Dear Parents,

The staff and I welcome all families to Soldiers Point Public School for the 2015 school year. I trust you have had an enjoyable Christmas and summer break with many exciting, family adventures.

It has been terrific to see how well the students have settled into school so quickly following their holiday. Last week I spent time in the playground talking with students about their holiday escapades, which is always a treat. The students really have started the year in a happy and helpful manner.

As you are no doubt aware, we are now in our 2015 classes. We thank you for your patience and support at the start of each year as we fine tune our school organisation. Our student population has increased a little more than we anticipated with our enrolment standing at 371.

With this growth in student numbers, we’ve established a 15th class. The new class will be a Year 4/5 composite. I am currently arranging for a new classroom to be installed which will take several weeks and, as a result, one of our Stage 3 classes will be working in the library until the new classroom is operational.

At the start of each school year it can take some students a little while to adjust to their new setting so it’s really important that, as parents, we encourage our child to accept change by focusing on the positive aspects of their new environment i.e. a new teacher, new classroom and an opportunity to make new friends. All of our teachers are very aware of this transition and manage it with understanding and are keen to work with children to overcome this initial challenge.

Staffing

In addition to welcoming many new students to SPPS, we also welcome a number of new staff. Joining us in 2015 are:

- Ms Champion – teaching KC;
- Ms Condon – teaching 5/6C; and
- Ms Ensbey – teaching 4/5E.

Mrs Pitkin is also with us teaching Mr Gibson’s class as he’s currently on long service leave.

Our Student Leaders

As I mentioned at the end of 2014 following our student election, our school captains for 2015 are Abbie & Jake (below), who will be supported by prefects: Jade, Ezra, Cameron, Charlotte, Pearl and Dylan.

Swimming Carnival

Our 2015 swimming carnival will be held this Thursday, February 5, at Tomaree Aquatic Centre. All primary students (8 years or above) are expected to attend. More details have been forwarded home along with a Permission Note.
## Term Dates

### Term 1 – Week 1
- **Tuesday 27th January**: Staff Development Day
- **Wednesday 28th January**: Years 1-6 Return to School
- **Thursday 29th January**: Best Start for Kinder
- **Friday 30th January**: Best Start for Kinder

### Term 1 – Week 2
- **Monday 2nd February**: Kindergarten Start
- **Tuesday 3rd February**: Tea & Tissues
- **Wednesday 4th February**: School Improvement & Finance Committee Meeting
- **Thursday 5th February**: Swimming Carnival

### Term 1 – Week 3
- **Monday 9th February**: P&C Meeting @ 7:00
- **Tuesday 10th February**: P&C Meeting @ 7:00
- **Wednesday 11th February**: P&C Meeting @ 7:00
- **Thursday 12th February**: Selective High School Test
- **Friday 13th February**: Welcome BBQ

### Term 1 – Week 4
- **Monday 16th February**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)
- **Tuesday 17th February**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)
- **Wednesday 18th February**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)
- **Thursday 19th February**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)
- **Friday 20th March**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)

### Term 1 – Week 5
- **Monday 23rd March**: Term 1 Concludes
- **Tuesday 24th March**: Term 1 Concludes
- **Wednesday 25th March**: Term 1 Concludes
- **Thursday 26th March**: Term 1 Concludes
- **Friday 27th March**: Term 1 Concludes

### Term 1 – Week 6
- **Monday 2nd March**: School Improvement & Finance Committee Meeting @ 7:00
- **Tuesday 3rd March**: School Improvement & Finance Committee Meeting @ 7:00
- **Wednesday 4th March**: School Improvement & Finance Committee Meeting @ 7:00
- **Thursday 5th March**: School Improvement & Finance Committee Meeting @ 7:00
- **Friday 6th March**: School Improvement & Finance Committee Meeting @ 7:00

### Term 1 – Week 7
- **Monday 9th March**: P&C Meeting @ 7:00
- **Tuesday 10th March**: P&C Meeting @ 7:00
- **Wednesday 11th March**: Selective High School Test
- **Thursday 12th March**: Selective High School Test
- **Friday 13th March**: Selective High School Test

### Term 1 – Week 8
- **Monday 16th March**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)
- **Tuesday 17th March**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)
- **Wednesday 18th March**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)
- **Thursday 19th March**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)
- **Friday 20th March**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)

