



*Speers Point soaring high, spread our wings and learn to fly.*

Find us at Bell Street, Speers Point

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

6th February, 2019

Principal, Chris Payne

Ph. 4958 1230 Fax. 4958 2478

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome everyone to the 2019 school year. Last year we labelled 2018 as our best year ever. 2019 is already being dubbed as our *next* best year ever. Our school continues to grow as we've welcomed our largest kinder cohort and established our fourth support class.

Despite some of our building works not being completed, the students are to be highly commended on their amazing start to the year. A sign of great things to come.

### 2019 Classes

We formed our classes at the beginning of this week. Class structures are formed with various factors in mind, including student's social, academic and emotional progress. Other factors, including class sizes, are incorporated as we make the best decision for the individual child.

The question around composite classes arises frequently. People who may not have experienced composite classes in their own education may find the idea daunting, however, there are numerous benefits to composites being formed. Our key focus as educators is around the needs of the individual child, and best meeting those needs. Even within a straight grade class, we have students at their own individual levels and the teachers cater for those individual learning needs.

It is a strength of the Early Action for Success program, that our school is part of, to be continuously monitoring the learning progress of students across the school. Our Instructional Leader, Miss Pichaloff supports our teachers in analysing student data, tailoring teaching programs and organising intervention strategies for individual students for best learning outcomes.

Our mainstream classes are:

Waratah – K/1 with Mrs Varney

Eucalypt – K/1 with Mrs Doodnath

Bonzai – Yr 2 with Ms Anning

Wattle – 3/4 with Mrs Chiles

Cedar – 4/5/6 with Mr Bukey

Mrs Cobcroft, Mrs Hopton and Miss Wiederman are providing Release Face to Face (RFF) and intervention across the school.

Our support classes are:

Blue Gum – Mrs Hazel

Casuarina – Mrs Folwell (Mon – Thurs) and Miss Wiederman (Fri)

Pine – Mrs Wood (Mon – Wed) and Mrs Hopton (Thur-Fri)

Jacaranda – Miss Musialik (aka Miss M) with Mrs Hopton (Wednesday)

As advised to those parents earlier, our support classes are still to be finalised and there may be some movement over the next few weeks.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Friday, 1st March</b><br>Clean Up Australia Day | <b>Friday, 8th March</b><br>The Wizard of Oz<br>Dress Up day | <b>Mon &amp; Tues, 18th &amp; 19th<br/>March</b><br>Myuna Bay Day Trips | <b>Thursday, 21st March</b><br>Harmony Day |
|--|--|---|--|

## Building Update

The school has been a very busy place over the holidays with all of the building works. We had hoped that the works would be completed over the break, however it was just not the case. While some aspects of the work has been completed, the school staff made a decision, in the best interest of student safety, that no classes would move into rooms until the work was absolutely complete. While this has meant some classes have not been able to start in their intended classrooms, all of the students have had an extremely positive and settled start with provisions in place.

We have been advised that work will be completed, and we should be able to start moving our support classes into their rooms, in Week 4 (the week starting February 18<sup>th</sup>.) The comment made to me during a recent inspection from the Department is that these classrooms are the finest support classrooms in the Greater Hunter area, if not the state.

Once we have facilitated the move for our support classes into their rooms, our two K/1 classes will be moving down into the rooms vacated (the smaller building with the ramp) which have better amenities. Mrs Doodnath and Mrs Varney made these rooms available for our support classes in this time to allow for student accessibility with the ramp.

Given how big this project has been, it's easy to forget that this has been the "early works." The planning still continues towards our new hall, library, admin and classrooms. We look forward to sharing more information and plans as it becomes available.

## Access to the School

The Bell St entrance is an entrance for both pedestrians and vehicles. We ask that parents do not drive in or park in school grounds at any time. We currently have 3 vehicles as part of the Assisted School Travel Program, and one child who frequently requires a wheelchair, who have permission to drive up the driveway and park. We ask all other vehicles to park off school grounds please.

