



Sutherland North Public School

Grounds to Grow

Schooltalk – 7 August 2013

Principal's Message

Leanne Noon

Education Week

Thank you to everyone who participated in our many Education Week Activities. Our band performed with enthusiasm on Monday. On Tuesday Mr Fleming and all the staff did an outstanding job organising the Athletics Carnival. I would like to thank the Canteen Committee; Lisa, Nicole & Kim and parent volunteers who ran the successful canteen and BBQ. The simultaneous book read on Wednesday was a different activity for the children to experience and share with both Cherry Tree and KU Kindergartens. I would particularly like to commend our Year 6 children on their outstanding behaviour and participation on their visit to KU Preschool. Mrs Moseley and staff planned a really fun Jump Rope for Heart day on Thursday. Well done to everyone for another fantastic week of healthy, fun and educational activities at Sutherland North! Please have a look at the photo gallery on our school website.

Ethics Classes

We now have a trained Ethics teacher, Mrs Sonya Bradford who will commence a class for the Year 3 & Year 4 children who expressed interest earlier in the year. The class will start on Thursday 15 August. 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, there is more information and you can apply online at www.primaryethics.com.au

Student medical forms - urgent

During Terms 3 and 4 we will be updating our medical records systems to ensure we have the most up-to-date information on your child's health. **All children received a copy of the new forms and parents need to fill them out and return them to us as a matter of urgency.** The new forms will help us collect your child's important medical information and the introduction of new systems will mean we'll be able to better manage the daily and emergency health needs of your child. We appreciate your support as we start collecting the information.

Diary Dates

August

Tuesday 13

Maths Competition

Wednesday 14

Senior Concert Rehearsal

Thursday 15

7.00pm SSSMF Senior Concert

Friday 16

1/2 day Sutherland Zone Athletics
Return Gift Card orders

Tuesday 20

Junior Concert Rehearsal

Wednesday 21

7.00pm SSSMF Junior Concert

Thursday 22

Sutherland Zone Athletics

Thursday 22

Father's Day Mufti –
dress like Dad or Grandpa

Wednesday 28

7.30pm P&C

Thursday 29

Father's Day Stall

September

Wednesday 18

7.30pm P&C

Gift Card Fundraiser

Please support the P&C by purchasing a box or 2 of gift cards. The cards are fantastic value at less than \$1 per card. This year there's even a box of Christmas cards. Sample boxes are available in the office. Orders need to be returned by Friday 16 August.

UNSW Science Competition Results

On Wednesday 5 June students from Years 3 – 6 participated in the University of New South Wales Science competition. Congratulations to the following students; Distinction – Zack J & Jeremy S, Credit – Olivia H, Natasha B, Oliver M, Joshua S, Kyle M, Noah L, Jeremy J, Claudia C, Daniella B, Melissa M, Damian K, Alwin L.

Term 3 Invoices

Term 3 Invoices are being sent home this week. It would be greatly appreciated if the School Contribution was paid with the Student Resource Fee. The student resource fee covers the cost of materials supplied to the children to support the teaching and learning program. Other activities including swimming, camp, band, ukulele, sport and excursions are included in the invoice and the cost for these activities need to be met by parents and need to be paid promptly. The costs at Sutherland North are much lower than at many other schools in the area. Thank you to those who have already paid.





2013 Schools Spectacular

Tickets will soon be on sale for the 2013 Schools Spectacular. This is a brilliantly choreographed and costumed production featuring over 3,500 singers, dancers and musicians representing more than 300 NSW public schools from across the state. We are lucky enough to have 13 talented dance students representing Sutherland North School in this production. Tickets for the Schools Spectacular will be available through Ticketmaster. If you would like to take advantage of subscriber bookings available before the sales open to the public, go to www.schoolsspectacular.com.au and follow directions to subscribe to the newsletter. Karen Kinred – Dance Coordinator

Regular School Attendance

I have included with this week's newsletter information for parents about regular school attendance. It is important that children attend school regularly and are only kept away for important and justified reasons; birthdays, shopping, minor family events etc. are not valid reasons and will be recorded as unjustified absences.

Important things to do this week.....

