



Springwood Public School Newsletter *The Place To Be!*

Term 1 – Week 2

Wednesday 7th February, 2024

WHAT'S ON AT SPS IN 2024

TERM 1 – 2024

TERM 1 WEEK 1

Thursday 1st February
Thursday 1st February
Friday 2nd February

Years 1 – 6 students return.
Kinder Best Start
Kinder Best Start

TERM 1 WEEK 2

Monday 5th February
Tuesday 6th February
Tuesday 6th February
Wednesday 7th February

Kinder Best Start
School Swim Carnival
Kinder Best Start
Kinder start!

TERM 1 WEEK 3

Tuesday 13th February
Thursday 15th February
Thursday 15th February

K-2 Parent Info Evening
3-6 Parent Info Evening
Special Ed Info Afternoon

TERM 1 WEEK 4

Wednesday 21st February

P&C Meeting 7pm

TERM 1 WEEK 5

Monday 26th February

Winmalee High School
Expo Day for Year 6 students.



Hello Everyone and Welcome to the new school year!

Welcome to Springwood PS and a very special welcome to the new families who have joined our school community in 2024. The children have settled very quickly and smoothly into their new classes. We also welcomed all our new Kindergarten students today and they were all eager and ready to begin their schooling journey!

School Captains Alastair and Isla welcoming 2024 Kindergarten students.



Our school staff members have returned ready for another big year at The Place To Be, in addition to a few new members. Here is what our school staffing team looks like for 2024 :

Kindergarten

KM – Mrs Maloney (*Team leader*)
KC – Miss Craig
KS – Mr Savage

Stage 1

1D – Mrs Duffy
1W – Miss West

2M – Mrs Morrison
2W – Mr Wilson (*Assistant Principal*)

Stage 2

3S – Miss Sloan
3WC – Mrs Weston-Cole (*Assistant Principal*)

4C – Mr Cross
4T – Mr Toohey

Stage 3

5GH- Mrs Goodman (*Monday – Thursday*)
Mrs Hoppe (*Friday*)
5R – Mrs Riches
6C – Mr Cleary
6W – Mrs Williamson (*Assistant Principal*)

Special Education Support Classes

Mr Thomson – (*Assistant Principal*)
Mr Mallas
Mr Brandjes

Mrs Hughes (*SLSO*)
Mrs Stapley (*SLSO*)
Mrs Watkins (*SLSO*)

Mr Halpin – Assistant Principal
Curriculum Instruction.

Mrs Manion – Learning Support
Coordinator

Miss Millar – Teacher Librarian

Ms McManus – RFF and Cultural
Studies

Mrs Hoppe – RFF
Mrs Adamski – RFF
Miss Vernon – RFF
Mr Cummins – RFF

Ms Cooper – SLSO
Mrs Walsh – SLSO
Mr Morris – SLSO
Mrs Wood – SLSO
Ms Orgias - SLSO

Mrs Todman – Business Manager
Mrs Barker – School Admin Officer
Mrs Wesley – School Admin Officer

Miss Kim – Cleaner
Miss Jane – Cleaner
Mr Alex – General Assistant

P&C 2024

Our first P&C meeting for 2024 will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 21st of February at the Royal Hotel in Springwood. All Welcome

Parent Information Sessions

Parent information sessions will take place in Week 3. Please see the timetable below for further details:

| STAGE | Date | Time | Location |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Kindergarten | Tuesday 13-2-24 | 6.15pm – 7.15pm | School Hall |
| Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) | Tuesday 13-2-24 | 5pm – 6pm | School Hall |
| Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) | Thursday 15-2-24 | 5pm – 6pm | Mrs Weston- Cole's Room |
| Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6) | Thursday 15-2-24 | 6.15pm – 7.15pm | Mrs Williamson's Room |
| Special Ed Unit | Thursday 15-2-24 | 4.00pm – 5.00pm | Support Unit Class Rooms |

FIRST EVENT FOR 2024!

We haven't even been back for a full week and our wonderful staff have already organised and completed our annual swimming carnival. It was a bit touch and go with the rain hanging around but we managed to do it! Thank you to our wonderfully well behaved students who had a lovely time, rain and all! We are proud of your efforts. Great job Team Springwood, one event down, forty seven to go!

