



# Speers Point Public School

A stimulating and supportive learning environment

Find us at Bell Street, Speers Point

[www.speerspt-p.schools.edu.au](http://www.speerspt-p.schools.edu.au)

14<sup>th</sup> December 2 011

Principal , Sue McNamara

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In the Presentation Day address I spoke about the qualities of leadership to which I aspire. Leading is to challenge the status quo and to help others embrace change and develop skills to grow. I hope that in my short time sitting in the principal's chair that I have, in some way, demonstrated my commitment to this school and my willingness to embrace the changes we will face in 2012.

I mentioned three very exciting changes that we will experience in 2012. Firstly staff changes - the three new staff members bring skills, enthusiasm and new ideas to our school. A brief introduction to each of these staff members is included in this newsletter. Secondly our Doorway to Asia project, which is an amazing project and we are very fortunate to be included in it and indeed to have Mrs Wilkinson to drive the project which will be based at our school. Thirdly, the communications and promotions team, who are committed to building a great community presence and letting everyone know how great our school really is.

I always embrace change as it gives us an opportunity to try new things and develop ourselves. Great things always begin somewhere and I can't wait to see where our new beginnings will lead us.

I wish everyone happy holidays and a safe return.

Lisa Milson Black  
Relieving Principal

## Reminders for this week

- Library books are now due to be returned.

## Upcoming Events

| Date                     | Event                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Week 10</b>           |                                                                                                               |
| Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Movie Day at Boolaroo</li> <li>Reports sent home to parents</li> </ul> |
| Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last day of term for 2011</li> </ul>                                   |
| Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students return for 2012</li> </ul>                                    |
| Thur 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kinder students begin</li> </ul>                                       |

## Year 6 celebrate their time at Speers Point

Students from Year 6 celebrated their schooling with friends, dancing and lots of laughs on Tuesday night. Our school hall was transformed into an amazing party venue and all students enjoyed themselves.

A huge thanks must go to party organisers, Mrs Hancock, Mrs Reid, Mrs Pateman, Mrs D. Wood, Miss Stroud, Miss Chappell and Mrs R. Wood. Thanks also to Mr Britt for the yearbook and Miss Armstrong for the music. The students received a graduation certificate, gift from the P&C, gift from the school and a yearbook. We all wish them well in high school!





### 2012 Leaders ready to serve

Congratulation to Rosie Gately (Captain), Denver Clark (Vice Captain), Kye Jordan (Prefect) and Zach Gilligan (Prefect) on the announcement of election as student leaders for 2012 at Monday's Presentation Day. The students were formally introduced to the school, read and signed an Oath of Office indicating their commitment to upholding the values of the school. Each of them will be outstanding representatives of Speers Point Public School. We look forward to working with the new leaders and supporting them in their new role.



### Congratulations and farewell to a wonderful teacher

Miss Armstrong has been fortunate to gain a permanent teaching position at Tighes Hill for 2012. We wish her the very best. Following is her farewell message.

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It is with mixed emotions that I write my final newsletter item for Speers Point. I am sad to be leaving (my home away from home!) but also filled with great happiness and relief at the fact that I finally have a permanent teaching position! The last 6 years at our fantastic school have provided me with a variety of experiences and memories which I will always hold dear. I have had the pleasure of teaching so many wonderful and enthusiastic students and each class has brought its own unique dynamics and experience. I have had many highlights during my career at Speers Point. I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in all the extra events and activities that our school offers such as after school sport, the Glendale Star competition, welcome discos, whole school concerts, P&C and talent quest, just to name a few!

During my time at Speers Point I have worked with many talented and inspiring staff who I would like to thank for sharing their skills and expertise. I would also like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to all of the wonderful parents and carers that I have come to know and worked with. I thank you for your support and kindness and for allowing me to be a part of your children's lives.

So thank you Speers Point! I will miss you all.

Kind regards,  
Kerrie Armstrong



## New Beginnings



I would like to start with saying how delighted I am to be appointed as the new principal at Speers Point Public School. Having lived and worked in the area for a number of years now, I have often heard of the high reputation that SPPS has, and look forward to working with our staff, students and community in continuing this well-earned reputation.

As for myself, my name is Chris Payne, and for the last seven years I have been teaching at Fennell Bay Public School. Prior to FBPS, I spent a number of years at Parkes Public School which is way out west. In that time I led and developed a number of great educational programs, with my focus on improving student learning outcomes.

I have great expertise in technology in education, and as our 21st century learners progress through our school years, I have a great passion in teaching the safe use of technology to support learning in all of our subject areas.

On a personal note I have a young family of my own, with two boys and I have been known to sneak out early on a Sunday morning for my new hobby, golf. I think it's a sign of great improvement that I can get around nine holes without losing any golf balls along the way.

I am very much looking forward to taking on this new adventure as a teaching principal at Speers Point, which may see a few small adjustments to allow for the smooth administration of the school. I look forward to meeting you all in the new year.

Chris Payne



Hi my name is Kelly Bissett and I will be teaching at Speers Point Public School in 2012. I graduated from Newcastle University in 2006 and have been teaching for more than five years. Currently I am teaching a Year One class at Rozelle Public School and have been doing so for the past three years. In my spare time I enjoy playing a variety of sports and have a passion for visual arts. I am excited about my move up north and am looking forward to meeting everyone in the Speers Point community.



