



Speers Point Public School

Growing *Stronger* and *Smarter* every day.

Find us at Bell Street, Speers Point

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

18th September 2012

Principal , Chris Payne

Ph. 4958 1230 Fax. 4958 2478

Principal's Message

Be Achievers

How many clichés can I make about the end of term? Gee hasn't it flown, students have worked hard, the end of a busy term... I could go on. And while they are very well worn clichés, they are also very true. This term has flown by, the students have worked hard and it is the end of a very busy term.

We've had Olympathon, Book Parade, Father's Day brekkie, camp and so on. It has been a massive term full of learning, achievement and fun. Those who were able to make the Recognition Assembly last week you heard me speak around achievement and we had a look at some of the achievements we've made this year.

Earlier this year I had set a target to reduce behaviour referrals across the school by 25%, a full quarter on last year, which I was told was a hefty target to achieve. When I've looked at the data so far, in a time comparison from this year to last behaviour referrals are down 75%! (435 in this time 2011 to 117 in 2012) This is just one of many examples of fine achievements across our school.

NAPLAN

Student's NAPLAN results have arrived at the school and will be distributed tomorrow (Wednesday). I have

only had an opportunity to briefly look at the results of the school and can see some fine achievements, as well as areas for us to focus on. One thing that quickly stood out was the growth or improvement in the Year 5 students since they last sat NAPLAN testing in 2010. In both reading and numeracy, Year 5's are above the average state growth. Well done.

When you receive the NAPLAN results, if you do have any questions around the results or how to interpret the graphs, I encourage you to make a time with your child's class teacher.

Getting Support

Every so often, I hear a second hand story over a parent concern, however, I'd rather hear them first hand. A few people have heard me say "if I don't know about a problem, I can't fix it," I've been told it's a male thing to want to get in and fix things. It is really important that if you have a concern that it is raised with the school so we can best support you and the students. I want all of our students (and community too) to be feeling happy and safe at Speers Point Public School. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher, our Assistant Principals or myself if there is the need.

Promotions

This term we've had a super team of staff and community (no capes necessary) participating in a

promotions course to look at new ways in lifting our school profile. We already know we have a fantastic school, it's time we let everyone else know about it too. As a result, a new school brochure was designed and it is being letterbox dropped to the local area this week.

Finally...

It was fantastic to be able to get away to camp with our students recently. Words cannot describe how proud I was of our students. It was amazing to see students push themselves through the challenges, even when it was out of their comfort zone. What was most impressive, was the peer support, there were so many wonderful examples of students encouraging each other through the different challenges. Well done Speers Point.

Being that staffs have heard me saying a lot this term: *bring back the fun* – I'm making Friday, last day of term a mufti day – just for the fun of it.

Have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you all return on Monday 8th October.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
18 th September	• P&C Meeting 6-30
20 th	• Gym Demonstration
21 st	• Term 3 Ends
8 th October	• Term 4 Begins
11 th	• Asia Room Visit 1/2C, 2/3E, 2/5W & 2/6S
16 th	• School Performance Tickets on Sale

Wyee Camp

Last week years 3,4,5,6 and the unit classes went on school camp. We had a fantastic time away and everyone, including the teachers, had a lot of fun. The students participated in bush crafts, high rope walking, the giant swing, fencing and group work activities. One of the nights we participated in a county fair where we made milkshakes and chocolate doughnuts and had a turn on a mechanical surfboard. The students were a pleasure to take away and I look forward to taking them again.

Alana Morton







Jump Rope for Heart

On Friday 14th September we had our Jump Rope for Heart Jump Off!! Each of the classes demonstrated their awesome skipping skills through a routine their classroom teachers had put together. It was wonderful to see everyone having a fantastic time while exercising.

Congratulations to Daniel C who has earned himself the prestigious title of Student Super Skipper. It was closely contested and a huge congratulations must go to Mali A and Ebony D for the challenge. Well done to all the students of Speers Point who competed in the Jump Off!!

The moment everyone had been waiting for could've ended a little better for the teachers. A group of teachers were ready and willing to take back the title of Splendid Skippers, it was not to be! Parents had to dig deep and only had 2 willing participants. Unfortunately that's all it took, from across the ocean, a Kiwi no less, has become the reigning Splendid Skipping Champion. All jokes aside congratulations Sue on your awesome effort - can't wait until next year!! Thank you to all the parents, friends and family who were able to attend our Jump Off!

