



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 March 2014

Principal , Chris Payne

Ph. 4958 1230 Fax. 4958 2478

Principal's Message

At the end of last year, and at our Meet & Greet this year, I spoke about our plan for improving student teaching & learning programs in our school, given the boost of funding to our school.

Given that the Department has undergone a significant restructure, we are now seeing the programs becoming available for our teachers to be trained in.

Last week I was able to attend the principal's meeting for the Language, Learning & Literacy (L3) program and how that is to be implemented not just in Eucalypt, but in Waratah as well. Shortly, Mrs Pearson and Mrs Doodnath will begin their professional development for this program.

Towards the end of this term, Miss Elliott and Mr Payne will begin training for the Focus on Reading Program. Like L3, this program has proven effective in other schools and we're looking forward to implementing it within our classrooms.

Medical Information

Staff also had their update in anaphylaxis training last week and it's a good time just to remind parents to please make sure any allergy or medical information is up to date with the school. I had a student telling me last week that he had an allergy to bee stings yet this information had not been provided to us.

School App

A lot of people are using our school app and have found the information and updates coming through extremely useful. As of this morning we have added a new feature to the app and it will prove just as useful. Two forms have now been added under the "**Parent eForms**"

The two forms available allow you to either submit a *notice of absence* or *change of details*. Phone numbers, allergy information etc can be submitted through the *change of details*, while a sick of absence note can be added through *Absentee Note*. These forms are emailed directly to the school's email account.

Staff Long Service Leave

Mrs Cobcroft is taking long service leave for the next 11 days while she changes residence with her large family. Anyone having undergone the joys and stress of moving house understands, especially when you have five children to move. In this time Mrs Pearson will be relieving as Assistant Principal.

I would like to thank Mrs Cobcroft for her dedication to our school and students. As Mrs Cobcroft is running the Reading Recovery program, it is virtually impossible to replace the RR teacher and under normal circumstances this program would be on hold for this time. However, Mrs Cobcroft has freely offered to come in during her leave time to continue working this program. Thank you Mrs Cobcroft!

Have a great week everyone.

Chris Payne
Principal

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Tue 18 th March	P&C Meeting 6.30pm in the School Hall
Fri 21 st March	Harmony Day
Tue 25 th March	Snr Girls Sopfball Assembly Presentation- Sport House Captains with Badges
Thu 27 th March	Combined Cross Country with Boolaroo P.S.
Fri 28 th March	Photo Day
Thu 10 April	Easter Hat Parade/Crazy Hair Disco

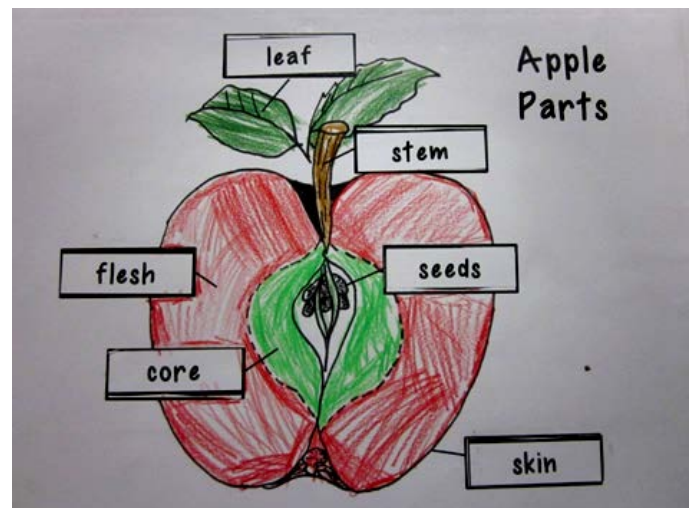
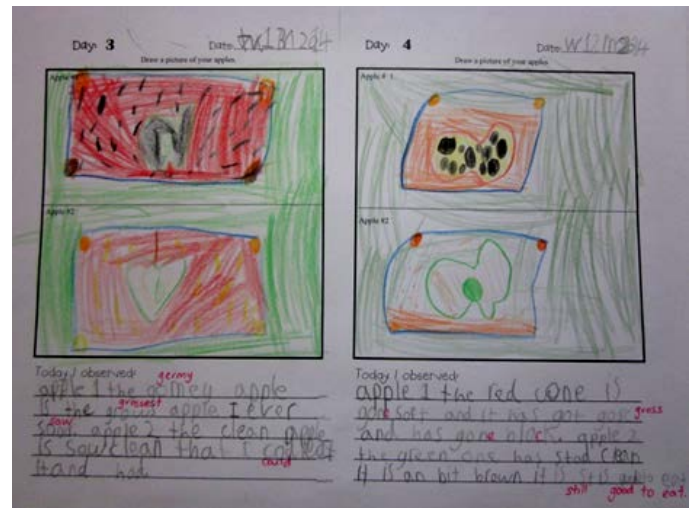
Waratah News

