Dear Parents,

Welcome back for what I predict will be a bumper term. As I look over the Term 2 calendar I have a feeling it’s going to be a very fast ride. In addition to our class-based learning opportunities, we also have numerous activities to further extend our students’ skills e.g. Life Education, gymnastics and athletics.

**Staffing Update**
The conclusion of Term 1 was an emotional time for staff & students at Soldiers Point as we farewelled the beautiful Mrs Wildman, who decided it was time to retire after a distinguished career as teacher & assistant principal. I sincerely thank Mrs Wildman for all she brought to Soldiers Point over the past 10 years and wish her a long and healthy retirement.

With Mrs Wildman’s retirement, I warmly welcome Mrs Rachel Wagland to SPPS as our new assistant principal. Mrs Wagland has come to us from Anna Bay Public School. I am sure the beautiful 1/2W will help Mrs Wagland settle in to life at Soldiers Point very quickly.

Whilst on staffing, Mrs Freeman shall be taking long service leave for the first half of Term 2. Miss Condon will be teaching 1/2F during this time.

**School Hours**
I remind all families that our school hours are:

*8:55 AM – 2:55 PM.*

Parents should refrain from dropping their children at school before 8:25 AM and ensure they are collected soon after the 2:55 PM bell to go home. Students arriving at school before 8:25 AM will not be supervised by school staff.

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**ANZAC Support**
I extend a mighty thank you to our students, staff & parents who braved the elements to join us for this year’s ANZAC Day service. Unfortunately, due to the wet weather, the march had to be cancelled and the service moved inside the Nelson Bay Bowling Club.

We had 13 students attend the service along with Mrs Robinson, Ms Shand, Mrs Dawson and some very supportive families. I congratulate our students for the respectful manner in which they attended the service; they were wonderful ambassadors for our school. Thank you to the parents who came along to support, too.

As a school we commemorated ANZAC Day on the last day of Term 1. We were fortunate to have Sgt Paul Robins (pictured below) from Williamtown RAAF Base visit to address our students. We also had Mick Sealby from the Nelson Bay RSL Sub-branch in attendance along with several other members, which added to the occasion.

Above is a photo taken by Mr Lavers following our school ANZAC assembly where Josh (Year 5) played the Last Post.
Sports Update
The rescheduled date for our school Athletics Carnival is **Tuesday, May 6**. The carnival will be held at Dick Burwell Oval, Salamander Bay.

Over the next few weeks we have several teams competing in a range of sports:
- **Our boys’ cricket team will be playing Tanilba Bay on May 1**;
- **Our rugby team will be playing in the their 7’s Knockout on May 8**;
- **Our boys’ softball team will be playing Seaham on May 9**.

I will also take this opportunity to mention that Friday, May 23 is **Walk Safely to School Day** across NSW. I encourage parents to slip on their joggers and walk to school with their children discussing important road rules on the way. If you live a little further away from the school you may like to ride your bike instead.

Annual Report
Each year all schools are required to prepare an Annual School Report, which provides the wider community with information about school programs as well as our academic achievements throughout the year. The Soldiers Point Annual School Report has been completed and uploaded to the school’s website for all to enjoy. I encourage parents to have a read of the report which can be found at [www.soldierspt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.soldierspt-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

NAPLAN 2014
Our Year 3 and 5 students will soon be undertaking the National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The dates are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Language Conventions &amp; Writing</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 15</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 16</td>
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</table>

We wish all our Year 3 and 5 students well with their assessment tasks.

Opportunity Class Placement – 2015
Applications are now open and must be submitted by Friday 16th May. **Information has been sent home today to all Year 4 students.**
Term 2 – Week 6

Monday 2nd June
Tuesday 3rd June
Wednesday 4th June
Thursday 5th June
Friday 6th June

Gymnastics
UNSW Science
Gymnastics

Term 2 – Week 7

Monday 9th June
Tuesday 10th June
Wednesday 11th June
Thursday 12th June
Friday 13th June

Public Holiday
Gymnastics
Gymnastics

Term 2 – Week 8

Monday 16th June
Tuesday 17th June
Wednesday 18th June
Thursday 19th June
Friday 20th June

UNSW Writing
UNSW Spelling
Gymnastics
Gymnastics

Term 2 – Week 9

Monday 23rd June
Tuesday 24th June
Wednesday 25th June
Thursday 26th June
Friday 27th June

Gymnastics
Gymnastics
Last Day of Term 2

Term 3 – Week 1

Monday 14th July
Tuesday 15th July
Wednesday 16th July
Thursday 17th July
Friday 18th July

SDD Day
Students return K-6

Primary Athletics Carnival
Will now be held on Tuesday 6th May.
No changes have been made to the organisation of the carnival.
Please contact the school if you need further information.

HAVE YOU MOVED OVER THE HOLIDAYS?

Have you changed your telephone or mobile numbers?
Have your child’s medical details changed?
If so …….. can you please contact the office to update your details.

Helen O’Grady Drama Academy
Salamander Bay 2014

“Increase your child’s communication skills, self-confidence and creative talents.
Drama Classes – 2014 at Tomaree Primary Hall (Mondays)
Principal: Shane Skerly – 4969 2338
dramacorp@bigpond.com

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Friday 2nd May – 1.30pm
Councillor Induction ~ Hosted by 5/6SB

Friday 9th May – 1.30pm
Whole School K-6 ~ Hosted by 3/4A

All Welcome
Upcoming events

Annual disco
Friday 13th June 2014. Mark your calendars! If you can help out on the night (and before) please let us know sppspo@live.com.au. More information to come in future newsletters.

