



Growing *Stronger* and *Smarter* every day.

Find us at Bell Street, Speers Point

[www.speerspt-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:www.speerspt-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

30<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Principal , Chris Payne

Ph. 4958 1230 Fax. 4958 2478

## Principal's Message

So much has happened over the last two weeks, it's going to be very hard to contain all of the action to just a few pages. Last week it was great to have a visit from our Director, Louise Gallagher and to be able to show her the great things happening at Speers Point. Let's get to the important stuff.

## Upcoming Works

The "Bridge to Terabithia" of Waratah class has been completed and this space behind our canteen is enjoying a brand new purpose. Now with the ramp in place we can begin the work around the gardens and space.



The Re-Roofing project over Blue Gum, Casuarina and the Library has a start date of around June 19<sup>th</sup> (beginning Week 9) with a completion date (weather permitting and fingers crossed) of during the holidays. This means that during week 8 we will look to be moving some classes and returning early Term 3. Please understand that these dates are only an indication at this stage and are subject to change.

Lastly, our soft fall for our fixed equipment should be installed sometime over the next month.

## Attendance

Last week I sent out a general letter to all families about attendance. Last year our school maintained an exceptional attendance rate of 95% which we are looking to maintain because simply put, we can't educate our student effectively if they are not attending.

Next week we have our scheduled visit from our Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) who routinely reviews attendance. The role of the HSLO is primarily to support – they help in cases where attendance may be needing some ideas or strategies to support. Attendance is at its best when parents and the school are on delivering the same message.

## New School Plan

Did you know we have a school plan? Did you know it is on our school website for community access? (Under the 'Our School' tab)

This time 3 years ago we started the journey of getting community and staff input into what would shape our 3 year plan. Now that we are in the final year of our current plan we start the journey again in forming our next one – with as much community support and input as we can gather.

Over the course of the rest of this term and next there will be opportunities like mini surveys (because no one likes taking massive surveys) focus groups, open discussions etc to invite our community to have their say on what directions they would like our school to go in. Keep an eye on upcoming newsletters, the Facebook page and the app for these opportunities.

The first such opportunity is next Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:15pm for an open discussion hosted by myself just to talk about our school. We'll finish at 2:55pm just in time for those picking up kids. For those who have work or other commitments around this time we will be looking to make an evening session sometime in the future.

### Parent Teacher Interviews

We are using a new online booking system for Parent Teacher interviews. Go to the site

[www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and use the code:

**nshbf** and select the time for the teacher you wish to have the interview with. If you do not have internet access to complete online please call our awesome office staff who will be able to help make the booking for you over the phone.

### Items not to bring to school

Staff have noticed lately the increase in the amount of lollies that students are bringing to school. Students do not need to bring lollies to school and are asked to leave them at home.

Fidget spinners are enjoying their 15 minutes of fame and are the craze for kids and in memes lately. While fidget spinners and fidget cubes can be a great therapeutic device, generally the spinners are being used as toys. As always, we ask students not to bring toys to school.

If there is an identified need for a fidget cube to be in place then we ask parents to have that conversation with their child's teacher so the use of the cube can be properly implemented through a support plan.

### Professional Learning

Apart from the usual attrition over cold and flu season, you may have noticed your child's teacher absent every now and again. In order to provide our students with the best teaching programs, we need to ensure we give our teachers the best professional learning to do so.

Part of the *Early Action for Success* program our school is engaged with, giving us our Instruction Leader, is ensuring our teachers are highly skilled.

Last Wednesday our teachers meet with other local schools to carry out a professional learning session around Explicit Instruction and Writing from 3:30pm to 6:30pm.

Our teachers are continually engaging with learning, which sometimes takes place during class hours. Other times teachers are engaged in other school programs, like sport or transition. When this occurs the class teacher leaves prepared lessons for the temporary teacher to continue with, so there is minimal disruption to learning.

Have a great week

Chris Payne  
Principal

### Upcoming Events

Term 2 Week 7 2017	
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> June	No Rubbish Day
Week 8	
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	Queen's Birthday-Public Holiday
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup>	Life Education
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Life Education
Week 10	
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	Recognition Assembly 2.20pm
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	NAIDOC Day Last Day of Term 2
Term 3 Week 1	
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Staff Development Day
Tue 18 <sup>th</sup>	Students Return

### Cedar News!

Cedar has had a very, very busy Term 2 so far! Miss Elliott became Mrs Cowburn, Sydney excursion, NAPLAN, Mother's Day and Athletics carnival, just to name a few.

