Principal's Message

Dear Parents/ Caregivers,

What a busy fortnight! The term is flying by! This week you will receive a note inviting our Years 2 – 6 students to participate in a learn to swim program. This is a wonderful opportunity for children, who are not strong swimmers, to learn about water safety and how to move independently through the water. In Australia, this is a life skill. So many of our children will want to socialise at the beach or in backyard pools. As they grow older they will do this without adult supervision. Tragedies occur when these young people are not competent swimmers. This applies to all children, whether they were born in Australia or not. I speak to many parents who do not consider this necessary. Please believe me when I say that it is. I have seen our children at the carnivals and a large number would be unable to save themselves in a pool.

This year, the lessons will be held at Fairfield Public Pool, as our regular pool in Smithfield has closed. I was extremely concerned that the necessary bus fare would double the price of the swim school. Thanks to some outstanding negotiation from Vanessa Davis, the Sports’ Unit is paying our buses for this year only. As a result, the cost will solely be the pool entry. This is wonderful news! We have booked double the number of places so that all eligible students can participate. What a great outcome! Many thanks, Vanessa, for your outstanding negotiation and organisational skills!!

Easter Hat Parade/ Raffle
On Wednesday, 1st April, we will hold our annual hat parade. We invite all children to participate and have fun. Our wonderful P&C members have organised a sausage sizzle and, for the chocolate lovers, a raffle (with many prizes!!).

Election Day Barbecue
Again, our wonderful P & C members have organised a fund raiser for Election Day, 28/3. Pls support our energetic parents, who so tirelessly work for resources for our children. Bacon & egg rolls will start the morning, followed by a sausage sizzle in the afternoon. I look forward to seeing you on the day!
School Planning
Jodi Harris, our new deputy principal, and I have attended some sessions with other schools to continue the
development of our school’s strategic plan. We are well underway, thanks to the inclusive planning process
we undertook in 2014. We look forward to sharing the finished product with everyone early in term 2.

Communities of Schools
As foreshadowed, one of greatest opportunities for teacher development is the opportunity to learn and
communicate with expert teachers in other schools. In term 3, We will join with Fairvale, Fairfield West and
Harrington Park PS’s to share a school development day focussed on Instructional Rounds. This is an
adaptation from the medical profession to diagnose strengths and areas for development in teaching practice.

Zone Swimming Carnival
This morning, we farewelled the ‘Smithfield Fish’ ie those children who swam sufficient times at our
swimming carnival to make the zone level. They were excited and proud! We wish them the best of luck. I
feel confident that we are sending, not only some competent swimmers, but those who will demonstrate
outstanding sportsmanship.

Have a wonderful fortnight,

Cheryl McBride OAM
Principal

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NSW Health renews warning of hepatitis A risk

NSW Health is warning people to watch for symptoms of hepatitis following reports of at least nine cases of
hepatitis A in Australia linked to Nanna’s frozen mixed berries.

Dr Vicky Sheppeard, Director of NSW Health’s Communicable Diseases Branch, urged consumers to take heed
of the recall of several lines of frozen berries sold under the brand names ‘Nanna’s’ and ‘Creative Gourmet’.

“The NSW Food Authority advises consumers to return these products to the place of purchase for a full
refund, or discard them,” Dr Sheppeard said.

”Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver that can be passed from person to person, or come from food or
water contaminated with the virus.

“Each year 40 to 80 cases are reported in NSW, however the infection is almost always acquired overseas as
hepatitis A is common in most developing countries.”

Symptoms of hepatitis A commence two to seven weeks after exposure to an infectious person or after eating
contaminated food. Early symptoms are fever, nausea and loss of appetite. After several days jaundice can
develop which is noticed by yellowing of the eyeballs and skin, or dark urine and pale stools, sometimes
accompanied by diarrhoea.
“An investigation by all health agencies is underway, but at this early stage we are not sure how many people may be affected,” Dr Sheppeard said.

“Given that these brands of frozen berries are widely distributed products there is the potential that others may be sick with hepatitis A now, or develop the disease over the coming weeks.

“It is important that if people have the symptoms of hepatitis they see their doctor for testing, especially if they have eaten this product in the last two months. They should also take steps to not spread the infection by careful hand washing and not handling food or providing personal care to others until they receive advice from their doctor.”

There is no specific treatment for hepatitis A and people sometimes require hospitalisation for supportive care. Hepatitis A can be prevented by vaccination. Two doses of vaccine provide lifetime protection. People exposed to hepatitis A can be protected from developing the disease if they receive the vaccine or protective antibodies within two weeks.


For current information on the food recalls see NSW Food Authority website:


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**SPS Swimming Carnival 2015**

Swimming Carnival Champions

Chloe Ang

Christopher Huynh

Kaitlin Nguyen

Jaiden Thorpe

**Congratulations to Chisholm Champion House for 2015!**
We have a Smithfield Public School APP!!!!!!

Smithfield Public school is committed to helping the environment by decreasing our paper trail and improving our communication with parents. As part of that commitment we now have a school app that can be downloaded from your app store for FREE. With this app you will receive notifications for Newsletters, notes and other important information, including PSSA training notices and other reminders. You will also be able to sync your phone calendar with the school calendar.

If you have any troubles please refer to Jacqui Griffin at the office.

50 Nights of Home Reading

More recording sheets for the 50 Nights of Home Reading challenge are available from the office.

Dance Auditions

Years 1-2 Monday recess 09/03
Years 3-6 Wednesday lunch 11/03

This year Smithfield Public School will be auditioning for School Spectacular and Parks Festival. If your child misses any of the auditions please refer your child to Mrs Christos.