

The Speers Point Star

Growing *Stronger* and *Smarter* every day.

Find us at Bell Street, Speers Point

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



1st September 2015

Principal , Chris Payne

Ph. 4958 1230 Fax. 4958 2478

Principal's Message

So many things happening! This is such an exciting time of year! Welcome to the first day of Spring!

Admin Block & Bell St Access

Four months since the storms hit our Admin block and we get it back with repairs all completed today. The work included new trusses, ceilings, walls, carpet and paint.

Over the first week of the holidays I'll be coordinating the move of our office back from the top block to the Admin block. On return for Term 4 the office will be operating again from the bottom building, though please be patient with us that first week, it's going to take some time to get everything back in its place.

From today student and community may access our school from Bell St. We ask our community to adhere to our following procedures to ensure the safety of our students:

- All students will be lining up just before the bell under the Top covered area. There will be a designated Bell St line, Main Rd line, Parents line etc. as according to how students go home
- Students will be escorted to their school exits by a staff member, walking safely in lines.
- Parents who are collecting students are welcome to wait on the asphalt area (in front of fixed equipment or on grass at the front of the school. Please do not collect your child from the line.
- Parents line until the 3pm dismissal bell. Likewise, if your child comes to you before the bell, please encourage them to sit in their lines until the bell.
- Students from the Support Unit will be escorted to Main Rd for pick-up.
- No parents are permitted to park in school grounds.

Myuna Bay Camp

Our students from Years 3-6 had a sensational time at Myuna Bay Camp just the other week. The weather held out and provided us with three fantastic days.



At camp it is always fantastic to see students strive for their personal best in areas that are well out of their comfort zones. The truly remarkable thing about camp is when students realise they need not only the support of their peers, but to be supportive as well. Now that we're back at school this is a clear message we are continuing with – we all get there together.

A magical moment came when the Green Turtle group had to work together to carry the support tinny to the water for kayaking. As the students carried and shuffled a song rose up from one voice, chorusing into many – singing, completely unprompted, Advance Australia Fair!





Attendance

Yesterday, Mrs Young, Mrs Cobcroft and I, had the opportunity to get to an Attendance Policy and Procedures refresher course. A number of points were raised and as a result there will be some updates coming into the school to support greater attendance.

Attached with this newsletter is a factsheet from the Department covering the responsibilities and obligations of good student attendance.

You may have heard me talk before about how a parent's or carer's attitude towards school or a subject area if carried through to the child. If you actively demonstrate to your child that being at school, no later than 8:59am every day unless sick or exceptional circumstances (not birthdays) then your child too will be instilled with that same attitude.

Don't forget that you can submit absences through the school bag app. Under "eforms" then "absentee note" as all absences should be explained within 7 days.

P&C

Enjoyed Father's Day brekkie? That was thanks to our P&C. Kids brought home some great gifts from the Father's Day stall today? Yup, that was our P&C again.

If you've never given much thought about our P&C, now is the time. Our P&C is about one clear goal – supporting our student and our school. We have some wonderful people in our P&C who work, look after their families and manage to find a few spare minutes to support our school. However, our P&C at the moment is comprised of a number of parents who are set to "graduate." With a great number of current P&C parents, their youngest child is in Year 6 and will be moving on next year.

Without a P&C we don't have a canteen, or stalls, or sausage sizzles at school events. Our P&C is about our community finding a few spare minutes to support our school, and to offer a voice on what makes our school great. If you have those spare few minutes you are in luck. Next P&C meeting is on **Thursday at 6:30pm**.

Have a great week everyone!

Chris Payne
Principal

Upcoming Events

| Date | Event |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Thursday 3rd September | P&C Meeting 6.30pm |
| Tuesday 15th | Recognition Assembly 9.30am |
| Wednesday 16th | Last Day for Pie/Cake Orders |
| Friday 18th | Last Day of Term 3 |
| | |
| Monday 5th October | Public Holiday |
| Tuesday 6th | Students Return for Term 4 |
| Thursday 8th | Pie & Cake Drive Pick Up |

Birthdays

Wishing the following students a very Happy Birthday!

