



Growing Stronger and Smarter every day.

Find us at Bell Street, Speers Point

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

3rd May 2016

Principal, Chris Payne

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Principal's Message

Welcome back to Term 2 everyone. It was this time last year we came back to a tree through the office so I wasn't too stressed when I found out we had a burst hot water system in the staffroom kitchen over the holidays.

Photo Day

Monday 9th May (next Monday) is Photo day! Last week we were in the midst of having new photocopiers installed and were unable to send an accompanying note with the envelopes.

Students need to be in full school uniform (they always are anyway) with their black shoes (again, this happens every day already) looks beautiful (as always) with their envelopes ready. On the envelopes you may have also noticed that you are able to order the photos online if you wish.

Traditionally we start with a whole school photo first thing in the morning so it's important not to be late.

We have extra envelopes as well as family envelopes in the office should you require them.

Kinder 2017

Already this year we have had a number of enrolments for Kinder 2017 – it's never too early. We have our Kinder Information Night scheduled for August 18th, which while it may be a few months away, gives you all plenty of time to let people in our area know about it.

If you know of anyone in our area with a child to start Kinder next year, let them know they are very welcome to make a time and come and have a look at our great school.

Choir Performance

Congratulations to our choir who sang beautifully yesterday. For the third year our choir has been invited to perform for the Lake Macquarie Police Awards at the Council chambers. Well done, choir!



NAPLAN

Next week our students in Years 5 and 6 undergo NAPLAN assessment. This is a national program that assesses all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in 4 different tests.

Tuesday will have two tests, the Language Conventions (spelling and grammar) and Writing, with Reading and Numeracy being a test each day over the following two days.

We don't want our students to be stressed or anxious about NAPLAN. NAPLAN doesn't determine what they can do for the rest of their life, it gives us some information about what they can do right now. I say this because it is not the comprehensive data on all of your child's abilities. It is however, a useful diagnostic tool for the school to determine how we can better

help our students on a whole school and individual level.

At this time Year 3 and 5 students are doing some preparation work in the classrooms. We're not teaching to the test, we're preparing our students on how to navigate the test papers with confidence.

Staff Development Day

Last week as students enjoyed their final day of holidays, staff undertook a day of professional learning. This term, our schools from the Lake Macquarie Area Collegiate (LMAC) joined together for professional learning around STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Maths) at Lake Macquarie High School.



As Lake Macquarie High School becomes a STEM focus school, we are taking on the STEM interest here as well. Our day was about undertaking what STEM is and how it can look.



Hokki Stools

We have purchased our first set of 10 Hokki stools as a result of fundraising activities. These stools are being test piloted by Waratah class (mind you I've noticed some stools appearing in other classes already!)

These special stools are an ergo-dynamic stool designed to improve the gross motor and musculo-skeletal development of growing children. The benefit of ergo-dynamic design for children is proven:

- The inner organs of the body are opened up not scrunched and restricted.
- The muscles supporting the lumbar spine are passively exercised and strengthened.
- More oxygen flows through the body and the brain.
- The muscles of the abdominal core are passively tightened and relaxed as the child moves on the stool.
- This design absorbs and encourages movement while at the same time improving the attention span of the children.

The Hokki achieves its ergo-dynamic movement through the curved shape of the base.



Having proven so popular and beneficial already, the next lot of 10 stools is being ordered with hopefully more to come.

A big thank you to everyone that contributed to our Autism Awareness fundraiser. We raised \$220.50 Well done!

Have a great week everyone
Chris Payne
Principal

Upcoming Events

Date	Event
WEEK 2	
Wed 4th May	Athletics Carnival – Wangi All Students to be at School by NO LATER than 8.50am
Fri 6th	Mother's Day Breakfast 7.30am – 9.15am Mother's Day Stall
WEEK 3	
Mon 9th	Photo Day
Tue 10th	NAPLAN Year 3 & 5 P&C Meeting 6.30pm
Wed 11th	NAPLAN Year 3 & 5
Thu 12th	NAPLAN Year 3 & 5
Week 4	
Fri 20th	Walk Safely to School

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY REPORT

Our 2016 Combined Schools Cross Country Carnival was held in week 8 of Term 1 on Tuesday 15th March. With the threat of rain and a few anti-rain dances from me, we were lucky to have a day without rain for the event. Once the other schools arrived, students and teachers walked the course to begin with to ensure all students knew where they had to run around.

