

# The Point

Newsletter of  
Soldiers Point Public School



Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear Parents,

The staff and I welcome all families back to Soldiers Point Public School for Term 3, 2017. We trust that you are refreshed and prepared for a full and entertaining term ahead.

Term 3 is a ten week term. It will be very active with a multitude of activities in and out of the classroom. Students will be engaged in numerous extra-curricular activities none more exciting than our school musical. The musical is entitled Game of Crowns and will be performed on August 17 & 18. Other activities include: Education Week in Week 3, Book Week in Week 7, Storytime, as well as numerous sporting opportunities.

Some of our classes will also be offered the opportunity to explore the wider community as they participate in excursions, including Stage 3's visit to Canberra. This year, 97 students from Years 5 & 6 will be exploring our national capital from Wednesday to Friday.

Our Education Week activities this year will include a combined Tomaree school's awards night, which will be held on Thursday, August 3, and our own Education Week assembly on Friday, July 31.

## P-K Transition

Thank you to the many families who have already expressed interest in their child attending Soldiers Point Public School for Kindergarten in 2018. We have had a lot of interest from current and new families, which is very exciting. We'll be starting with the first of our transition activities, *Storytime*, on August 29, September 5 & 12. More details can be found on our school website.

## Need to Talk

Late last term I included information in the newsletter relating to appropriate procedures for parents & carers who would like to meet or speak to their child's teacher. I thank the vast majority of parents & carers for respecting these procedures as it really does enable teachers to focus on their core responsibility of teaching their students.

I remind parents that may wish to request a meeting with a teacher to discuss their child's progress, wellbeing or other concerns need to:

- *Send a note in to the teacher with your child;*
- *Phone the office and leave a message; or*
- *Email the school.*

Teachers will call back at their earliest opportunity.

*Parents should not attempt to talk to teachers when they are trying to teach, manage children or engaged in another conversation. A copy of the school's Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers & Visitors can be found on the school's website [www.soldierspt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.soldierspt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)*

## Staff Development Day

Yesterday, the teachers and I had the third of our Staff Development Days for the year, which was both beneficial and productive. The day enabled us to spend time as a staff analysing our school's writing trends, followed by some professional learning with a focus on successful writing strategies.

## Game of Crowns – 2017 Musical

Session times –

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – 11.30am for a 12.00pm start

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start

Tickets - \$10.00 (**no concessions** and **all** children must have a ticket).

DVD will be available at a cost of \$25.00 each.

A separate note will come home for ticket purchases and DVD sales.

## Term Dates

### Term 3 – Week 1

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Staff Development Day
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Students Resume Term 3
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Stage 3 Canberra
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Stage 3 Canberra
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Stage 3 Canberra

### Term 3 – Week 2

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	Opportunity Class Placement Test
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Public Speaking S3 Shortland PS

### Term 3 – Week 3 – Education Week

Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> July	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> August	UNSW English
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Combined Education Week Presentation Night at THS
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> August	Education Week Assembly Last day for Bookclub orders

### Term 3 – Week 4

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> August	
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> August	Touch Gala Day
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> August	Public Speaking S1 Medowie
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> August	Public Speaking S2 Anna Bay
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> August	Public Speaking ES1 Mayfield West

### Term 3 – Week 5

Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> August	
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	UNSW Maths
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> August	School Musical
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> August	School Musical

### Term 3 – Week 6 – Book Week

Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> August	
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August	
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August	
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> August	
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> August	

### Term 3 – Week 7

Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	Storytime
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	

### Term 3 – Week 8

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Storytime
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	

### Term 3 – Week 9

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	Storytime
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	

## SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

*Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July – No Assembly*

*Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July – 2.15pm  
Class Councilor Induction*

*Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August – 2.15pm  
Education Week*

*All Welcome*



Education



# Fact sheet for parents and carers

**The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Planning has begun to move NAPLAN from a pen and paper assessment to an online assessment.**

## What are the benefits of NAPLAN Online?

### Results will be faster and more precise

- Your child's individual results will be returned to you within just a few weeks of the NAPLAN testing.
- Online assessment will reduce the time it takes to mark and provide feedback to schools, teachers and parents.
- Improved precision and timing of results will help teachers to tailor their teaching more specifically to address students' learning needs.

### Tailored tests will provide better assessment

- The online format allows for 'tailored testing', where the test adapts to a student's performance and asks questions that match their achievement level.
- Students in each year level start with the same set of questions which can then branch into a different set of questions based on their responses to the first set of questions.
- This means that students will be directed to questions that may be easier or more challenging depending on their responses.
- This test design will allow students to better demonstrate their literacy and numeracy skills.
- Students find online assessment is more engaging\*, which means they are encouraged to persist longer and try harder.

\* Research by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) into online assessment has shown that students have engaged well with electronic tests.

## NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test

**NSW schools will participate in a school readiness test between 14 August and 22 September 2017.**

The school readiness test is a 'practice run' for schools to assess their technology ahead of NAPLAN Online. The readiness test is not an assessment of student ability. The readiness test allows schools to:

- become familiar with the NAPLAN Online test format and processes
- check whether they have the technical capacity, rooms and devices to administer NAPLAN Online
- provide students in NAPLAN years 3, 5, 7 and 9 with the opportunity to experience the online test question types and format by completing a practice NAPLAN online test.

## For more information

Parents, students and schools interested in familiarising themselves with the NAPLAN Online format can access the NAPLAN Online demonstration site that includes sample tests for each NAPLAN year. Use the following link:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site>

Further information about NAPLAN Online is available on the national ACARA website:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online>

Contact your school principal or visit the ACARA NAP website for more detailed information:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/online-assessment.html>



Education &amp; Communities

*Our school community is committed to providing a supportive learning environment fostering respect, creativity and resilience. (2015) Page 3*



# NEWS



## Fundraising Committee

### School Disco

A huge thank you to all the parent volunteers who assisted at the very successful School Disco held at the end of Term 2. Holding the event at the school allowed us to raise over \$2060! Thank you to DJ Tim Halls, Woolworths for the fruit donation and Salamander Superstrike for donating the prizes for the prepaid ticket draw. Congratulations to our winners.

### Five Cent Fundraiser

Please bring your five cent pieces into class in Week 3 (ie. the week starting 31 July) for the Five Cent Fundraiser Challenge. Funds raised will go towards the purchase of reading texts for the school. The class with the most 5c pieces by weight, measurement and count in Week 4 will win a prize!

### Birthday Party

The P&C will host the schools 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party on Saturday 4 November between 10am-2pm. Please keep an eye out for notes coming home in the next couple of weeks. The more help we have, the more stalls and activities we can run so please join us. It's a great opportunity to meet other parents and families of the school.

## Canteen

Welcome back for Term 3. Just a reminder the Canteen is unable to heat food brought from home as per Council regulations - all food needs to be prepared on the premises for health and safety reasons.

### Roster

Fri 21/7	Leanne Benbow, Deanne Cosgrove
Mon 24/7	Help Needed
Wed 26/7	Help Needed, Ken
Fri 28/7	Leanne Benbow, Casandra Butterworth
Mon 31/7	Help Needed
Wed 2/8	Matt Connor, Ken
Fri 4/8	Deanne Cosgrove, Leanne Benbow, Julie Thomson

If you are at all able to help in the Canteen, even for one hour in the mornings, it would be greatly appreciated. Look out for a Winter Meal Deal, comprising of a choice of Lasagne, Fried Rice, Beef Noodle Stir Fry and a Quelch Fruit Stick. Order forms will be coming home soon.

## Ethics Classes

If you are interested in delivering Department approved Ethics Class sessions in 2018 (volunteer role) please contact us via the email below. One hour per week. Training provided.

## Meetings

### School Improvement and Finance Committee (SIFC) Meeting:

Wednesday 2 August held in the School Administration Building at 7pm. All welcome.

P&C Meeting: Tuesday 8 August held in the School Administration Building at 7pm. All welcome.

