25 February 2015

THIS WEEK... WEEK 5
Thu 26/2: Head Lice Check
Fri 27/2: Clean Up Australia Activity for schools
Sun 1/3: Salt Water Markets at Swansea Public School

NEXT WEEK... WEEK 6
Tue 3/3: Aboriginal Committee Meeting 2-3pm
Thu: 5/3: Evacuation Drill

WEEK 7
Wed 11/3: P&C meeting and AGM at 7pm
The Principal of Swansea High School will be our special guest - please come along and listen to Robyn describe the plans and programs that happen at Swansea High School
School Disco K-2: 6.30-7pm and Yrs 3-6, 7-9pm
Fri 13/3: Paul Harragon Cup – Rugby League

WEEK 8
Wed 18/3: Year 6 “Taster Lessons” at Swansea High School
Thu 19/3: School Photo Day

WEEK 9
Tue 24/3: PSSA Eastlakes Zone OZTAG Gala day for students in Yrs 3-6 only
Mon 30/3: Premiers Sporting Leadership Day for nominated Year 6 students at Swansea High School
Thu 2/4: Easter Hat Parade
Sun 5/4: Saltwater Markets at Swansea Public School

Canteen closed on Tuesdays

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Do you think our school grounds are looking good? Thanks to our newly appointed General Assistant, Matthew Hartley, they are looking much better - thanks Matt for all your work. Our new garden area along Galgabba Street and our vegie garden are looking lovely as well. Thanks to the March family for donating a grapefruit tree to add to our Fruit Forest area.

Please note our P&C AGM is on the same night as the School Disco. We will have a light supper at the P&C meeting and Robyn Leggatt, Principal of Swansea High School, will be our special guest.

Apology. I apologise to both Mrs Robyn Leggatt and Stage 3 parents who expected Mrs Leggatt at the Stage 3 parent teacher meeting - I provided the wrong date to Mrs Leggatt. Thank you for your understanding.

My Time - Parent Support Group and PlaygroupLast week I had a visit from Nicole Bennett who is very keen to start up a local support group and playgroup for parents and carers of children with a disability or chronic medical condition. Parents can socialise and share ideas with others who understand the rewards and intensity of the caring role. For more information go to www.mytime.net.au

If you are interested please contact me by phone, email or directly (face to face) or contact Nicole on 0411 191 298.

Parking and Traffic Issues in the School Zone
I have been receiving complaints from parents and neighbours about some of the traffic issues that have been happening in our school zone. These complaints include:
• Children crossing Galgabba and Rawson Streets unaccompanied by adults – sometimes children are going between cars which is very dangerous especially if the cars are NOT stationary;
• Children under 10 years of age riding their bike or scooter to and from school and unaccompanied by an adult and/or without a helmet;
• Drivers doing U-turns in Galgabba Street in front of the school driveway and gate;
• Drivers parking across the school driveway areas to drop off and pick up their children;
• Drivers parking in front of the units on the corner of Galgabba and Rawson Streets.

Recent publicity in the media around school zones means that this is a hot topic and worthy of attention. Drivers need to be aware that there are hefty fines for some of the issues described above, besides the fact that children are often placed in danger due to lack of care and negligence due to drivers.

Please help keep all our students safe!

FINAL Reminder: Head Lice Check - Thursday 26 February
I will be conducting a head lice check this Thursday 26 February. I have always had great support for these checks from parents and caregivers over the past eight years. I usually do only TWO per school year; however I may conduct extra checks if there is a widespread outbreak.

To clarify this process:
• The check is undertaken as per advice from Hunter Area Health.
• The check is by no means a thorough check and it also involves a talk to students about preventative measures to avoid head lice.
• I am the only person from Swansea Public School that conducts a head lice check.
• If you do not wish your child to have their hair checked, please contact me by phone or in writing before 26 February.

Reminder - The Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey
- For students in Years 4 to 6 only
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the State, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning

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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outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

The survey is a great opportunity for our students in Years 4, 5 and 6 to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

Champion Class - 1/KB

Class Champions – Week 4, Term 1
KA Isobel Turner 1/KB Shayla McKeown
1T Raphaelle Lundy 2G Zac Kentwell
2B Rory Seve

Library News
Chinese New Year “2015” Year of the Goat

It was lovely to hear that some students and their families went into Honeysuckle for the ‘Light up Newcastle’ festival last Saturday. Unfortunately, it was not as organised as I hoped but there were still some fun activities to watch and participate in. I managed to get some great video of the Lion Dance Team and I will be sharing this with all the classes this week.

Kung Hey Fat Choi! Happy Chinese New Year!

Keep reading - N. Henry (Teacher-Librarian)

Badalya Hut

Canteen Roster

| Thu 28/2 | Alyssa | Fri 27/2 | Peggy
| Mon 2/3 | VANCANT – NEED VOLUNTEERS | Tue 3/3 | Rosemary

Apology: There was a mistake on the recent canteen menu. The Red Licorice sticks are 30c each with a limit of 3 sticks per child per day.

Canteen is closed on Tuesdays

SOUTHERN BEACHES JUNIOR RUGBY
AGES 7 to 18
REGISTRATIONS

EVERY FRIDAY IN FEBRUARY
5 – 6.30PM

Allen Davis Fields
OFF WILLOW STREET GATEHAMPTON
TRY RUGBY OR PLAY TOUCH RUGBY FOR FREE

Paul Doran: 0477 687 519
FACEBOOK - SOUTHERN BEACHES JUNIOR RUGBY

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