SPRING FARM PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Top stories in this newsletter: 2017 Kindergarten Enrolments, Stage 1 Assembly, Parent Café, Notice Board

Term 3 Week 8 2016

Zone Athletics

Congratulations to all of our Zone Athletics representatives. They showed great sportsmanship and resilience over the two days. Thank you to the parents who were able to drive the students to and from the venue, and to our teachers Mrs Pereira, Miss Urry and Mrs Creber for their assistance and support throughout the zone carnival. Thank you to Mrs Creber for the organisation that went into the Zone Athletics Carnival.

Book Week

Our first Book Parade and the purchasing of books from the Book Fair were very successful. The SFPS community purchased $1400 worth of books, which provided the school with $500 credit and enabled the school to purchase books for the library. Thank you to Mrs Whetton for organising the different events throughout Book Week.

Dancing at Elderslie High School

Spring Farm Public School's dance group, under the guidance of Mrs Berry, will be performing with other neighbouring schools at the Dance Spectacular which will be hosted by Elderslie High School on Friday 9 September 2016 from 6:45pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and the entry tickets are $6, which can be purchased at the door. This is a great opportunity to support our students in their first dance concert; we wish them all the best.

Kindergarten enrolments for 2017

If you have a sibling that needs to enrol at Spring Farm Public School, please obtain an enrolment form at the school office. If you know of friends and neighbours in Spring Farm, please let them know that we are taking 2017 Kindergarten enrolments. All orientation and transition program dates can be accessed from the school's website.

Stage One assembly

Thursday 15 September, 2016 at 2:10pm in the school hall. Stage 1 Canada will be hosting their class assembly. All parents, carers, family and friends are welcome to attend.

P&C meeting

Spring Farm Public School's P&C meeting will be on Thursday 15 September at 3:10pm in the school hall, following the school assembly. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

Successful Community Events

Thank you to the parents and carers who have supported the school's various community events throughout this term. It has been a very busy term with two events, including open classrooms opportunities, for Education Week, school Athletics Carnival, Father's Day breakfast and stall, Book Parade and class assemblies. This has provided a lot of opportunities for parents, extended families and friends to engage with their children and the school.

Thank you to our teachers, staff, P&C and individual parents for contributing their time and effort in organising and running the various events.
A thank you to the Gorman family for their financial contribution towards the Father's Day breakfast.

A request for parent and carer volunteers to cover our new guided reading books

On Wednesday 14 September 2016, from 9:15am till 11am, the school is asking for any parent and carer volunteers to assist Mrs Pereira cover our new guided reading books. No experience required, Mrs Pereira will provide a quick lesson on book covering. The covering of these books will take place in the Programming Room in Block A. Please sign in at the school office and thank you in advance for your assistance.

Parent Café

On Thursday 22 September 2016, at 2:15pm, Spring Farm Public School will hold a parent café information session where parents and carers can view and discuss strategies to support their child's learning. For this workshop, Firaol a Community Development Worker & Family Worker will be presenting information about the services that are available at Camden Community Connections. Thank you to the P&C who will provide coffee, tea and lite refreshments. Everyone is welcome to attend the parent café workshop. If you could RSVP the school office either by email, phone or in person indicating your attendance. The current time slot of 2:15pm is the most suitable time to relieve teachers to present at these workshops and has minimal disruption towards student learning. The workshop will be held in the Programming room next to the staff room.

Notice Board

Thank you to Space Real Estate for donating a Notice Board, which is opposite the school office. All updated information will be presented on the notice board. The same information can also be accessed on the school website and on the Skoolbag app.

School Camp for Stage 2 & 3 students

The first deposit is now required for school camp. Please send money to the school office. If your family requires assistance, please see Mr Jance.

School photos

The school is in the process of organising and finalising school photos for the middle of Term 4 2016. Information will be sent to all families by the end of Term 3 2016.