Newsflash: Primary school children have germy hands! Waratah has the evidence. As part of our science unit 'Apple Investigations' we have been using the five senses to conduct some scientific research and the results are in.

Firstly, Mrs Doodnath cut one red and one green apple with her freshly washed hands and quickly put half of each into a sealed food bag. Next we passed around the other halves of the two apples and rubbed the unwashed dirty hands of twenty children on them. The 'germy' apples were then also put into a sealed food storage bag, initially looking just as good as the clean halves.

We observed the apples over 7 days, noting any changes and the results were startling! While the clean green half remained fresh and looked good enough to eat, the germy green half became completely black and grew mould – disgusting! The red germy one was worse, it turned very soft and mushy, grew mouldy, and the bag filled with foamy liquid – absolutely gross! Conclusion: we have germy hands that will cause an apple to break down faster than if it is clean.

Mrs Doodnath



Birthdays

Wishing the following students a very Happy Birthday!

Cayden H	22 nd March
Wyatt H	23 rd
Braedyn S	24 th
Taiten F	27 th
Oliver D	28 th
Chloe R	29 th



Canteen Roster

Date	Volunteer
Wed 19 th March	Ali
Thu 20 st	CLOSED
Fri 21 st	Christine P
Mon 24 th	Julie
Tue 25 th	CLOSED
Wed 26 th	Rachael B
Thu 27 th	CLOSED
Fri 28 th	Michelle H
Mon 31 st	Julie
Tue	CLOSED

P&C News

We'd like to welcome Rachel Cherry as our new P&C President and Melissa Ayerst as our new Vice President this year. Nicole Lambert (Treasurer) and Simone Cizzio (Secretary) are with us for another year. Please feel welcome to come and approach us at any time. We would love to see you come along to our P&C meetings (tonight 6.30pm in the school hall) to contribute any ideas that will help our kids and our school!

Easter time has crept up on us and as usual we are going to do an Easter raffle so anyone who could send in some Chocolate bunnies, eggs or any other donations, this will be greatly appreciated.

Our "End of Term" Disco is set for 10th April. Notes will be going home with more information shortly.

P&C Committee

Community News

Coastal Valleys Region Girl Guides invite you to Come and Try Guides!

At your local Warners Bay District Girl Guide unit

For girls aged 7-18 years

Guides enjoy challenging and fun program of indoor and outdoor activities: games, leadership and life skills, craft, badges, cooking, camping and community events



For information on the location and available meetings in your area

Please email Region Membership Advisor, Helen, on helenEG2@live.com.au

Or Contact Warners Bay Guide Leader, Kathryn, on 0422 920 733

Our website www.girlguides-nswact.org.au to find out more about Guides

HAVING FUN TODAY - LEADING THE WORLD TOMORROW

SO YOU WANT CONFIDENCE, DISCIPLINE AND FOCUS?

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National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

If your child is currently in Year 3, 5, 7 or 9, they'll sit NAPLAN tests this May. And despite what you may have heard, there's no reason to panic or start an intensive study schedule for your child.

Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/all-about-naplan>

School A to Z app

Do you struggle to understand your child's homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments? This free homework helper app provides maths and English glossaries, assignment starters and more.

Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z>

Wild Australia app

Your child can use this terrific app as an interactive educational tool at Taronga Zoo in Sydney or at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo. Wild Australia can also be used at home to discover more about the zoos' amazing animals and interesting keepers.

Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/zh/homework-and-study/educational-games/taronga-zoo-wild-australia>



Could you please return this slip within 7 days, to the office/teacher to explain your child's absence. We are required by law to seek a written explanation and appreciate your help in this matter.

Thank you

Class _____

My child _____ was absent on _____

Reason _____