

The Point

Newsletter of
Soldiers Point Public School



Friday 27th May • 2016

Dear Parents,

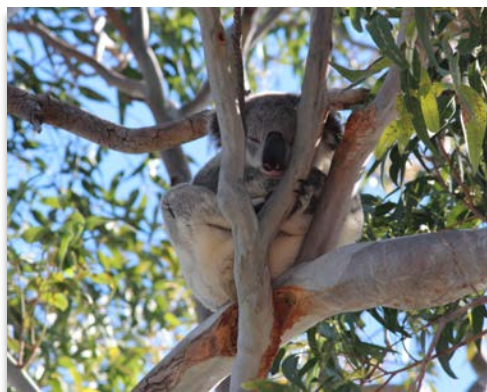
At 11:00 AM on Wednesday, May 25, 136 of our ES1 & S1 students dropped everything and congregated in the library to listen to a reading of *I Got This Hat* by Jol & Kate Temple. It was a lot of fun as our students got to wear a hat of their choice, some of which had been made by themselves.

We thank Mrs Merriman for her coordination of the event and look forward to participating in the National Simultaneous Storytime in 2017.



A Happy Place

Last week we were fortunate to have 2 healthy, koalas join us in the playground for a romp. We really are very fortunate to have such a beautiful & natural environment for our children to learn and appreciate *all* local inhabitants.



Technology Boost

Each year, thanks to the kindness of all families who make the \$25.00 Voluntary Technology Contribution, we are able to update & purchase new IT equipment for the school. This year we will be replacing some of our older computers with new devices (desktop & laptop). This will be complemented with the upgrade of some data cabling at various points around the school.

The purchase and installation of these items will be in the vicinity of \$15,000.00. Without your voluntary contributions, which raised more than \$7400.00, we would not be able to complete these projects. Again, I thank the Soldiers Point Public School community for your generous support.

The addition of the school's facebook page seems to have been well received with a recent post reaching more than 3600 people. Throughout the year, teachers will be sharing information about class / stage events by adding to the school's website with a link sent out via facebook.

Some Helpful Information

As parents we send our children off to school each morning wishing them a happy & successful day. For the vast majority, each day is happy & successful and the child enjoys seeing their friends, learning new skills and acquiring knowledge. For some, however, they may experience elements of bullying from others which has an impact on their day-to-day wellbeing. No school or workplace is immune to bullying, but we need to know how to support our children if & when it occurs.

Later in this newsletter you will find some basic information about bullying and what parents need to look for in order to support their child.

Term Dates

Term 2 – Week 6

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday 30 th May | |
| Tuesday 31 st May | Musica Viva K-6 UNSW - Science |
| Wednesday 1 st June | |
| Thursday 2 nd June | Transition Program – Year 6 THS |
| Friday 3 rd June | |

Term 2 – Week 7

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Monday 6 th June | |
| Tuesday 7 th June | |
| Wednesday 8 th June | School Improvement & Finance Committee Meeting |
| Thursday 9 th June | |
| Friday 10 th June | |

Term 2 – Week 8

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Monday 13 th June | Public Holiday |
| Tuesday 14 th June | P&C Meeting |
| Wednesday 15 th June | UNSW – Writing UNSW - Spelling |
| Thursday 16 th June | All Schools Knockout (Under 10 rugby league) |
| Friday 17 th June | |

Term 2 – Week 9

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Monday 20 th June | |
| Tuesday 21 st June | |
| Wednesday 22 nd June | |
| Thursday 23 rd June | |
| Friday 24 th June | Student Recognition Assembly |

Term 2 – Week 10

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Monday 27 th June | Life Education |
| Tuesday 28 th June | Life Education Reports Home |
| Wednesday 29 th June | Life Education |
| Thursday 30 th June | Life Education |
| Friday 1 st July | Life Education |

Newsletter Dates

Throughout Term 2 our administration staff will be undertaking a significant amount of professional learning as we transfer to new Department of Education administration software. As this will impact on our office management, the school newsletter will be distributed on the following dates:

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Newsletter 3 | Friday, May 27 |
| Newsletter 4 | Friday, June 10 |
| Newsletter 5 | Friday, June 24 |

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Friday 3rd June @ 1.30pm

3-6

Hosted by 4/5G

Friday 10th June @ 1.30pm

K-2

Hosted by 1/2F

Sports Update

Our students have been very busy on the sporting front in recent weeks with teams competing in an array of sports.

Rugby Union – we all wish Louis well as he vies for a position in the Hunter Region's Rugby Union team to compete at State.

Netball – our school netball team proved too strong for Salt Ash PS in their recent game with Soldiers Point winning comfortably. The girls will meet Grahamstown or Tanilba Bay in their next game as part of the PSSA Knockout.

Soccer – Our boys will be playing several games of soccer on June 6 against Tomaree, Shoal Bay & Anna Bay in their PSSA knockout matches.

