

# Speers Point Public School



Growing *Stronger and Smarter* every day.

Find us at Bell Street, Speers Point

[www.speerspt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.speerspt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

17<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Principal , Chris Payne

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## Principal's Message

Coming to the end of another busy term and it has been a busy one. NAPLAN, PSSA softball and netball, school disco, Mother's Day brekkie, and lots of other things have all happened this term, but most importantly, I have been impressed with the quality learning happening in our school.

Semester 1 reports will be going home on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> (next week) with parent / teacher interviews to follow on return of next term. I always enjoy the opportunity of reading every student's report and seeing the great progress students are making.

## Attendance

As we are coming to the end of the term, I had a quick review of our attendance rates across the school. While the Department's standard is for students not to fall below an attendance rate of 85%, we aim to keep our school above the previous 94% that we saw last year. Basically this means students should have no more than 12 days absent per year.

Before anyone gets worried, we know some people take holidays or there are family emergencies during the term. At the office you can request an "exemption" form which, if approved by myself, does not count towards absences. We know students get sick, sometimes for an extended period. A supplied doctor's certificate helps and when I review attendances, I don't have to be concerned about these cases. Thank you to the parents who have been doing this already.

I'm always more concerned with a pattern of random days. They add up. A long weekend here, a shopping day there, a birthday or a rainy day – they all add up to

the beginnings of a pattern of poor attendance. It is really easy to lose track of how many days a student has had absent too.

**A student who misses one day a week has missed 2 whole years of school by the time they reach Year 10.**

Soon I'll be sending out a batch of letters for students whose attendance has fallen below 90%. This is not a blame game, it's a letter to help make parents aware that days are adding up and we are here to help if your child has a bag of tricks for sleeping in on Monday.

## Two Word "Check-In" Survey

A big thank you to all of our community who responded to our two word "check-in" survey. We got a great response and have compiled all of the responses into a word cloud. The word cloud bolds the words in most common usage and from the 60 odd responses the four most common words to describe our school are: **friendly, inclusive, supportive** and **awesome**.



Have a wonderful holiday

Chris Payne  
Principal

**Upcoming Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Tue 17th June</b>	<b>Mixed Netball Gala Day</b>
<b>Mon 23rd</b>	<b>Special Education Disco</b>
<b>Wed 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>AASS Finishes K-2</b>
<b>Thu 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Student reports home AASS Finishes 3-6 NAIDOC Celebrations</b>
<b>Fri 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>End of Term 2</b>
<b>Mon 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Staff Development Day</b>
<b>Tue 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Students Return for Term 3</b>
<b>Wed 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>A Matter of Seconds Program</b>
<b>Fri 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tree Day</b>
<b>Mon 11<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>School Athletics Carnival K-6</b>
<b>Fri 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Day 1 - Zone Athletics</b>
<b>Mon 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Day 2 - Zone Athletics</b>

**Reading Recovery**

At Speers Point Public School we are extremely lucky in being able to offer the Reading Recovery Program. This is the first year the school has offered this program. Reading Recovery is a research-based intervention that was developed in New Zealand by educator and psychologist Dame Marie Clay, for Year One students. Reading Recovery implementation is systematic and comprehensive. It provides an intensive and individually designed and individually delivered series of lessons for 30 minutes per day, 5 days a week. Each lesson consists of reading 2-3 familiar texts. These are texts that the students have read in previous lessons and as the term suggests are familiar. This is an important part of the lesson as it allows for students to practise good reading behaviours. A running record is then taken on the text introduced the previous day. This is an important tool for the teacher as it assists in where to take the learning and which aspects need to be further developed. Letter identification and word breaking is where a short time is spent, using magnetic letters, to help the student extend their letter knowledge and understandings of how words work. Students are then involved in writing a story. The student writes one or two sentences and the teacher supports while teaching for flexible writing strategies that will encourage progress toward independence. Assembling cut-up stories; after the story is written the teacher writes it on a strip of cardboard. It is then cut up so the student can search and check information to help in reassembling the story. The last part of the lesson involves reading a new book. The teacher

introduces a new book, giving an orientation which includes content, how language is structured in that particular book and perhaps some help with words to assist the student to successfully use their reading strategies.

**Star Struck**

This term our Star Struck group have been very busy and dedicated in attending rehearsals at the Entertainment Centre, practising at school and making costumes for their upcoming performances in the Star Struck show.

Their hard work paid off, as our Star Struckers performed beautifully in Star Struck over the weekend. We featured in the Xanadu dance as Aliens with five other schools.

