

The Point

Newsletter of
Soldiers Point Public School



Monday • December 14 • 2015

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all the parents, relatives and friends who joined us for our 2015 Celebration Day. As was mentioned on the day, the purpose of Celebration Day is to recognise our talented children and allow them to show us just how clever they are. It really is a special day and I am always amazed at what our children are capable of.

Tonight, we will continue the celebrations as we farewell our Year 6 students. I'm certain it will be a fun night for our seniors.

We all wish our Year 6 students every success in 2016 and beyond. They have truly been an outstanding group and the staff and I will miss them greatly.

New Leadership Team

Congratulations to our newly elected school leaders for 2016. Our new school captains will be Jorja & Harry (below), who will be supported by prefects: Dane, Erika, Libby, Cooper, Oliver and Tahlia-Rose.



Book Packs

To assist with your organisation for next year I have included the anticipated cost of Book Packs.

Year	Amount
Kindergarten	\$100.00
Year 1	\$75.00
Year 2	\$75.00
Year 3	\$85.00
Year 4	\$85.00
Year 5	\$85.00
Year 6	\$85.00

Merry Christmas

With this Wednesday, December 16, being the last day for our students, I would like to wish all families a merry Christmas and a happy start to 2016. I trust you will be able to spend some fun time together as a family in coming weeks.

I look forward to seeing you in 2016 poised and prepared for school. All students in Years 1-6 will be commencing on Thursday, January 28.

Students starting Kindergarten will be undertaking their Best Start assessment from Thursday, January 28, until Tuesday, February 2, and then commencing on Wednesday, February 3.

As has been the case in previous years, it is expected that students in Years 1-6, apart from students in the Opportunity Class, will be returning to their class of 2015 until we finalise our student numbers, which often fluctuate at the beginning of the year.

Term 4 2015

Term 4 – Week 11

Monday 14 th December	Year 6 Farewell
Tuesday 15 th December	Stage 3 Cinema Visit
Wednesday 16 th December	Term 4 Concludes for students
Thursday 17 th December	Staff Development Day
Friday 18 th December	Staff Development Day

2016 – Term 1

Term 1 – Week 1

Monday 25 th January	
Tuesday 26 th January	Australia Day Holiday
Wednesday 27 th January	Staff Development Day
Thursday 28 th January	Years 1-6 Commence
	Best Start for Kindergarten
Friday 29 th January	Best Start for Kindergarten

Term 1 – Week 2

Monday 1 st February	Best Start for Kindergarten
Tuesday 2 nd February	Best Start for Kindergarten
Wednesday 3 rd February	Kindergarten Commence
	Tea & Tissues
Thursday 4 th February	
Friday 5 th February	

Term 1 – Week 3

Monday 8 th February
Tuesday 9 th February
Wednesday 10 th February
Thursday 11 th February
Friday 12 th February

Term 1 – Week 4

Monday 15 th February
Tuesday 16 th February
Wednesday 17 th February
Thursday 18 th February
Friday 19 th February

Reminders

If you wish to pick up your child's asthma puffer, epipen or any other medication that is at school, please do so by Wednesday.

Don't forget if any medical details have changed or there are new details please let the office know as soon as possible.

Thank you

Year 6 Information Update

Year 6 Farewell – Monday 14th December – 6.00pm – 8.30pm, Soldiers Point School Hall. Parents & friends welcome to attend the Presentation Ceremony beginning at approx. 6.15pm. **Dress Code: Smart/Casual**

Stage 3 Cinema Day & Picnic Day – Tuesday 15th December

Clean Up Day

This week all classes will be arranging their own clean-up day, which for most will be Wednesday, December 16. Clean-up involves students taking responsibility for the cleaning of their desk and chair.

To assist on this day we request students bring in a cleaning utensil i.e. scrubbing brush or scourer. It's also a good idea to pack an old t-shirt as students tend to get a bit damp in the cleaning process.

