



Speers Point Public School

Growing Stronger and Smarter every day.

Find us at Bell Street, Speers Point

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

23 July 2013

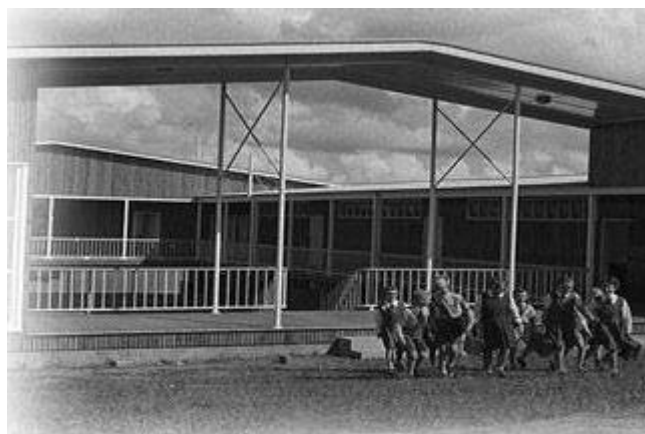
Principal , Chris Payne

Ph. 4958 1230 Fax. 4958 2478

Principal's Message

If you haven't been for a walk or a drive past the front of the school, up on Main Rd lately, it's certainly time for a look. Many people, myself included, when they first saw the front of our school, mistook it for a community hall or anything other than a school.

Last year I came across a photo of the front of the school when it was built and saw the front completely open.



Over the years as safety and security demanded, the front was closed in and in 2002 the green doors were closed and the original front of the school stopped being an access.

When I started here last year I saw how beneficial it would be, not just to reopen the front access, but to increase the school profile at the most public point of the school.

Between Mr Gandy, Mrs Bowtell and myself, we discussed a variety of options, with a number of quotes. The gates were the first part, as installed by Mr Gandy. It more than doubled the size of the doorway, allows for access and airflow while still providing safety and security.



However, the front was still in need of a facelift, and rather than painting, we looked into sheeting. We also looked at the symmetry, with many windows on one side, few on the other.



Now, with the gates, sheeting and letters, the front of the school looks better than ever! I'd like to thank Michael Tunbridge (builder and parent) who did the sheeting – if you can forgive me for the plug, Michael and his team have done a truly sensational job.

Being a little reflective, the front of the school is just one of many changes and improvements that Speers Point School has undergone in the last 18 months. Ground and facility improvements are quite easy to point too, the changes in curriculum and program implementation are a lot harder to show, but have been happening all the same.

At the beginning of the year, we began implementation of the L3 literacy program in Kinder (Wattle) and the

results have been well above our highest expectations. We are already exceeding targets for Kinder this year.

Excitedly, we are also beginning training and implementation of the TENS program (Targeting Early Numeracy) in Wattle, Waratah and Eucalypt classrooms. These classroom teachers are beginning training for the program this Wednesday and will continue development as the term progresses. Like L3, the TENS program has had amazing success in other schools and we all look forward to the positive impact on our school.

Looks like I've written quite an essay this week, but there are always so many great things happening at Speers Point. This term we have events like our Multicultural Day next Wednesday, Athletics carnival, and Book Parade just to name a few things. Keep an eye out for future newsletters, notes, our website, my blog, school Facebook page, iPhone app (Android coming soon) and smoke signals for more information.

Finally, a farewell to Merrick Rees who has had to step back from being our Canteen manager due to a change in personal circumstances. Merrick has done an outstanding job with our canteen in the last six months and we wish him all the best. Fortuitously we have a P&C meeting tonight (Tuesday 23rd) at 6:30pm with the canteen as an agenda item. I strongly urge parents to come and join us in the hall (the heating will be on) for our P&C meeting, which knowing our P&C, is a friendly, relaxed meeting punctuated with a lot of laughter.

Chris Payne
Principal

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Tue	
Wed 24th July	Backyard Footy K-6
Fri 26th July	Tree Day
Mon 29th July	Education Week
Mon 12th Aug	Science Week
Tue 13th Aug	School Athletic Carnival (Glendale)
Wed 14th Aug	Backyard Footy K-6 TENS Training K-2 Teachers
Fri 16th	Zone Athletics Carnival Field (Glendale)
Mon 19th Aug	Zone Athletics Carnival Track

	(Glendale) Environment Workshop Book Week
Tue 20th Aug	Backyard Footy K-6

**Start your pathway to life
long learning with us!**



**Parents of children starting school in 2014,
this is for you!**

We invite you to join us for an "OPEN MORNING"

at Speers Point Public School

on Thursday 22nd August

from 9:15am to 10:30am

in the school hall

**Come and enjoy a guided tour and find out more
about the wonderful opportunities our school has to
offer - you'll be impressed! Share morning tea and a
chat with the Principal, Chris Payne.**

Best access to the hall off the Bell Street entrance.

