It is normal for children to behave in ways that are challenging for their parents. Children learn what constitutes appropriate behaviour as they grow up and how to control inappropriate behaviour. This session aims to promote positive parenting through behaviour guidance and reduce the stress associated with raising children.

Topics include:
- Understanding some of the causes of challenging behaviour
- Skills to help you manage your child’s behaviour including rules and basic behaviour management strategies
- Understanding the behaviour escalation cycle
- Understanding what may be maintaining challenging behaviour

Bookings are essential and places are limited. Please call Jacqueline on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday on 9604 5475 from 9.15am to 2.30pm.

Families Together is for mothers, fathers, grandparents and carers
Children’s services workers, teachers, family support workers and other professionals will not be given a place.
Families Together is for families living in the local government areas of Fairfield, Liverpool and Bankstown.

DATE: Wednesday 27th August 2014
TIME: 10.00 -12.00 noon
PLACE: School Hall
Smithfield Public School
O’Connell Street, Smithfield

CHILD MINDING is not available for this course. Please make alternative arrangements.