### Term 1 – Week 9
- **Monday 23rd March**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)
- **Tuesday 24th March**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)
- **Wednesday 25th March**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)
- **Thursday 26th March**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)
- **Friday 27th March**: Interrelate Classes (TBC)

### Term 1 – Week 10
- **Monday 30th March**: Term 1 Concludes
- **Tuesday 31st March**: Term 1 Concludes
- **Wednesday 1st April**: Term 1 Concludes
- **Thursday 2nd April**: Term 1 Concludes
- **Friday 3rd April**: Term 1 Concludes

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**SCHOOL ASSEMBLY**

**Friday 6th February – 1.30pm**

*Councillor Induction*

*Hosted by SRC*

*K-6*

**Friday 13th February – 1.30pm**

*K – 2 School Assembly*

*All Welcome*
**Book Packs**

Book Packs are ready and available for purchase from the school’s office. The cost of book packs is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>$85.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>$85.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>$85.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity Class</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payments for book packs can be paid at the office, sent in with your child or paid over the phone with a credit card. I remind parents that book packs can be paid by instalments (each term) or financial assistance is available via application. Please call the office if you wish to apply for financial assistance.

Following your child’s book pack being purchased they will be held at school and delivered to your child’s classroom. Teachers will also be issuing a note informing you if books require covering or if there are additional stationery requirements.

**What’s in a Book Pack?**

Book Packs include stationery items your child will require throughout the year including: text books, exercise books and additional equipment, such as pens, pencils, glue, ruler etc.

In 2015, Stage 3’s Book Pack cost also includes a subscription to Mathletics, which students will be using instead of a text book for mathematics.

It’s also important to note that a voluntary technology contribution of $25.00 is included in the cost of each book pack. The funds we receive from your technology contribution go toward the purchase and maintenance of our technological equipment across the school. For example, as we will be gaining a new library and a new classroom this year, we plan to install interactive whiteboards into both rooms at a cost of approximately $16,000.00.

**Organisation for 2015**

SPPS will have 15 classes in 2013. The staff and I have worked very hard to create optimal class groupings, which are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KC</td>
<td>Ms Champion</td>
<td>HB1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KM</td>
<td>Mrs Miller</td>
<td>HB2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/1F</td>
<td>Mrs Freeman</td>
<td>Room 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2E</td>
<td>Mrs Egan</td>
<td>HB3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2L</td>
<td>Ms Strassmeir</td>
<td>HB4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2S</td>
<td>Mr Silva</td>
<td>HB5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2H</td>
<td>Mrs Hendley (M,T,T,F) Mrs Hunt (W)</td>
<td>Room 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3N</td>
<td>Mr Nix</td>
<td>Room 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>Mrs Aitchison</td>
<td>Room 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4W</td>
<td>Mrs Wagland</td>
<td>Room 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5W</td>
<td>Ms Ensbey</td>
<td>Room 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6SB</td>
<td>Mrs Sproule (M,T) Mrs Baxter (W,T,F)</td>
<td>HB6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>Ms Condon</td>
<td>Library (for a few weeks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6P</td>
<td>Ms Pawley</td>
<td>HB7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6G</td>
<td>Mr Gibson</td>
<td>HB8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The classes will be supported by Mrs Dawson, Ms Cornwell (Reading Recovery) and Mrs Merriman (library). Mrs Fuimaono is our learning and support teacher. Mr Holloway and Mrs Millard are our learning support officers.

The office will be ably managed by Mrs Sherman who will be supported by Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Dowker.

Mr Clements is our school counsellor again this year and he will be working at Soldiers Point each Thursday. Mrs Robinson is our Defence School Transition Aide, and Mrs Shotter is our school chaplain.
**Students’ Medical Information for 2015**

If your child has a current Asthma Plan, Anaphlaxis Plan, Allergies or any other known medical condition, can you please ensure that the school office has all the correct information.

Please ring Simone or Bronwyn to update or check what information we have.

Thank you

**BUS PASSES – 2015**

If your child is in year 3, they must apply for a new pass for 2015 if they are eligible.

All passes can be picked up from the Port Stephens Coaches, Port Stephens Drive, Anna Bay.

Thank you

**From the Office ………..**

If your child requires regularly medication at school or has an asthma or medical plan, please come to the office to check if details are correct.

If you have a new home address or changed personal or emergency phone numbers please let us know ASAP. This is imperative for your child’s welfare and safety.

