



Growing Stronger and Smarter every day.

Find us at Bell Street, Speers Point

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

3rd September 2013

Principal, Chris Payne

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Principal's Message

And you thought I was talking it up when I said we had a busy term ahead. Athletics carnivals, Father's day brekkie, Book Week parade, Footy / Pizza day and the list goes on with three weeks still to go. There is so much to share with you all – let me try and fit it in.

Great Events

How fantastic was that Book Parade? Walking up and down Main St in costume as a whole school has been an absolute highlight of my career and will always be one of those "remember when we did book parade on Main St?" moments.

The Father's day brekkie was another great event held last week and went well beyond best expectations. Thank you for the great efforts from our P&C and staff. There are a number of great photos that we've put in our Newsletter and on the website if you haven't already seen them.



Congratulations to Jesse Moore who is on to State Athletics for the 9 yr old 100m. At regional Jesse ran the fastest time in the heats and third in the final with the top three places all within a second of each other.

App

So far over 60 people have downloaded the Speers Point Public School App and we've had great feedback from it. Through the app we've been able to add another layer of communication with alerts, events and notes going out. New information comes through as a notification so you don't miss a thing. If you have a tablet or smartphone, download the app from your app store, search under the school name.

Making Headlines

Ok so I'm bragging, but we've had two successive weeks of appearing in the Newcastle Star and again this week in the Lake Mail. The Star has a great photo gallery online of the book parade.

Breakfast Club



If you weren't aware, there is now a breakfast club operating on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 8:50am. Kids who missed brekkie are able to get some cereal or toast on these days to make sure they have the best start to the day. We sincerely thank the volunteers who are freely running this great program for our school.

I'm sure there is more to share, I'll blog some of the bigger stories in more depth and share it with the world, just to show how many great things happen here at Speers Point. When voting on Saturday come down to the council chambers and grab a snag!

Chris Payne
Principal

Upcoming Events

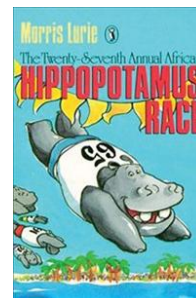
Date	Event
3 rd September	P&C Meeting 6.30pm
4 th	NRL 9's Day
12 th	Kinder Information Session 6pm
13 th	Recognition Assembly
17 th	P&C Disco
20 th	End of Term 3

Casuarina News

This term, Casuarina has been extremely busy! Africa – During the first three weeks of Term 3, Casuarina delved into learning about many aspects of Africa; the countries, its landmarks and its animals. Some of the things they learned about were the Nile River, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Lake Victoria, the Serengeti, the Sahara Desert and Victoria Falls. We also looked at many different species of wildlife that call Africa home. Multicultural Week – All the knowledge of Africa really helped when it came to Multicultural week. They made flags from many African countries and came dressed in the colours of an African flag of choice. Miss Elliott made some traditional desserts for the taste testing.



27th Annual African Hippopotamus Race – This term Casuarina has been completing a literacy unit based on the book *The 27th Annual African Hippopotamus Race*. This unit uses the Accelerated Literacy program which ensures students gain more in-depth understanding and comprehension of texts when both reading and writing. Mr Payne has been training Miss Elliott in Accelerated Literacy and everyone seems to be getting a lot out of having literacy delivered in this format.



Homework – Casuarina didn't get off to the best start this term with homework, with only a handful of students returning theirs in the first few weeks. This has started to improve, but further effort to consistently return homework on a Friday is needed by everyone. It is usually handed out on a Monday and if a student is away there are always spare copies of homework at the back of the classroom. Taking responsibility for homework is a great way to start learning the importance of getting things done on time.

Book Week – Casuarina has some of the best costumes in the whole school for the Book Week Parade. There were plenty of Star Wars characters, aliens, stars and even a fully painted Avatar! The parade was a lot of fun and a great chance to get out into the community and show everyone how brilliant the students of Speers Point Public School are.



HSIE Project – The students have been putting together a research project on an African animal with Mrs. Doodnath during ICT time. They are using the Prezi software to create a presentation based on their research in their own words.

Concert rehearsals – Dance and singing practice for the concert in Term 4 is in full swing. Our One-Hit-Wonders performances are sure to blow everyone away!

Environment News

It has been a busy fortnight with a number of classes participating in Lake Macquarie City Council Environmental workshops. Waratah and Eucalypt completed Natural habitats and Biodiversity activities.



Year 4 and 5 students participated in a cycling for health and sustainability workshop. These workshops have been excellent opportunities to develop an understanding on ways we can care for our environment as well as keep fit and healthy.



Also a huge **Thankyou** to everyone who purchased our delicious, fresh from the garden, organic lettuces and worm wee at the Book Parade. All monies raised will go to purchasing seeds and seedlings for the vegetable garden.

Di Wood
Environmental Coordinator

Book Parade

We had a successful book parade for our theme Read Across the Universe. Students came dressed in space theme and paraded along Main Rd then celebrated back at school. We were featured in the Star newspaper for two weeks. A huge thankyou to everyone for their participation and help on the day. Book fair raised over \$500 for our library resources.



Father's Day Breakfast





Birthdays

Wishing the following student a very Happy Birthday!

Dylan P	3 rd September
Ashley P	10 th
Haylee M	14 th
Tyra B	16 th



P&C News

P&C Fundraiser

When: 2013 Federal Election
Saturday 7th September

Where: Lake Macquarie City Council
Main Road, Speers Point
Between 8am and 2pm (set
up from 7am)

We have the opportunity to hold a Fundraiser for our school on Saturday 7th of September 2013 to coincide with the 2013 Federal Election.

We will be selling Tea & Coffee, Cold Drinks, Sausage Sizzle, Chips and Cakes at the Lake Macquarie City Council starting from 8am, when the voting polls open, and finishing at approx. 2pm. If you are available and can spare 2 hours, we would love to have your help!

Please let one of our P&C Committee members (Jenny Speciale, Nicole Lambert or Simone Cizzio) know and we can take down your details!

Write your name and the time that you are available to help on the volunteer sheet and also provide your contact details in case of any changes on the day.

We appreciate any help we can get!

Thank you

P&C Committee



Canteen News

We have added New Items to our Canteen Menu

- Homemade Anzac Biscuits 60c
- Toasted Banana Bread \$1
- Organic Rainbow Pikelets 40c
- Raisin Toast 50c
- Bendy Bananas & Slinky Apples 70c
- Cheese & Bacon Rolls \$1.50

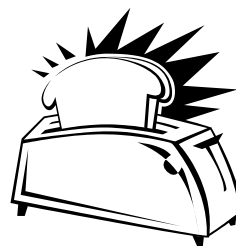
- Fresh Popcorn 50c
- Seasonal Fresh Fruit

Big thank you to everyone who ordered Pizzas on our Footy Fun Day. We raised \$230 to go towards our new canteen. The children had a great day.

The Canteen will be having a fun Pizza Day once a Term commencing Term 4. **Please be aware that pizza has been removed from the menu.** There is now a credit system operating within our canteen. If you would like to use this system, call in, pay in advance & you won't have to worry about finding the correct change.

Thank you for your support.

Canteen Donations



In the makeover of our school canteen we noticed a few items that need replacing. We are asking where possible if there are any unwanted items lying around your house if you could kindly donate it to the canteen it would be much appreciated. We are after such things as a slinky machine, toaster, a good, sharp knife and a food processor.

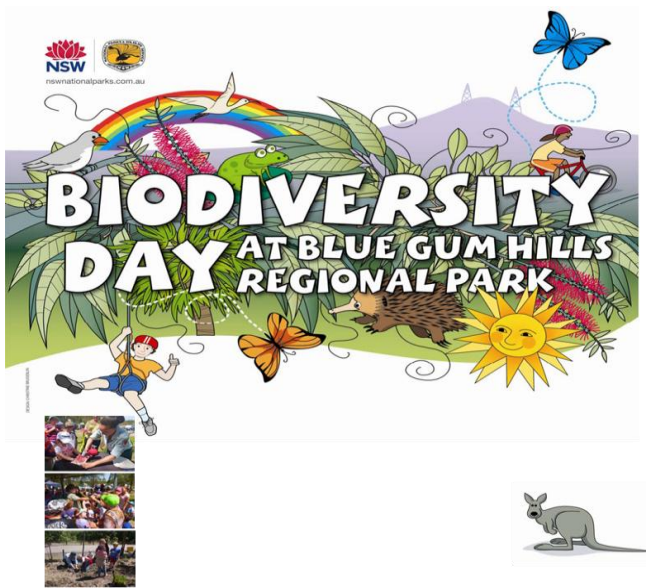
Please see Julie West if you have any of these items at home that you no longer need.

Julie West
Canteen Supervisor

Canteen Roster

Date	Volunteer
Wed 4 th Sept	Julie West
Thu 5 th	CLOSED
Fri 6 th	Michelle D, Rebekah W & Simone T
Mon 9 th	Melissa Ayerst
Tue 10 th	Closed
Wed 11 th	Christi Fuller
Thu 12 th	Closed
Fri 13 th	Fiona Thompson

Community Information



THURSDAY 26th September, 2013
10.00am-3.00pm
Blue Gum Hills Regional Park, Minmi

- Wetland on Wheels (live animals from the Wetland Centre)
- NPWS Discovery Ranger Activities
- Tree planting
- Free BBQ lunch with Jesmond Lion's Club
- Try orienteering with the Newcastle Orienteering
- Coffee and Drinks from M & K Coffee
- Passport activity for kids
- Prizes to be won
- Bush poetry with the Minmi Magster
- Information stalls and activities from many Environmental Organisations



Blackbutt creepy crawlies!

The Newcastle Permanent Junior Ranger program brings kids back to nature. This school holidays kids will dip net for aquatic creepy crawlies, hunt for hidden insects and make their own pet stick creature.

Dates: 23 - 27 September 2013

Time: 9:30 - 11:30am

Location: Richley Reserve

Fees apply and bookings are essential.

For further information please contact:
Blackbutt Reserve Office - **4904 3344** or visit
www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au



National Child Protection Week 1-7 September

Protecting children is everyone's business. Play your part by reporting the abuse, neglect or exploitation of a child to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Find out more: <http://napcan.org.au/>

Preparing for Year 7

The transition from primary school to high school maths can be difficult for both you and your child. However, by working in partnership with your child and using some careful forward planning, the transition can be smooth and successful.

Find out more: <http://educationequals.com/what-you-need-to-know-about-learning-maths-in-high-school/>