Rugby League – The school's Under 10 rugby league team is preparing for the All Schools Knockout, which will be held on June 16. I remind parents that training is each Wednesday afternoon from 3:40-4:30 at the Salamander Sporting Complex.

From the Office

Our school will transition to a new NSW public schools' finance system on **15th June 2016**.

This change will have an impact on the school's office in the following ways.

- Simone and Bronwyn will be out of the office for 3 days for training. These days are spread across this term and Mrs Denise Diemar will be in the office on these days.
- **Between 6th June and 15th June 2016**, we will not be able to accept any payments at the office or online.
- On **Tuesday 14th June** the office will be closed to enquiries, payments etc and will be only dealing with students who are sick or need assistance.

As from **16th June 2016** cash, cheque, EFTPOS and online payments (POP) will be accepted as before in the same manner.

Once the new finance system goes live you may notice a difference in student invoices, cash register receipts or reports that you request.

Any questions please contact Bronwyn Sherman in the office. Thank you

Two Exciting School Events

Healthy Harold Life Education – will be held for all students week commencing Monday 27th June. Cost will be \$10.00 per child. Information and permission note will be coming home on Tuesday 14th June.

Gymnastics – 10 week program. Will commence for all students in the first week of Term 3. Cost will be \$45.00 per student for the 10 weeks or \$5.00 per week. This program is part of the school curriculum. Information and permission note will be sent home Tuesday 14th June.

Thank you

TOMAREE HIGH SCHOOL

Year 7 – 2017 Specialist Classes

Application packages are available from High School Office or at www.tomaree-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Applications close 2pm 16th June 2016



Nelson Bay Girl Guides invite you to
Come and Try Girl Guides!
 For girls aged 8-13 years



Outdoors, Fun, Friendship, Games, Community, Skills, Cooking
First 2 nights for Free

Nelson Bay Guide Hall – 4 Norburn Ave. Wed nights 6pm – 8pm

For more information contact Caroline Ellis 0403 201 809 or
cellis4@tpg.com.au

Or to find out more visit our website www.girlguides-nswact.org.au

Say No to Bullying

NOTE: This article is written in response to a request for more information about bullying during the April Parent Connect sessions.

Every school in NSW has an anti-bullying plan. Bullying is not tolerated in any school or workplace in Australia. A brief summary of the Soldiers Point Public School Anti-bullying Plan can be found at www.soldierspt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/caring-for-students/student-safety

The Anti-bullying Plan includes protection, prevention, early intervention and response strategies for student bullying. Any student who experiences bullying should report it to their teacher or the school principal. Parents may respond by sending an email to the schools email address (E: soldierspt-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au with the classroom teacher's name written in the subject line) to arrange a meeting to discuss. Once bullying has been identified, parents of both children involved can work together with the school to create a safer environment for everyone involved.

The school is actively involved in building student resilience by leading discussions about bullying and by providing extension through visiting performances such as the recent 'Being Brave' production.

A short online video by NSW public school counsellor Caroline Powell talks about how parents can support a child who is being bullied. Search on YouTube (www.youtube.com): 'School A to Z : Tips for supporting your child'

If you require information about how to identify if your child is being bullied or how you can support your child please visit the NSW Department of Education website:

www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/behaviour/bullying-advice-for-parents1

Gateway Family Playgroup

When: Tuesdays, 9.30am – 11.30am (during school terms)

Where: Gateway Presbyterian Church, 43 Gan Gan Road, Anna Bay

Bring: BYO drink and a piece of fruit or something similar to share for morning tea. Coffee & Tea provided.

Cost: \$3.00 each week or \$20.00 per term (per family)

Further Info:

Naomi – 0432 188 139

Sarah – 0434 348 746

Family Support Newcastle's Family Relationship Skills Project and Gan Gan Family Centre, would like to invite parents or care-givers of children under the age of eight years to a

FREE 4 session group program

**Staying Focused on Kids
in the midst of life's challenges**

Discussions may include:

- Naming the range of challenges we face in our day to day lives
- Effects of difficult life circumstances on ourselves and our relationships
- Where does the time go? – Prioritising the ten thousand things
- Doing what matters most and in turn, reducing stress
- Does "Guilt" get in the way?

When: 10th June to 1st July, (FRIDAYS over 4 weeks)

Time: 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

**FREE Morning Tea and Children's Activities provided
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**



Nationally Consistent Collection of Data School Students with Disability



Information for parents and carers

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection) is an annual collection that counts the number of school students with disability and the level of reasonable educational adjustment they are provided with.

The national data collection counts students who have been identified by a school team as receiving an adjustment to address a disability under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (the DDA). The DDA can be accessed from the [ComLaw](http://www.comlaw.gov.au) website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

The aim of the national data collection is to collect quality information about school students with disability in Australia.

This information will help teachers, principals, education authorities and families to better support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

The national data collection is an opportunity for schools to review their learning and support systems and processes to continually improve education outcomes for their students with disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools across Australia collect information about students with disability. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory and across government, Catholic and independent school sectors.

