Dear Parents/Caregivers

KINDERGARTEN
Kindergarten have now been at school for just over 2 weeks and it is pleasing to report that they all seem to have settled in very well. The teachers have been extremely impressed with their behaviour and work so far. Well done everyone!

MORNING SUPERVISION
At this early stage in the year, it is an appropriate time to remind the community of our morning supervision policy. It is a potential safety concern if students arrive early to school and are left unsupervised early in the morning. Supervision of students in the playground commences at 8:30am under the COLA – Covered Outdoor Learning Area. Prior to this time, there is no direct supervision, as teachers are required to complete a variety of other tasks before the morning bell. Please assist us in protecting the safety of our students by ensuring they arrive at school between 8:30am and 8:55am. If you require supervision before this time, Sylvia from SWOOSH (Smithfield West Out Of School Hours care) can be contacted on 0418 962 481.

MORNING ROUTINES
Our new morning routines are going well and teachers are saying to me that on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday when there is no assembly there seems to be so much more quality learning time during the first session. However, I do ask that parents, particularly those with K-2 children, say their goodbyes on the bell and do not walk with their child to class. I have seen parents walk with the class holding their child’s hand, carrying their school bag and even carrying their child. This makes it very difficult for the teacher to focus on the students and establish essential routines. In some circumstances this can add to a child’s anxiety and make that separation from mum/dad all the more difficult.

EVACUATION PRACTICE
Today the entire school participated in an emergency evacuation drill. This gave everyone the opportunity to put into practice what needs to be done should there need to be an emergency evacuation.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND WATER SAFETY PROGRAM
The School Swimming and Water Safety program is now open to all students in Years 2 to 6. This is potentially a life saving program and I recommend it to you. The cost of the program is $65.00 which is due to be paid by Monday 7 March. While the actual lessons are funded by the government the costs attached to the program are for daily pool entry and bus hire. The lessons are 45 minutes in duration and commence on Monday 14 March and run until Thursday 24 March. If your child is unable to swim 50 metres confidently, then I strongly urge you to consider sending them as being able to swim confidently is so important in Australia where there are so many beaches, rivers and back yard pools.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS
At our annual presentation day the following students were announced as our student leaders for 2016. I know that they will lead our school with enthusiasm, humility and good sense. Congratulations to:

School Captains: Maddison Brown Jack O’Keeffe
Prefects: Manaia Mete Kaleb Thacker
SKOOLBAG APP
I’d like to bring to your attention the benefits of the skoolbag app. It not only provides our newsletter and reminders about upcoming events but can be also used to advise the school when your child is absent, thus doing away with the need to send a written note. If you haven’t already downloaded the app onto your phone, then go to the following website: [http://www.skoolbag.com.au/parentinstructions.pdf](http://www.skoolbag.com.au/parentinstructions.pdf). It is a wonderful service and I encourage you all to access it.

PARKING
At the beginning of each year it is necessary to remind parents about safe and appropriate places to drop off and pick up children from school. *Parents should not drive into the school grounds under any circumstances.* Despite new signage being put up, it seems some parents are of the understanding that the front car park can be used to pick up and drop off students. **This is not the case** and I request that for the safety of your children you respect this decision and abide by the rule. Those coming by car need to park in the surrounding streets, but not in the marked bus zone or the designated Kiss and Drop area. Fairfield Council Rangers and the police periodically monitor traffic and parking and those parked illegally may be cautioned and/or fined.

