



Speers Point News

MONDAY 22 AUGUST 2022

WEEK 6, TERM 3

From the Principal

Mid-term Breakdown

We are at the mid part of the term, the half way point, the place where we hit the crest and start the downhill ride! As we move into the second part of this very busy term we continue to aim to keep our standards high. At the end of last term I advised that we were trying a term with no newsletters while providing communications through our usual means for each announcement. The mid-term point is a good place though to cover a few things coming up or going on to keep you informed.

Book Week

One of my favourite events for the year has always been Book Week and the Book Week Parade. This year, after 2 years of restricted parades we return to form! Our Book Week Parade is like no other, as we parade up and down Main Rd for our entire community.

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun of the parade – parents, grandparents, younger siblings etc are all welcome to dress up and parade with us (don't be the only one out of costume!)

Our parade leaves the school at the Main Rd top gate, going up Main Rd to the pedestrian crossing at main Rd and Fifth St before walking back down past council down to the crossing near Pippi's (Main Rd and Speers St) and back up to the school past Speers Point Library.

The parade is on Thursday 25 August and we start at 9.30 am. We'll return to school ready for the "Bake, Cake and Shake" stall at 10.30 am run by our senior students as a Year 6 fundraiser.



A teal-colored poster for a school book parade. At the top left, a dark grey tilted box contains the text 'Save the Date!' in white. To its right, the phrase 'Dreaming with your eyes open' is written in a yellow, cursive font. Below this, a square image shows a group of children in colorful costumes, with the text 'Time For Our Bookworms To Dress Up For Book Week!' overlaid in yellow. The main title 'Book Parade' is written in large, white, bold letters. Below the title, the date and time 'Thursday 25 August 2022 from 9.30am' are listed. The poster includes several paragraphs of text: 'We look forward to seeing parents and community for our Book Week Parade.', 'A day to celebrate reading, literacy and parading in our favourite book character costume.', 'All family members are welcome to dress up and join us as we walk along Main Road.', and 'Following the parade Year 5/6 will be holding a cupcake and milkshake stall to raise money for the Year 6 farewell.' A decorative line of dots separates this from the bottom section, which states: 'Our Book Fair will be held from Monday 22 until Friday 26 August in the Library. Come in and buy some great books from 8.30am - 9.00am and students can purchase during their library lesson. Full credit card facilities. 30% of all profits go back to the school.'

Attendance and COVID Safe Practices

Please be mindful that from time to time we are still having COVID cases within the school. We send out our school communication when this occurs however we are unable to identify which class, which given the nature of school and playgrounds, contact would not be limited to just a class.

The message remains the same, if your child is sick or has symptoms, please keep them home. Even with good hygiene, air purifiers, cleaning etc things still get shared and passed on. Not being at school when sick helps prevent the spread.

However, coughs can linger, asthma is real and kids can try and pull a sickie – we understand and as always, we apply a common sense approach to these. We're not asking students to stay home when they have treatable hay fever (spring is close) etc.

It's still a very mixed message because everyday they are well enough to be at school, we need to make sure students are attending school to counter against increased absence rates.

Attendance Letters

Last term we sent out Attendance letters for students whose attendance rate was below the Department's 85% minimum attendance rate. These will soon be coming out again.

I had questions as to why I was sending out the letters in the middle of high sickness / pandemic times and the purpose is the same this time – simply awareness raising. With so many things going on it's unrealistic to think parents are tracking student sick days. That's part of my job. However, unless we communicate with you, it is something that is very easily to be unaware of.

So over the next two weeks, we will be sending out letters for attendance below the minimum 85%, regardless of known COVID cases or any other long absences.

What comes from it? It's awareness raising. It's an opportunity for you to be informed. That's it. In some cases where there is extreme absences there are supports offered to help improve attendance. For most part, however, it is simply giving you the information.

Early Arrivals

On a daily basis we are seeing some 15 to 20 students arriving or being dropped off to school before 8.30 am who are not attending OOSH. There are no staff supervising students prior to 8.30 am and it is not safe for students to be on grounds without supervision. There have been times when those students who are here early are out-of-bounds or misbehaving which presents a huge risk to student safety.