Elizabeth Cobcroft
Assistant Principal





Environmental News

On Monday 10th September a number of senior Green Gang members attended a workshop on Bio Diversity conducted by the Lake Macquarie City Council. It was an informative, enjoyable 'hands on' workshop. The students learnt about plant species and animal habitats in our school playground.



In our vegetable garden, we have planted lettuce, silver beet and tomatoes. We are looking forward to a bumper crop and having our famous spinach dip next term.

Di Wood
(Environment Coordinator)



Staff Profile

Hi, I'm Mick Gandy G.A. (General Assistant) at Speers Point Public School. I have been working with the DET for almost 20 years. A Fitter & Machinist by trade previously employed at the BHP & Electricity Commission.

My job involves the caring for & maintenance of the school grounds & gardens, the repair of all buildings from doors to windows, toilets & anything else that happens to fall apart.

Being a G.A. you have to be very adaptive & able to change your plans at the drop of a hat.

The main focus of my job is to make Speers Point P.S a nice place to be by creating a safe & happy environment for the kids, parents & staff.

Speers Point Public School Gymnastics Timetable

On Thursday, September 20th we will be having a demonstration visit from Activated Group. Activated Group is Australia's leading provider of in-school gymnastics programs with a reputation of outstanding quality and most importantly - fun!

Please view the timetable below to see when your child will be having their Gymnastics demonstration session and feel free to come along for a viewing.

This program will commence on Friday, October 12th for 8 consecutive weeks. More information regarding pricing and course details will be provided later in the week.

Please visit <http://www.activatedgroup.com.au/school-gymnastics> to watch a video clip of this fantastic Gymnastic Program.

Demonstration Visit Thursday, September 20th

Program commences, Term 4, beginning on Friday 12th October

Session One 9:00 - 9:40am ~ KB + K3MB (22 kids)

Session Two 9:40 - 10:20am ~ 1/2C + 2-5W (24 kids)

Session Three 10:20 - 11:00am ~ 2/3E + 2-6S (24 kids)

Recess: 11:00 ~ 11:20am

Session Four 11:20 - 12:00pm ~ 3/4T (30 kids)

Lunch 1: 12:05 - 12:40

Session Five 12:40 - 1:20pm ~ 5/6P (30 kids)

Lunch 2: 1:40 - 2:00pm

Assembly: 2:00 - 2:40pm



Birthdays

Wishing the following students a very Happy Birthday!

Rosanna G	18 th September
Georgia A	19 th
Daniela P	24 th
Jonny F	25 th
Jack J	25 th
Tenneka H	29 th
Taleaha H	29 th
Grace B	30 th
Tikardia M	2 th October
Mitchell B	4 th
Ryan O	5 th
Monique L	6 th

Canteen Roster

Date	Volunteer
Wed 19 th September	K Boulton
Thu 20 th	CLOSED
Fri 21 st	G Jaques
Mon 8 th October	K Hume
Tue 9 th	CLOSED
Wed 10 th	M Demir & D Keeble
Thu 11 th	CLOSED
Fri 12 th	R Baxter & S Clifford
Mon 15 th	M Ayerst

Parent Information

MP3 players and hearing loss

If your child can't hear you talking when they're listening to their MP3 player, then their music is up too loud. Find out what you can do to help protect your child's hearing.

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/mp3-players-and-hearing-loss>

Road safety tips

Kids can be easily distracted on busy roads. Here are some tips to help you show your child how to make safety a priority when they're near traffic.


Go to: <http://www.kidsafensw.org/road-safety/>

School holiday activities

Looking for ways to get your kids off the computer these holidays? Happily, there's an app for that – and a website. Go Play has loads of holiday activities across NSW to get kids out and about.

Go to: www.goplay.nsw.gov.au












NSW  nswnationalparks.com.au

Biodiversity is the variety of all life forms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems of which they form a part.

