

Speers Point Public School

A stimulating and supportive learning environment

Find us at Bell Street, Speers Point

www.speerspt-p.schools.edu.au

22nd February 2012

Principal, Chris Payne

Ph. 4958 1230 Fax. 4958 2478

Principal's Message:

We seem to be well and truly off and flying this term! Among the students, the staff and the community, there is a positive buzz around the school - and it's growing!

Congratulations to our swimmers who participated in events at the Zone Swimming Carnival. Our own wet carnival proved to be great training for the similar conditions they faced and I know they have done the school proud.

Thank you to our P&C for their hard work in organising and hosting the school disco last week. It was a fantastic night with a great turn out. Thank you to all the parents and community members who stopped to have a chat and meet with me.

Being with a class myself, I'm very much aware of late arrivals and absences. All students are expected to be at school, ready to learn at 9am. Close enough is not good enough and students who routinely miss the first ten or fifteen minutes each day are putting themselves at a disadvantage.

When it comes to full day absences, we know that students who have one day off a week, each week, have missed two whole years by the time they reach Year 10. This creates serious gaps in their learning and pits them against students who have two years of learning up on them. Absences for reasons like birthdays or shopping trips are just not acceptable. Together, with high expectations, our attendance rate will soar.

Some may have noticed changes happening at Speers Point. Soon, a couple of classes will be launching their class blogs which will be able to be accessed and read by the public. We hope that through class blogs we can increase communication with our community.

Notification of their launch and the links to blogs will be available shortly.

Chris Payne
Principal

Reminders for this week

- Photo notes and envelopes have been sent home. Money and envelopes due on PHOTO Day, 1st March.
- All Green Permission notes are now due.
- Green Gang notes home today
- New Canteen Menu home today

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Week 5	
Thurs 23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Green Gang 4,5,6• Active After School Sport
Fri 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Payne Primary Principals Association Meeting 8-11am
Week 6	
Wed 29 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active After School Sport
Thurs 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Photo Day
Fri 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean Up Australia Day

Teacher Profile

For those of you who I have not had the pleasure of meeting or who may not know who I am, my name is Elizabeth Cobcroft. I have been teaching for almost a year at Speers Point. Prior to teaching at SPPS I worked for 13 years at Nyngan Public School. During my time at NPS I was provided with many



opportunities, a couple of which allowed me to become a trained Reading Recovery teacher. I am an accredited Reading to Learn teacher and can administer Language screening. My passions lie in the Literacy & Speech and Language area. This year I have been accepted in to Newcastle University to study part-time for a Speech and Language degree.

On a personal note I have 5 wonderful children all of whom keep me on my toes, not leaving time for much

else but when I do get the chance I enjoy nothing better than to sit down with a good book.

I have enjoyed my time at SPPS so far and am sure I will continue to do so.

Mrs Cobcroft

1/2C News

My name is Louise Williams. Some of you may know me already from when I have previously taught your child. I am enjoying teaching 1/2C while Mr Cain is on leave. Our class has been busy getting to know each other along with developing productive routines and behaviours throughout the day. Your child has been involved in our reading groups and class literacy along with enjoying our current class novel, 'The Cat on the Mat is Flat' by Andy Griffith.

I like to foster a love of reading in each child, so let's keep encouraging the reading at home. Home readers will be sent out as a whole junior school initiative in the coming weeks.

Our unit this week in Maths is Graphing. We have been compiling tallies and graphs of hair colour, eye colour and fruit brought in at fruit break. We regularly practise mental addition and subtraction with numbers to ten and often discuss telling the time. These are little things you may like to reinforce at home too. The children are also becoming more interactive with the Smartboard in Maths and Literacy.

The children have been making Japanese flags for our Asian Unit and will be painting some favourite summer scenes to brighten up our class.

I am most impressed with how settled and delightful each child is; we are becoming a cohesive group. I welcome parent support. If you are free to help with reading groups or little jobs around the room, please feel free to catch up with me after school.

Mrs Williams

2/3E News

Wow, what a beginning it has been to 2012. I would like to firstly say how very excited I am to be teaching 2/3E this year. **E** for those of you who may not already know is for **EXCELLENT!!** The students I have the privilege of teaching are *excellent* in so many ways.

