



School Newsletter

Term 4 Week 7

19 November 2015

Dates to Remember

November

25th - K/1MP Assembly

December

- 1st - K/1MP Speaker of the Term
- 2nd - 5/6LW Bike Safety Workshop
- 4th - Reports Sent Home
- 7-11 - Parent Teacher Interview Week
- 10th - Presentation Day
- 10th - Year 6 Farewell
- 14th - End of Year Excursions
- 16th - Last Day of Term

January 2016

- 21st - New Kindy Uniform Purchase & BBQ Lunch for new families.
- 27th - Pupil Free Day
- 28th - First Day of Term 1 2016

Reminders

- All absences need to be explained - preferably by using the parent portal feature or by sending in a note.
- All notes that contain money **MUST** come to the front office.
- Follow our twitter account @SPPSnews at <http://twitter.com> and receive timely news updates.



Go with the Flow

Over the past two weeks, over 40 students from St Peters PS have been going to Victoria Park pool in the shadow of the great Sydney University, Glebe. It certainly brought back memories for me on the day I attended, as many years ago I regularly swam laps in that pool in between trips to the fabulous university Fisher Library while studying.

Talking to many of the children coming back from the swim scheme it is clear that it was very popular and reports from Mr Park and Miss Sheridan showed that there were improvements in swimming for many students. There is no doubt that the ability to swim is a potential life saver and basically a fun thing to be able to do when one considers our easy access to some of the world's most fabulous beaches.

As part of the ongoing review of programs at St Peters we have decided that swim scheme will continue to be offered, but it will be offered ever two years. In the years where it is not offered a focus will be made on sun and water safety. The swim scheme focus will then focus on maximising the in water time for students.

This edition of the newsletter contains some important information about the reports which are currently being prepared by your child's teacher. This year teachers will be available for a parent teacher interview at a mutually convenient time at your request.

With our Presentation Day Assembly looming, could you please lock into your diaries, 9am on 10th December as all parents and friends are invited to our annual celebration of our student's achievements.

Positive Behaviour for Learning



One of the targets within our 2015-17 school plan is a review of wellbeing in the school. The intention of this review is to look at ways in which the school can improve the acknowledgement of the good behaviour demonstrated by almost all students. Positive Behaviour for Learning sometimes called PB for L is a framework endorsed by the NSW Department of Education. It aims to provide schools with a way of fitting and modifying its existing reward and consequence structures in a way that makes them more visible and directed towards developing positive wellbeing for all students. Miss Sheridan and I just attended two days of training at the lovely Menai Public Schools (also a small 4 class school). There we worked with consultants from the department and other schools to establish the foundations of our planning for the introduction of PB for L.

Expect to hear much more about PB for L in the coming months. Our planning involves community consultation which means that you too could be involved in establishing our PB for L plan.

School Reports

The school is currently preparing your child's semester 2 reports. These reports comprise reporting on a 5 point achievement scale for years 1 to 6 and a 3 point scale for kindergarten. All key learning areas are provided with a comment, an effort level and an achievement level. The levels are reported against the NSW BOSTES syllabi for the stage of learning your child is currently learning. That is: Early Stage 1 for kindergarten; stage 1 for years 1 and 2;

stage 2 for year 3 and 4; and stage 3 for years 5 and 6. The reports were prepared using a combination of formatively and summatively assessed work undertaken during the last semester of learning. No marks were considered for previous periods to ensure that the report is an accurate representation of learning during this semester.

Reports will be handed to students to take home on Friday

Report Overview

Our school reports your child's progress with written reports twice a year and through interviews and meetings.

The written reports reflect the current learning period and are based on a variety of assessment tasks and classroom observations.

We recommend you discuss this report with your child. Congratulate and encourage him or her to continue to strive for improvement in all Key Learning Areas.

The five point achievement scale described below equates to an A-E scale.

Absences have been reported up to .

Assessment of Achievement for all Key Learning Areas

Limited:	L The student has an elementary knowledge and understanding in few areas of the content and has achieved very limited competence in some of the processes and skills.
Basic:	B The student has a basic knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved a limited level of competence in some of the processes and skills.
Sound:	S The student has a sound knowledge and understanding of the content and has achieved an adequate level of competence in the processes and skills.
High:	H The student has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the content and a high level of competence in the processes and skills. In addition, the student is able to apply this knowledge and these skills to most situations.
Outstanding:	O The student has an extensive knowledge and understanding of the content and can readily apply this knowledge. In addition, the student has achieved a very high level of competence in the processes and skills and can apply these skills to new situations.

Effort is shown using the scale Outstanding, High, Satisfactory, Low from most to least effort.

Absences

Whole Days Absent	0
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N. Lavitt
Principal

Your child's report will provide suggestions for areas of improvement and how they might achieve that.

Achievement levels are determined from school based formative and summative assessment.

Includes whole days excluding exempted days and days on school business

December 4th.

This year there will be an opportunity for you to organise a parent teacher interview with your child's teacher.

For this to take place you should directly contact your child's teacher or the school office to make an appointment. This can be done from the beginning of week 9 (Monday November 30).

The graphic to the left includes the information that will be available on the front page of the reports. Note that this will be different for kindergarten children as their achievement will be reported against a 3 point scale.

Swimmingly Good

We would like to congratulate the students who just completed two weeks of intensive swimming lessons. Not only were students very brave in the occasional cold weather but they all made great progress with their swimming. All students participated in rescue activities, stroke correction and water safety lessons.

Those who started as non swimmers on day 1 are now more confident at moving through the water and with assistance can back kick and float. Our more advanced swimmers learnt life saving swimming techniques such as treading water and back sculling. Senior students improved their skills in the deep end of the pool and refined their swimming techniques.

All students will receive a certificate outlining their progress in swimming this semester.

Miss Sheridan



Parents Also Get Awards



We should never forget that parents are a big part of what makes a great school. The investment in a child's education is only enhanced by the participation of those parents in activities at the school and the operation of the school. I fervently believe that when parents invest in their child's education, part of that investment is about supporting and helping the school in any way they can, however small.

With this in mind, it was my great pleasure to nominate one of our departing parents this year for a 2015 Ultimo Networks Principals Awards. Edwina Searle has been a parent at the school for the past 10 years, having watched her daughters Charlotte and Evette grow and learn. She has worked on the P&C as president and led many initiatives in the school including the school canteen which she has take a guiding role in continuing. Well done Edwina who received her award from our Regional Director, Mr Murat Dizdar at a function at the Blackwattle Bay campus for Sydney Secondary College, Glebe.

Mr Lavitt

Can you spell, 'batrachophagous?'

Over the last couple of weeks the students in 3/4T have been having fun with 'exciting' words in their fortnightly spelling lists. We've had words like- funambulist (a tight rope walker), absquatulate (to flee), jillick (to skim a stone across water), Brontide (the low rumbling of distant thunder) and this weeks big word: Batrachophagous- One who eats frogs. Including these words in the students spelling gives them an exciting challenge and broadens their vocabulary. I can't wait to see the students using these words in their narrative writing.... "One day I came upon a princess who was a batrachophagous" said the frog

to his friend the toad. "How did you escape?!" Replied the toad in astonishment. The students have also been learning a dice game that involves them adding in fifties, hundreds and thousands and weighing up the probability of rolling certain combinations. It's been a lot of fun. All of the students did a great job with their SOTT speeches on Tuesday. They had the audience entertained with their different takes on a variety of fairy tales and classic stories.

Miss Thomson

1/2 News - Lest We Forget

Despite having swim scheme for the last two weeks 1/2S have been very busy with lots of learning in class. The students who didn't attend swim scheme had fun with Mrs Milner and Ms Paget Campbell learning about the importance of water safety at the beach and at the pool. I have seen some fantastic posters and art around the school outlining safe and unsafe water behaviours.

Last Wednesday 1/2S Learnt about the importance of Remembrance Day. We read a book called, Lest We Forget

K/1MP News

K1MP have been working hard as always. We will finish our persuasive text writing lessons this week and next week we will begin imaginative text writing. We are looking forward to using our imaginations to write some interesting stories!

In maths this week we are learning fractions. We are learning about halves and quarters of objects and of collections.

Miss Milner

then the students wrote about why Remembrance Day is important. In class we are still continuing with persuasive reading and writing. I hope to share some of these published works with you soon. Even though the term is coming to an end, it's still important that all students keep up with their home reading everyday. Please remind students to bring their books into change.

Miss Sheridan

