

Monday 14 October 2019

Dear Parents,

The staff and I welcome you back to Soldiers Point for the fourth and final term of 2019. We trust you've had a fun, family holiday and you're energized for the term ahead.

Term 4 is a 10-week term concluding for students on Wednesday, December 18. Some of our planned activities include: Stage 2's Great Aussie Bush Camp, Stage 1's Excursion to Hunter Wetlands Centre, Hunter Thinkfest for our Opportunity Class, further orientation for our 2020 Kindergarten students, as well as our annual Twilight Bandstand, Year 6 Farewell & Celebration Day.

Games Day

The Games Day was a success and Year 6 did a wonderful job raising \$675.40 towards their Year 6 Farewell Activities.

All students were very creative inventing games for students to enjoy. We thank you for your support.



Science Day

On Thursday, September 26th, students from Soldiers Point Public School participated in the Science and Engineering Challenge Day. This day was also attended by other schools in Port Stephens.

Our team was broken into eight smaller groups who engaged in a number of activities such as:

Max Power - where the team had to balance out a power supply;

Get Over It - where a bridge was needed to be built to carry an increasing load weight; and

String Along - where train tunnels between cities needed to be connected to each other in the easiest way possible.

As the day went on, all schools were being marked on their team work, performance, effort and outcome. By the end of the day, Soldiers Point Public School emerged victorious and brought back a wonderful trophy that is currently on display in the office foyer.

"I liked that everyone worked well together and the high school students helped out." - Beau

"It was fun to build different things out of a range of materials." - Evie

"I enjoyed the creativity of the activities and the engineering aspects." - Lacey

"It was fun to build the chair. Our group was the only one whose chair didn't fall apart." - Sahla

"It was extremely fun!" - Harry



HELP US IMPROVE OUR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT!

THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY!

This Wednesday, October 16, our school is participating in Nude Food Day. All students are being asked to bring healthy lunchboxes in reusable containers, without any single use/throw away plastic or other single use materials.

Nudie Tuesday - This term our school is working together to minimise the waste we are generating. We are also trying to encourage students to stop using cling wrap, snap lock bags and foil.

Soldiers Point Public School is an environmentally friendly school and our aim is to produce zero waste, but to do this we need your support. Each Tuesday we would like our school community to bring lunches in reusable containers, without any throw away bags or wrappers. Many of our students are already bringing in amazingly healthy and waste free lunches, which is brilliant for our school environment and our students health. Compost bins will be provided for vegetable and fruit scraps. More information can be found later in this newsletter.

PARENT SURVEY

Our annual Parent Survey, which provides us with valuable feedback and ideas for future improvement, is currently open and will remain open until Friday, October 25. I urge parents to take the time to complete the survey as it really does provide us with helpful information from a parent's perspective and ideas we are able to consider in future planning.

A few of the improvements the school has achieved this year, which are a direct response to your feedback in 2018, include:

- Parent workshops offered in literacy, numeracy and technology; and
- Term overviews sent home at the beginning of each term for each stage.

To complete the survey click on the below link:

<http://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/soldierspoint2019>

TERM 4

Term 4 – Week 1

Monday 14th October	Students commence Term 4
Tuesday 15 th October	
Wednesday 16 th October	Waste Management Presentation – Year 4
Thursday 17 th October	
Friday 18 th October	Year 6 Transition Activity Card Art Orders Close

Term 4 – Week 2

Monday 21 st October	
Tuesday 22 nd October	External Validation
Wednesday 23 rd October	
Thursday 24 th October	
Friday 25 th October	

Term 4 – Week 3

Monday 28 th October	
Tuesday 29 th October	Camp Quality Puppet Show
Wednesday 30 th October	
Thursday 31 st October	
Friday 1 st November	

Term 4 – Week 4

Monday 4 th November	
Tuesday 5 th November	
Wednesday 6 th November	World of Maths workshop Disco SP Bowling Club
Thursday 7 th November	
Friday 8 th November	

Term 4 – Week 5

Monday 11 th November	Swim School (Week 1) Evening of Music Selective High School Applications Close
----------------------------------	---

Tuesday 12th November
Wednesday 13th November
Thursday 14th November
Friday 15th November

Term 4 – Week 6

Monday 18 th November	Swim School (Week 2) Year 6 Transition Activity
----------------------------------	--

Tuesday 19th November
Wednesday 20th November
Thursday 21st November
Friday 22nd November

Parent Forum 6.30-8pm
Parent Forum 9.30-11am

Term 4 – Week 7

Monday 25 th November	
Tuesday 26 th November	
Wednesday 27 th November	
Thursday 28 th November	Stage 2 Camp
Friday 29 th November	Stage 2 Camp

Term 4 – Week 8

Monday 2 nd December	
Tuesday 3 rd December	
Wednesday 4 th December	Year 6 Transition Activity
Thursday 5 th December	Twilight Concert – all schools
Friday 6 th December	

Term 4 – Week 9

Monday 9 th December	
Tuesday 10 th December	
Wednesday 11 th December	Scripture Assembly
Thursday 12 th December	Year 6 Farewell, SPBC
Friday 13 th December	Celebration Day – 9.30am

Term 4 – Week 10

Monday 16 th December	
Tuesday 17 th December	
Wednesday 18 th December	Students Last Day
Thursday 19 th December	Staff Development Day
Friday 20 th December	Staff Development Day

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking starts tomorrow Tuesday, 15 October.