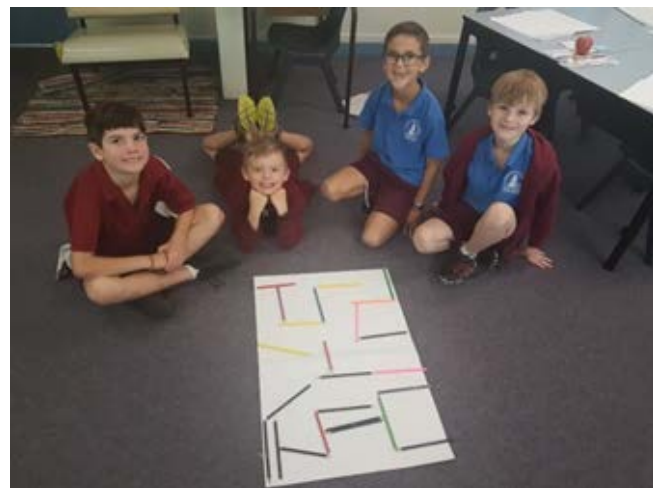
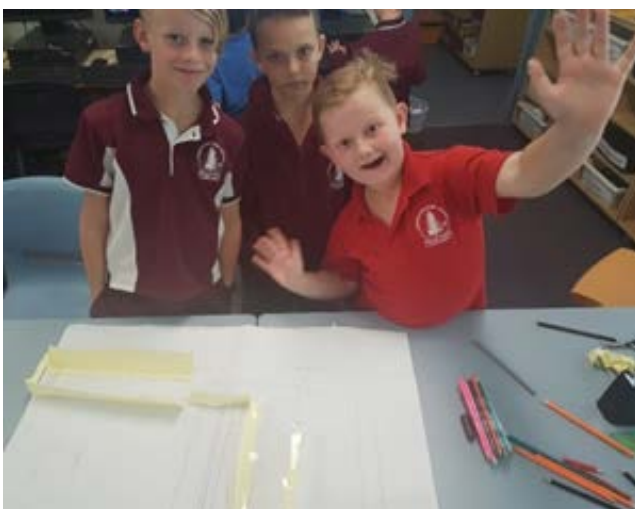
We have also been full steam ahead in the classroom, getting a great literacy routine going with literacy rotations, guided reading, reading warm ups and writing.

Maths groups are going well with many students progressing and learning new skills and mathematical strategies.




A particularly fun and educational activity we have been able to do each Friday are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) challenges. We have made cup towers, structures with spaghetti and marshmallows, paper chains and 3D mazes.

Mrs Cowburn



## LIBRARY NEWS

Lots of overdue books have been rolling in over the last few weeks which has made me very happy! It is important that children understand that we are extremely lucky to have such beautiful books and that children need to take responsibility for their own borrowing.



Buy a book from  
**SCHOLASTIC**  
**Book Club**  
to help build  
our classroom  
resources

orders are due: **18<sup>th</sup> of June 2017**

## Our School App Reminder

For anyone who has a smartphone our school uses the Skoolbag app as a means of being able to immediately communicate with our community or send out notes and reminders. This is a free app that you can download from your app store by simply searching for "Speers Point Public School"

**Skoolbag**   
Complete communication solution

## Girls Netball – Speers Point vs Biddabah



## Birthday Wishes

Happy Birthday to students celebrating their birthdays for the month of June.

Liam D	5 <sup>th</sup>
Noah F	6 <sup>th</sup>
Amy Lee D	10 <sup>th</sup>
Abbie C	10 <sup>th</sup>
Amitiel R	11 <sup>th</sup>
Makayla W	11 <sup>th</sup>
Declan W	14 <sup>th</sup>
Coby G	15 <sup>th</sup>
Velijko M	19 <sup>th</sup>
Cooper S	20 <sup>th</sup>
Claudia B	28 <sup>th</sup>
Quentin P	29 <sup>th</sup>
Archie T	29 <sup>th</sup>



## Found

A bracelet was found near the top of our school. For further information please ring the school office 4958 1230

## Community News

**BULK billed**  
**EYE**  
examinations

**health fund**  
**DIRECT**  
**BILLING**  
FIND US ON  
**facebook**

<b><u>Speers Point</u></b>	<b><u>Singleton</u></b>
1/177 Main Rd	1/65 John St
p 4958 7892	p 6571 5600

**aie** optical  
Eyecare & Eyewear

**Women's Shed Boolaroo**

**Official Opening!**

Friday 23 June, 2017

FASHVI Hall - 27 Fourth St, Boolaroo

**11.00am**

**Entertainment**  
**Refreshments**

**Womens Shed Display**  
**Kids Activity Corner**

**Official Opening & cutting of the Cake**

Free R50 by 19 June

 Our Community Place - 7/24 Main Rd, Boolaroo  
admin@ourcommunityplace.org.au  
4958 7251 www.ourcommunityplace.org.au