**School Musical** A full dress rehearsal, BBQ and working bee will be held on Sunday 13 August supported by the P&C. Volunteers are needed to assist in last minute preparations or to help feed the hungry cast and crew. Contact us via the email below if you have an hour or two to spare.

**Uniform Shop** Open Tuesday 8.30am – 9.30am and Friday 2.15pm – 3.15pm

A friendly reminder that the Uniform Shop has a seconds rack and families are encouraged to drop off their pre-loved uniforms to us throughout the year. Thank you.

## Contact Us

Email: [sppspc@live.com.au](mailto:sppspc@live.com.au)

P&C Website: [sppspc.weebly.com](http://sppspc.weebly.com)

Soldiers Point Public School Parents

**SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITY CENTRES PROGRAM**  
 Anna Bay Public School  
 191 Gan Gan Road Anna Bay NSW 2316  
 T 4982 1767 M 0437 629 037  
 E [jaqueline.owell@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:jaqueline.owell@det.nsw.edu.au)



TERM THREE 2017

TUESDAY JULY 18 TO FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29

In partnership with Family Insight,  
 Gan Gan Family Centre is holding:  
**Bringing Up Great Kids**

The Bringing Up Great Kids program is built on the understanding that parents need good support to be the kind of parents they aspire to be. It recognises the significant challenges faced by parents and provides self-care strategies for them. It helps parents understand that there is no perfect recipe for raising great kids.

This six session program covers topics including:

- Building positive and respectful relationships with your children
- Identify how to respond to your children's needs
- Understand parenting styles
- Be able to source info and support for your parenting roles

When: Monday August 14 to September 18  
 Time: 12.30 pm – 2.30 pm  
 FREE Afternoon Tea and Children's Activities  
**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

Family Support Newcastle and Gan Gan Family Centre presents

**Playing for Fun**

For all parents who want more laughter at home  
 This FREE 4 hour workshop includes the following topics:

- ❖ Love languages
- ❖ Self maintenance
- ❖ Playing games that build togetherness
- ❖ Getting along with the kids in your care

Light Lunch Provided

When: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Time: Wednesday 10 am to 2 pm

FREE children's activity group available on premises  
**Bookings Essential**

**INTERRELATE@ GAN GAN**

Interrelate is holding two FREE workshops  
 For Defence members and their families. (other families welcome depending on booking number)

**Positive Parenting**

Thursday July 20 @ 10.00 am to 12.00 noon  
 An interactive seminar on positive communication and parenting techniques.

**Creating Positive Relationships: Conflict and Communication**

Thursday August 3 @ 12.45 pm to 2.45 pm  
 A seminar to assist couples reduce conflict and communicate better.  
 FREE childcare is provided  
**Bookings essential**



**READY, SET FOR SCHOOL**

**A TRANSITION TO SCHOOL PLAYGROUP!**

The READY, SET FOR SCHOOL program targets children commencing school on the Tomarase Peninsula in 2018

Our fun structured 30 minute sessions allow your child to develop their skills and confidence through play based learning experiences.

Held each THURSDAY 10.00 am – 11.30 am  
 Commencing July 27  
 Siblings welcome

Limited spaces so bookings essential  
**MEETING DATES THIS TERM:**

BAY GA/PS (Grandparents as Parents): Every Wed @ 10 am  
 YOUNG PARENTS GROUP: Every Tues @ 10.30 am  
 FAMILY LAW CONSULT: Thurs by appointment  
 TOYS ON TAP TOY LIBRARY: Mon to Fri 9am to 11am

**TERM THREE 2017**

**GROUPS FOR NEW PARENTS**  
**EARLY PARENTING**  
**SUPPORT GROUP**

For new mums and dads with babies aged 0 – 3 months.  
 Facilitated by the Child & Family Health Nurse.  
 Come along and chat about the joys and challenges of parenting.

FOUR weekly sessions commencing:  
 THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> August: 10.00 am to 11 noon.

For more info phone: 4924 2588.

**BABY MASSAGE (Newborn to 6 months)**

A course for parents & their babies to enhance bonding & empower parents in the care of their baby.

Assists with colic and digestion, stimulates baby's growth & development & helps baby sleep better.

FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> May 10 am to 12 noon

Booking Required. (\$35.00 for the FOUR sessions)

Ring Clara: 0421 678 680

**PLAYGROUPS AT THE CENTRE**

**MESSY PLAY**

Messy Play program is for children aged 0 – 5 years.

Childcare staff from Good Start Early Learning, Anna Bay facilitate the session each week.

Come and join us for structured messy play activities and learn the importance of sensory play with your child.

TUESDAYS commencing 18 July  
 10.15 am – 12 noon  
 \* **Bookings essential.**

**Young Parents Network**  
 Invites you to:  
**ANNA BAY YOUNG PARENTS GROUP**  
 A group for all parents under 25 years  
 Come along to meet other young parents and share your parenting experiences  
 Every Tuesday @ 10.30 am

**SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP**  
 (Newborn to 5 years)

Supported Playgroup is held in partnership with the Benevolent Society and provides opportunity for parents and children to enhance their relationship in a supportive environment, increase their skills and confidence and develop valuable social and family support networks.

Held every **MONDAY** in the School Term.

Time: 9.30 am - 11.30 am. \***Booking required**

**Are you caring for a child with a disability?**

Playgroup NSW MyTime support groups are for mothers, fathers, grandparents and anyone caring for a child up to age 16, with a disability or chronic medical condition.

MyTime is funded by the Australian Government (Department of Social Services), and nationally coordinated by the Parenting Research Centre.



**Wednesdays**

10 am – 12 noon

For more info ring Tracy: 0410 476 128

**NEW EARLY LITERACY PROJECT**  
**LOOK OUT FOR OUR BOOK BOXES**

**OUR IDEA:**

WE collect children's books and distribute them around Port Stephens in our book boxes. YOU browse, take a book (or two) from a book box and return later with a replacement (you do not need to return that exact book).

ALL book boxes will be checked and refilled as required

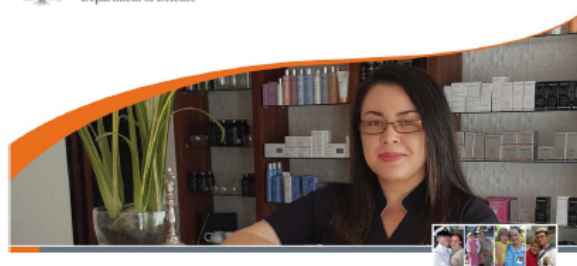
Book Box locations will include:  
 Thou-Walla Family Centre (Raymond Terrace)  
 and Gan Gan Family Centre (Anna Bay)  
**WE NEED CHILDRENS BOOKS PLEASE**  
 For more info and to donate books please give us a call



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**Woolworths – Earn & Learn is Back**

Stickers can be collected from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July and dropped back to school. Pass the word so we can get lots of goodies for our school.



**Partner Employment Assistance Program**

Posting soon, or recently posted, and looking for work? Find out about the help available to you.

Defence Community Organisation invites ADF partners to an information session on the Partner Employment Assistance Program (PEAP). From 1 July, eligible ADF partners can apply for funding assistance of up to \$1500 for professional employment services and mandatory professional re-registration when they relocate with their partner.

**WHERE** DCO Williamstown, Building 581, RAAF Base Williamstown  
**WHEN** Thursday, 03 August 2017 **TIME:** 10am–11am

An evening session will be held if there is sufficient interest. Please register your interest to attend an evening session via the email address provided below or by contacting DCO Hunter on 02 4034 6973.

**RSVP** by Monday 31 July to  
[DCO.HunterRIMS@defence.gov.au](mailto:DCO.HunterRIMS@defence.gov.au) or 02 4034 6973

**MORE INFO** [www.defence.gov.au/dco](http://www.defence.gov.au/dco)

LIKE Defence Community Organisation to receive updates.

Defending Australia and its National Interests  
[www.defence.gov.au](http://www.defence.gov.au)



**Education & Communities**

Our school community is committed to providing a supportive learning environment fostering respect, creativity and resilience. (2015) Page 5