



Sutherland North Public School

Grounds to Grow

Schooltalk – 23 October 2013

Principal's Message

Leanne Noon

Application for Year 7 entry to selective high schools in 2015

Application is required in November 2013 for parents or carers of Year 5 students who wish their children to be considered for placement in Year 7 at a selective high school in 2015. Parents with internet access are requested to apply online. Online application will be available from **15 October to 18 November 2013**. Application information is available on the internet at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement For parents without internet access, application forms will be available in schools, school education group offices and some state office locations from 22 October 2013.

Thank you

Thank you to our Fundraising team and the parents who assisted them over the past two weeks at the school Disco and the By-Election BBQ. Their organisation and efforts are outstanding and very much appreciated!

Outstanding Payments - URGENT

Thank you to the parents who have paid their Term 3 invoices. Invoices for Term 4 have been sent home. A reminder to all parents that ALL outstanding invoices need to be finalised before the end of the year. At this time of year we plan for our 2014 purchases and order our classroom resources for next year. Our budget is based on all parents covering the cost of their children participating in extra-curricular activities. Please forward your payment to the office in an envelope marked with your child's name & class as a matter of urgency.

Annual School Evaluation - Parent Survey

An important part of Sutherland North Public School's commitment to continually improving teaching and learning practice and all aspects of school life is the completion of an annual school evaluation. This involves conducting surveys for students, staff and parents on nominated areas of homework, school communication and overall school satisfaction. The collection of data and feedback will then inform our planning for 2014 and assist us in setting priorities for next year. For this reason, we are asking all parents to participate in an online survey which will only take a short time to complete. If you do not have internet access or would prefer to complete a written version of the survey, paper copies are available at the office. We really appreciate your time and assistance in this important school planning process. The survey will close on Friday 8 November. The survey can be accessed on the school website or at the following link; you may need to copy & paste the link into your browser:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/MDTGWJ8

Diary Dates

October

Tuesday 29

9.30 - 10.30am

Kindergarten 2014

November

Wednesday 6

9.30 - 10.30am

Kindergarten 2014

Wednesday 20

7.30pm P&C

Saturday 23

Family Portraits

December

Wednesday 4

High School Orientation

Monday 16

9.30 - 11am

Presentation Day

6pm Year 6 Farewell

Tuesday 17

Picnic Day

Wednesday 18

Last day for children

Ethics Classes Request

We now have a trained Ethics teacher, Mrs Sonya Bradford who commenced a class in Term 2 for the Year 3 & Year 4 children. To offer additional classes we will need more volunteers or someone willing to take over from Jean Barrett as the Ethics Coordinator. I would like to thank Jean & Sonya for their commitment to introducing Ethics at Sutherland North. If you are interested in being an Ethics teacher at our school please speak to Jean or Sonia. There is more information and you can apply online at www.primaryethics.com.au

School Attendance

Following a visit to our school on Monday the Home School Liaison Officer identified a number of children whose attendance at school is unsatisfactory for a variety of reasons including the number of days absent, being regularly late for school or unexplained absences. I have included a brochure for your information with this week's Schooltalk. Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. I am particularly concerned about the number of children who are regularly late for school. All children are expected to arrive on time for school by 9am.

Public Speaking

Last Thursday, Noah L. competed in the Stage 2 District Public Speaking Finals at Bangor Public School. Previously he had competed at the Zone level and was awarded runner up. The competition at District level is tough and the judges had a difficult decision to choose between students based on their prepared speeches. Their decision came down to the quality of the impromptu speeches. Noah spoke extremely well with his confident, natural manner against some very dramatic public speakers. Unfortunately, Noah didn't receive an award, but he was a credit to himself and his school. We are all very proud of his efforts. Kathy Dugan - Public Speaking Coordinator



Kindergarten 2014 Orientation

It is a Sutherland North tradition that Kindergarten 2013 families provide morning tea for the new Kindergarten families. The final transition to school session is being held on Wednesday 6 November. Kindergarten 2013 parents are asked to bring a plate of food to share. Please remember no nuts or peanut butter products. The morning tea will be held in the hall from 9.30am. Please see Mrs Buckle if you can help set-up and stay for morning tea to meet our new parents.

Term 4 School Banking Competition

Term 4 Dollarmites have found treasure washed ashore on Savings Adventure Island and want to share it with you. They're giving away 60 x Apple iPod touch 16GB and 100 x Kids Adventure DVD Pack including Despicable Me, Despicable Me 2 & HOP. For your chance to win, simply make two or more School Banking deposits from 21 October to 30 November and you'll automatically be entered into the competition. See the flyer in this school newsletter for information about this competition!

Important things to do this week.....

 Return the permission note and payment for Band, gymnastics and other unpaid invoice items.

Assembly Awards – Term 4 Week 2				
Award		Student Names		
Principal's Award for Kindness		Monica K Yr 6		
Winning Class - lines		2/3		
Class	Student of the Week	Class Awards		
KK	Tamara G	Katelin O	Rory C	
KP	Reilley K	Karissa R	Riley O	
1DG	Oktay G	Emerson F	Abigail H	
1M	Kiera D	Amelia M	Hannah M	
Yr 2	Natsuki F	Isiah L	Lara T	
2/3	Dylan C	Mackenzie R	Maggie O	Britney S
3/4	Thomas K	Theressa E	Hugo V	Trinity B
4/5	Georgia S	Emily S	Ruth H	Dylan Y
Yr 5	Ella T	Jai C	Sean R	Kaewta N
Yr 6	Tyler-Jay P	Travis H	Jack D	Monica K
Bronze Pennants				
Lily M Yr 5, Lucas P KP, Kasey R 1M, Olivia C Yr 5				
Silver Pennants				
Tayla M 3/4, Lofina N Yr 5, Lara T Yr 2, Alana D Yr 6, Zac B Yr 6				

Websites of the Week

Jargon explained

If your child's teacher mentions G&T in the COLA, she's actually talking about gifted and talented classes being held in the covered outdoor learning area. More school jargon explained: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/school-jargon-busters>

Home safety

About 50 children fall out of windows or balconies in Australia each year. Spring is a good time to install a window lock to limit how far it opens. It's this easy: <http://bit.ly/1dRpQw5>

Canteen News

Term 4 volunteers are still needed. Please complete the form below or text Nicole Mogensen on 0402349631 with your availability. The canteen will reopen in Week 2. Thank you

	Monday 10.30am – 2pm	Tuesday 1pm – 2pm	Wednesday 10.30am – 2pm	Thursday 1pm – 2pm	Friday 10.00am-2pm
Week 3			23/10 Katrina Briancourt	24/10 Cathy Whittingstall	25/10 Monica Brabant Victoria Parsons
Week 4	28/10 Mien Tze Ng	29/10 Jean Barrett	30/10 Cathy Whittingstall	31/10 CLOSED	1/11 Monica Brabant Jennifer Swan
Week5	4/11 Nikky Hill	5/11 Jo Hunnisett	6/11 Rachael Graham	7/11 Katrina Briancourt	8/11 Nicole Mogensen Fiona O'Brien
Week 6	11/11 Kate O'Brien & Elisa Fulton	12/11 June O'Brien	13/11 Katrina Briancourt	14/11 Leanne Pullen	15/11 Phyllis & Ian Elton
Week 7	18/11 Mien Tze Ng	19/11 Anita Oze	20/11 Cathy Whittingstall	21/11 Fiona O'Brien	22/11 Nicole Mogensen Emma Hall
Week 8	25/11 Beth Kendrick	26/11 Natalie Skinner	27/11 Rachael Graham	28/11 CLOSED	29/11 Monica Brabant Jane Love
Week 9	2/12 Mien Tze Ng	3/12 Jo Hunnisett	4/12 Anne Davies	5/12 Cathy Whittingstall	6/12 Nicole Mogensen Lisa Brooks
Week 10 & 11	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED

Canteen Volunteer Form 2013 – Term 4

Your Name:				
Child's Name:				Class:
Phone:		Mobile:		
<u>Names of people I would like to be rostered on with:</u>				
<u>Please circle the days that you can help - list any dates that you are NOT available</u>				
<u>Monday</u> 10.30am-2pm	<u>Tuesday</u> 1pm-2pm	<u>Wednesday</u> 10.30am-2pm	<u>Thursday</u> 1pm-2pm	<u>Friday</u> 10.30am-2pm
<u>Comments:</u>				

Regular School Attendance

Information for parents and carers



Did you know? If students miss as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.

Why must I send my child to school?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age are legally required to attend school.

From 2010, all New South Wales students must complete Year 10. After Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age students must be:

1. in school or registered for home schooling, or
2. in approved education or training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship) or
3. in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours per week) or in a combination of work, education and/or training.

Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance.

Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified.

For this reason, Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation for long or frequent absences explained by parents as being due to illness.

If Principals don't consider an explanation to be satisfactory, they will record the absence as unjustified.

It is important to understand that the New South Wales Department of Education and Training may prosecute parents (including carers) if children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unjustified absences from school.

Must I send my child every day?

YES. It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (eg a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Head lice infestations can be a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools. Parents should check their child's hair

regularly for head lice and undertake treatment where eggs or lice are identified.

Translated information about head lice and how to treat them can be found at

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/documents/headlice/infosheet.htm>

Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice. Head lice, is not a valid reason for prolonged absences from school.

Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life.

Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps children to build and maintain friendships with other children.

If your child doesn't learn the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years.

Why is arriving at school on time important?

Arriving at school and class on time:

- ensures that your child doesn't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert
- helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- gives your child time to greet their friends before class and therefore
- reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence.

What should I do if our family is going on holiday in school time?

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. Families should try to arrange holidays during school vacations.

If your family holiday is during school time, inform the school principal in advance and request leave and/or an exemption from school.

Depending on the circumstances and how long the leave will be, you may ask the school to provide tasks that can be completed while your child is absent.

Must my child attend all activities, including daily fitness and sport?

YES. Sport and other physical activities help to keep your children healthy. Children are expected to attend all regular school activities, including sport.

Do not keep your child away from school for the following:

- birthdays
- shopping
- minding other children
- routine check ups or care such as hair cuts
- minor family events
- sleeping in.

Medical and other health appointments for your child should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- send a note, fax or email to the school
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

All absences must be explained to the school. Bilingual absentee notes and further information on attendance can be found on the Department's website under the heading *School Attendance (School Attendance)* at

https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/documents/index_s.htm

The principal of the school has the right to question parents' or carers' requests for their child to be absent from school.

The principal may also question any explanation given for a child's absence from school.

My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. The principal may seek support from a home school liaison officer or Aboriginal student liaison officer.

Who are home school liaison officers and Aboriginal student liaison officers?

Home school liaison officers and Aboriginal student liaison officers have been specially trained to help you with your child's attendance.

They work with school communities to encourage all students to attend school regularly.

For further information about the Home School Liaison Program you should contact the program manager at your local Department of Education and Training regional office. Contact numbers can be found at the website address:

www.det.nsw.edu.au/contactus/index.htm or by telephoning 131 536.

Do you have problems with getting your child to school, for some of the following reasons?

- won't get out of bed
- won't go to bed
- can't find their clothes, books, homework, school bag...
- school lunches not ready
- slow to eat breakfast
- homework not done
- watching television late at night or when they should be getting ready for school
- test or presentation at school
- birthdays
- screaming and not letting go of you.

Here are some suggestions which are based on setting regular routines:

- Have a set time to be out of bed
- Have a set time to go to bed
- Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- Make lunches the night before
- Have a set time for starting / ending breakfast. A routine is important.
- Set time for daily homework activities
- Turn the television on for a set time and only if appropriate
- Be firm, children must go to school
- Provide lots of positive encouragement
- Be firm, a birthday is not a holiday
- Time arrival at school to coincide with bell time and leave quickly. If arranged with the teacher beforehand, place your child's hand into that of the teacher and then leave.

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided where possible for parents and carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents and carers who use sign language. For more information on interpreter services contact your school or phone the Telephone Interpreter Service and have them contact the school. The telephone number to ring is 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in the required language and the interpreter will call the school and stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.



Are you going 'Trick or Treating' for Halloween?

The NSW Police Force recommends that you do not participate in "trick or treating".

However, if you choose to participate, here are some things you should consider:

- Is it safe to take lollies or chocolate from strangers?
- Do I know the person that lives in the house I am door knocking? Will I get into trouble from police if I play a 'prank' or damage property?
- What if a stranger talks to me?



Remember your safety tips from the NSW Police 'Keeping Me Safe' initiative:

- Ensure you are always under supervision with an adult, walk in a group. Safety in numbers! Never walk alone.
- Hold hands and cross roads at safe locations such as marked crossings and/or traffic light intersections. Don't forget to 'Stop, Look, Listen and Think.'
- Do not take lollies, chocolate from strangers.
- Do not talk to strangers other than the people nominated as 'Safe people' from 'Safe places'
- If you feel unsafe or unsure remember to tell a stranger 'No' 'Go away' and then 'tell' a grown up about what happened.
- Do not knock on a strangers door, you do not know the person behind the door and what they might do.

If you would still like to celebrate the occasion, perhaps you could consider celebrating at home.



Police will not tolerate poor behaviour, particularly in public so remember your manners just like every other day of the year. Do not throw any objects such as water bombs and eggs at anyone or any property as this is an offence.

If you have any questions, please contact Senior Constable Deb Wilson, Youth Liaison Officer from Miranda Police Station on 95278107. If you require immediate assistance call 000 or 95413899 directly.





Keep saving to win more Dollarmites' treasure.

Simply make two or more School Banking deposits from 21 October to 30 November and you'll be automatically entered into the competition.



Treasure Chest Prizes.

- Just by saving, you could win one of these great prizes:
- 60 x Apple iPod touch 16GB
- 100 x Adventure DVD Pack including *Despicable Me*, *Despicable Me 2* & *HOP*



Things to know before you Can: Apple, the Apple logo and iPod touch are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Apple is not a participant or sponsor of this promotion. NSW Permit No. LTPS/13/6945. ACT Permit No. TP13/3206. SA Permit No. T13/1612. Competition opens 21/10/13 and closes 30/11/13. Winners will be drawn on 10/12/13 at 12.00pm AEDT, Level 2B, 11 Harbour Street, Sydney NSW 2000 from all entries received. Individual prizes are an Apple iPod touch valued at \$249 and a DVD Pack valued at \$76. The Promoter is Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 48 123 123 124, Level 2B, 11 Harbour Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Full terms and conditions at commbank.com.au/adventureisland