SCHOOL UNIFORM
All parent/carers are asked to ensure that their children wear the correct footwear when coming to school. Students are expected to wear **black shoes** each and every day. This is the requirement under our school uniform policy that was agreed upon by the school community. I am happy for students to wear black joggers as long they are entirely black. **Orange, pink, yellow, purple and other coloured shoes are not part of our school uniform.**

![Examples of shoes not acceptable](image)

Stephen Gray
Principal

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SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS
The Department of Education 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 $50.00
School Voluntary Contribution per family $80.00

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

S. Gray

NRL COMMUNITY CARNIVAL
On Tuesday 16 February our Years 2-6 students had a visit from Parramatta Eels Development Officer Marshal Boyd and Eels NRL players Kelepi Tanginoa and Matthew Woods as part of the NRL Community Carnival. The focus for this year's visit was to highlight personal 'Wellbeing' and they reinforced the importance of physical activity, healthy eating, getting the right amount of sleep for growing bodies and drinking water regularly throughout the day. Our students and staff enjoyed the visit and were particularly happy to see Kelepi, a former SWPS student back wearing the Eels blue and gold. We appreciate the important messages our visitors delivered and look forward to Marshal's visits next term to K-6 for the 'Backyard League' program.  

S. Rowlings

School Swimming and Water Safety Program
The School Swimming and Water Safety Program for Years 2-6 is planned for Monday 14 March to Thursday 24 March 2016. Students from Years 2 to 6 received a note today about this important initiative. The School Swimming and Water Safety Program is a fantastic program which teaches children to swim and further develop their water confidence skills. We are limited to only 120 positions. Should you have any queries please see Ms Rowlings.  

S. Rowlings

PSSA
Friday 19 February
| Newcombeball | King Park | Endeavour Reserve |
| T-ball | King Park | Endeavour Reserve |
| Oztag | King Park | Endeavour Reserve |

Friday 26 February
| Newcombeball | William Stimson | Endeavour Reserve |
| T-ball | William Stimson | Endeavour Reserve |
| Oz-tag | Harrington Street | 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.  

M. Licciardello

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
SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

The School Photographer will be taking our school photographs on **Monday 29 February 2016**. Envelopes were sent home two weeks ago.

Please send your child along in their summer school uniform on this day. If a child is not in school uniform an attempt will be made to fit them out as best we can, but there is no guarantee.

Note that all money is handled by the photograph company, **NOT** by the school. **Money needs to be exact and cheques made out to 'The School Photographer'**. Cost of the different packages ranges from $7.00 to $42.00. To ensure smooth running on the day, please note that all orders are to be pre-paid and envelopes are to be handed to the school by **FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2016** in the locked box at the front office.

**NB:** All students need to have their own envelope and hand this into the office once completed.

Family photos will also be taken on this day. These are only for brothers and sisters enrolled at Smithfield West Public School. **Envelopes for family photos may be collected from the school office and returned with payment by Friday 26 February.**

M. Bennett

STUDENT BANKING

A representative from the Commonwealth Bank will be at Smithfield West Public School on Monday 22 February from 8.30am if you wish to open an account for your child.

Student banking will commence on **Thursday 3rd March**, and will be processed here at school by a team of volunteer parents.

Application forms are also available from the office.

While the staff at our school support Student Banking there is no obligation to set up an account and bank through Smithfield West Public School. Please call in at the office or phone the school on 9604 3161 if you would like any further information.

S. Pilgrim

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Monday 15 February 2016 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 when watching and cheering on fellow competitors and competing in events. A big thank you to the parents for their assistance on the day.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of our parents to take advantage of our School Swimming and Water Safety Program that is offered by the school annually. Swimming is a lifelong skill that offers so much enjoyment and fun especially during our summer leisure time at the beach and pools.

With the continuation of our Swimming and Water Safety Program this year we will hopefully see more competitors attend the swimming carnival next year.

G. Morris

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Join our team – we’re hiring!

August 9 is Census night and the Australian Bureau of Statistics is looking for 2,500 motivated and community minded Area Supervisors to join our team across Australia.

**Area Supervisors:**
- Are temporary casual jobs, with flexible working hours
- Will recruit, train and lead a small team of field staff to help deliver the 2016 Census
- Will earn $34.76 per hour (inclusive of 25% loading).

Applications open 1 February 2016. Apply online at abs.gov.au/careers

Make a difference in your community and help shape its future.