The past few weeks have seen the class settling into routines and establishing *excellent* work habits. I have seen some *excellent* work from the students and to add to this the presentation of work has been of an *excellent* standard. The students have been focussing on preparation for Naplan in Literacy and Numeracy and each and every one of them have made an *excellent* effort when completing the tasks. Our writing focus has been on persuasive texts. As you can imagine these have been *excellent* due to the *excellent* debaters I have the pleasure of teaching.

Our other area of focus has been the Asia unit



where we are studying Japan. The students all thought it was *excellent* to learn the pronunciation of their name in Japanese. To add to this the students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of *excellent* learning experiences which will include learning basic

Japanese words and phrases -*sugureta!*

Well I guess that just about sums up the *excellent* happenings in 2/3 *Excellent*. We are looking forward to continuing our *excellent* year and having lots of fun on the way!

Mrs Cobcroft

Westlakes Zone Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday the 21st of February, Jade, Sophie, Olivia and Holly represented Speers Point P.S. at the Westlakes Zone Swimming Carnival.

Although the weather was challenging, the girls did our school proud by putting their best efforts into their allocated heats.

Jade came 2nd in the 'Junior Girls Backstroke' and 3rd in the '10 Years Girls 50m Freestyle' events.

The four girls swam extremely well in the 'Junior Girls Relay' event, gaining 2nd place.

Although our swimmers didn't qualify for the Regional Carnival, their efforts are to be highly commended. Congratulations girls!

Mrs Terrill

Environmental News

Welcome back to 2012. We have a wonderful, enthusiastic group of students this year who have joined the Green Gang. For those families new to the school, the Green Gang comprises students from Kinder to Year 6 interested in learning and caring for the environment. The group will help look after the vegetable gardens, orchard, and weed and water our native gardens and care for our worm farms.

This year Green Gang will be held every week.

Junior Green Gang (Years K, 1, 2 and 3) Tuesday - First half lunch

Senior Green Gang (Years 4, 5, and 6) Thursdays - First half lunch.

Students will need to bring to school.

- ✓ A large old T Shirt to be worn over your school uniform - (we will write their name on the back of the shirt)
- ✓ A coat hanger
- ✓ A pair of gardening gloves or rubber gloves - with their name written on them
- ✓ 2 pegs to keep gloves together when storing

If your child would like to join the Green Gang but missed the sign up days, forms have been sent home today and are also available from the Office.

Upcoming events

On Friday March 2nd is our school's 'Clean Up Australia Day'. All students will have the opportunity to participate and classes will be allocated areas of the playground to clean. Please send along a pair of gloves on this day.

On Thursday 8th March during 'Sea Week' our school will be participating in a 'Binless Playground For A Day'. The senior Green Gang will be investigating and advising students on 'low waste' or 'binless lunches' to help develop awareness of the harmful impacts packaging and waste have on our marine systems.

Keep green

Di Wood

(Environmental Coordinator)

Birthdays

A very happy birthday to the following students

Trinitie B 22nd February

Callum B 22nd February

Rylee B 23rd February

Olivia A 6th March

Lilli R 6th March

P&C News

A huge thank you to all of the families who supported the school 'Welcome Disco'. It was great to see the children having such a good time.

Tuesday 21st February was the first P & C meeting for 2012 and we would like to thank the new parents who attended.

The P & C Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday 20th March at 6.30pm in the school hall.

Canteen Roster

Date	Volunteer
Thurs 23 rd	Closed
Fri 24 th	Tracy Pettigrew
Mon 27 th	Kristine Hume
Tue 28 th	Closed
Wed 29 th	Michelle Demir & Debbie Keeble
Thurs 1 st	Closed
Fri 2 nd	Rachelle Baxter & Sharon Clifford
Mon 5 th	Melissa Ayerst
Tue 6 th	Closed
Wed 7 th	Kara Boulton
Thurs 8 th	Closed
Fri 9 th	Gaynor Jaques & Merrick Rees

Canteen News:

There is a new summer menu and this will be going home today. Please note there have been some price adjustments. The menu is also available on the school website.