Kindergarten Orientation Dates:

Thursday 24th October 2013, 8:45am - 12:40pm
Thursday 31st October 2013, 8:45am - 12:40pm
Thursday 7th November 2013, 8:45am - 12:40pm
Thursday 14th November 2013, 8:45am - 12:40pm
Thursday 21st November 2013, 8:45am - 12:40pm
Thursday 28th November 2013, Teddy Bears Picnic
at 12:30pm - 3pm

Contact:

(Ph) 4958 1230 (E) speerspt-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Library Book Amnesty Week

In Week 4 we will be holding a “*Library Book Amnesty Week*” in hope to rebuild our resources in the school Library. Mrs Doodnath manages our school Library and along with the school staff, it has been noticed that many students have numerous overdue Library books in their homes!

Therefore, over Week 2 students will be coming home with an overdue notice slip. Please search your house for the books listed on the overdue notice slip, as students will be rewarded for every book they return during our amnesty week. Books will be collected by our Library monitors, so advise your children to keep their overdue books in their classroom until prompted.

1 returned book = two bee tickets

These bee tickets will be drawn out as an additional draw at the Week 4 Assembly and 5 lucky students will receive a canteen voucher and go into the Beehive Box for the opportunity to attend “*Mr Payne’s Perfect Picnic at Speers Point Park*”.



Term 3 Library and ICT Timetable (please note some classes have changed days).

Students are allowed to borrow up to five books during their allocated borrowing day or at lunch times.

However, students must return their books before they can borrow again.

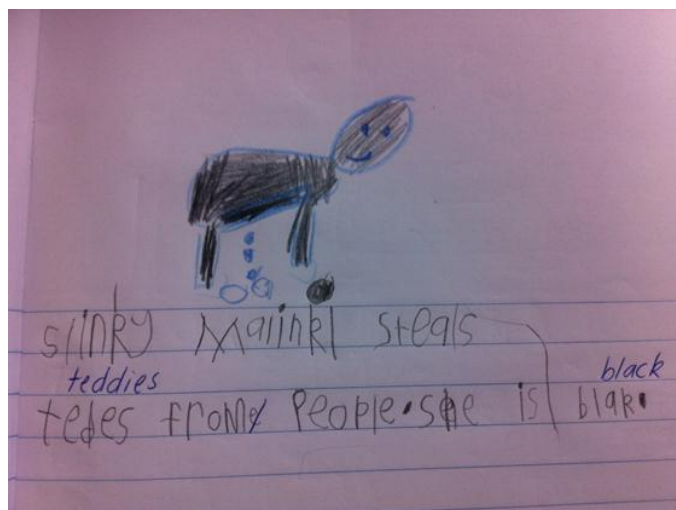
Monday	Tuesday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banksia Wattle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eucalypt Casuarina

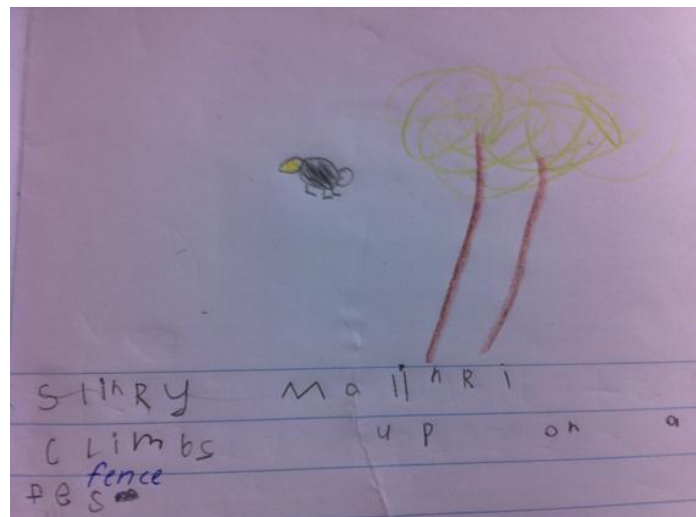
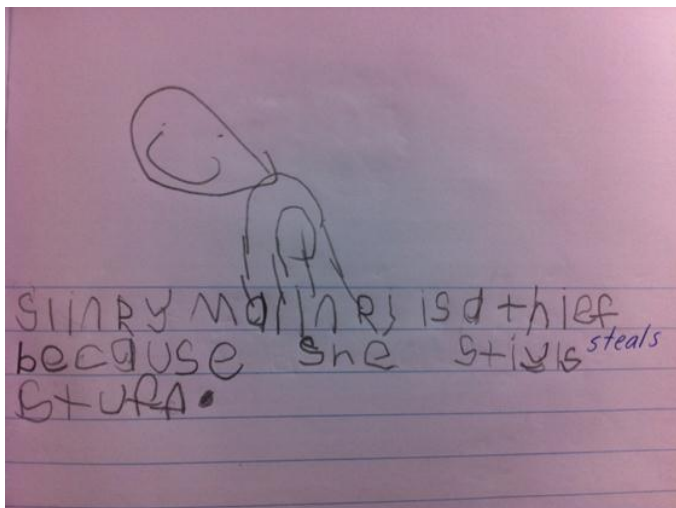
Wednesday	Thursday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cedar Jacaranda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Gum Waratah