Who do I speak to?

If you have any concerns regarding your child, please don't hesitate to use the following process to address any issues as they arise.

1. The classroom teacher should, where appropriate, always be spoken to first. Contact the school office, leave your name and number and the teacher will return your call asap to discuss the issue over the phone or make a suitable time to meet.

2. Issues that aren't appropriate for the classroom teacher should be directed via the school office to the Assistant Principal of the relevant Year or Stage. The Assistant Principals liaise with the Principal on all school issues.

2024 School Fees

The fee structure for this year is set out as below. Costs have not changed or increased for the last 5 years. We rely on this income to support the programs in the school that we would otherwise not be able to afford to run. These funds give the students the best possible resources to supplement their education.

Voluntary Contribution Fee is:

\$50 for the 1st child,

\$30 for the 2nd child

up to a total of **\$80 per family** (2 or more children).

The Resource Fee is a mandatory payment as we have to pay for these additional supplies for the students.

The fee for each stage, which is called a *Resource Fee* is set at **\$50 per child**.

This includes textbooks, exercise books, a resource pack for use in the classroom, subscriptions to different classroom teaching programs as well as other incidentals as required by students e.g., craft materials, etc.

Statements of Account will be emailed out in the coming weeks – please note that no invoice will be issued. Thank you.



Absences

As the term begins, it is important to remember that regular school attendance is essential for the wellbeing and learning of all students.

If your child is absent from school for all or part of a day, you are required to provide an explanation within 7 days of returning to school. You can do this via the **SCHOOLBYTES** app, email or by sending in a note. **The SCHOOLBYTES app is our preferred notification method.** Absence reminders are sent out daily once the class roll is marked in the morning.

Medication

All medication must be taken to the front office where appropriate paperwork must be completed. Students should not be in possession of medication during the day, with the exception of students suffering from asthma. It is the responsibility of the students to present themselves to the office at the appropriate time, where the office staff will supervise the children taking their medication. Staff are not trained nurses. It is only through goodwill that office staff will supervise children taking medication.

No prescribed medication will be administered to your child without the appropriate paperwork being supplied beforehand.

Lost Property

Every child should have his/her name clearly labelled on all items of clothing, lunch boxes, drink bottles, bags etc. This makes it easy for belongings to be returned to their owners. Anything without a name goes into the lost property box, which is outside the canteen facing the Coolibah Hall.

Care of items brought to school remains the responsibility of the children. The school accepts no responsibility for the loss of any item.

Periodically unclaimed lost uniform items are donated to the clothing pool and then sold for a nominal price.

Parents are strongly advised not to let their children take cherished or expensive items to school.

Settling into Kindy Tips for Parents

It's normal for children to experience some separation anxiety when settling into new environments like starting school. Tearful, overwhelmed and clingy goodbyes at the school gate are common. These big emotions are hard for kids and parents. Putting the right supports and strategies in place can help make it easier on everyone.

The research tells us that when we safely and gradually face our fears— and nothing bad happens—our brain learns that the thing it was scared of is actually not bad or dangerous at all. When children are struggling to attend school because of separation anxiety we have to show them that (a) school is safe and fun (b) their loved ones will still be there for them when the school day is done. Having a predictable routine helps keep anxious feelings under control. This includes your 'goodbye' routine in the morning before school.

It's important not to linger and let your own emotions overwhelm you when you're saying goodbye. If you model contagious calm when it's time to say goodbye, it helps your child feel reassured that there is nothing to worry about. Your ritual with your child might be a quick wave, kiss, or hug and a "see you this afternoon".

Once the ritual is completed it's important to leave and let your child settle in at school.

Be mindful of any additional overwhelming-triggers that might be making it harder for your child to manage their feelings. Even adults find it difficult to regulate their emotions if you:

- Haven't had a good night sleep
- Haven't had breakfast/are hungry
- Are feeling rushed/stressed or that the people around them are stressed

It's not always possible to prevent additional stressors—but the more you can manage these, the more likely your child will experience success with managing their anxious feelings. This might mean no technology on school nights, packing snacks for the drive in the morning, leaving plenty of time to get to school, playing your child's favourite music on the way to school, or even walking to school together if you live close by to get the nervous energy out. Whatever works for your child and your family.