Bus Passes can be picked up from Port Stephens coaches until Friday 8th Feb. Bus passes not picked up will be sent out to the school. Don’t forget if you child has gone into Year 3 they will need to complete a new application.

The office accepts cash, cheque or EFTPOS for all school payments (excluding uniform shop).

Thank you

**Parking and Student Collection**

For the safety of all school children your care and support of road rules is necessary. Please remember that it is illegal to stop or park your vehicle on or near any pedestrian crossing. Drivers should park safely in designated areas i.e. Cromarty Road & Bagnall Avenue, even if it means walking a little further to the school gates. Always drop-off and pick-up your children from the school’s designated ‘Kiss and Drop’ zone, which is located just south of the pedestrian crossing on Bagnall Avenue. Please note that these signs also indicate times.

Parking unsafely can put children’s lives at risk. Please assist by avoiding the following behaviours:

- Calling children across the road;
- Dropping / collecting children on the wrong side of the road;
- Dropping / collecting children in the staff car park;
- Turning your vehicle in the school driveway;
- Leaving children in a vehicle without supervision;
- Double parking;
- Parking in a bus zone;
- Making an illegal U-turn; and
- Exceeding the School Zone speed limit of 40km.

Please be aware that Port Stephens Council Rangers regularly visit our area to observe traffic movement and parking. The rangers will issue infringements for the above unsafe behaviour.

**Mosquitoes**

With the current humid conditions we’ve been experiencing, the mosquito population is thriving. In order to minimize your child being bitten, we encourage parents to spray or roll on an insect repellent, such as aerogard, before sending them to school.
**Soldiers Point about to be rocked with its first musical!**

Yes! it is now official! Save the date for Soldiers Point's first musical 'A space Oddity: 2015'. A SCI FI, mystery where the typical baddies want to take over the universe!

September 3 and 4 are the dates set down for the performances and auditions for years 3-6 will be held this week.

A meeting was held today with interested children and they will be bringing home a permission note with all relevant information to sign. *This note is due back 4th February. No late notes will be accepted.*

Looking forward to seeing you there!
Rachel Wagland

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**MUSIC 2015**

**WELCOME BACK MUSOS!!** ..Hope you all had a great holiday and are ready to ROCK ON again in 2015!

Rock Band and music tuition will start back on Thursday 5th February at 8:00am.

I also welcome all students who currently have music tuition or prior experience with playing an instrument to join Rock Band. We are looking for vocalists, drummers and bass players......All students must bring their own instrument(Including amps and cables unless playing bass guitar, drums or keyboard).

Last year we lost two amazing drummers to High School, so this year we are looking for experienced drummers to audition for rock band and concert band! Auditions will be on Thursday 5th February at 8:40am in the hall. If you would like to audition, please put your name down with Mrs Wagland BEFORE Thursday 5th February. Please prepare a 30sec drum solo.

Kind Regards,
Bianca Wilson
Email: bianca.wilson25@yahoo.com
Ph: 0411 210 980

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**Office Hours** - 8.15am - 3.30pm for all phone and counter enquiries.
Your P&C 2015

- **SIFC meeting:** Wednesday 4.2.15
- **P&C meeting:** Tuesday 10.2.15

@ 7pm in the school admin building.

**ALL WELCOME!**

**2015 Welcome BBQ**

Proposed date: Friday 27 February 2015.
Watch this space!

**2015 Event and fundraising committee**

A new committee will be formed this year to help to steer events and fundraising opportunities for SPPS in 2015. If you would like to be involved email us at sppspc@live.com.au or call Anna (0414 672 252) or Trish (0425 336 934).

You can be involved as little or as much as you like, we are after a group of people who would like the opportunity to have a say in how P&C events and fundraising contribute to the school and it’s community.

**P&C Facebook page**

Over the holiday period we drafted a Facebook Group page called **Soldiers Point Public School Parents** – we now invite you to pop over, take a look, and ‘join’ and ‘follow notifications’ to keep up with the conversation! (Visit www.facebook.com and search for Soldiers Point Public School Parents).

We believe this Facebook page could be a great additional means of communication between SPPS Parents and the P&C. It may perhaps inspire more volunteers, new ideas, and feedback on what we’re currently doing as a P&C. It’s also a handy place for us to post reminders for P&C and school events, canteen info & uniform shop detail. We look forward to keeping you updated on the response!

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**Uniform shop**

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

We accept cash or cheque **only** for your payment. (There is NO EFTPOS available.)

**Canteen**

Welcome back everyone and thank you in advance for all your help in the Canteen. We couldn’t provide the service we do without your help.

We have two new items for sale in the Canteen that have proven popular last Friday. Frozen fruit yoghurt for $2.00 and low-fat vanilla ice cream cups for $1.50. These have replaced the moozies, although popular, the packaging was proving to be a problem.

Permission notes for Year 6 helpers in the Canteen should go home this week, if parents could read it with their child, sign it and return it by Friday I can organise an orientation for all those children keen to help and get a roster up and running.

Once again thanks for your help. Roster:

- Wed 4/2 Amy Ellis
- Fri 6/2 Rebekah Newell, Tammy Peach
- Mon 9/2 Ella De La Motte
- Wed 11/2 Julie Thompson
- Fri 13/2 Liz Dennison, Lauren Fuller, Deanne Cosgrove
- Thu 16/2 Karen Jones

**Please see over the page for a Canteen Volunteer sheet – more help is needed!**
Canteen Volunteers 2015

Thank you to all the volunteers in 2014, without your help the canteen would not be able to operate.

The SPPS Canteen is looking for volunteers to help in our canteen. In 2015 the canteen will operate Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The canteen is open on Thursdays for over the counter sales only (no recess or lunch orders). In order to ensure we can have this great facility for our children we need to have the support of our parents/carers and friends.

We run a healthy and fun canteen so if you can spare some time and would like to help out, please return the form below to Paula with your availability.

The children love to see your face behind the counter at their school canteen, and it’s a great way to meet new friends.

Thank you
Paula and Soldiers Point Public School Students

Canteen volunteer form

Name: _________________________________________________________________________________________________

Child’s name: _________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone no.: ____________________________________________________________________________________________

Preferred day/time (please circle):

Monday       Wednesday       Friday
Weekly       Fortnightly       Monthly       Once a term
Our school community is committed to providing a supportive learning environment fostering respect, creativity and resilience. (2015) Page 8
TERM ONE 2015

GROUPS FOR NEW PARENTS
EARLY PARENTING
SUPPORT GROUP

For new mums and dads with babies aged 0 – 3 months.
Facilitated by the Child & Family Health Nurse.
Come along and chat about the joys and challenges of parenting.
Four weekly sessions commencing:
Thursday 12 February: 10.00 am to 12 noon.
For more info phone 4924 2588.

BABY MASSAGE (Newborn to 6 months)
A course for parents & their babies to enhance bonding & empower parents in the care
of their baby.
Assists with colic and digestion, stimulates baby’s growth & development & helps baby sleep better.
Friday 20th February 10 am to 12 noon
Booking Required. $35.00 for the five sessions.
Ring Clare: 0421 678 680

TOYS ON TAP
Toy & Book Library
Providing quality toys, books & resources.
OPEN WEEKDAYS DURING SCHOOL TERM
9.00 AM – 11.00 AM.

MEETING DATES THIS TERM:

BAY GAPs (Grandparents as Parents): Every Wed@10 am
YOUNG PARENTS NETWORK: Every Tues@10.30 am
CARERS NSW: (Tai Chi) Mon 2nd March 10 am – 12 noon
PARENT SEMINAR: Tues 24th March 10 am – 12 noon

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CENTRE OR ANY OF OUR COURSES AND GROUPS PLEASE RING: 4982 1767
The Port Stephens Community Band is a group of members of the community who come together to play great music. Our rehearsals are held every Tuesday night during school term, at the CWA Hall, cnr Gowrie Avenue and Achilles Street, Nelson Bay, from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. We also regularly perform at community events and in the past have done so at the Whale Festival, Tastes of the Bay, Camellia Festival, Carols by Candlelight and several school and community group fêtes. I am writing to you today as we are currently without a Musical Director. I am hoping that there may be a member of your staff or school community who would be interested in filling the role. It is a paid position.

If you know of a suitable applicant, would you please ask them if they would like to call me on 0412 688 391 to discuss the matter further? They can also contact me by email at m3hallt@bigpond.com or pscommband@gmail.com if they prefer.

As a side note, we are always looking for musicians, young and old, of all levels, to come along and join the Band. Our fees are $30.00 per term so if you know anyone who would like to join us as a player, they would also be most welcome!

Many thanks for your time and possible assistance.

Regards
Michael Hall-Thompson
President – Port Stephens Community Band