BIODIVERSITY DAY AT BLUE GUM HILLS REGIONAL PARK

Thursday 27th September, 2012
10.00 am–3.00 pm
Blue Gum Hills Regional Park, Minmi

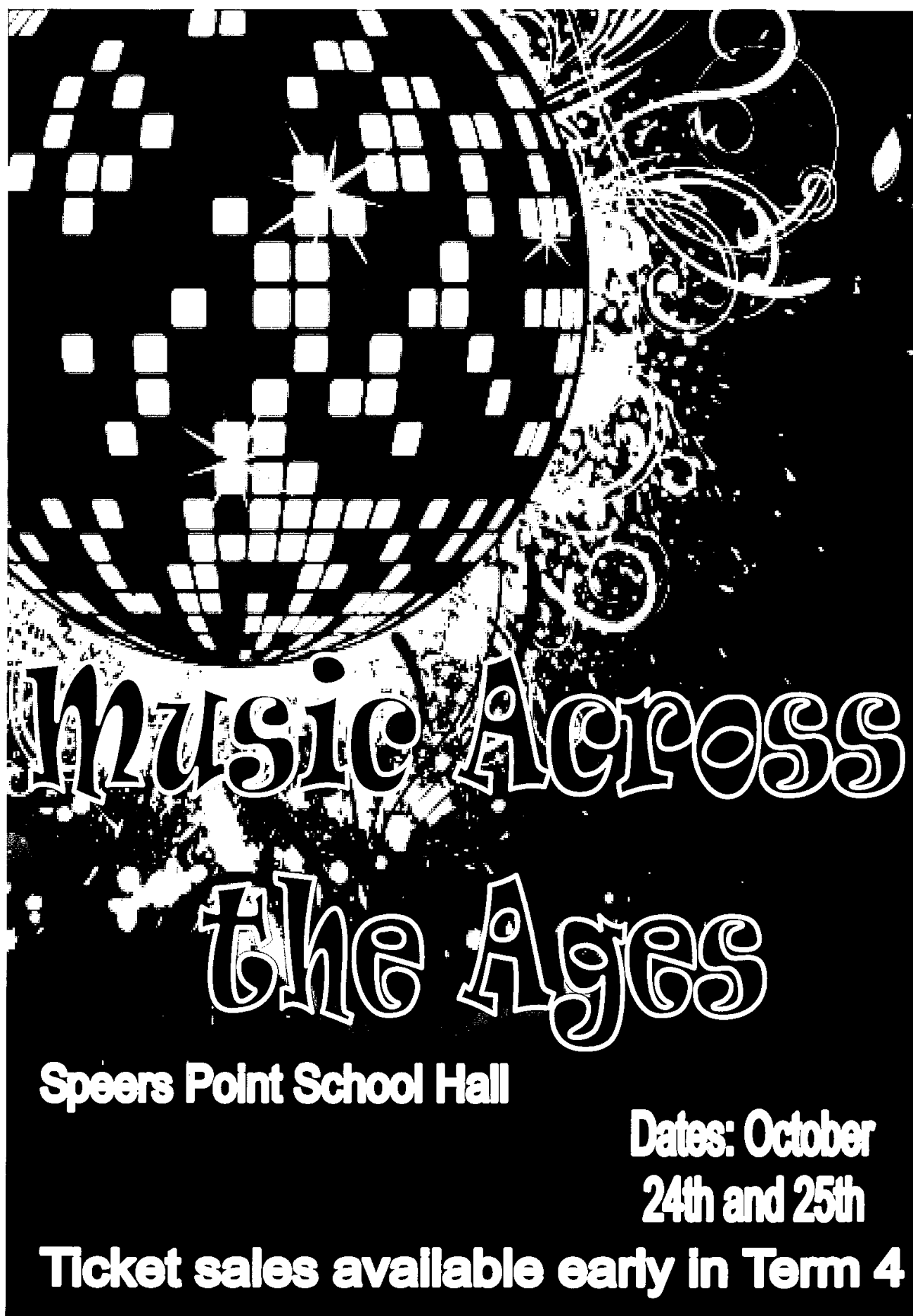
-  **Reptiles on the Road** from the Australian Reptile Park
-  Learn about local fauna and flora with Aboriginal Discovery Rangers*
-  Tree planting
-  **Free BBQ lunch** with Jesmond Lion's Club
-  Try orienteering with the Newcastle Orienteering Club
-  Coffee and drinks from M & K Coffee
-  Passport activity for kids
-  **Guided walks** with biodiversity experts
-  **Prizes to be won!**
-  Bush poetry with the Minmi Magister
-  Information stalls on the Hunter Expressway & Environmental Organisations



MANY THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS



*For more information on Biodiversity Day or NPWS Discovery tours running throughout the school holidays, contact the Newcastle Area Office, phone 4046 4100.



Music Across the Ages

Speers Point School Hall

**Dates: October
24th and 25th**

Ticket sales available early in Term 4