Given that there are vehicles moving along the driveway at bell times, I strongly urge parents and

cares not to use the driveway as a pedestrian walkway. Please use the verandah along the office as a safe passageway.

## Weekly Routines

A number of our routines will continue as last year. Staff are required to attend a communication meeting on Monday afternoon, and professional learning session on Tuesday afternoon.

Assembly – Even week Thursdays at 2pm in the hall. Parents and community have a standing invitation to attend these fortnightly assemblies. Our first one is this week on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> February. On the odd weeks in this time scripture / non-scripture will be held.

Fridays are sports day and students are able to wear their coloured house sports shirt and white joggers on this day.

## Jean the Therapy Dog

Our therapy dog, Jean, has made a great impression from day 1. With the support of Guide Dogs Australia, Jean has been placed with Miss M as the primary carer / handler but is considered to be part of our staff. We've already seen Jean support students who have anxiety around animals, or general anxiety and is providing so much for our students.

With Jean working in our school I ask that other dogs, ie pets, are not brought on to the school grounds.

## Myuna Bay Camp – Day Trips

At the end of last year plans were being made around the senior excursion and how it fits around the History and Geography units being taught later in the year. We were also weighing up the options of attending the Sports and Recreation camp at Myuna Bay (just near Wangi Wangi).

The program run at Myuna Bay is fantastic for perseverance, resilience and relationship building. To make these experiences affordable, we have plans around 2 consecutive day trips to Myuna Bay this term for Years 3 to 6. This will be a very cost effective way of being able to attend the program for all students. More information will be available soon.

Chris Payne—Principal



# Meet Jean...





# Swimming Carnival







# How to download our school app

## Stay informed with the SkoolBag App



The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and all school communications.

# 1

### Download the app

Search for the free SkoolBag app in the Apple App or Google Play Store



# 2

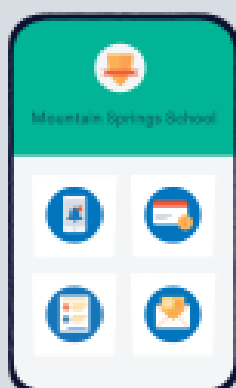
### Create an account

Sign up in seconds with your email address

# 3

### Add your school

Search for your school and add your subscription groups



# Making Payments

*Just a reminder that our office does not have EFTPOS facilities. If you wish to make payment using your card, the instructions to make a payment via our school website are below. We also take cash payments. Please ensure you provide the correct money as we do not have change.*

## **Parent Online Payment Instructions**

Speers Point Public School offers online payments for parents and caregivers. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard, credit or debit card. The secure payment page, hosted by Westpac, is accessed via our website by selecting the Make a Payment link above.

You will be able to pay for anything you would normally pay at the front office.

When you access the Make a Payment you must enter:

1. the student's name
2. date of birth
3. the ref. or invoice (if applicable)
4. the payment option
5. the payment description
6. the amount you are paying.

These details need to be entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. No student's details are given to Westpac. As a consequence, payments for each child need to be made separately.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured securely. These details are not passed back to the school.

Under payment options, enter the details provided on the permission note.

You can print your own receipts or have the receipt emailed to your email account. This gives you immediate proof that you have paid for the item. Record your receipt number on the permission note and return it to school as normal. Your payment will be reconciled against the receipt number on the permission note.

Making an online payment does not constitute permission.

Please return all signed permission notes to school as normal.



# 2019 Stationary Pack

For several reasons, **we are implementing** a stationary pack for all students at Speers Point Public School in 2019.

Firstly, we are now under strict chemical register guidelines and need to have specific types of glue, sanitizer and other liquid items that may be difficult for parents to buy.

Secondly, as a school we can purchase stationary items at a greater discount than individuals; saving parents a considerable amount of money and time at the start of the new school year.

Finally, we would love to have all students prepared with the right equipment at the start of each lesson and teach them the responsibility to look after their belongings.