Wonderful Writing from Wattle



Wattle have begun Independent Writing as part of the L3 (Language, Learning, Literacy) Program running in our classroom. This week we have been reading “*Slinky Malinki*” – by Lynley Dodd. Afterwards we wrote our own sentences about the story.





Environment News

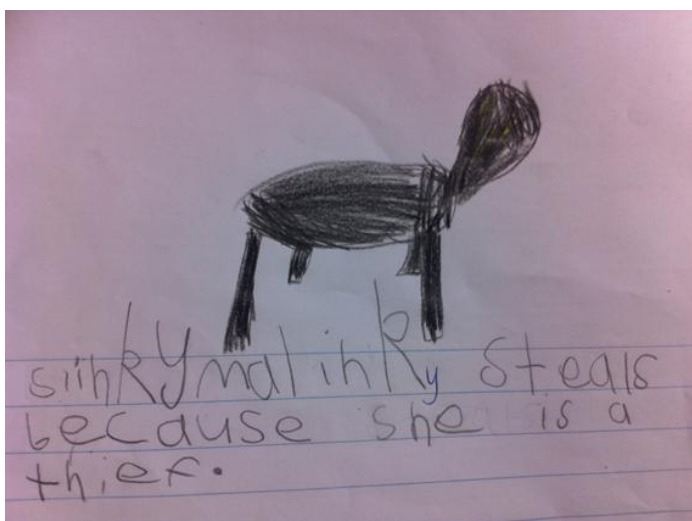
On Friday, is our school's National Tree Planting Day. During the day all students will have the opportunity to plant a native tree or grass in the garden. We have some amazing native gardens at our school and last year our school was awarded a Landcare award for the students' great efforts. Parents and families are welcome to come along and help plant in the morning session – weather permitting.

The school vegetable garden is 'growing' well. We have been extending our garden plots and planting a variety of crops. The gardens are looking very bright and productive thanks to the hard work of the Green Gang. The orchard water tank and solar pump are operating well watering the fruit trees. Also a huge thankyou to the Lambert and Dobson families, for their generous garden donations.

Upcoming events conducted by Lake Macquarie City council will include:

- 19th August 'Our Natural Environment' workshop
- 28th August 'Cycling for Health' workshop.

Environment coordinator
Di Wood





From the Office

Please ensure all contact details are up to date.
If you have changed your address, phone number/s,
child's medical information etc please let us know
ASAP.
Phone Robyn or Carolyn 4958 1230

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following students

Quentin P	29 th June
Archie T	29 th
Tarli B	2 nd July
Alfred B	4 th
Issac T	6 th
Gemma W	6 th
Rebecca C	7 th
Ella A	9 th
Levani B	11 th
Travis W	14 th
Lillian H	16 th
Brooke B	17 th
Tora B	21 st
Isaiah W	23 rd



Uniform Shop

The uniform shop will only be opened on Monday/Tuesday between 8.30am – 9.30am. Please have correct money as we do not keep a float to provide change.

All other orders outside of these hours are to be placed in the Drop Off Box located in the office.

P&C

Our P&C meeting will be held tonight Tuesday 23rd at 6.30pm in the hall.

All welcome to attend.

Just a reminder that the Canteen will be **CLOSED** on Tuesday's & Thursday's.

Canteen Roster

Date	Volunteer
Term 3	
Wed 24 th July	Leigh H & Casey
Fri 26 th	Kara B

Community Information

Budding filmmakers

Here's a project for the next school holidays: have your kids create an entry for the Trop Jr film festival. In the process they'll learn something about scripting, shooting, editing and copyright. Find out more:

<http://tropfest.com/tropjr/>

Homemade muesli bars

Here's a recipe for muesli bars that will prove popular with children of all ages, yet it contains only half the sugar and fat of their shop-bought equivalents. Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/recipes/cakes-biscuits-and-treats/nutfree-muesli-bars>

What will my child learn this year?

"What will my child learn this year?" seems like a simple enough question. After all, isn't there a big book of lessons somewhere that all teachers refer to? Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/what-will-my-child-learn-this-year>

Talented kids - how hard should you push them?

Rachel Friend asks experts and parents of talented children how much of their success is due to natural ability and how hard we should push our kids to succeed. Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/talented-kids-how-hard-to-push>