Hi students, staff, parents and community members of Speers Point P.S.,

My name is Lauren Terrill and I am very excited to be joining Speers Point P.S. in 2012. It looks to be a very interesting, nurturing and welcoming school to teach at and I very much look forward to being a part of it in the new year.

To tell you a little bit about myself, I have a strong teaching background in technology; computers, laptops, audio-visual equipment and the connected classrooms technology. I can't wait to be involved in some fun, interesting technology-based programs at your school.

I am also very passionate about teaching music and visual arts both within my classroom and across the whole school. I enjoy playing the keyboard for my own enjoyment and in the classroom. I also have a range of sporting skills I am looking forward to

implementing and sharing with the students at Speers Point P.S.

In terms of teaching, I have very high expectations of my students and aim to provide an innovative, quality learning environment that is both welcoming and respectful.

2012 will no doubt be another productive and busy year. I look forward to meeting you and getting to know your students.

### Exciting new developments with the Doorway to Asia Project

Recent contact with the University Confucius Centre will mean that the project which already includes many facets to make our student more Asia-aware, will now include staff and student visits to the Confucius Centre to learn about Chinese culture. This adds a new dimension to the project which includes a resource room set up at our school to be a base for teaching about Asian culture, student excursions to Sydney and visiting performances.

### Champions Celebrate at Speers Point

Ebony proudly brought her collage in to school to show is her achievements in Gymnastics this year.



### Library News

A reminder to students that all books need to be returned to school this week so that we can complete our end of year stocktake.

### Gold Awards

Students receive Gold awards when they have collected 10 class or expectation awards which consist of, merit awards, excellence awards & up to 2

Sports awards. When students have collected ten of these awards they are encouraged to bring them into the office to have them checked for eligibility.

### Coles Sports for Schools

I am pleased to inform you that our Coles point tally and equipment order has now been finalised. Our school finished with a massive 27,104 points. Wow! Listed below are some of the great items we will be receiving in 2012.

- ✓ 1 bucket of high bounce multi-purpose balls
- ✓ 1 t-ball bat and stand
- ✓ AFL ball kit
- ✓ Basketball kit
- ✓ Junior bounce kit (variety of balls)
- ✓ Catch cone kit
- ✓ Deluxe playball kit with mesh carry bag
- ✓ Volleyball kit
- ✓ Ball launcher
- ✓ 5 grip ball sets
- ✓ 3 new soccer balls
- ✓ Tennis ball kit
- ✓ 2 netballs

Thank you to everyone who brought in Coles tokens during this competition. This great equipment will be used to support our PE and Sport programs as well as during lunchtime activities.

Kerrie Armstrong

### Birthdays

A very happy birthday to the following students who will celebrate their birthdays during December and January.

Christopher B. 14<sup>th</sup>, Bridie C. 16<sup>th</sup>, Keeley C. 16<sup>th</sup>, Maxwell H. 16<sup>th</sup>, Natasha B. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Jet B. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Lucy G. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Malli A. 24<sup>th</sup>, Holly K. 24<sup>th</sup>, Kayla-Lee R. 25<sup>th</sup>, Luke C. 29<sup>th</sup>, Ryan C. 30<sup>th</sup> & Tye C. 31<sup>st</sup> December.  
Brandan M. 1<sup>st</sup>, Jasmine F. 4<sup>th</sup>, Jade S. 8<sup>th</sup>, Jordyn P. 10<sup>th</sup>, Kaitlyn S. 11<sup>th</sup>, Jasmine W. 12<sup>th</sup>, Cooper J. 18<sup>th</sup>, James B. 19<sup>th</sup> & Rocco S. 28<sup>th</sup> January.



### P&C News

Thank you to parents & teachers for your on going support throughout 2011.

Have a safe & happy holiday.

### Canteen Roster

| Date                   | Volunteer                        |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> | Closed                           |
| Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>   | Closed for cleaning end of term. |

### Canteen News:

Reminder: If you are able to assist in the canteen next year could you please send in your form to the office. These forms are required for planning next year's roster. We are in urgent need of volunteers as we may need to open for only 2 days.

## Christmas Rice Bubble Treats



These Christmas rice bubble treats look impressive, but they are super simple to make. Just form the rice bubble treats into triangles, then insert a candy cane to make the Christmas tree trunk, and decorate! Kids really enjoy making these holiday treats, and unlike cookies, rice bubble treats don't have to be rolled, baked or cooled very long before the kids can eat them!

**Cooking Time:** 10 minutes

**Makes:** 12-14 servings

### Ingredients:

- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 280 gms marshmallows or 4 cups miniature marshmallows

- 6 cups rice bubble cereal
- red and green gel icing, M&Ms, coloured sugar and candy canes for decorating

### Preparation:

1. Line a baking sheet with waxed paper or parchment paper.
2. Melt the butter and the marshmallows in a large saucepan over medium heat, stirring frequently, until the marshmallows melt completely. Immediately stir in the rice bubble cereal. Spread the mixture onto the prepared baking sheet, so that the rice bubble treats are about 1.5cm thick.
3. Spray a sharp knife generously with cooking spray. Use it to cut the rice bubble treats into large triangles.
4. Break or cut the candy canes into 8 cm pieces. Insert a candy cane into the bottom of each rice bubble treat triangle to form the trunk for the Christmas tree.
5. Let the rice bubble treats cool completely before decorating with icing, candies and/or coloured sugar.