Holiday Reading

There are many excellent children's books that students can engage with over the school holidays.

The Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book of the Year Awards 2015 is a good starting point for recommendations, or try their previous award winners.

When parents are selecting a book, the most important advice is to choose one that will generate enthusiasm for and an interest in reading, leaving your child with a feeling of achievement and motivated to read another book.

Some tips for parents:

- Ensure the book is at a recreational reading level for the student (5 or more words on a page that the reader is unsure of or does not know indicates it is too difficult);
- Identify a suitable genre, theme or topic that is interesting to the reader;
- Suggest books where there are other books by that author. This will make finding the next book easier;

Supporting your child in learning to read is essential for both mums & dads. I encourage parents to set aside at least 15 minutes each day to sit & share a story with each of their children. This is a life-long lesson and will continue their literacy development through the holiday period.

School Security

As you may be aware, the school has been the target of malicious vandalism on numerous occasions throughout the year, which has cost the school many, many thousands of dollars.

All incidents have been reported to the police and I have requested additional patrols, particularly as we approach the summer holidays. I would also like to request your support in keeping our school safe and secure. If you see anyone suspicious loitering around the school, please call the Police Assistance Line on 13144. Alternatively, you could call the Department of Education's School Security Unit on 1300 880 021.

On-Line Parent payment

Payments for Book Packs, excursions etc can now be paid on-line via the School Website (address below). There is a link in the line next to **Contact Us**.

Please refer to the Information Booklet that was sent home to all families at the beginning of December.

<http://www.soldierspt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

State Representation

Congratulations and well done to Jackson & Lacy who both qualified fastest in their individual events and will represent New South Wales at the Australian Speed-skating Championships in Sydney in early 2016.

P&C news



Kindy 2016

Tea and Tissues morning tea is being held on Kindy's first day – Wed 3rd Feb from 8.30-10.30am. This is a great opportunity to welcome the new families to SPPS.

If you are a current school parent and would like to help out with time and/or baked goods donations, please let us know. Check the SPPS Parents Facebook page for early 2016 reminders, or contact Trish on 0425 336 934.

School Canteen ~ from Paula

"I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who have helped out in the Canteen throughout the year. Special mention to the Canteen Committee for the fantastic support they have given me.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Year 6 helpers too, and will miss their enthusiasm and excellent customer service skills. I am sure I will have a whole new roster of the current Year 5 to fill their shoes. Forms will go home by the second week of Term 1 2016, for parents to sign if their child is happy to work in the Canteen on a roster basis each Thursday.

Parent Volunteers: I will put together a Volunteers roster for Term 1 over the holidays and it will go home with your child in the first week of Term 1. If circumstances have changed for anyone please let me know on 0448 771 336.

Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year, and once again, thank you.

See you in the new year."

Meetings ~ first meetings of 2016

SIFC meeting:
Wed 3rd Feb at 7pm.

P&C meeting:
Tues 9th Feb at 7pm.

All welcome in the Admin Building.

Funds for Music ~ and Winners!

Some terrific prizes were won by SPPS families, and nearly \$450 was raised in the recent P&C Raffle at the Evening of Music & Twilight Bandstand Concert!

Congratulations to our winners, who have been notified by email. Here's a couple of photos of happy winners:



We look forward to hearing about the Show enjoyed by Ella who won the Lizotte's tickets! The funds raised have been donated by the P&C to the School Music Department/Band for additional instruments and resources.

Thank you again to:

- Jack's Music at New Lambton
- Muso's Corner Newcastle, and
- Lizotte's Newcastle

for the prizes you generously donated.



Uniform Shop ~ Extra Opening Times 2016:

Wed 27th January from 9am to 10am (Day prior to 1st day of Term for Yrs 1-6)

& Thurs 28th January (1st Day of Term for Yrs 1-6) from 8.30am to 9.30am

Uniform Shop Normal Hours are: Tuesdays 8.30 – 9.30am & Fridays 2.15 – 3.15pm