

The Point

Newsletter of
Soldiers Point Public School



Monday • May 18 • 2015

Dear Parents,

This Friday, May 22, is Walk Safely to School Day across Australia. This is an excellent opportunity for parents to prioritise spending quality time with their children by walking them to or from school. Last year we had 114 *Walk Safely to School* day with a further 33 riding or scooting.



This was a mighty effort but let's see if we can surpass this total in 2015.

Communication

Following on from our successful Parents Forum last year, we will be holding our first Parent Reference Group discussing COMMUNICATION on Wednesday 3 June. The Parent Reference Group will meet three times during 2015 to talk about how we can improve two-way communication between the school and parents.

Please come along and tell us what you need to know more about, what does the school need to know more about, and what types of communication work best for you. We welcome all parents to join us 7pm Wednesday 3 June in Room 1.

**THIS WEDNESDAY, MAY 20,
IS OUR SCHOOL ATHLETICS
CARNIVAL.**

Improving Technology

Thanks to the generosity of all families who paid the \$25.00 Voluntary Technology Contribution this year, we have been able to purchase an interactive whiteboard (IWB) for the school's new library as well as relocate the IWB from the old library into Room 7. We will also be installing 2 additional wireless access points in the library and Room 7 enabling students to access the school's Wi-Fi network.

The purchase and installation of these items was \$12,120. Without your voluntary contributions, which raised more than \$7000.00, we would not be able complete these projects so promptly. Again, I thank the Soldiers Point Public School community for your generosity.

In coming weeks we aim to be able to broaden the opportunity for students to access our Wi-Fi network by expanding our school's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program. This will be a staged program thus ensuring we don't compromise our school's computer network.

The BYOD rollout plan is listed below:

Introductory Date	Class
June 1	5/6C & 4/5E
June 15	5/6P & 5/6G
July 14	4W

I remind families that BYOD is offered as an opportunity for your child to bring their own device and is not compulsory. Students choosing not to participate will not be disadvantaged as the school has iPads, laptops and desktop computers available for use.

Term 2 Dates

Term 2 – Week 5

Monday 18 th May	
Tuesday 19 th May	Radio Visit
Wednesday 20 th May	Athletics Carnival
Thursday 21 st May	Footsteps K-6
Friday 22 nd May	Walk Safely to School Day

Term 2 – Week 6

Monday 25 th May	
Tuesday 26 th May	
Wednesday 27 th May	
Thursday 28 th May	Footsteps K-6
Friday 29 th May	Port Stephens Zone Rugby Trials

Term 2 – Week 7

Monday 1 st June	
Tuesday 2 nd June	
Wednesday 3 rd June	Parent Reference Group from 7:00 in Room 1
Thursday 4 th June	Footsteps K-6
Friday 5 th June	

Term 2 – Week 8

Monday 8 th June	Public Holiday
Tuesday 9 th June	P&C Meeting from 7:00
Wednesday 10 th June	
Thursday 11 th June	Footsteps K-6
Friday 12 th June	

Term 2 – Week 9

Monday 15 th June	
Tuesday 16 th June	
Wednesday 17 th June	
Thursday 18 th June	Footsteps K-6
Friday 19 th June	

Term 2 – Week 10

Monday 22 nd June	
Tuesday 23 rd June	
Wednesday 24 th June	
Thursday 25 th June	Footsteps K-6
Friday 26 th June	Term 2 Concludes

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Week 5 – Friday 22nd May
No Assembly

Week 6 – Friday 29th May
K-6 Assembly
Hosted by 5/6C
1.30pm All Welcome

Bookclub Orders

due in by

Thursday 4th June

No late orders will be accepted

School Hours

I remind families that our school hours are:

8:55 AM ~ 2:55 PM.

Parents should refrain from dropping their children at school before 8:25 AM and ensure they are collected soon after the 2:55 PM bell to go home. Students arriving at school before 8:25 AM will not be supervised by school staff.

Reminder

School Banking Starts
This Tuesday 19th May

Community Survey

The NSW Department of Education and Communities has commissioned an independent review of the implementation of Special Religious Education (SRE) and Special Education in Ethics (SEE) in NSW public schools.

The review is being conducted by an independent research company, ARTD Consultants. This company provides services in evaluating public policy. The review will inform ongoing improvement of SRE and SEE for the Department and providers.

How can you participate in the review?

You can complete a survey up until 31 July 2015 via an online portal, located at this link: <http://forms.artd.com.au/s3/Online-contribution-for-parents-carers>.

The survey is in English and has 19 questions. For most questions you can select an answer from the multiple choice options provided. Only two questions ask for written answers. Extra written feedback for another five questions may be provided if desired but is not essential.

Queries or complaints about the way the review is conducted. For questions or concerns associated with participation in the review or to raise a complaint about the conduct of the review, please contact the Leader, Quality Assurance, on (02) 9244 5025 or by email at SRE-SEE-Review@det.nsw.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially.

Keeping our Students Safe

I remind all parents who drive their children to and from school to comply with all road and parking rules outside our school.

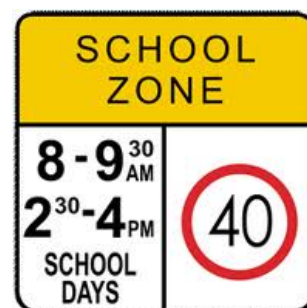
School Zones operate from:

Morning = 8.00 AM – 9.30 AM; and

Afternoon = 2.30 PM – 4.00 PM.

Parking restrictions also apply during these times.

These rules will be enforced by Police and Port Stephens Council Rangers and fines issued to drivers who choose to ignore road and parking rules.



2015-16 Entertainment Books (Digital and Hardcopy)

are now available for purchase from the school office.

Still just \$60, featuring Newcastle, Central Coast and The Hunter.

20% of every book sold contributes to our school fundraising

HAVE FUN, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND LEARN ABOUT ANOTHER CULTURE!

Volunteer to host an international high school student arriving into Australia in July '15 and you'll be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for their 3, 5, or 10 month programs from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Spain and Colombia. They 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. You choose the nationality, the gender, the duration and the interests of the student that you feel is the best match for your family.

Visit us at www.scce.com.au, or call your local coordinator, Dianne on 0429406126 to request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!



P&C news

Meetings

Next SIFC meeting:

Wednesday 3rd June at 7pm.

COMMUNICATION Parent Reference Group.

Join us to talk about improving two-way communication between the school, staff and families.

Next P&C meeting:

Tuesday 9th June at 7pm. *Mrs Egan will be making a presentation about the new Maths Syllabus. Come and listen to what it's all about!*

All welcome in the Admin Building.

Canteen

Thank you to Belinda Lavers, Tammy Peach, Deanne Cosgrove, Megan Hunt, Frank Renner, Gaye, Cassandra Butterworth and Liz Dennison for all their help over the last two weeks. Roster:

Wed 20/5 Michelle Campbell, Deanne Cosgrove
 Thu 21/5 Year 6: Brodie S, Dylan M
 Fri 22/5 Deanne Cosgrove, **help needed**
 Mon 25/5 Karen Jones
 Wed 27/5 Frank Renner, Megan Hunt
 Thu 28/5 Year 6: Abiee O, Charlotte C
 Fri 28/5 Rebekah Newell, Tammy Peach
 Mon 1/6 Leanne Benbow

A HUGE thank you to Trish Coote, Penny Whatman, Liz Dennison, Deanne Cosgrove, Christina McClafferty, Michelle Campbell and Anna Webster for the invaluable help on Friday 8th May at the mothers day luncheon.

Thank you to the Year 6 helpers and to the teachers for their assistance on the day particularly Mrs Henley and Mrs Egan, as always it was a very busy day and we couldn't have done it without your help.

School Disco 2015

Be prepared for a BIGGER, MORE EXCITING School Disco 2015!

When: Thursday 25th June; Infants 5-6pm, Primary 6.30-7.30pm.

Where: Soldiers Point Bowling Club in the Auditorium.

DJ Tim Halls will be working his magic, along with some special guests to get your children moving!

Volunteers are needed to help make this event run smoothly, please contact Trish (0425 336 934) or Anna (0414 672 252).

Watch out for a note coming soon.

Uniform shop

The Uniform Shop is open:

- Tuesday from 8.30–9.30am and
- Friday from 2.15–3.15pm.

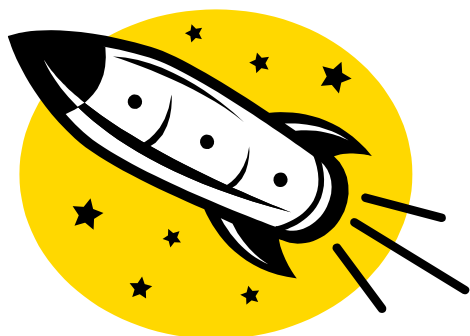
We accept cash or cheque only for your payment. (There is NO EFTPOS available.)

If you would like to volunteer in the Uniform shop, please contact Belinda.

Athletics Carnival Sausage Sizzle

We will be providing a sausage sizzle at the athletics carnival this Wednesday, any offers of help to transport food to and from the venue, to cook and serve would be greatly appreciated. No need to pre-order. The price list is as follows:

Sausage sandwich	\$2.50
Poppa	\$1.50
Water	\$1.00
Brownie Slice	.50c
Tea or Coffee	\$1.50
Choc Muffin	\$1.50
Chips or JJs	\$1.50



A FREE TRANSITION TO SCHOOL PLAYGROUP!

The READY, SET FOR SCHOOL program targets children eligible to start school in 2016

Our fun, structured sessions aim to support children to get ready for BIG SCHOOL

We aim to develop skills, confidence and independence through play based learning experiences

Our focus is on encouraging a readiness to learn

Activities include an interactive circle/story time, early literacy and numeracy, art and craft, music and movement

Each week there is a different learning theme

Please bring along a healthy snack or piece of fruit so we can practice having “recess” during morning tea time

Held each Friday 10.00 am – 11.30 am
@ Gan Gan Family Centre (Anna Bay Public School)

Siblings are welcome and bookings are required

For more information please contact Corinne on:
0417 500 886 or Gan Gan Family Centre on: 49 821 767

TENNIS CLASSES

“HOTSHOTS”

**Every Thursday at
Soldiers Point Tennis Club**

Age 4-5	3:30	\$5
Age 6-7	4:00	\$6
Age 8-9	4:30	\$10
Age 10-14	5:30	\$10

- **Just show up!**
- **Enquiries 0466 626 943**
- **Family discounts too!**