

SPRING FARM PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Top stories in this newsletter: Official opening, K-6 athletics carnival, Father's day breakfast and stall



Welcome to Term 3 2016

What a busy start to the term as our school was fortunate to have many official guest visit Spring Farm Public School (SFPS). In the first week of this term, Murat Dizdar, the Executive Director of all the schools in the Ultimo region, including South West Sydney, visited SFPS and was very impressed with the vision and the commitment of the students, staff and parents. In the third week, the school had a visit from Christine Tasker, Director of the Macarthur Schools, who was also impressed with the plans and directions for SFPS. Finally, the school was officially opened by the NSW Premier Mr Mike Baird and Mr Chris Patterson, Member for Camden, on Monday 8th August 2016. A big thank you to the students, staff and parents who all assisted in various ways to showcase Spring Farm Public School. If you would like to see Channel Nine's news report about the official opening please log onto:

<https://www.9now.com.au/nines-afternoon-news/all/episode-157>

Chris Patterson, the local member for Camden, also negotiated with the State government to provide a one-off grant of \$15 000 to assist the school with purchasing air conditioning for five classrooms. Planning has already started for the installation of these units.

Education Week was very successful, with activities and open classes on two different days and time slots. As a school, we are trying to cater to the different hours and days that parents and carers can attend school activities. Education Week also coincided with the class leader badge ceremony, congratulations to the class leaders who were chosen by their peers.

The school has recently purchased sports and athletics equipment, 25 mini iPads, 130 sets of PM Guided Reading books, Wushka (Online Home Reading program), mathematics equipment and a ride-on lawn mower.

Library

Library borrowing will start this Thursday and each class will attend fortnightly library classes. Stage 1, 2 and 3 will start library classes this week. This is week 5 and they will continue to have their library classes each odd week. Kindergarten will begin their Library classes in week 6 of this

term and will continue to have library each even weeks on Thursday. Mrs Batty, the librarian, has asked that all students bring a cloth bag or a cloth shopping bag to protect the borrowed books when students are taking them home.

Athletics Carnival

Our school's K-6 Athletics carnival is on Wednesday 17th August. In the advent of bad weather, the carnival will be postponed to Friday 19th August. The carnival will start at approximately 9:10am on the school oval. Parents and carers are asked to find a position on the hill or on the outskirts of the carnival and watch the events. Due to safety reasons it is important for toddlers to stay with their parents at all times. All students will be in their age groups and supervised by the teacher at all times. Students can join their parents and carers for lunch. If any parents or carers would like to assist in the carnival, please fill in the parent helper form which was sent out last week (it is also available on the school website to download) and hand it into the school office before this coming Wednesday. A program of events will be sent out to you via the eNews app which you can refer to during the day. The carnival will be an enjoyable day with all students participating and possibly even teacher and parent races on offer! Please come and join us!

The school was also lucky to organise a Long Jump pit in time for the carnival. Thank you to the staff and parents who either constructed the frame, dug drainage points and moved the 9 cubic metres of sand into the long jump pit. Thank you to A&D Alpine Roofing & Guttering for donating the sand.

Parent Café

On Thursday 18th August 2016, at 2:15pm, Spring Farm Public School will hold a parent café information session where parents and carers can view the school's Strategic Directions and provide feedback on the plan. We will also ask you to provide suggestions for Kindergarten Orientation night and Transition programs. Thank you to the P&C who will provide coffee or tea. Everyone is welcome to attend the parent café workshop. SFPS is planning parent café meets throughout this year with guest speakers presenting practical information. If you could RSVP to the school office either by email, phone or in person indicating your attendance for our first café meeting, this will give the school an idea of how many parents are attending.

Scripture

Special Religious Classes (Scripture classes) will start within this term each Monday afternoon. At this stage, a voluntary Catholic teacher and a Combined Anglican Teacher will be teaching these classes. Please fill in the Scripture note that was provided to each student last week indicating which scripture class you would like your child to attend: either a Catholic scripture class, a Combined Anglican scripture class or a non-Scripture class. Please be aware that the Australian Curriculum provides opportunities for all students to be taught about the different religions and various ceremonies or customs throughout the world.

Father's Day breakfast Wednesday 31st August start at 8:30am to 9am.

All fathers or representatives are invited to this occasion. P&C and the canteen will be organising breakfast for our fathers. Please RSVP the P&C vice president GILLLOWE2009@GMAIL.COM or the school if you are attending the breakfast. After the breakfast the Father's day stall will be open for students to purchase their father's day gift.

Absences

It is important that if your child/ren are sick with the flu etc, that they stay home rest and recover. Please call the school office, email the school or send a written note with your child to the class teacher explaining the reason/s for your child being away. Under the Department of Education, it is a legal requirement to provide an explanation to the school stating the reasons why your child was absent from school. If a student is absent on a regular basis, under Department of Education guidelines we are required to monitor the non-attendance, record it onto our data base and work with you to improve your child's attendance.

If a child arrives late or leaves the school during school hours they must be signed in or out by a parent or caregiver at the office.

If the pattern continues of lateness or absences, the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) will become involved with your family and with the school to improve your child's attendance. If you have concerns or difficulties with your child's attendance please contact the school or School Counsellor for advice and assistance.

The school welcomes Ashleigh Eljed the new school counsellor who attends each Monday and Friday afternoons. Please contact the school to make an appointment if you or your child require counsellor support. Thank you to Ellen Pickering for assisting the school throughout semester one. We also welcome Theresa to the canteen and thank Rebecca for her service throughout semester one.