Congratulations to all the placegetters and a fantastic effort to all the students who participated on the day! Whether you ran, jogged or walked around the course, it was great to see so much enthusiasm! I would like to thank the P&C committee for all their hard work on the day and in the lead up to the event with the lunch orders. Thank you to the parents and friends who came along to assist and cheer the students on. Also to our teachers and executives who helped make it such a successful day. From the day, we will have 28 students represent the school at the 2016 Zone Cross Country Carnival to be held on Friday 29th April 2016 at the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre, Myuna Bay.

	Boys	Girls
8/9yrs	Isaac Allen (8)	Dekota Kelly (8)
	Liam Dwyer (8)	Sophie Rickards (8)
	Dylan Palmer (9)	Sydney Dobson (8)
	Blake Jackson (9)	Eve Harvey (8)
10yrs	Hayden Cumming	Teneka Hay
	Raphael Keo	Taleha Hay
		Chloe Randle
		Hailee Weston
11yrs	Dominic Burgin	Lara Fernance
	Terook Molenaar	Ciara Palmer
	Ryley Spies-Farrow	Emily Rickards
		Bianca Gray
12/13yrs	Jesse Moore	Jemma Webb
	Aidan Hughes	Sharnie Allen
	Harley Thomas	Sindy-Lee Richards
		Shakayla Cooper

Mr Szczudlo

LIBRARY NEWS



Book Club

Students received Issue 3 of Book Club last week. Orders are due back by the **13th of May 2016**. There is a new easier payment option on the Scholastic website where parents can pay by the LOOP system which is an online credit card payment that is sent directly to the school.

We receive 20% of each order directly back to the library which enables us to buy new books and resources for our students. This means that even a \$20 order will earn \$4 in rewards which adds up very quickly. Please consider using Book Club for presents throughout the year as it is an easy way to benefit our school.

Premiers Reading Challenge (PRC)

Our school has been busily readying ourselves for the Premier's Reading Challenge. We have a great variety of books labelled according to grade level that are easy to find. The easiest way for parents to embrace the challenge is to read the books that are on the grade level booklists (found on the PRC website) with your child at night before bed. We found that we owned a lot of the books already. My Year One daughter has already finished the challenge and has been disappointed that she can't log her books on each night anymore. Several SPPS students have enthusiastically taken up the challenge to read either 20 or 30 books by the **19th of August**. That gives you at least 3 months! It

is super easy to record books that have been read through the student's portal and then logging onto the PRC website. I have promised a book to one student from each stage who completes the challenge and several are already very close! Each child will receive a certificate upon completion.

Congratulations to **Azra Boulton, Layla Jackson and Cayden, Chaise and Xavier Hitchcock** who are super close to being finished!!

Birthdays

Wishing the following students a very Happy Birthday!

Matthew Poles	6 th May
Jake Bates	8 th
Declan McGrath	11 th
Hendrix Johnston	14 th
Harrison Clayton	16 th



MOTHERS DAY STALL – Friday, 6 May 2016

Our P&C has organised some amazing gifts for students to purchase for the special ladies in their lives. A variety of gifts will be available to purchase for \$1, \$2, \$3 and \$5. We are also asking for help to set up and assist students with their selections. If you would be available to help with the stall, between 9 – 11am, please let us know as it would be greatly appreciated.



Community News



Eyecare & Eyewear

Amy Marciniak
Certified Optical Dispenser

SPEERS POINT
Store Manager

1/65 John Street
Singleton NSW 2330
p 0265715600 f 0265715611
e singleton@aieoptical.com.au

1/177 Main Road
Speers Point NSW 2284
p 0249587892 f 0249587706
e speerspoint@aieoptical.com.au



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Fire & Rescue NSW Open Day 2016

Fire & Rescue is hosting its annual Fire Station Open Day on Saturday 21st May 2016 between 10am and 2pm. Children and their parents are invited to watch fire safety demonstrations, hop aboard our station's fire truck, hold a fire hose, pick up a Brigade Kids fire safety activity booklet, LSGO City Minifigures and chat with the firefighters about what they do.

This is a fantastic opportunity for children and their parents to meet their local firefighters and with winter just around the corner, which is the worst time of year for house fires, this is a great opportunity to learn as much as you can about home fire safety. Visit www.fire.nsw.gov.au to find your nearest 2016 Open Day participating station and join us on Saturday 21st May 2016