Partial Absences

Please try to avoid partial absences wherever possible as they can create distress for your child and are unsettling and disruptive to the teaching and learning that is happening in the classroom. When the situation is unavoidable, please remember to bring your child to the Burns Rd gate and direct them straight to the front office.

If you need to pick your child up early from school – please enter through the Burns Rd gate and see the office to obtain an early leaver's pass. Your child will be called to the office at this time.

Students who arrive late to the school office without a parent/carer at the gate, or without a note explaining their late arrival, will have their partial absence recorded as Unexplained until a note is sent to the class teacher.

Whole day absences and partial absences will be included in students' semesterly school reports. It is a Departmental requirement that all absences (both full day and partial) are fully documented by classroom teachers.

Teachers appreciate when explanations of absences are provided promptly as following up unexplained absences is time consuming and takes away from teaching, learning and lesson preparation time.

Thank you for your assistance and continued support.

Return and Earn program

In support of Springwood PS's aim to reduce our impact on our fragile environment, we have been implementing resource recovery programs across the school. One of these initiatives is the Return n' Earn program where we separate our drink containers from landfill and take to the depot at Winmalee. Not only does this help educate our students about ways to minimise our environmental impact but earns us some much needed \$\$\$.

On this note, Springwood Bowling Club has agreed to support us by offering their collectable 10c containers. A huge thank you to Springwood Bowling Club!

In order for this program to run smoothly and successfully we need families to collect the containers, take to Winmalee and put through the machine, collect the cash from Coles and bring back to school. The Club requires us to do this on a weekly basis.

If 11 families offer their time and support this means that each family will only need to collect once per term. Obviously the more people who support us, the less work each person needs to do.

For the previous 2 years we have had one amazing family, Sheridan O'Riordan and Liam, who collected our school's receptacles on a bi-termly basis. Even though our Green Team students were amazing at sorting through the often contaminated receptacles, this was still a time consuming and 'sticky' process. I cannot express how much I am in gratitude to the O'Riordan family, whose youngest child has now gone onto high school.

However the containers from the Bowling Club will already be sorted so the 'yucky' part of the process is eradicated!!

If you would like to support this worthwhile program please contact Tracey McManus either via the office or email:

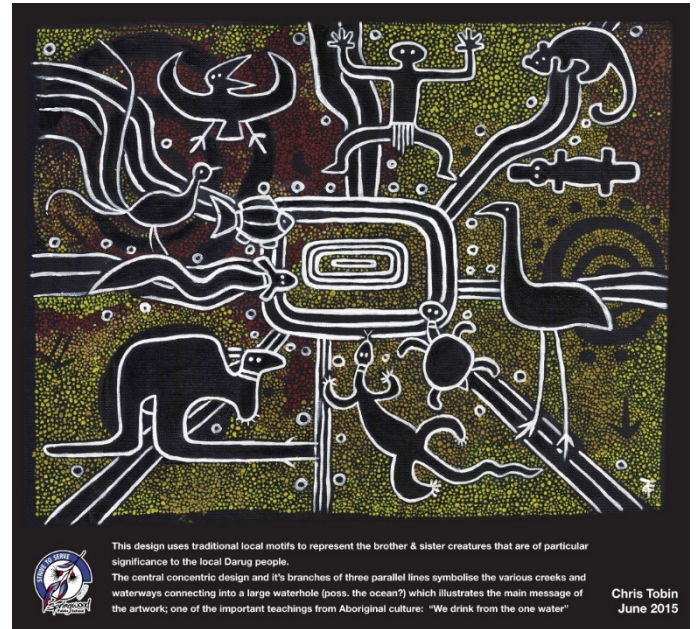
tracey.mcmanus@det.nsw.edu.au or just pop in and say Warami!

Thanking you in anticipation.

Tracey McManus

Teacher

Aboriginal and Dharug dalang educator.



Each fortnight we will have more information about daily life at school through our newsletter. We thank you for your support of our wonderful school and community and we look forward to an amazing year!

**Thanking you,
Mr Mehmet
Principal**