-  Send in spare change for the Spare Change Challenge
-  Support the P&C fundraiser and purchase a box of gift cards
-  Return the permission note and payment for Band, Ukulele, Yr 5 & 6 Camp and other unpaid invoice items
-  Return updated Student Medical Form immediately

Website of the Week

When to start school

Starting school is a big step. How do you know if your child is ready? This video Kindergarten features teachers discussing this sometimes tricky issue.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/is-my-child-ready-to-start-school>

Canteen News

Term 3 volunteers are still needed. Please complete the form below or text Nicole Mogensen on 0402349631 with your availability. The canteen reopened this week. Thank you

Canteen Volunteer Form 2013 – Term 3				
Your Name:				
Child's Name:				Class:
Phone:		Mobile:		
Names of people I would like to be rostered on with:				
Please circle the days that you can help - list any dates that you are NOT available				
<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
Comments:				

Canteen Roster Term 3

	Monday 10.30am – 2pm	Tuesday 1pm – 2pm	Wednesday 10.30am – 2pm	Thursday 1pm – 2pm	Friday 10.00am-2pm
Week 4				8/8 Anita Oze	9/8 Monica Brabant Jane Love
Week 5	12/8 Nikky Hill	13/8 Jean Barrett	14/8 Rachael Graham	15/8 Katrina Briancourt	16/8 Phyllis & Ian Elton
Week 6	19/8 Mien Tze Ng	20/8 Anita Oze	21/8 Anne Davies	22/8 Cathy Whittingstall	23/8 Monica Brabant Jennifer Swan
Week 7	26/8 Elisa Fulton & Kate O'Brien	27/8 CLOSED	28/8 Rachael Graham	29/8 Leanne Pullen	30/8 Nicole Mogensen Emma Hall
Week 8	2/9 Mien Tze Ng	3/9 Anita Oze	4/9 Katrina & Cheryl Briancourt	5/9 CLOSED	6/9 Monica Brabant Victoria Parsons
Week 9	9/9 Jemima Jupp	10/9 Jo Hunnisett	11/9 Rachael Graham	12/9 Cathy Whittingstall	13/9 Phyllis Elton & Nicole Mogensen
Week 10	16/9 Beth Kendrick	17/9 Natalie Skinner	18/9 Anne Davies	19/9 Leanne Pullen	20/9 Nicole Mogensen & Lisa Brooks

Assembly Awards - Term 3 Week 3				
Award		Student Names		
Principal's Award for Kindness		Orlando S 1DG		
Primary Sport		Ben D 5, Sean R 5		
PSSA		Jack D 6, Daniella B 4/5, Kaya S 4/5, Theresa E 3/4		
Class	Student of the Week	Class Awards		
KK	Amelie B	Elliot M	Jenna F	
KP	Camille P	Reilley K	Jessica B	
1DG	Audrey L	Oliver W	Isabella B	
1M	Connor B	Tenisha C	Ellani D	
Yr 2	Isiah L	Chloe E	Keenan M	
2/3	Summer C	Liam C	Kristin O	Brayden S
3/4	Hugo V	Lucas C	Ethan R	Tayla M
4/5	Beth D	Hannah K	Dylan Y	Joshua S
Yr 5	Jamaine M	Olivia H	Ben D	Kaewta N
Yr 6	Luke H	Billy Z	Zac B	Alana D
Bronze Pennants				
Rory C KK, Shalei R 1M, Amelia J 2/3, Tyeesha R 2/3, Logan T 3/4,				
Ashleigh K 5, Josh M 5, Tyler-Jay P 6, Portia S 6, Shay J 6				
Silver Pennant				
Alwin L 5				
Premier's Reading Challenge				
Mitchell B 1M, Grace M 2/3, Jasmine R 3/4, Sarah K 3/4, Ashleigh K 5, Jack D 6				



We are now ready to implement our second program of BEAR (Being Excited About Reading) for 2013 with the next group of Year 1 students. The BEAR program involves volunteers working with Year 1 students in half hour sessions, three sessions per week. The program is open to parents, grandparents, friends and community members-the more help the better! The aim is to increase students' reading accuracy and sight words within a 10 week time frame. This group will begin in Week 6 from 19th August and continue into the first 5 weeks of Term 4.

If you are interested and able to donate some time, please complete the note below and return it to the office by Monday, 12th August. A training session will be organised next week. Please speak to Mrs O'Hare if you would like more information.

BEAR TUTORS

I am interested in taking part in BEAR tutoring.

Name: _____

Child's name: _____

Phone: _____

Please circle the day and time that you can help.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00-10:00	9:00-10:00	9:00-10:00	9:00-10:00	9:00-10:00
2:00-3:00	2:00-3:00	2:00-3:00	2:00-3:00	2:00-3:00

Regular School Attendance

Information for parents and carers



All children have a right to an education. Only by regular school attendance can children make the most of educational opportunities, leading to greater social and economic outcomes.

Schools play a vital role in the social and emotional development of children. Regular attendance enables students to develop a sense of belonging to a peer group and assists in building important coping and friendship skills. Confident children are less likely to engage in anti-social behaviour.

If students miss out on the basic skills in the early years of school, they may experience learning problems in later years. Ultimately, unsatisfactory attendance at school may affect the awarding of the School Certificate.

Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as a part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences. Parents and schools have specific responsibilities concerning children's attendance at school.

Responsibilities of the principal

Principals are legally responsible for maintaining accurate records of student attendance. When reasons for absences are provided to the school by parents, principals are accountable for their decision to record a student's absence as justified. Principals may decline to accept as satisfactory an explanation for an absence and will record that absence as unjustified.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when absences explained as being due to illness are frequent or prolonged.

Responsibilities of parents

The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents (including carers) ensure that children of compulsory school age are enrolled at and regularly attend school, or are registered with the Office of

the Board of Studies NSW for home schooling. The New South Wales Department of Education and Training may take legal action against parents and carers who do not send their children to school without a valid reason.

What is a justified reason for being absent from school?

Justified reasons for absences may include the student:

- having an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably, these should be made after school or during holidays)
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- being required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)
- being sick, or having an infectious disease.

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. Information on how schools can support parents to manage and prevent the spread of head lice can be accessed from the student health section of the Department's website at <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/headlice/index.php>. Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice. Having head lice is not a justified reason for prolonged absences from school.

Absences for reasons such as some of the following may not be justified:

- Shopping
- Sleeping in
- Working around the house
- Minding younger siblings and other children
- Minor family events such as birthdays
- Hair cuts.

It is important to realise that parents (including carers) may be prosecuted if children have recurring unjustified absences from school.

Keeping the school informed

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for the 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.

Whenever possible, parents and carers are encouraged to provide an explanation for absences before the absences occur.

The principal of the school has the right to question parents' requests for their child to be absent from school. They may also question an explanation given for a child's absence from school.

Holidays

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. If this is necessary parents should discuss these absences with the principal and may be requested to apply for a Certificate of Exemption from attendance at school. This will ensure that these absences are not permanently recorded as unjustified.

When considering applications for Certificates of Exemption, principals may consider a variety of factors. These may include compassionate reasons, family reunions, the educational merits of the holiday and agreement for the student to complete assignments while on holiday. In some cases application for Distance Education may be more appropriate than seeking an exemption from school attendance.

Arrival on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

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

Need help?

If you are having difficulty getting your child to attend school regularly, you might like to talk to the school principal or the school counsellor. In primary school you could also approach the assistant principal and in secondary school, your child's year adviser would be a good contact.

Home school liaison officers offer support with attendance at school. Some school areas also have Aboriginal student liaison officers who support the attendance of Aboriginal students.

Telephone your local Department of Education and Training regional office and speak to the student welfare consultant if you would like further support. A list of regional office telephone numbers can be accessed at the web site address: www.det.nsw.edu.au/contactus/index.htm or by telephoning 131 536.

Lateness is recorded as partial absence and must be explained by parents or carers in the same way as other forms of absence.

Must my child attend all activities, including sport?

YES. Sport and other physical activities help the healthy physical and mental development of children. Sports and sports carnivals are normal school activities and students must attend.



FREE fun program for kids to become healthier, fitter and happier!

Go4Fun is a healthy lifestyle program to improve health, fitness, self-esteem and confidence in children above their ideal weight. Go4Fun runs for 10 weeks during school term for children and their parents.

Sessions are each week for two hours after school and include games, activities, tips on healthy food, label reading and portion sizes plus much more!

Registrations are now open for Term 4, 2013. To register for your local Sutherland program or for more information contact:

Emma Sainsbury (project officer) on 9382 8646 or SMS 0409 940 334 for a call back.



Free call 1800 780 900 or visit www.mendcentral.org/go4fun