VISUAL ARTS**ORDERS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER**

During the last weeks of Term 3, your child will be been involved in a Whole School Art Program in order to produce a piece of artwork which may be reproduced into greeting cards, calendars, diaries, notebooks and tote bags. Tote bags were a popular choice last year, and all make wonderful presents. Usually this activity is well supported within our school community. The aim of the program is to celebrate art, not to raise money; therefore costs have not been increased.

- *Cards and calendars: \$10.00 each*
- *Diaries and notebooks: \$15.00 each*
- *Tote Bags \$18.00 each*

Samples of all items can be viewed in the office foyer.

Artwork will be sent home at the end of Term 3 for you to view.

To order, simply fill in the required number of items in the boxes on front of the artwork, and return the artwork and money to your child's teacher at the commencement of Term 4. This gives ample time for extended family members to view and perhaps order.

Rose Aitchison

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Friday 18 October 2019

No assembly

Friday 25 October 2019 2.15pm

Class Councillor Induction K-6

All Welcome

KINDERGARTEN 2020

If you have a child starting with us in 2020 and have not yet submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) we encourage you to do so. To obtain an EOI you can either call into the school office or download it from the school's website. The website also lists all the dates of this year's transition activities.

PARK SAFELY

Parking in and around any school at drop off & pick up times is a challenge. Our school is no different as we have cars, buses, bicycles and pedestrians moving in all directions. To ensure our children's safety it is imperative that we all respect and follow local road & parking rules. Failure to do so may result in a fine being issued by the NSW Police Force or Port Stephens Council Rangers.

I remind parents that the car park on the northern side of the school's hall is available for staff & parent parking, it is not a drop off / pick up zone.

Our pick up & drop off zone is on Bagnall Avenue (south of the staff car park). Parking must be in the bays provided and cars should be parked with their rear to the kerb. Parents are also urged not to drive up the gutter and park on the grass.

YEAR 7

ENTRY TO A SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL

The Selective High School Placement Test will be held on 12 March 2020. Detailed instructions on how to apply online are available now at the following link. Applications close at 10pm on 11 November 2019.
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7>

NUDIE TUESDAY

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As part of our school's war on waste, we will be introducing Nudie Tuesdays – where students are encouraged to bring a waste-free lunch on Tuesdays. Commencing on Tuesday, October 22, our goal is to reduce the amount of packaging material that we send to landfill. Below is a basic outline of what a trash-free lunch is and some tips on how to make them.

What is a trash-free lunch?

When planning lunches for Tuesdays, please help us minimise food and packaging waste by packing a trash-free lunch! *Read the tips below and the attached information sheet from Planet Ark's Waste-Free Lunch Challenge.*

Try to pack ... A Trash-free Lunchbox

- Snacks in reusable containers
- Drinks in a reusable container
- Reusable utensils when needed
- A reusable lunchbox or backpack
- Small pieces of fruit, yoghurt or snack items in a reusable container

Avoid ... A Disposable Lunchbox

- Lunches packed in plastic bags or wrap, foil, wax paper
- Disposable drink boxes, pouches, cans, cartons, and bottles
- Disposable forks and spoons
- Pre-packaged single-serve snack items

Minimising food waste:

- Bin audits in our school have found large quantities of unopened pre-packaged foods (e.g. single-serve yoghurts, cheese sticks, sandwiches, uneaten apples/fruit etc.) Encourage your child to bring home any uneaten food to eat after school.
- Help students to make nutritious, trash-free lunches or let them make their own lunches. Try packaging lunches the night before and storing them in the fridge overnight.
- Discuss with your child what they like to eat and how much. Reduce costs and waste.

Minimising plastic waste:

- Instead of wrapping sandwiches in cling film, try putting them in a snug-fitting reusable container. Reducing the amount of food packaging generates is not only beneficial for the environment but it also reduces disposal costs for the school and means more money can be spent on learning resources and teaching support.
- If your children have chips, savoury biscuits or other snacks, try buying a larger bulk pack (rather than more expensive "convenience packs" with lots of packaging). You can then put the same quantity of chips, biscuits etc. into a reusable

container that students can take to school and bring home each day.

- Encourage students to bring a reusable water bottle to school and try to avoid buying drinks in packaging that cannot be resealed. Many children take just a few sips at snack time and discard the rest.

Reusable container options: Your local supermarkets sell a variety of Sistema, Smash Nude Food, and Décor branded reusable containers. Useful websites with a variety of reusable products include:

<http://www.biome.com.au/>

<http://www.shopnaturally.com.au/>

<https://www.4myearth.com.au/products/>

For more information, please contact Mrs Egan.

Sincerely,

Mrs Egan and the Eco Warriors.

