Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

What a dignified and lovely prefects'/sports captains’ induction ceremony that was enjoyed by families, students and teachers last Thursday afternoon. Our local member, the Hon. Andrew Rohan, joined us to recognise and celebrate the election of our student leaders. Each child shared with us a biography of their time and favourite moments at SPS, and their hopes and aspirations for the future. They were presented with a special hat and badge and made a public pledge to the SPS community to uphold the values of responsibility, respect and safety. As a member of the older generation, I was heartened and inspired by the future that these young people will create. I feel confident that our next generation of citizens will lead a better Australia (and take care of us oldies!!).

**Merit Selection Panels**

Panels have been selected to fill positions created by the movement of Himali Ranaweera (teacher Librarian, TL) to Oakville PS and the retirement of Yvonne Tuschhoff (classroom teacher, CRT). Panel members are as follows:
- CRT - Bob di Pede (parent rep.); Tony Papallo (multicultural rep.); Pia Maturana (teacher rep.); and
- TL - Megan Moore (parent rep.); Dave di Pede(multicultural rep.); Jane Hardaker (teacher rep.).

I will act as convenor for both panels. We will meet to write the advertisements this week.

**School Audit**

A member of the Auditor General’s office will conduct a full audit of school finances, processes and practices 2-4/3/15. We look forward to achieving some ‘gold stars’.

**Teacher Leaders**

As parents are aware, I consider one of my most important roles is to ensure the succession of new school leaders. After school on Monday afternoons, a group of formal and informal leaders will meet to discuss professional issues and pursue personal, professional excellence. I believe that SPS will more than fulfil its role as a developer of future school principals. We have so many talented teachers working with our school community.
Community of Schools (COS) Membership
Research tells us that some of the most effective teacher/leader learning comes from sharing knowledge and experience with our colleagues. We are in the process of contributing to the establishment of a number of networks that will benefit our school:
1. Leadership development - Macquarie Fields/Minto/Canterbury schools;
2. Teaching excellence through Instructional Rounds - Fairfield network; and
3. ICT - local schools; and
4. Innovation in Education with Merrylands East PS.

Principals’ Efficiency
I will participate in my first goal sharing session with new Director, Public Schools NSW, Cathy Brennan, on Tuesday am. Of course, the goals will reflect our aspirations for SPS. I will share them with you as they are set in place.

We are continuing to work on the draft of the school plan, which is due in May. Again I will share our work at a P&C meeting and place it on the website.

TOWN (Taking off with Numeracy) Trainer
Our wonderful acting AP, Vanessa Davies (nee Asper), has been selected as a trainer and will be sharing her knowledge with Prairievale PS and other schools. We really appreciate what Vanessa is bringing to our school in the area of Mathematics.

School Excellence Framework
I will put a link to this newly released document on the school website http://www.smithfield-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/. You will be hearing much about this framework which will form the basis of evaluation for all NSW government schools. Initially schools will assess themselves against the 14 elements that define the core business of excellent schools and every 5 years will be evaluated by an external team. The framework provides an outline of the interdependent nature of learning, teaching and leading with a description of quality practice in each of the domains.

Swimming Carnival
Please remember that the carnival is on Thursday, 19/02. As usual, the organisation has been outstanding and we look forward to a great day. Please remember all children will need major sun protection as the weather is expected to be very warm and sunny.

Kind regards,
Cheryl McBride OAM
Principal Smithfield PS
Chairperson
Public Schools Principals Forum
02 9604 5475
0439 936 955
This week your child will bring home a note regarding the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. This term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning.
outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

We want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **Friday 27 February**. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

### Scripture News

Scripture will commence in week 4 this term. This year we are happy to announce that Muslim Scripture will now run. We have contacted our local Islamic community and they are eager to train some parents who would be keen to volunteer and teach this religion here at Smithfield Public School. If any parents are interested please contact the front office or Ms Liapis.
Additional food items on canteen menu:

- Steak sandwich $4.00
- Fish fingers 50c
- Cold pasta salad or rice salad $4.50
- 5 Bean Salad $4.50
- Rice pudding $2.50
- Smithfield salad box $5.00
- Sweet & Sour chicken with rice $3.50
- Potato bake $3.50
- Honey soy chicken with rice $3.50
- Mini Sunny Boy’s $1.00

Thank you from the canteen ladies :)

CANTEEN NEWS:

We have been busy introducing new healthy food to the children.

This week we have sampled:

- Mini sausage salad with lettuce and cucumber.
- Happy Easter salad with lettuce and carrot.

During the past two weeks we have also had FREE TASTE TESTING.

The children were eager to try these new foods.

We are also trying new and exciting ways to encourage children to eat fresh fruit. Some have been more successful than others.... We have found that children will eat them on a skewer (point cut off) or in a small cup with a spoon.

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This year 2015 we will be having playgroups available for the school community.

In order to support all members of our community there will be 3 playgroups

**Vietnamese**  
9.15 till 11.00 Tuesdays - 24/02, 10/03, 24/03

**Arabic**  
9.15 till 11.00 Tuesdays - 17/02, 03/03, 17/03, 31/03

**Everyone**  
9.15 till 11.00 Fridays – 20/02, 27/02, 13/03, 27/03

Playgroup is an informal session where mums, dads, grandparents, caregivers, children and babies meet together in a relaxed environment.

Activities at playgroup may include:

- Music and singing
- Imaginative play
- Art and craft activities

In the playgroup, parents and caregivers stay to interact with the other adults; and to play with the children.

No child is too young for playgroup. All children from 0-5 years, including babies, love new experiences and benefit from developing sensory, social and communication skills through activities at playgroup.

We are lucky to have Lieu Pham and Sulaf Hamid working with us this year who will be available at the playgroups and throughout the school for translations and any community needs.

Please come and join us! 😊

Jacqueline Ranera-Griffin  
Community Liaison Officer

Cheryl McBride OAM  
Principal