Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**CARS AND SAFETY AROUND THE SCHOOL:** I am concerned that some people are putting our students at risk by parking illegally at the front of the school and near the school gates and crossing. Yes, we would all like the ability to park near the school to pick up our child but we need to remember that there are 300 children at our school, not just one or two. We all have to work together to ensure that everyone’s safety is our number one priority at morning drop off and afternoon pick up, not how quickly the task may be done.

With that in mind, if we follow these simple guidelines, everyone will be safe and we will all become safety conscious citizens of our school community.

- Only park in legal spaces and obey all signage (particularly at the front of the school in the “Drop Off” area). Parking in illegal areas limits the visibility of and by our students, making crossing the road more dangerous. Fines for illegal parking are significant.
- When parking, remember there are limited parking spaces around the school so ensure that you only take up an appropriate amount of space, not leaving overly large gaps between vehicles.
- Be a good neighbour and do not obstruct or park too close to driveways and please refrain from leaving litter in front of the school or our neighbours’ houses.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY:** I would like to inform parents and carers that there has been a change to the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) School Attendance Policy. As part of the implementation of the National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose.

Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel outside of school vacation periods is necessary, parents will need to complete an Application for Extended Leave – Travel, which can be obtained from the school office, for the approval of the Principal. If the application is approved your child’s absence will be marked as Leave. If not approved, it will be marked as Unjustified.

If you have any questions regarding the new DEC procedures, please contact me through the school office.

**MEET THE TEACHER:** Thank you to the parents who attended the “Meet the Teacher” afternoons last week. I hope you had the opportunity to find out a little more about who your child’s teacher is and what they promote in relation to teaching and learning. The relationship between a student and teacher is critical to a successful year as is the development of positive home/school interactions. As these meetings are simply meet, greet and information sharing sessions it is very important that you make an appointment for an interview with the class teacher, at your earliest convenience, if you have an issue or a problem in relation to your child’s learning or socialisation. Please don’t wait until the Semester 1 interview time to raise concerns or issues as these will not take place until the end of Term 2. Similarly, the class teacher will contact you if he/she has a concern. It is very important to me that each and every one of our students feels safe and secure at school and is learning.
The Annual General Meeting of the Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) was held on Tuesday. Congratulations to the following ladies who were elected as executive members for 2015:

**President:** Karinne Moore  
**Vice President:** Carol Vigo  
**Secretary:** Linda Ngo  
**Treasurer:** Vacant

Unfortunately the position of Treasurer was not filled. If you would be interested in taking on this important role please see one of the executive members or myself for further information.

At this meeting the P&C voted unanimously to donate $6500 towards the purchase of new home reading books. I would like to thank the P&C for this generous donation.

**MONEY AT SCHOOL:** We are very fortunate to have a canteen operating at our school 5 days per week. This is a great opportunity for students to purchase treats at recess and lunch, as well as placing orders in the morning. However, I have been made aware that some students are bringing large amounts of money to school. The items at the canteen are reasonably priced and there should be no need for a student to have more than a few dollars to spend. As well, students should not be purchasing food or treats for others.

**PSSA REPRESENTATIVES:** Congratulations to the following boys who were recently selected to represent Horsley Zone at the upcoming Sydney South West championships:

- Samisoni Kailea  
  Open Rugby League
- Ben Poloa  
  Open Rugby League
- Wa’el Albqa’een  
  Under 11s Rugby League
- Tupara Hazel  
  Under 11s Rugby League

I wish them all good luck.

**SCHOOL BANKING:** School banking has commenced for the year and will continue every Thursday morning. For new students who would like to bank, you need to go to the nearest Commonwealth Bank and open an account or alternatively you could enquire at the office.

School banking is a great fundraiser for our school. We receive $5 when students make their first deposit at school and a commission on every further deposit made. As well, students receive a reward item for every 10 deposits they make.

**ATTENDANCE TIP:** Even taking a small amount of time out of school can be a problem and your child might fall behind with work and be unable to catch up. Their friendships can suffer and may lead to them having difficulty maintaining positive relationships with their peers.

A child with a good school record of attendance is setting themselves up for a better future once he/she leaves school.