I would personally like to say a big thank you to all of the girls in the group, their parents for their patience and assistance over the term, and to the staff who helped with the costumes!

Alana Stroud  
Star Struck coordinator



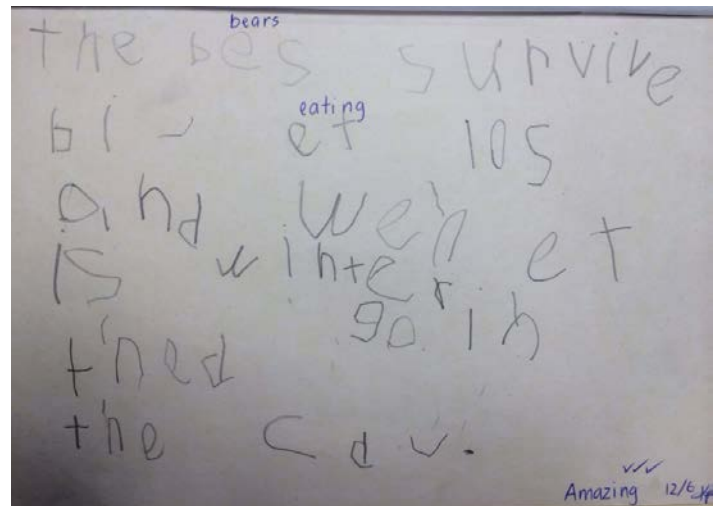
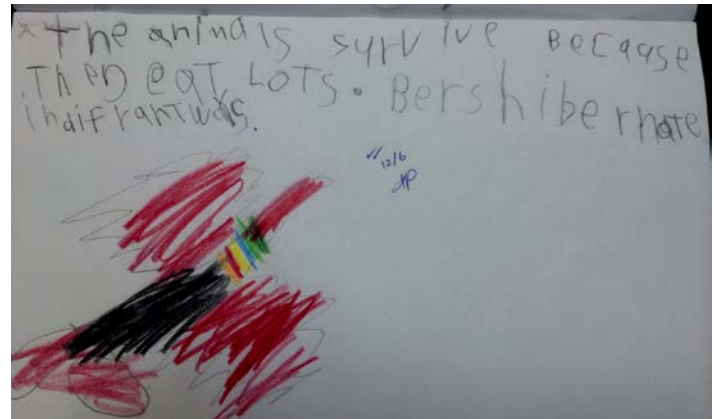


### Language, Learning and Literacy (L3)

Language, Learning and Literacy (L3) is a research-based, K-2 program, targeting text reading and writing. It has been designed to complement the daily Literacy program ensuring students' develop a rich Literacy background in their first years of schooling. Students receive explicit instruction in reading and writing strategies in small groups of three to four selected students. Students then rotate to independent or group tasks. This occurs in the daily Literacy session. This is what it looks like currently in the Eucalypt classroom:



And as a result of explicit writing sessions, these are two work samples of what Kindergarten's writing looks like now.



### Students Lunches

There have been a few cases where students have come to school without lunch/recess. Please endeavour to make sure you provide your child/ren with their lunch/recess as we have limited resources available to feed them.



## UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS

**Monday** 8.30am – 9.30am  
**Tuesday** 8.30am – 9.30am

**Please note:** School hats may be purchased from the school office at any time. Please have correct money/cheque with all orders and place in a sealed envelope. For outside of opening hours your orders will be processed and a phone call will be made for you to come and pick up from the office or sent home with your child.

Please make sure all your child's uniforms are marked with their name.

## Birthdays

Wishing the following students a very Happy Birthday!

Sam B 25<sup>th</sup> June  
 Rileigh J 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Quentin P 29<sup>th</sup>  
 Archie T 29<sup>th</sup>



## Canteen Roster

Date	Volunteer
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Michelle Demir
Thu 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CLOSED</b>
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ali
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Melissa Ayerst
Tue 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CLOSED</b>
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	Mandy Dwyer
Thu 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CLOSED</b>
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CLOSED DUE TO CLEANING</b>

## Community News

# FISHING CLUB v BOWLERS

**Sunday, 22 June 2014**  
**from 1:00 pm till 3:30 pm**

**Cost: \$12.00 per head**

**Dress code: Footy colours**  
*(NRL · Soccer · AFL)*

**Entertainment by**  
**RENDEZVOUS DUO**  
**from 2:30 pm till 5:30 pm**

**Supporting**  
**Autism and Charge Syndrome charities**