The packs are made of a library bag as well as consumable items that are used by the whole class throughout the year and stationary that children are responsible for individually

**All packs are at a considerable saving to you with the estimated price from Office works included next to each pack to compare.**

Packs will be ready for collection upon payment. If you wish to take up this offer please fill out the form that has been sent home with your child and make payment by Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> February.



## Green Student Info Sheet 2019

Student information notes will be sent home this week with your child. Please complete and return to school as soon as possible.

### DON'T FORGET!



 **SCHOLASTIC**  
**Book Club**

orders are due:

Thursday, 28th February



# P & C News

The P&C would like to welcome all our new students and their families to Speers Point Public School in 2019.

## **Canteen – Will be open from this Friday, 8 February - Lunchtime only**

We are happy to announce that we will be opening the canteen from this week, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Our canteen operates through the generosity of volunteers who give their time to allow the canteen to be open. The canteen prepares healthy lunch orders for students and a small number of miscellaneous sales. Volunteers are asked to be in the canteen between 8.45am and 12.30pm and we need 2 volunteers each day to ensure we can deliver healthy lunches to students.

If you are interested and available to volunteer in the canteen, we would like to hear from you. Please contact the school office or Dan.

## **Information Night**

We will be holding an information night for all parents within the coming weeks. Our intent as the P&C is to offer you information surrounding school activities, as well as additional opportunities that may be possible for your children. We hope to hold at least 2 of these throughout the year. Further details will be coming within the next few days about the first Information Night.

## **AGM – Election of office bearers**

The P&C AGM will be held in week 8 of Term 1. At this time, all P&C Executive positions will be vacated and new people elected to the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you are interested in taking on any of these roles, please contact Mr Payne.

The P&C at Speers Point PS, supports the school with fundraising events that allow the P&C to help the school by purchasing resources that are used by every student in our school. Please support our fundraising events and our canteen and help us give back to the school.

Looking forward to a great 2019.

P&C Executive

# Community News



**GREAT BEGINNINGS**  
EARLY EDUCATION FOR LIFE  
SPEERS POINT

**Grand Open Day!**

**123 SESAME STREET**

**Meet and Greet!**

**2nd March 10am - 1pm**

FREE tickets at  
[GREATBEGINNINGS.COM.AU/SPEERS-POINT](http://GREATBEGINNINGS.COM.AU/SPEERS-POINT)

TM/© (2019) Sesame Workshop

## SAFETY around schools

### ROAD RULES IN SCHOOL ZONES:

#### Pedestrian crossings

You cannot stop within 20 metres before a pedestrian crossing or 10 metres after a pedestrian crossing unless there is a control sign permitting parking. *Minimum penalty: \$439 and two demerit points*

#### Double parking

You may not stop on the road alongside to another vehicle at any time even to drop off or pick up passengers. *Minimum penalty: \$330 and two demerit points*

#### Parking on a verge

You cannot stop or park on a verge area (footpath, nature strip, dividing strip or kerb). *Minimum penalty: \$183 and two demerit points*

### PARKING RESTRICTION SIGNS



#### You cannot stop here

A driver must not stop in a no stopping zone.

*Minimum penalty: \$330 and two demerit points*



#### You can stop here for two minutes only

You have no more than two minutes to drop off or pick up passengers or goods and the driver must stay within three metres of the vehicle.

*Minimum penalty: \$183 and two demerit points*



#### You cannot stop here

You are not allowed to stop your vehicle unless you are driving a bus.

*Minimum penalty: \$330 and two demerit points*



#### You cannot stop here

Unless a current Mobility Parking Scheme (MPS) permit is displayed.

*Minimum penalty: \$549 and one demerit point*

☎ 02 4921 0333 🌐 [lakemac.com.au](http://lakemac.com.au) @ [council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au)

# Register now!



**Warners Bay Bulldogs AFC**

Mark Philpott 0408 640 623  
[mpott07@yahoo.com.au](mailto:mpott07@yahoo.com.au)  
Open for boys and girls 5-17yo



Sign up for junior footy **play.afl**