It only takes 3 or 4 days off per term to start seriously affecting your child’s education. 8 days absence or more per term and they fall below 85% attendance. This means they are unable to reach their full potential and their future life choices become far more limited.

Stephen Gray  
Principal

**SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Smithfield West Public School has maintained the same procedure for school contributions with no increase for 2015. The Department of Education and Communities provides only basic funds for the school’s operation. Annually, we ask parents to support their children’s education through the payment of school contributions. Whilst these contributions are voluntary we rely considerably on them to provide valuable resources to enrich and extend your child’s learning program. Information about your contributions is detailed below and every effort is made to keep costs to a minimum.

School Voluntary Contribution per student $40.00  
School Voluntary Contribution per family $60.00

A school receipt will be issued for all payments. I thank you for your continued support of Smithfield West Public School.

S. Gray
STUDENT LEADERS

Our Induction Assembly was held last Wednesday and the student leaders for 2015 were announced and presented with their badges. The students were congratulated by the school community and their very proud parents, friends and relatives that joined us on this special day.

The School Captains, Prefects, House Captains and Library Monitors for 2015 are listed below:

School Captains:
Samisoni Kailea, Chloe McGann

Prefects:
Jayden Harding, Caitlyn Hristovska, Sophia Simic, Santiago Ureta

House Captains:
Bilinga – Ben Poloa                                         Girralong – Lucas Griffin
Goonawarra – Leandro Muratore Antunez                      Rakumba – Sarah Farrugia

Library Monitors –
Sara Coombe, Zeinab Hafez, Sonya McDougall, Lillian Sa

SCHOOL SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY PROGRAM

A reminder that this program begins on Monday 9 March and concludes on Friday 20 March. Students will need to have their swimmers, towel and sunscreen at school each day in a separate bag. Students in Group 1 (2M, 2C, 3B x 9, 3/4G and Mrs Menna) will leave school at 11.20am – lesson begins at 12.00 noon and Group 2 (3B x 5, 4L, 5S, 5/6R, 6P and Mrs Papadatos) will leave at 12.05pm with their lesson starting at 12.45pm. Please note any outstanding money must be paid by TOMORROW and that all positions have been filled. We are looking forward to seeing the great progress our students will make as they acquire this very important life skill. Please see me if you have any inquiries.

CANTEEN

Students attending swimming lessons are still able to have access to the canteen at recess and lunchtime. Lunch orders are to be placed as normal and students are to let Rebecca know if they are Group 1 or Group 2.

S.Rowlings

YEAR 6 SLOPPY JOES

A reminder that the final day to order the memento Year 6 SWPS sloppy joe with names on it is TOMORROW. The order slip and a $20 deposit must be at the office by 3pm. Please note, this is the only opportunity to order this product. No further orders will be sent.

S.Rowlings
STAGE 3 BATHURST EXCURSION
A reminder to parents that this excursion is planned for early Term 2 and notes have been sent out. Positions are limited to 63 and only 14 positions remain. Please return the note and a deposit to secure your child’s position on what is sure to be a great day out with lots to learn and enjoy.

S. Rowlings

YEAR 7 2016 HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS
These forms went out yesterday to all Year 6 students. They need to be returned to SWPS by Friday 20 March so we can continue the processing of applications.
For those parents still undecided for next year, my advice to you is to contact the relevant high school/s that you are considering. Some of these schools are currently holding information days/night and I would encourage you to attend if possible.
Should you have any enquires or need assistance in completing the form, please see Ms Rowlings, Mrs Papadatos or Mrs Bennett. We are more than happy to be of assistance.

