Dear Parents,

One of our school goals is to increase student engagement. By this I am referring to the degree of curiosity or interest that students show when they are learning or being taught, which also extends to the level of motivation they have to learn new concepts and skills.

You will know yourself that learning is easier when you’re interested in what you’re doing. Our challenge as teachers is to provide learning opportunities which are practical, relevant & fun. We are also keen to provide recognition for our students’ achievements.

Two highly engaging learning opportunities occurred last week which culminated in some great achievements.

On Monday night, many of our talented musicians, who are tutored by Bianca Wilson and Jade Rawlinson entertained parents, family members and friends. The audience was treated to a feast of music by soloists, duets and both Concert and Rock bands. The students displayed great skill & confidence.

Congratulations to all involved.

Last Monday, some of our Year 4 and Year 5 students were given the opportunity to participate in a DigiEd workshop held in our school hall. The students worked in small groups to create their own short Claymation films.

Throughout the day, they were able to experience the entire Claymation process, from planning their story (narrative), making their clay models, background design, photography and movie editing. The students found the workshop to be highly engaging and enjoyable.
Term 4 Dates

Term 4 – Week 7

| Monday 16th November | Intensive Swimming Yr 2 |
| Tuesday 17th November | Intensive Swimming Yr 2 |
| Wednesday 18th November | Intensive Swimming Yr 2 |
| Thursday 19th November | Concert Band Performing at Salamander Shopping Centre from 11:00 |
| Friday 20th November | Intensive Swimming Yr 2 |

Term 4 – Week 8

| Monday 23rd November | Orientation for Kinder 2016 |
| Tuesday 24th November | Scripture Assembly @ 1:30 |
| Wednesday 25th November | Orientation for Kinder 2016 |
| Thursday 26th November | Thinkfest (OC) |
| Friday 27th November | Orientation for Kinder 2016 |

Term 4 – Week 9

| Monday 30th November | Orientation for Kinder 2016 |
| Tuesday 1st December | Orientation for Kinder 2016 |
| Wednesday 2nd December | OC Information Session @ 2:00 |
| Thursday 3rd December | Orientation for Kinder 2016 |
| Friday 4th December | Parent Information Session @ THS for Students Entering Year 7 |
| Tuesday 8th December | Year 6 Orientation @ THS |
| Wednesday 9th December | Twilight Bandstand |
| Thursday 10th December | Student Recognition Assembly |

Term 4 – Week 11

| Monday 14th December | Year 6 Farewell |
| Tuesday 15th December | Stage 3 Cinema Visit |
| Wednesday 16th December | Term 4 Concludes for students |
| Thursday 17th December | |
| Friday 18th December | |

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Week 7 – No Assembly

Week 8 – Friday 27th November
K-6
Hosted by 5/6SB

Upcoming Events & Reminders

Band & Choir – Will be performing at Salamander Shopping Centre outside Kmart on Thursday 19th November at 11.00am. Band students please wear your Band T-shirts and selected choir members please wear full school uniform.

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Twilight Bandstand – Band & Rock Band members

Thursday 3rd December – 5.30pm – 7.30pm. A musical showcase of all our local schools. Please return orders and payment to the office by 23rd November.

Bus Passes for 2016 – please see flyer that will be sent home with the oldest child.
State Cricket

Congratulations to Baeden (5/6SB) for his selection in the Hunter Region Boys’ Cricket Team who recently competed in the State PSSA Competition in Barooga in the Riverina area of NSW. Below is a report by Baeden about his experience.

In October I went to Barooga to compete in the State cricket competition. Barooga is about 8 1/2 hours from Port Stephens. I was picked as a bowler in the Hunter PSSA team. There were 12 people in our team from all over the Hunter region.

We played four games in total, each game had 50 overs.

Our first game was against Combined Independent Schools (CIS). We won the toss and bowled first, restricting them to 126 runs. We only made 50 runs. My bowling figures for that game were 2 wickets for 7 runs.

Our second game was against Western, we lost to them but I bowled someone out.

Our third game we won against Barrier, which is Lightning Ridge and all those places near the NSW/QLD border. I got one wicket in this game as well.

Our fourth and final game was against North West. We lost but I got another wicket, caught at mid-off.