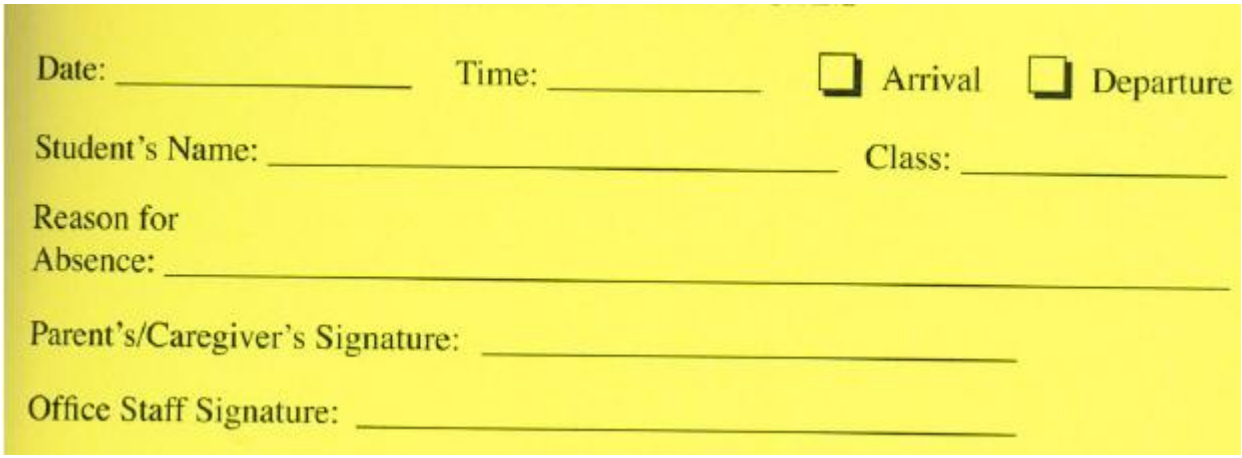
Library

Library borrowing is running each Thursday. Each stage will attend each fortnight, Stage 1, 2 and 3 are borrowing every odd week and Kindergarten students will borrow every even week. 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.

Absences

Thank you to the parents and carers who have called the school office, emailed the school or sent a written note 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 your child returns to school and the class teacher or the school has not received a reason for your child's absence within a few days, the class teacher will send a reminder note (please view the sample below). Please give a detailed explanation on the reason why your child was away and return it with your child to give to their class teacher.



Date: _____ Time: _____ ☐ Arrival ☐ Departure

Student's Name: _____ Class: _____

Reason for Absence: _____

Parent's/Caregiver's Signature: _____

Office Staff Signature: _____

When your child returns back to school, it is important to write an explanation note, contact the school or use the SkoolBag app explaining their absences, rather than wait for the reminder note.

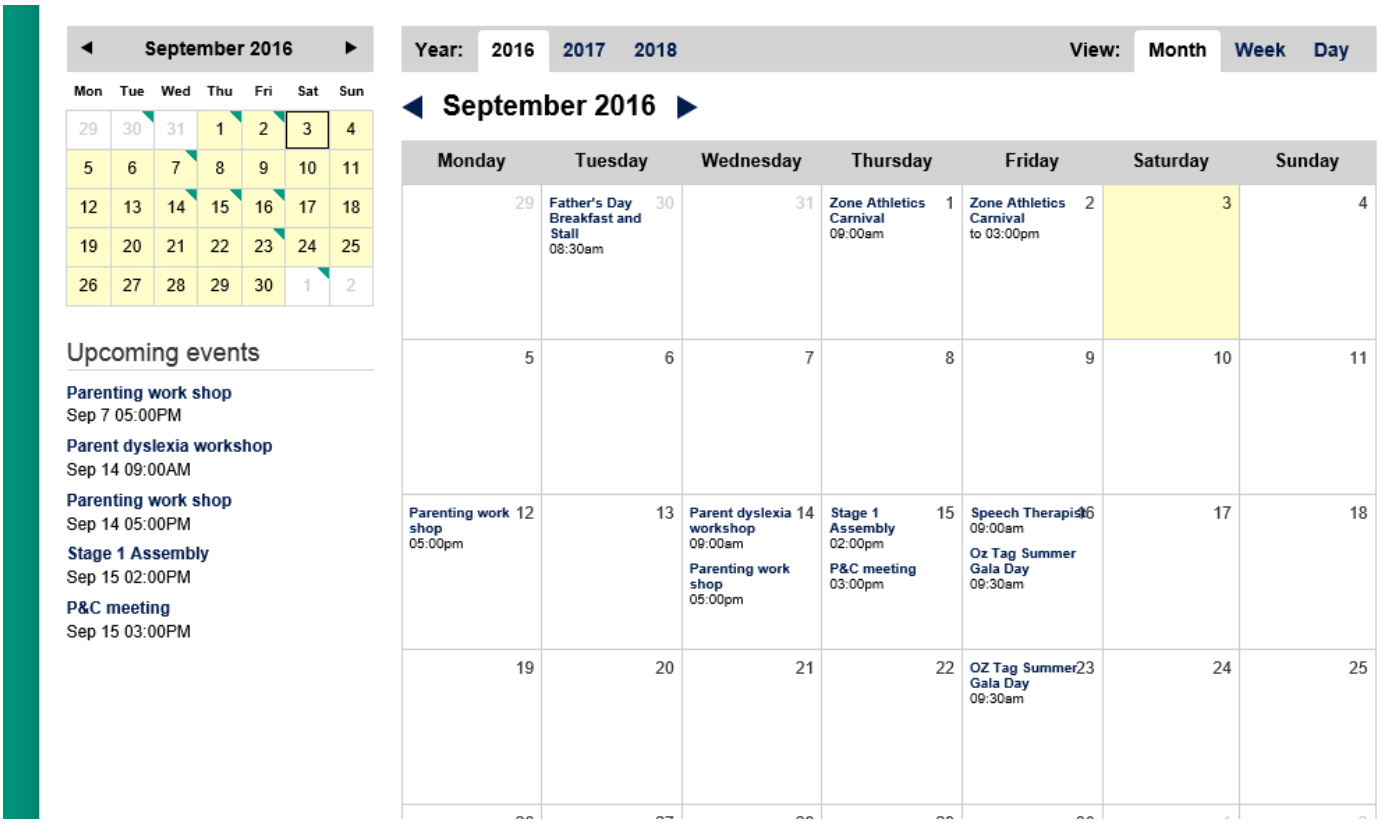
Cancelled parenting workshop

The proposed parenting workshop that was going to be presented by Camden Community Connections in the school hall on 7 & 14 September 2016, has been cancelled.

School Website

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

*www.**springfarm**-p.**schools**.nsw.edu*



SkoolBag App http://skoolbag.com.au/

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 and send it electronically. Please read the instructions below to install this app:

Skoolbag
Complete communication solution

How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

For iPhone and iPad users:

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

iTunes

For Android users:

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.

Google play

For Windows 8.1 Phone and Windows 8.1 or 10 device users:

1. Go to the Windows Store on your 8.1 Windows Phone or Windows 8.1/10 Device
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search
3. Install the Skoolbag app
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup"
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: The Skoolbag Windows App is for 8.1 version Windows Phones, or Windows 8.1 and 10 devices.

Windows Phone

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 Friday 16th September 2016

Parent Helpers in the classroom

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 or implementing individual student programs.

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.

Driving on Barley Road Spring Farm

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. More information can be

accessed on the link below:

school zone parking offence

Crunch and sip

This 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.

Receiving Information

As a school we are trying to reduce the reliance of distributing paper notes and encouraging everyone to subscribe to Skool Bag app, log onto the school's website or view the Notice board outside of the school office for updated events.

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