Twilight markets
Pencilled in for Term 4 2014. We are looking for volunteers to be a part of a fundraising committee to guide and help make this and other events possible. Let us know if you want to be involved by texting Anna (0414 672 262) or Trish (0425 336 934).

Uniform shop
The Uniform Shop is open:
• every Tuesday morning from 8.30–9.30am and
• every Friday afternoon from 2.15–3.15pm.
We accept cash or cheque only for purchases.

2014 SPPS Tea Towels
The SPPS Tea Towels have been a huge success! The ordered items are packed and ready for distribution in the first week back at school (Friday 9th May).
If you missed out on ordering your exclusive SPPS tea towels, let us know if you would like to order for a second round. Aprons are also available.

A wonderful Mother’s Day gift for mums, grandmothers and other special people in your life.

Upcoming meetings
• SIJC meeting is on Wednesday 7 May. The meetings are an opportunity for families to provide input and comment on changes to school policies, support the capital works program and assist in preparing proposals to obtain additional funding.
• P&C meeting is on Tuesday 8 May.
Both meetings are at 7pm in the School Administration building. Minutes from previous meetings can be found at http://spps.poweely.com/meetings.html
All welcome.

Canteen
Roster:
Wed 30/4 Belinda Lavers
Thu 1/5 Year 8: Madeleine L, Patje D
Fri 2/5 Liz Dannison, Lauren Fuller, Deanne Cosgrove
Mon 5/5 Rebecca Dodd
Wed 7/5 Bakk Paradisis, Tiala Jones
Thu 8/5 Year 8: Mandela A, Tiana O
Fri 9/5 Rabekah Newell, Lauren Fuller
Mon 12/5 Julie Thomson

A copy of the roster will be sent home on Wednesday, please let me know if you aren’t available on your day.

The Athletics Carnival is scheduled for Tuesday 6/5 and anyone willing to help provide a sausage sizzle for the kids would be greatly appreciated as I am not available that day. Let me know on 0448 771 336 if you can help out.
Paula

The DISCOUNT CARD for Port Stephens LOCALS
Locals...SAVE MONEY
Cards only $12, Savings worth HUNDREDS

GET YOUR CARD online at www.luckylocals.com.au
Your card is sent to your home - valid for 12 full months of savings
Enter your school’s fundraising code when ordering/registering
YOUR SCHOOL RECEIVES $2.00 FROM EVERY CARD PURCHASED
Our school community is committed to providing a supportive learning environment which promotes success & equity.

**SCHOOLS AS COMMUNITY CENTRES PROGRAM**
Anna Bay Public School
191 Gan Gan Road Anna Bay NSW 2316
T 4982 1767 M 0477 450 512 F 4982 2371
E jacqueline.orwell@det.nsw.edu.au

**Term Two 2014**

**Bringing up Great Kids**
This six week program gives parents, grandparents and other carers, suggestions on creating positive, respectful relationships with the children in their care.

During the program we look at:
- Beliefs and values about parenting
- Early brain development
- Effective communication skills and understanding the messages of behaviour
- Ways for carers to look after themselves
- Promoting children’s positive self-esteem

**ADVENTURES IN THE GARDEN**
FREE FUN for Children aged 0–5 years.
Come along any Thursday morning from 9.30 am for special craft activities / story time and outdoor fun or to be involved in the nurturing of our garden.

**Young Parents Network**
**THE ANNA BAY YOUNG PARENTS GROUP**
For all parents who are under 25 years old. Come along with your children to meet other parents, share your experiences, join in some activities or sit back and relax - it's up to you!
TIME: 10.30 am–12 noon
DATES: Every Tuesday (restarts May 6)
For more information or to RSVP Contact: Katelyn @ YPN on 0439 750 310

**Toys on Tap**
**TOY & BOOK LIBRARY**
Providing quality toys, books & resources.
Open weekdays during school term 9.00 AM – 11.00 AM.

**PLAYGROUPS RESTART ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP:</th>
<th>Monday May 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLAY to LEARN:</td>
<td>Tuesday May 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLAY CONNECT:</td>
<td>Wednesday April 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>READY SET FOR SCHOOL:</td>
<td>Friday May 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BABY PLAY:</td>
<td>Monday May 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COURSE STARTING DATES THIS TERM:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW PARENTS GROUP:</th>
<th>Thursday May 22</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BABY MASSAGE:</td>
<td>Friday May 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS:</td>
<td>Monday May 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMPLOYMENT TASTER COURSE:</td>
<td>Wed April 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOY &amp; BOOK LIBRARY:</td>
<td>School Days: 9 am – 11 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADVENTURES IN THE GARDEN:</td>
<td>Every Thurs @ 9.30am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MEETING DATES THIS TERM:**

| YOUNG PARENTS NETWORK: | Every Tues @10.30 am |
| BAY GAPS (Grandparents as Parents): | Every Wed @10 am |
| WORLD CAFÉ: | Thurs June 19 @ 1 pm |
| G4 Gardening Group: | Every Thurs @ 9.30 am |
| G4 Gardening Group Committee: | Thurs May 15 @ 1 pm |

**TAFE OUTREACH AT GAN GAN FAMILY CENTRE EMPLOYMENT TASTER COURSE**
This is an EIGHT session FREE course for parents, carers and community members looking to return to the workforce.
This course will provide participants with confidence, focus & pathways to pursue their goals whilst gaining an insight into a variety of career paths available in Port Stephens.
Starts: Wednesday 30th April
Time: 12 noon – 2.30 pm
FREE Childcare. Ring 4982 1767