If work arrangements require an early morning drop off, please have a chat with our OOSH Care provider, Elise at [Big Child Care](#).

Uniform Expectations

Over the last few months we've seen a decline in the correct wearing of our school uniform and we will be working with students to lift back to our usual high standards. Our school uniform is a big part of who we are and the pride we have within ourselves and our school.

Black shoes, white socks, school hats and no jewellery will be a big part of our uniform focus.

School Representation

A big week last week, with so many student representing our school. Congratulations to our Public Speaking Zone finalists, School Debating team and Girl's Netball team on their efforts last week. Great efforts students!

Farewell Mr Hector

It is with deep regret that we must announce that Mr Hector, class teacher of Eucalypt, is finishing his time with us on Friday, due to personal circumstances.

Miss Mahalia Carmody will be taking on the role as Eucalypt class teacher for the remainder of the year and is very excited to be joining our school. This week Miss Carmody will be working with both Mr Hector and Mrs Cowburn to prepare her and the class for this transition. This will ensure a smooth handover with as minimal disruption to the students as possible.

Miss Carmody will be taking over as full-time class teacher of Eucalypt from week 7, Monday 29th August.

I would like to thank Mr Hector for his tremendous efforts with Eucalypt class and welcome Miss Carmody to the Speers Point family.

School News

Payment and Permission Notes

Book Week Performance - Payment Due Wednesday 24 August 2022

Please fill out the [Permission Note](#)

Dubbo Excursion - Payment Due Friday 26 August 2022

Father's Day Breakfast - Orders and Payment Due Tuesday 30 August 2022 - [Order Form](#)

Sentral Parent app

Just a reminder for those parents that have not downloaded the Sentral Parent app and linked your child. If you could please do so at your earliest convenience, as all our permission notes and school correspondence can be found on this app.

If you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to see us in the office. You can also find information

about the Sentral Parent app on our [school website](#).

Library News

Book Club

Issue 6 orders are due by Friday 9 September

Students can order via the LOOP, click on the link [Order Online](#) or bring their orders and money to the office.

ISSUE 6 2022
BOOKS YOU'LL LOVE!
EVERY ORDER REWARDS YOUR SCHOOL
Scholastic.com.au/parents

Meet ELLA
\$5
AGES 4+

Pearl
\$11.00
AGES 4+

The Dancing Unicorn
\$11.00
AGES 4+

Animal Fun 10-Pack
\$129.99
AGES 3+

The Baddies
\$18.00
AGES 4+

Wild Style Stationery Board Set
\$14.00
AGES 6+

Kid Youtuber
\$14.99
AGES 8+

Roblox
\$9.99
AGES 8+

Ark: Do Weirder?
\$11.00
AGES 4+

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A BOOK
Great quality, affordable books for each house so everyone can experience independent reading for pleasure.
\$3 EACH

Anderson's Fairy Tales
\$14.99
AGES 4+

The Recipe for Disaster
\$14.99
AGES 8+

How the Birds Got Their Colors
\$14.99
AGES 4+

The Happy Unicorn
\$14.99
AGES 4+

Experiment Club
\$14.99
AGES 4+

Book Fair

Book Fair is on this week in the Library - Monday 22 August to Friday 26 August

Students can purchase in their Library Lesson or will be open for parents to come in from 8.45 to 9.00 am or 3.00 to 3.15 pm each afternoon.

Please pay by cash or 'Make a payment' on the school website or through the scholastic website, please click on the link [Book Fair Parent Payment](#)

P&C News



- Book Donations for the Raffle - Please bring to the office by Tuesday 23 August 2022
- Raffle tickets and payment due Thursday 25 August 2022 - Please bring to the office
- Raffle ticket will be sold at the Book Parade on Thursday 25 August 2022
- Raffle will be Drawn Friday 26 August 2022 - Winners will be notified, prizes can be collected from the office and will be posted on Facebook
- Father's Day Stall will be held on Tuesday 30 August 2022 - Gifts form \$2
- P&C Meeting - Monday 5 September 2022 - 6.30 pm in the School Library - All Welcome

Stay in touch with Speers Point Public School



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