Dear Parents/Carers,

As this is our last newsletter I would like to take this opportunity to Thank one and all for a very happy and worthwhile year. I continue to be amazed and extremely pleased at the wonderful progress our students have made and this progress is clearly detailed in the student reports that go home this Friday.

We have an eventful last few days and please take note that permission slips have been included in this newsletter for Rewards Day (Thursday 11 Dec), Pool Party for Years 3 to 6 (Monday 15 Dec). K-2 Christmas Party (Monday 15 Dec). Our annual Talent Quest will be held on Tuesday afternoon after lunch. A number of teachers will be moving classrooms so there may be some action with regard to this next week as well.

Students finish on Wednesday 17 December. However, teachers continue working on Thursday and Friday with two School Development Days or Pupil-free days. On Thursday all teachers from the Gaalbaba Community of Schools (Nords Wharf, Caves Beach, Swansea, Blacksmiths, Pelican Flat and Marks Point Public Schools and Swansea High School) will be undertaking the Professional Learning course “The Eight Ways Of Learning:” that has special relevance for Aboriginal students, yet has a strong application for all of our students. On Friday teachers will be participating in training on anaphylaxis.

On behalf of the teachers and staff of the school, may I wish all families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

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**Prefects 2015**

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected as Prefects for 2015: Teal Carroll, Ellie Behrend, Riana Galvin, Tom March, Mayson McInnes-Walker, Beau Phillips and Donny Campbell. School Captains will be announced at this Friday's Presentation Day.

**Presentation Day commencing at 10.00am**

This Friday is our annual Presentation Day. At this very special event we acknowledge those students who have excelled at school, demonstrated significant improvement or progress in a specific area of school and have made an outstanding contribution to the school life of peers, friends and other students at Swansea Public School. It is always wonderful to have parents, friends, relatives and community celebrate the hard work of our students - so please come and join us from 10.00am. Our Parent Helpers Morning tea is directly after this event. It is also important that ALL our students come along in FULL school uniform, not sports uniform.

**School Starting Times as from the beginning of the 2015 School Year**

As from the beginning of the 2015 school year, we will be having a teacher on playground duty from 8.30am, not 8.40am. This means that students are able to enter the school grounds from 8.30am. Students who need to be cared for before this time will need to either access our OOSH service or find alternative care arrangements such as friends or relatives to ensure that they do not enter school grounds before a teacher has come on duty at 8.30am.

**Disabled Car Parking at Swansea Public School**

It is important that all our community comply with the laws of parking around a school as it helps to create an area that is safe for all, especially our children who are the most vulnerable particularly if wilfully or neglectfully disregard parking laws. I include a statement regarding the use of disabled car parking:

We are extremely fortunate to have TWO disabled car spaces in our school parking zone, as the original intent was to have provision for only one space. Community advocates put up a very powerful and compelling argument to get TWO disabled car spaces for use by parents, caregivers and our community. We are very grateful for their hard work to achieve this outcome. There are certain legal requirements for those people who require a disabled car space. Needless to say there is a substantial fine for those drivers who park in a disabled car space and are not entitled to do so. These car spaces are only for those drivers who have been approved to hold a disabled car parking permit and this approval process is conducted by medical practitioners due to the medical condition of applicants. Furthermore, to use a disabled car space approved drivers must display the permit, as advised by the Roads and Maritime Services, RMS Customer Service Officer; “It is a condition of use that the permits are displayed on the vehicle when using the parking concessions it provides.” (Email received on 8 December 2014)

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Due to enrolled children’s life threatening Anaphylactic allergic reactions to all nuts and peanut products, we would like to encourage families not to send these products to school with their children. These include peanut butter, Nutella, sesame seeds, loose nuts, muesli, nut or chocolate bars or any products containing any type of nuts.

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**Quality Teaching ... Excellent Facilities ... Enriching Programs**
There is an expectation that all our community will show respect for these conditions.

Library News
Reading Assembly – CONGRATULATIONS to all those students who participated in Premier’s Reading Challenge during 2014. As seen last Friday, many achieved more than expected, earning more than one book prize. PRC has been very successful this year with over 2636 PRC books signed off for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Annual Stocktake – As the library has begun its annual stocktake, borrowing has ceased and library lessons will end this week. Please return all books as soon as possible. This year has been filled with wonderful experiences such as the popular Aaron Blabey school visit, meaningful collaborative learning experiences such as the Stage 3 Chinese New Year and South East Asian Information Literacy Presentations and the Visual Literacy learning experiences of the Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore. The return of regular favourites such as Pete the Cat, CJ and our own school elf, Pippin, have helped make 2014 a memorable and enjoyable year.

Thanks again to our PRC volunteers, Mrs Bonning and Mrs Sara Clack, who make it possible for this wonderful and highly effective program to be an integral part of our students’ school experience at Swansea Public School.

Have a safe holiday and I look forward to more learning and fun next year.

Best wishes
N. Henry (Teacher-Librarian)

Badalya Hut
Last canteen day for 2014 will be on Friday 12 December.
Please note that stock is being reduced in the canteen as from this week and usual items may not be available.
I would like to extend a big Thank You to all the volunteers and children who have helped out in the canteen this term. I am grateful for everybody’s support and input as I found my feet throughout the past few weeks.
I look forward to seeing your smiling faces in 2015.
So keep well, be kind to each other and enjoy!

Debbie

Christmas Goodies at the Canteen
Thursday 11 and Friday 12 December

White Christmas Slice $1.00
Star Jam Biscuits 70¢
Ham and Cheese Pinwheels $1.00
Assorted Christmas Cupcakes $1.00
Mini Trifles $1.00
Christmas Decorated Shortbread 70¢

Canteen is closed every Tuesday

Uniform Shop
The Uniform Shop will be open on Tuesday 27 January 2015, the day before school returns from 9.30-11.30am.

Community Notices
Christmas Food Drive
Thank you to everyone who has donated food to our Christmas food drive. There is still time for those who want to bring in more items. Please donate foods you would like to eat (please check the use by date). Most needed items are:
Canned meat, soup, rice, canned fish, Baked Beans, dry pasta, canned fruits and vegetables, canned juices, spaghetti sauce, jams and spreads and long-life milk.
Donations can be placed in the box at the school office.

In Appreciation, Bella and Hannah Clack