

The Point

Newsletter of
Soldiers Point Public School



Monday, 21 November 2016

Dear Parents,

On Friday, November 11, our school community was privileged to witness a creative and thoughtful Remembrance Day commemoration which was presented in a highly respectful manner. I congratulate all students who were called upon to present. I would like to acknowledge Lexie, who provided us with a moving rendition of *We Are Australian*, accompanied by Mrs Spiller on piano, and our senior dancers. This performance was simply awesome.

I would like to sincerely thank Mrs Fuimaono and Mrs Robinson for their coordination of the assembly and Miss Lawrence for guiding the dancers.



Intensive Swimming

Our 2016 Intensive Swimming program concluded last Friday, November 18, for nearly 60 students from Years 2 & 3. Soldiers Point has offered the Intensive Swimming program for many years which has improved our students' water familiarisation and confidence. We encourage parents to continue their child's swimming development by regular visits to the pool.

I would like to sincerely thank Mrs Egan, Miss Cornwell, Mr Nix and Mr Holloway for their commitment and willingness to run the program again this year as it is of enormous benefit to our children.

Thinkfest '16

On Wednesday, 5/6S travelled to New Lambton South Public School to participate in the annual Thinkfest challenge. The students competed against other Opportunity Classes (OC) from across the Hunter and achieved some outstanding results.

Thinkfest involves each OC being split into four teams, each tackling a different problem and presenting the solution in the form of a five minute skit. Each group is required to design and make their own backdrop, prop, movie trailer, write a script, rehearse and make sure that they have a detailed visual diary, documenting their learning journey.

Congratulations to all the students in 5/6S for their wonderful results and most importantly for their dedication, hard work and effort they placed into Thinkfest! This year 5/6S received awards in the following categories:

- Science Group - Best visual diary, Best skit solution, Best video trailer, Best performance skills, *Overall Winner*;
- Maths Group - Best Script, Best skit solution, Best video trailer, Best Prop, *Overall Winner*;
- English Group - Best visual diary, Overall *Runner Up*; and
- Visual Arts Group - Best video trailer.



Term Dates

Term 4 – Week 7

Monday 21 st November	Evening of Music @ SPPS PSSA State Cricket
Tuesday 22 nd November	PSSA State Cricket
Wednesday 23 rd November	PSSA State Cricket
Thursday 24 th November	PSSA State Cricket
Friday 25 th November	Stage 2 Camp Stage 2 Camp

Term 4 – Week 8

Monday 28 th November	Kindergarten Orientation Twilight Bandstand @ SBPS
Tuesday 29 th November	Kindergarten Orientation
Wednesday 30 th November	Kindergarten Orientation
Thursday 1 st December	SRC Election Playtime in the Park
Friday 2 nd December	Student Recognition assembly

Term 4 – Week 9

Monday 5 th December	Kindergarten Orientation
Tuesday 6 th December	Kindergarten Orientation Band Workshop
Wednesday 7 th December	Kindergarten Orientation Combined Scripture
Thursday 8 th December	Year 6 Farewell
Friday 9 th December	Celebration Day

Term 4 – Week 10

Monday 12 th December	
Tuesday 13 th December	Stg 2 Movie/Pizza Day
Wednesday 14 th December	Student Reports Home
Thursday 15 th December	Talent Quest
Friday 16 th December	Term 4 Concludes for students

Term 4 – Week 11

Monday 19 th December	Staff Development Day
Tuesday 20 th December	Staff Development Day

Cricket v Ben Venue PS

The cricket team travelled to Armidale last week after making it into the final 16 schools in the state PSSA competition. That in itself was a remarkable achievement for a team with three Year 4 players and a handful of boys who don't play weekend cricket.

After spending almost five hours on the bus there was very little time to stretch and warm up before the game started with Soldiers Point bowling. The lack of warm up may have had some part in the way the team bowled which wasn't up to their usual standard. While most deliveries were on the spot, the loose ones were sent straight to the boundary by a team full of excellent batsmen. Even great fielding by Cooper, Dane, Charlie M, Nic, Ryan and Rowan, plus two sensational outfield catches by Edward, couldn't contain Ben Venue who scored 128 runs.

Chasing that many runs was always going to be extremely difficult but the boys had batted magnificently in all their games, especially the most recent match against Singleton. Unfortunately, too many run outs and stumpings did not help and the team fell well short of the run chase. A fairly stoic partnership by Ben and Ryan was the highlight of the innings and it was pleasing to see Nic get a chance to bat.

The boys should be very proud of their achievements. There were some brilliant personal performances throughout the year but it was the team spirit and the sportsmanship that I thought was the most impressive part of their game. As ambassadors for the school, they were outstanding. On the way back from Armidale, when we stopped at a petrol station, the owner came out to the bus to tell me that he'd never had such a well-mannered group of students come into his store. That just about sums them up.

I would like to sincerely thank Simon Lack and Soldiers Point Bowling Club for their continued support. The use of the club bus makes it so much easier to take teams to events. I would also like to thank the parents who had to drop their sons off early in the morning and pick them up late at night. And thank you boys for an enjoyable trip - even though it was hard to hear myself think!

Peter Nix

Remembrance Day @ SPPS

Soldiers Point held a Remembrance Commemoration Assembly on Friday 11th November 2016. The children showed great respect on the day and children from all stages were involved in learning about why we acknowledge Remembrance Day.

Classes produced an array of fabulous art work, whilst others have looked after the Gallipoli Rose Garden making sure it was looking its best on the day.

Kindergarten and Stage 1 learnt about the significance of the Purple Poppy, which acknowledges all animals that have been to war.

The children that took part in the assembly showed great teamwork, confidence, leadership and mateship all working together to produce a really moving assembly and the song sung by Lexie Brooke brought a tear to many of us.

Children's Military Deployment Medals were proudly given out to two defence families within our school, acknowledging the resilience and perseverance these children have shown whilst their dads were deployed overseas.

The Whitmore family and Donaldson family children were given medals by their very proud dad's Corporal Michael Whitmore and Sergeant Robert Donaldson from RAAF Base Williamtown.

The whole school has also taken part in the Commemorative Crosses Project. Wooden crosses were sent from the Australian War Memorial's Education Department to our school.

In every class children wrote a personal & heartfelt message of remembrance, messages of hope for the future and a thank you for peace, bravery and spirit. These crosses have now arrived in Canberra and will be sent all over the world to be laid in war graves.

We've included a collage of photos later in this newsletter.

Danielle Robinson - Defence Transition Aide.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY
Friday 25th November at 1.30pm
K-2 – 1.30pm

Friday 2nd December – 1.30pm
Recognition Assembly
K-6
Hosted by SRC

All Welcome

Organisation

As we move closer to the end of the 2016 school year we need to ensure that we are organised for 2017. One of our annual challenges is to know how many students will start school each year and to organise classes based on these numbers. To assist, we ask families with children in Kindergarten to Year 5, who will be leaving the school at the end of 2016, to inform the school at your earliest convenience. This will enable us to plan our teachers and classes for next year.

If leaving, please inform the school via email, soldierspt-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or call into the office so we can continue planning for next year.

Band & Choir Workshops – don't miss this fantastic opportunity

When: Tuesday 6th December

Time: 11.30am – 2.00pm

Choir – Vocal Workshop with Jacki Cooper

Band – Band Workshop with John Morrison

Cost: \$6.00 payable to the school office

REMEMBRANCE DAY AT SOLDIERS POINT PUBLIC SCHOOL 2016



BOOK CLUB

Due Monday 28th November

If you would like to order books for Christmas presents please let us know at the office so that we can ring you when the goodies arrive.

Thanks

Roster

Wed 23/11	Karen Jones
Friday 25/11	Deanne Cosgrove, Leanne Benbow, Liz Dennison
Mon 28/11	Casandra Butterworth
Wed 30/11	Michelle Campbell, Matt Connor
Friday 2/12	Rebekah Newell, Liz Dennison, Deanne Cosgrove
Mon 5/12	Karen Jones

**THE CANTEEN WILL NOT BE OPEN
THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER AS PAULA WILL
BE AWAY**

As it is nearing the end of Term 4 the Canteen apologises if we cannot fill your child's order, we will be running our stocks right down and could possibly run out of some items. We will offer your child an alternative if we cannot provide their first choice.

The Canteen would like to invite our wonderful volunteers to join us for dinner on Thursday 15th December, 6.30pm at Soldiers Point Bowling Club. Everyone pays for their own meal and refreshments. It would be great to see you all there, a separate note will come home soon.

Thanks
Paula

**Update - Year 6 to 7 Transition Parent
Information night/disco on Monday 5th
December**

For your convenience, the office at Tomaree High School will remain open during the Parent Information Night/social on Monday December 5.

This will give parents the opportunity to buy Year 7 bookbags which cost \$47.00 and/or pay school fees and the Year 7 camp deposit. Get in early and beat the rush!

Canteen News

Thank you to Liz Dennison, Rebekah Newell,
Leanne Benbow, Michelle Campbell, Casandra
Butterworth, Julie Thomson and Deanne Cosgrove
for all their help over the last two weeks.



**Important Information -
Soldiers Point
Aboriginal Place Celebration Day
Spencer Park - 26 November 2016**

17 November 2017

The Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council will host a community day in Spencer Park, Soldiers Point on **Saturday 26 November** from 10am to 2pm celebrating the gazettal of areas on Soldiers Point (Dhal-Walla) as an Aboriginal Place. The event acknowledges the special cultural significance of Soldiers Point and the importance of this achievement for the Worimi people.

You are invited to come along and share the celebration of this important milestone by enjoying rides, food and entertainment and learn more about the special Aboriginal heritage of the area.

In the Soldiers Point Memorial Hall, there will also be displays of heritage photos and information about the gazettal process with representatives from Port Stephens Council, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and NSW Parks and Wildlife Service being available to answer questions.

While one road closure will be in place, vehicle access will be available to the Marina and the boat ramp. There will also be reduced speed limits in place for the safety of patrons.

This event is held in partnership with Port Stephens Council and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

Council recognizes that parking is limited in the area and will encourage patrons to be respectful of resident's driveways and nature strips. We apologise for any inconvenience this might cause.

For more information, please contact Penny Amberg, Community Development and Engagement Coordinator or Council's Community Development and Engagement team through customer service on 4980 0255 and quote file no: PSC2005-3650