



A stimulating and supportive learning environment

Find us at Bell Street, Speers Point

www.speerspt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

7th July 2012

Principal, Chris Payne

Ph. 4958 1230 Fax. 4958 2478

Principal's Message:

School Improvements:

If you happened to be strolling through the school early Monday morning you may have caught a peculiar sight. While the Curiosity Rover was landing on Mars, I was dancing a merry jig under our new walkway. It was a wonderful surprise to arrive early and find the fence gone, the walkway completed and open. There are still some final touch-ups to be completed, but I'm really happy with how it blends in with the new building. It really is a great addition to our school.

Great events:

A big thank you and congratulations to Miss Bissett and staff for our fantastic Olympathon! The day was just perfect, made more so by the stunning victory by my "crew" over the parent's team. While there were protests and calls for re-match, the teacher's team reigns undefeated! Thank you parents and community who could come and share the day with us. The students, dressed to match their countries, had a lot of fun and the money raised through our Olympathon is going towards increasing our library resources.

Another thank you to Mrs Doodnath, who organised our book fair. It is always a buzz to see students interested in books and literature and again, the book fair is also a fundraising source which goes to supporting our library.

Stronger and Smarter

Students have heard me talk about being "stronger and smarter" since my arrival at Speers Point. Being stronger in that we are strong in who we are and in making right choices, and smarter in being able to think and compete on any level, especially academically. It's not about being stronger and smarter than the person next to you, but being stronger and smarter than you were yesterday. How does this fit with our 3 bees? (Be safe, be respectful and be responsible) well, the stronger part fitted our bees very well, but we had a gap. So just over a week ago at assembly we introduced our new bee at assembly, **Be Achievers**.



This is a very important new bee, because it puts a new focus on our students achieving, being the best they can be, whether it is in the classroom or on the sports field. With our four bees; safe, respectful, responsible and achievers, students can be guided towards becoming *stronger and smarter*.

A strength in our bees and in being stronger and smarter, is that the teachers and staff all use this same vocabulary around the school, with all students. I encourage parents and community to use the same language with us, in school and at home: safe, responsible, respectful, achievers, stronger, smarter.

Promotion:

Just over a week ago now I was invited to talk on ABC radio. As I was presenting at a teacher's conference called "Splendour in the Class" I was also billed on the promotion trail for Splendour. It was a great opportunity to get in and talk about our fantastic school and some of the things that we have been doing here. The recording is still on the AB site at <http://bit.ly/Msybqq> if you would like to have a listen.

Final word:

I put on my blog last week, but I just wanted to follow up in this newsletter. I'm always conscious of ensuring that I am visible, approachable and available for our students and our community because I feel it's important for the principal to always be so. Since May, however, my youngest son Riley has had multiple hospital stays for respiratory problems. As we don't have family close, it means "shifts" between my wife and I in the hospital and caring for our other son. While I am trying to avoid any absences or time away, I'm sure you can understand why I might be called away from the school in this time. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

Date		Event
Friday	17 th August	• Zone Athletics
Monday	20 th	• Zone Athletics
Wednesday	8 th	• After School Sport-Juniors-Basketball
Thursday	9 th	• After School Sport-Seniors-AFL

3/4T News

This term, 3/4T have been learning all about simple machines as part of our H.S.I.E unit. Students have been researching the six different types of simple machines and finding out they are used and why people need them. 3/4T are participating in a variety of different lessons and creating a range of work samples including 'Student- Created Dictionaries', conducting simple experiments and creating a complex machine incorporating the six different simple machines.

3/4T particularly enjoyed the experiment which looked at how a wedge works. Students used a plastic knife to discover how it is used as wedge to drive a force through a lamington in order to push it apart. Most agreed the best part was the end result- eating it!

Feel free to come into our classroom to have a look at the things we have been creating.

Mrs Terrill

Environment News

On Friday 27th July was National Tree planting day at school. It was a great day with students from all classes planting a small tree. Our trees were kindly donated by Lake Macquarie Landcare.



Macquarie Cup

Last Friday both Macquarie Cup teams had a successful day on the soccer team. Our Junior team had a draw of 1 – 1 against Charlestown East while the Senior team had a magnificent win, also over Charlestown East!

Thank you to all players for always showing great passion, enthusiasm and sportsmanship!



Olympathon

Last Thursday Speers Point Public School participated in a fabulous mini-olympic day!

The day started with KB completing a small torch relay around the oval, followed by a march past of all our 14 countries. After this, all students rotated through some Olympic style tabloid events. These included, swimming relays, gymnastics, basketball, hockey, pentathlon, hurdles and many more!

If you haven't already handed in your sponsorship money, please do so as soon as possible. All monies raised goes towards new resources for our school Library!







Thank you to everyone who supported our Olympic Sausage Sizzle. We raised over \$300 to purchase library resources. A big thank you to Masterchef Alex Morris who cooked some great sausages and onions.



Our New Covered Walkway





Cake Stall

A huge thankyou to everyone who supported the 5/6P Cake Sale. Money raised will be used for Year 6 End of year farewell gifts and activities.



Lost

A mobile phone was lost at the Olympathon last Thursday. If you have any information please contact the School office, 4958 1230

School Uniform Shop

The school uniform shop will be open on Monday and Tuesday **only**. You are welcome to drop off your orders in our dropbox located in the office foyer. Orders will be ready to be picked up on either Monday or Tuesday.

Birthdays

A very happy birthday to the following students

Tyron G 12th August

Ciara P 14th

Jemma W 16th

Jack O 18th

Canteen Roster

Date	Volunteer
Wednesday 8 th August	L Hay & C Hughes
Thursday 9 th	Closed
Friday 10 th	K Boulton & Ali
Monday 13 th	K Hume
Tuesday 14 th	Closed
Wednesday 15 th	M Demir & D Keeble
Thursday 16 th	Closed
Friday 17 th	R Baxter & S Clifford
Monday 20 th	M Ayerst
Tuesday 21 st	Closed

Parent Information

Update your details

Have you moved, got a new email address or changed phone numbers? Please inform the front office with any changes in your living situation so we can contact you if the need arises.

Asthma awareness

Does your child suffer from asthma? Asthma affects about 1 in 9 school-aged children.

The Asthma Foundation has great information for parents of children who suffer from asthma.

For more information on how you can support a child with asthma, go to

<http://www.asthmafoundation.org.au/>.

Cycling fun

Cycling is a fun and healthy activity for people of all ages.

The NSW Government has set up the Bicycle information for NSW website.

The site includes information of what to look for when choosing a bike, suggestions on great bicycle paths around NSW and safety tips. Go to: <http://www.bicycleinfo.nsw.gov.au/index.html>

Play at Powerhouse

The Powerhouse Museum's Play at Powerhouse website has a range of fun and interactive activities and games for primary school children.

Activities range from how to make your own musical instrument to easy science experiments.

Kids can also choose to play a number of interactive games designed to develop fine motor skills and problem-solving.

Go to: <http://play.powerhousemuseum.com/>