S. Rowlings

ASSEMBLY AWARD RECIPIENTS

| KG | Roukaya Ghamrawi, Raydan Honeysett, Sanar Polina |
| KW | Lachlan Carrick, Jesse Harding, Amira Masri |
| 1P | Alexi Sinadinos, Eliana Navarro, Zhir Saeed |
| 1S | Angelina Franso, Richee Tran, Amira Taha |
| 2C | Angela Toma, Alicia Onn, Harrison Napper |
| 2M | Jessica O’Keefe, Fadhl Rubaiee, Angelie Navarro |
| 3B | Amy Bui, Alenna Gorges, Sarah Chheav, Richart Cheav |
| 3/4G | Malia Alefosio-Taalili, Tiffany McDougall, Dayvid Sto, Johnny Stamiris |
| 4L | Elizabeth Kailea, Lily Tieu, Ethan Ha, Alex Onn |
| 5S | Emily Nguyen, Andrew Elsobky, Leea Semenov, Adib Ghanem |
| 5/6R | Belinda Bennett, Alberto Hanna, Milada Salim, Jana El-Baf |
| 6P | Wa’el Albqa’een, Thomas Nguyen, Sinan Kilic, Lillian Sa |

PSSA

Friday 6 March

| Newcombeball | Cabramatta West | Endeavour Reserve |
| T-ball | Cecil Hills | Endeavour Reserve |
| Oz-tag | Cecil Hills | Endeavour Reserve |

Friday 13 March

| Newcombeball | Harrington Street | Endeavour Reserve |
| T-ball | Fairfield Heights | Endeavour Reserve |
| Oz-tag | Fairfield Heights | Endeavour Reserve |

Parents and friends are most welcome to come along and support teams. PSSA sport commences at 9.30am. Good luck to all teams.

R. Howitt

Uniforms will be available for purchase on:
Wednesdays and Thursdays 8.30am-9.30am and 2.30pm-3.00pm
Please see staff in the Administration Office
SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Monday 16 February 2015 SWPS held their annual swimming carnival at Fairfield Leisure Centre. After the very hot weather we have been experiencing it was good to get to the pools and enjoy a morning in the water. It was wonderful to see some of our younger students take the opportunity to join in and show their swimming styles. The behaviour of all competitors was outstanding, both when watching and cheering on fellow competitors and when competing in events.

G. Morris

LIBRARY NEWS

The library is open Monday to Thursday. Each class has a 1hr library lesson per week where students are encouraged to borrow books to take home for the week. To borrow from the library students need to have a library bag to protect the books.

Here is the list of library times for classes:

Monday: 5S 2M KG 5/6R
Tuesday: KW 1S 3/4G 6P
Wednesday: 3B 1P
Thursday: 4L 2C

Book club will be operating differently this year. Only students who have sent the note back saying they wish to receive brochures will receive them. It is not too late to let me know if you wish to participate in book club. There is no obligation to buy but you are welcome to get the brochures and look.

N. Adams

Easter Hat Parade

On Thursday 2 April, Kindergarten to Year 2 students will have the opportunity to participate in the annual Smithfield West Public School Easter Hat Parade.

All the students have to do is design and create a decorative Easter Hat or Bonnet and bring it to school on Thursday 2 April.

The parade begins at 9.15am and concludes with the Easter Egg Raffle being drawn by the P&C. Normal school routine resumes at 10.30am. All parents and friends are welcome.

B. Cahill and C. Palmer

P& C Easter Raffle

The eldest child in each family will receive a booklet of raffle tickets next week. Tickets are 50 cents each or 3 for $1.00. Children are not expected to go door to door selling tickets. If you do not want to participate in this activity simply return the tickets. However, there will be lots of prizes, being baskets of chocolate Easter eggs. Please return all money, unsold raffle tickets and raffle ticket stubs to classroom teachers before Monday 30 March. Please ensure names and phone numbers are on each butt sold. Thank you.

K. Moore

Easter Egg Donations

The P&C is seeking your support – EASTER EGGS and BASKETS NEEDED please.

The K-2 Easter Hat parade will be held on Thursday 2 April at 9.15am in the Hall. The P&C will be running an Easter Raffle and rely on donations of eggs to make the baskets. Please support this wonderful fund raising activity by dropping off Easter Eggs at the front office by Friday 27 March.

Each child who donates Easter Eggs will be put into a draw for a special prize.

<………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………>

Child’s Name: ____________________________ Class: ________
Second hand Adults & Children’s Book Sale

Where: Under the COLA in the morning assembly area

When: Thursday 12 March 2015

Before school (8.30am - 9.00am)
After School (3.00pm - 3.30pm)

ALL BOOKS—COIN DONATION
Proceeds to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation