



Growing Stronger and Smarter every day.

Find us at Bell Street, Speers Point

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

19th August 2014

Principal , Chris Payne

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Principal's Message

And just like that, Week 5 is wrapped up and we are past the halfway mark of the term... already. Fitting in with normal teaching and learning programs, we've had Education Week, athletics carnival, book week this week and we are still heading towards Fathers Day brekkie (5th September) and of course, all classes are preparing for our concert in Week 2 of next term.

New Teacher

As previously advised, we were going through the merit selection process in order to appoint a new permanent teacher to our school. The panel had the tough task of selecting an outstanding teacher from the many applicants and we are very pleased to announce our new permanent teacher is Mrs Kelly Pearson.

Mrs Pearson, who came to us in 2012 as Miss Bissett, has been with us until now, as a temporary teacher. Mrs Pearson was successful at interview and we congratulate Mrs Pearson on her success.

Athletics Carnival

Every year our athletics carnival just gets better and better. Last Monday we had good weather and a great participation in all events. The new addition of a March Past in sports houses was a wonderful way to start our carnival.

I was very impressed with the high levels of participation by all of our students, and also by our parents. Yes, once again, the teachers lost in the Community V Staff tug-of-war. I also believe we were ever so slightly edged out in the relay as well, by fifty metres or so.

There are a number of wonderful photos in this newsletter, however there are close to a hundred up on the school website from the day.

School as a Community Facility

It's great to see in the afternoons and weekends, the different people in our community who use the schools grounds, in particular, the oval.

On the weekends there is dog training, and starting in September, Tae Kwon Do classes will be running out of our school hall on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Often families use our oval outside of school hours and I'm always impressed how well the grounds are cared for, no mess left behind, no vandalism or other problems in our school. For a school, this is a rare thing, for a school without a big black security fence, rarer still.

It is great that the community see our school as an open and welcoming place. I would like to thank our community for caring for our school, and I hope that people continue to use our grounds in such a respectful manner.

Chris Payne
Principal

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Tue 19th Aug	P&C Meeting 6.00pm Book Parade Sausage Sizzle Cake Stall
Fri 22nd	Junior Netball Gala Day
Thu 28th	Information Evening for Kindergarten 2015 - 6pm in the School Hall
Fri 5th Sep	Father's Day Breakfast & Stall
Mon 8th	Hunter Life Education
Tue 9th	Hunter Life Education Recognition Assembly 2pm
Wed 10th	After School Sport Ends Yr 3-6
Thu 11th	After School Sport Ends Yr K-2

Athletics Carnival

On Monday, August 11th 2014 Speers Point Public School held their annual Athletics Carnival at Glendale. The day began with our fantastic March Past, where students paraded around the field in their house groups. This was followed by age races, then field events while the infants participated in tabloid events out on the field.

All students participated with full engagement and showed great sportsmanship. Ribbons will be awarded on Wednesday for 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings in track and field events, this is based on times and distances. Please join us in the hall at 2:00pm to congratulate these students.





Zone Athletics

There were some great results from the Zone carnivals held last Friday and yesterday at Glendale.

All children who went, participated with enthusiasm and were brilliant ambassadors for Speers Point Public School.

Children who will receive Zoneribbons this Wednesday at 2pm are:

Mitchell Brittain – 2nd Snr 800m, 3rd Snr 200m

Stephen Hull – 2nd Snr Shotput

Jasmine Foster – 3rd 11yrs High Jump

Jesse Moore – 1st 10yrs 100m, 1st Jnr 200m

We have three children progressing to the Regional carnival, representing Westlakes. Congratulations to:

Mitchell Brittain – Snr Boys 800m

Stephen Hull – Snr Boys Shotput

Jesse Moore – 10yrs Boys 100m and Jnr Boys 200m

5 cent Fundraiser for August



Our 5 cent fundraiser is going really well, keep sending them in!

At the half way mark our charity totals are:

Eucalypt – John Hunter Childrens Hospital - **\$59.75**

Casuarina – Taronga Zoo - **\$21.80**

Waratah – Guide Dogs - **\$49.80**

Jacaranda – Stewart House - **\$19.35**

Cedar – Ronald McDonald House - **\$77.80**

Coachwood – Hunter Animal Rescue - **\$18.55**

Blue Gum – RSPCA - **\$108.80**

We would like to raise as much as we can for our selected charities. Well done Blue Gum on an amazing total, but watch out, the other classes are catching up!!

Birthdays

Wishing the following student a very Happy Birthday!

Darcy M

24th August



Canteen Roster

Date	Volunteer
Wed 20 th Aug	Ali M & Tina B
Thu 21 st	CLOSED
Fri 22 nd	Simone T Michelle A
Mon 25 th	CLOSED
Tue 26 th	CLOSED
Wed 27 th	Ali M
Thu 28 th	CLOSED
Fri 29 th	Bethany J & Crystal R
Mon	CLOSED
Tue	CLOSED

Community Notices

The dreaded pollen season



Spring is just around the corner, which means warmer weather, longer days and increased pollen. For many people in Australia with asthma or hay fever, August to March (or the dry season in tropical areas) is a particularly difficult time. This is when an increased amount of pollen is in the air, which may trigger an asthma 'episode' or 'attack' making life pretty uncomfortable. Tell-tale symptoms of hay fever are sneezing, an itchy nose with a clear watery drip, nasal congestion, an itchy throat and itchy and watery eyes.

Hay fever may be seasonal or symptoms can be present year-round, with triggers being similar to asthma. Seasonal triggers include pollens from grasses, weeds and trees, and moulds. However, hay fever can be triggered by other allergic factors too, such as house dust mites, pet allergens, cockroaches, cold air, strong odours and/or tobacco smoke. While hay fever and allergies are unpleasant enough for anyone, they can pose a serious threat to people with asthma. This is because they can trigger an asthma flare-up or even an attack, which is why treatment of hay fever needs to be part of a person's asthma care. Studies have shown that treating hay fever symptoms can reduce emergency department visits and hospitalisation due to asthma. If hay fever is causing your students problems we recommend they see their doctor to make sure their asthma is well controlled and that they are taking the right medications for both conditions. This will reduce the chances of them reacting to pollen. Here are some additional tips to help your schools be prepared this spring.



Child Dental Benefits

The Child Dental Benefits Schedule is a child dental benefits programme. It gives eligible children access to up to \$1000 in benefits per child for dental services over two consecutive calendar years.

Eligibility

Children and teenagers are eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule if they're aged 2 to 17 years for any one day of the calendar year, are eligible for Medicare, and are part of a family that receives Family Tax Benefit Part A or the child receives an Australian Government payment from the list available at humanservices.gov.au/childdental

Your child's eligibility will be determined each calendar year.

You can check your child's eligibility and balance through your Medicare online account at my.gov.au or by calling **132 011**.

More information on claiming is available at humanservices.gov.au Search for Medicare services.