Website

The school's website is fully functional and major events are being uploaded on to the site and onto calendar planner. Please refer to it for information and up and coming events.

www.springfarm-p.schools.nsw.edu

SkoolBag App

At the end of Term 3 2016, the school will be using the SkoolBag App rather than the Enews app. SkoolBag app has many more features. A major feature of this app is the ability to explain your child's absence via your phone. More information will be sent to you on how to access the app.

<http://skoolbag.com.au/>

Speech Therapist

Kirrily the speech therapist has set aside an hour 9am –10am each Friday fortnight to liaise with families and assist anyone access various services. Please feel free to talk to her with any speech and listening concerns of your child. If you are unable to see Kirrily on Friday mornings you can contact the school to organise a phone conversation with Kirrily or email the school and she can answer any questions.

Kirrily will be at attendance this Friday 19th August 2016

Parent Helpers

If you would to assist in the classroom please contact the school and we will organise a time for you to do an Induction course and assist you fill in Working with Children Check forms. Some major projects that we require assistance in are: reading with students, organising Library resources or labeling of math's equipment.

Reminders

Confidential family matters and medical reports

If you have you have any confidential family matters that may impact on your child's wellbeing such as custody issues, family court orders and medical reports etc you need to see myself or if I am unavailable to see Ms Urry before seeing the class teacher. This way the school as a collective can best cater to you and your family's needs. At the same time, copies of relevant legal or medical documents are required at the school so that we can follow the directions or recommendations. We will do everything to work with you and your child however, the school can only follow the directions from the courts or medical reports. Once again you are better to see me if there are complex issues and we can work on an action plan.

School uniforms

As a new school we are working towards establishing pride in Spring Farm Public. Research has stated that wearing full school uniform can assist in developing 'self esteem and a sense of connection to the community, more information about wearing the correct school uniform can be found on <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/connect/school-uniforms>.

I do ask if you can source a navy blue jacket, navy sloppy joe, navy blue shorts and pants and school shirt as we are trying to instill pride, set a good example for our new enrolments and develop a connection with each other. If you require assistance in purchasing various uniform please contact the school and we will work something out. If you have any spare uniforms please donate to the school and we can assist other families.

GKR Karate

Each Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning, GKR Karate will be holding Karate classes in the school hall. Please contact Ashley on 0401919338 or access their website for more information.

Before and After school Care

The YMCA is currently organising Before and After School Care for Spring Farm Public School students. Please contact YMCA Narellan for further details.

You can also obtain an EOI survey to indicate your interest for a Before and After School Care program at Spring Farm Public School. Please email or phone the school for a hard copy which we can send with your child or come to the office and fill out the survey.

Signing in and dogs prohibited on school premises

Due to WHS requirement and Department of Education policy, it is a requirement to sign in as a visitor at the front office. If you need to deliver something to your child, pick them up early or need to send a message please contact the school office and we can assist in these matters.

Under the Companion Animals Act, 1998 No 87 (14.1.e), all dogs are prohibited in school grounds, (whether or not they are leashed or otherwise controlled). Thank you for understanding and support.

Please be mindful that new parking signs will be erected at any given time and **large fines will be issued. Please be mindful** on how fast you drive into Barley Rd off Spring Farm Rd as students and parents cross the road, thank you for your understanding.

Crunch and sip is a set break during class time to snack on fruit or vegetables. We encourage all students to bring a piece of fruit and a small bottle of water to enjoy during crunch and sip time. This snack time will allow students to refuel and stay hydrated throughout the day.

As a school we are trying to reduce the reliance of distributing paper notes.

Please note, if you have any questions or queries or you are unsure about something, please contact the school through email or phone. You can see the class teacher, **preferably in the afternoons, or myself any time.**

Regards
Donovan Jance
Principal



Book Week 2016

- August 20-26 -

Theme: "Australia: Story Country"

Tuesday – 23rd August



Local Library Representative to visit

The Children's Librarian from Camden Library will be coming out to the school. During her visit she will read a couple of books from this year's shortlisted texts. She will also talk briefly to the students about the facilities available at the local libraries/library membership etc.

WHERE: Library

1pm-1:30pm K-2 (arrive at 12:55 for a 1pm start – bring hats/recess)

2pm-2:30pm 3-6 (to go directly from lines)

Thursday – 25th August

In Classroom: morning session

Do activities in class to celebrate book week, eg. author study, artwork relating to a shortlist book/book week theme, reader's theatre, puppet show etc. You could focus on an activity relating to the theme: Australia Story Country or you could use one of the shortlisted books as the focus.

Teacher Swap: 12:15-12:45pm

Teachers to take their "swap" class to their (teacher's) room to read a story (Australia theme or from shortlist books) with a small activity to follow.

Book Parade: COLA area 1pm-1:30pm

Annual Book Parade – students and teachers to dress up as their favourite book character. We will open the invitation to dress up to family members, including siblings. Please bring chairs out and form a large circle. Each class will do 2 laps. Encourage community to stand behind.

Playground: Recess 1:30-2:00pm

- Family Picnic
- Photo Booth will be set up under the COLA. (mindful of 'no photograph' children for social media)



Camden Community Connections
Presents
Parenting Workshop
Parenting program for all families that provides practical answers to everyday parenting concerns
**Wednesday 7th September &
Wednesday 14th September**
5:00pm - 7:00pm
At Spring Farm Public School
26/36 Springs Rd, Spring Farm NSW 2570

BOOK NOW!



 **Camden Community Connections**
Contact Firaol Tujuba on 46471283
info@camdenconnections.org.au
www.camdenconnections.org.au
16-24 Queen Street, Narellan