When undertaking the national data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect information. Therefore, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and submit data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through the national data collection will enable all Australian governments to

improve target support and resources to benefit students with disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students are entitled to a quality learning experience at school.

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments, where needed, to assist students with disability to access and participate in education free from discrimination and on the same basis as other students.

These responsibilities are outlined in the DDA and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards). The Standards require educators, students, parents and others (e.g. allied health professionals) to work together so that students with disability can participate in education. The Standards can be accessed via the [ComLaw](http://www.comlaw.gov.au) website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability. Reasonable adjustments reflect the assessed individual needs of the student, and are provided in consultation with the student and/or their parents and carers. Reasonable adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (e.g. ramps into school buildings), in the classroom (such as adapting class lessons) and at an individual student level (e.g. extra tuition for a student with learning difficulties).

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?

Every year your child's school will collect the following information for each student with a disability:

- the student's level of education (i.e. primary or secondary)
- the student's level of adjustment
- the student's broad type of disability.

The information collected by schools will be provided to all governments to inform policy and

programme improvement for students with disability.

WHO WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The definition of disability for the national data collection is based on the broad definition under the DDA.

For the purposes of the national data collection, students with learning difficulties such as dyslexia or auditory processing disorder as well as chronic health conditions like epilepsy, diabetes or asthma, that require active monitoring by the school, may be included.

WHO WILL COLLECT INFORMATION FOR THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

Teachers and school staff will count the number of students with disability in their school and the level of reasonable adjustment they are provided based on:

- consultation with parents and carers in the course of determining and providing reasonable adjustments
- the school team's observations and professional judgments
- any medical or other professional diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for ensuring the information identified about each student is accurate.

HOW WILL MY CHILD'S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students and their families is essential. Personal details such as student names or other identifying information will not be provided to local or federal education authorities.

Further information about privacy is available from www.education.gov.au/notices.

IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION COMPULSORY?

All education ministers agreed to full implementation of the national data collection from 2015. This means that all schools must now collect and submit information annually on the number of students with disability in their care and the level of adjustment provided to them.

Information about the arrangements that may apply to your school in relation to this data collection is available from your child's school principal and the relevant education authority.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your child's school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability.

You can also visit www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability.

An e-learning resource about the Disability Standards for Education 2005 is freely available for the use of individuals, families and communities at <http://resource.dse.theeducationinstitute.edu.au/>.

P & C NEWS

Fundraising Committee

Save The Date

Our favourite event of the year is on again this winter. The school disco will feature a live DJ, lights, bubbles and Zumba moves. Notes will be sent home soon so keep an eye out for them. Tickets can be pre-paid. If you are able to volunteer one hour of your time at the event please contact the Fundraising Committee:

sppsfundraising@gmail.com

Event: School Disco

Date: Wednesday June 29

Location: Soldiers Point Bowling Club

Time: Kindergarten – Year 2 (5-6pm), Year 3 – 6 (6.30-7.30pm)

Check the Facebook page for further updates.

Canteen

A huge thankyou to Cassandra Butterworth, Liz Dennison, Deanne Cosgrove, Leanne Benbow, Michelle Campbell, Mel Bonniface and Karen Jones for their help on Hot Dog Meal Deal Day. Thanks also to Mr McGregor and the Year 6 helpers. The day went very smoothly.

Roster

Mon 30/5 Cassandra Butterworth

Wed 1/6 Matt Connor

Thurs 2/6 Yr 6 – Nicholas D, Cale G

Fri 3/6 Rebekah Newell, Liz Dennison

Mon 6/6 Karen Jones

Wed 8/6 Michelle Campbell

Thurs 9/6 Yr 6 - Grace B, Abbey L

Fri 10/6 Deanne Cosgrove, Leanne Benbow

Mon 13/6 Queens Birthday PH

A Canteen Price List can be found on the school website.

Meetings

All meetings are held in the School Administration Building at 7pm. All welcome.

School Improvement and Finance Committee (SIFC) Meeting

Wednesday 8 June

P&C Meeting

Tuesday 14 June

Guest Speakers: Teachers from SPPS will attend to discuss how student reading levels are determined and strategies to support your child reading at home.

Uniform Shop

Tuesday 8.30am – 9.30am

Friday 2.15pm – 3.15pm

Located behind the school canteen. Price List available on the school website or Skoolbag App.

School Banking

Bank books are collected each **Tuesday** in class and returned to students the following day.

Contact Us

Email: sppspc@live.com.au

Website: soldierspt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



Soldiers Point Public School Parents

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

On Wednesday 25th May, Early Stage1, Stage 1 and some of our Stage 3 students participated in a *National Simultaneous Storytime* session at school. Mr Parson read the book **“I got this Hat”** by Jol and Kate Temple.

Students wore a hat that they had made themselves or a hat that was special to them or a family member.

We all had a great time listening to Mr Parson read.