Out of the 14 teams competing, I was the 12th highest wicket taker.

I had a lot of fun, having a week off school, making new friends and playing cricket all week.

Library Information

Library is now closed for borrowing until the end of the year, due to stocktake. Please return any books that you have borrowed.

Overdue notices will be sent home next week.

Thank you Mrs Meriman

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Bookclub

Due Monday 23rd November

If you wish to order as a “surprise”, please indicate on the top of your form that you wish to pick up from the office.

Thank you
Twilight Bandstand
Some terrific prizes have been organised by Trish Bray for the upcoming Twilight Bandstand at SPPS. All proceeds will go towards purchasing some more music equipment for our talented students. The raffle prizes include:
- Jack’s Music have donated a ukulele with soft case
- Muso’s Corner have donated an acoustic guitar with hard case, and
- Lizotte’s have donated a voucher for a Dinner & Show.
Tickets will be on sale at the Twilight Bandstand event held at SPPS on Thursday 3rd December. Prices are 1 ticket for $2 or 3 tickets for $5.
If you’re not coming to the Bandstand Event but would like to buy some raffle tickets, please let us know. (Anna 0414 672 252 or Trish 0425 336 934.) Or let us know via our Facebook page!

Meetings (final meetings of 2016!)
Next SIFC meeting: 
Wednesday 2nd December at 7pm.
Next P&C meeting: 
Tuesday 8th December at 7pm.
All welcome in the Admin Building.

School canteen
Thank you to Leanne Benbow, Michelle Campbell, Deanne Cosgrove, Cassandra Butterworth, Rebekah Newell and Karen Jones for all their help over the last two weeks.

Roster for the next four weeks:
Wed 18/11 Megan Hunt
Thur 19/11 Yr 6: Katie S, Jayde B
Fri 20/11 Deanne Cosgrove, HELP NEEDED
Mon 23/11 Leanne Benbow
Wed 25/11 HELP NEEDED
Thu 26/11 Yr 6: Layla E, Kara-Jade B
Fri 27/11 Deanne Cosgrove, Rebekah Newell, Daniellle Whitmore
Mon 30/11 Karen Jones, Leanne Benbow
Wed 2/12 Michelle Campbell, Deanne Cosgrove
Thur 3/12 Yr 6: Halle N, Cheyenne U
Fri 4/12 Deanne Cosgrove, Rebekah N, Danielle Whitmore
Mon 7/12 Cassandra Butterworth

Creative Play Spaces update
Works for the new play equipment are starting early in January, with the playground installation happening in early 2016.
Come to our next School Improvement and Finance Committee (SIFC) meeting on Wednesday 2nd Dec to get the latest updates.

Uniform shop
The Uniform Shop is open:
- Tuesday from 8.30–9.30am and
- Friday from 2.15–3.15pm.

Kindy 2016 orientation
Tea and Tissues is being held on Kindy’s first day – Wednesday 3rd February from 8.30-10.30am. This is a great opportunity to welcome the new families to SPPS.
If you are currently a Year 1 or 2 parent and would like to help out with time and/or food donations, please let us know. A note will be coming home soon with more details.

P&C Facebook page
SURF & SUP GROMS WITH PORT STEPHENS SURF SCHOOL

Weet-Bix SurfGroms:

Weet-Bix SurfGroms offers an 9 hour surfing program delivered by licensed Surfing Australia Surf Schools and their highly qualified instructors. There will be a significant focus on ocean awareness and beach safety skills, with understanding surf conditions, surf etiquette, first aid, and rescue skills all built into 5 achievement levels of Weet-Bix SurfGroms. But above all, kids will have fun learning the skills that will give them the confidence to become a surfer for life.

Every participant will receive a free Quiksilver or Roxy backpack containing a rash-vest, sun-hat, Weet-Bix plastic bowl, Toyota wax comb, Nikon camera offer and Banana Boat Kids SPF 50+ 240mL finger spray and magnet.

Parents can find their closest delivery centre and register their child at the Weet-Bix SurfGroms website, www.surfgroms.com and search under postcode 2316.

PORT STEPHENS SURF SCHOOL
Phone – 0411 419 576
Email – info@portstephenssurfsschool.com
Website – portstephenssurfsschool.com