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Bianca G | 1 st September |
| Dylan P | 3 rd |
| Cooper M | 11 th |
| Bailey P | 11 th |

Canteen Roster

| Date | Volunteer |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Wed 2 nd Sep | Ali |
| Thu 3 rd | CLOSED |
| Fri 4 th | Kristy Lee & Liz |
| | |
| Mon 7 th | CLOSED |
| Tue 8 th | CLOSED |
| Wed 9 th | Rae |
| Thu 10 th | CLOSED |
| Fri 11 th | Bethany & Krystal |
| | |
| Mon 14 th | CLOSED |
| Tue 15 th | CLOSED |
| Wed 16 th | Ali |
| Thu 17 th | CLOSED |
| Fri 18 th Sep | CLOSED DUE TO CLEANING |

Casuarina Class

This semester in Casuarina we are learning about Australia in HSIE and Water in Science.

We have also created some fantastic artworks about these topics. One of our favourite places to learn about was Uluru.

We will be showing our art today at the Assembly.



Community News

**School Readiness,
Primary Tutoring &
Holiday Workshops
Newcastle**

www.beginbright.com.au

Ph: 1300 234 462

Helping to create happy, smart
and confident children.

Come along & join the fun

Family Fun Fest

**Everyone
is
Welcome**

Jumping Castle, Sausage Sizzle, Music & more
Family Event - No alcohol permitted!

FRIDAY, 4th DECEMBER 2015 - 3 pm to 7 pm



Let's Party

bricks 4 kidz

we learn, we build, we play with
LEGO® Bricks

is having a **launch party!**

Join the Fun!

Where: The Place Charlestown Community Centre
(Cor Frederick & Pearson Street, Charlestown)

When: Saturday 12th September

Time: 10:30 am to 2:30pm

Cost: Gold coin entry (all proceeds go to charity)



Families welcome

- Face Painting 10:30am to 12:30pm
- Magician Joel Howlett starts 1:00 pm
- Guessing competition, raffles and more
- Fun and Games for the Kidz all day
- Lego® Free play area all day




Cool Kidz

LEGO® Builds

Bookings essential - \$10 per 40 minute class
(all proceeds to charity)

| Session times | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 10:30 - 11:10 | Mining and Crafting |
| 11:10 - 11:50 | Superheroes |
| 11:50 - 12:30 | Space Adventures |
| 12:30 - 1:10 | Superheroes |
| 1:10 - 1:50 | Mining and Crafting |

For booking please go to:
[HTTP://Bricks4KidzAustralia.com.au/nsw-lakemacquarie/](http://Bricks4KidzAustralia.com.au/nsw-lakemacquarie/)

Come & support The Place and check out Bricks 4 Kidz
All proceeds go to support The Place Community Centre Charlestown



www.theplacecharlestown.org.au



0499 006 056

blevey@bricks4kidz.com

Bricks4KidzAustralia.com.au/lakemacquarie



to get special offers




KIDZCARE

SPRING HOLIDAYS
21ST Sept Till
Oct 2ND

**CHILD CARE
BENEFIT AND
REBATE
AVAILABLE**

Casual & permanent bookings




Lake Macquarie PCYC Kidzcare offers
Vacation Care (8:30am to 5:30pm)
To children in years K-6

PCYC Lake Macquarie KidzCare offers a range of structured and free play social activities, sports, excursions and incursions which include dinosaur and fossil workshop, flip out trampoline park, Tocal Farm, Toonworld art program, parkour program, Ice Skating as well as art and craft activities that vary daily. Afternoon tea provided. For more information contact Lake Macquarie PCYC

PCYC Lake Macquarie. Lake St Windale. NSW Phone: 02 4948 6622



Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to [complete their schooling](#).

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/programs/attendance.php>

The school leaving age:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leaving-school/index.php>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities