



Spring Farm Public School

Barley Road, Spring Farm, NSW 2570
Phone • (02) 4658 3057 (02) 4658 1714
PO Box 921 Narellan NSW 2567

Email • springfarm-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

www.springfarm-p.schools.nsw.edu.au www.facebook.com/SpringFarmPublicSchool

Newsletter Term 4 Week 6 2018

Coming Soon

Swim Scheme 12 to 23 November 2018

Class Assembly Nifty Thursday 22 November 2018 2pm in the school hall

Year 6 Orientation Day for High School Tuesday 4 December 2018

Class Assembly Joyful Thursday 6 December 2018 2pm in the school hall

Parent Helpers and volunteer thank you Afternoon Tea Wednesday 5 December 2018 (details at the end of the newsletter)

Presentation Day Thursday 13 December 2018 in the school Hall

Kindergarten Graduation 14 December 2018

Year 6 Farewell 14 December 2018

Student reports to go home 17 & 18 December 2018

Water Fun Day 18 December 2018

Christmas Concert 18 December 2018 (details at the end of the newsletter)

NDIS information (details at the end of the newsletter)

Please refer to skoolbag app and the school's website calendar for more events

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are past the half way mark for the Term and things are moving very quickly. Many things to celebrate throughout these few weeks.

The Swim Scheme program is going well and the students are learning a lot about water safety and enjoying themselves. Thank you to the teachers for either supervising them at the pools or taking the other students into their class.

Thank you to the Camden RSL representatives, teachers, P&C and senior students for organising and assisting in the GrandFriends and Remembrance Day event. A number of parents, Aunties, Uncles, friends and grandparents attended this wonderful event. The Book Fair was very successful, with \$1501 worth of books being sold and 101 books being donated to the library, thank you for your support.

Stranger Danger Workshops

Thank you to GKR Karate and Ashley the sensei who came out with his team to do Stranger Danger workshops for all of our students. Teachers have been teaching ongoing lessons throughout the year with their students on the appropriate strategies to deal with a stranger danger situation and with wellbeing. This is in line with the PDHPE syllabus, which all teachers refer to for guidance and lessons: <http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/k-10/learning-areas/pdhpe/pdhpe-k-6-syllabus>

Please discuss with your children the strategies on how to deal with different stranger danger situations, such as, alert teachers straight away if they are confronted with a stranger danger circumstances and to take note of the car's registration plates!



On Tuesday 27 November, Mark Scambary the local Police Youth Liaison officer will visit the school and discuss with students strategies on how to deal with stranger danger situations. He will also discuss with students anti-bullying techniques and how to effectively communicate with one another.

Congratulations to Spring Farm Public School students

Congratulations to Tiffany from Stage 3 for winning five gold medals in the NSW Speed Skating Championships. More information can be accessed: <https://www.macarthuradvertiser.com.au/story/5750172/spring-farm-girl-speeds-her-way-to-gold-medal-wins/>

Similarly, congratulations to Skylar from Stage 2 who came third in the BMX Victorian State Titles. More information can be accessed: <https://www.facebook.com/bluemountainsbmx/>

Presentation Day

On Thursday 13 December 2018 from 9:15am in the school hall, Spring Farm Public School will hold an end of year presentation ceremony to recognise outstanding effort and performances by students in Key Learning Areas. Invitations to parents and carers will be sent out via Care Monkey which is linked to personal emails

Please update your email address and care monkey details.

Working Bee

On Sunday 16 December, from 10am to 1pm, Spring Farm Public School will be organising a working bee to prepare for the school's Christmas concert. Volunteers will be asked to do a number of odd jobs around the school such as, weeding, and mulching. Any parents or carers that have some spare time and can assist on the day, please RSVP via the P&C email springfarmpublicschoolpc@gmail.com Thank you for your support.

School Christmas Picnic Concert – 'Carols at the Farm'

The school will be hosting a Christmas Concert for all our parents and carers. This will be a relaxing picnic atmosphere, where families are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket, cushions and a basket of food. Each class are buddying up with the class next door and performing an item together on the night. Dance Club, Infants Dance Company, Primary Dance Company, Senior Choir Ensemble and The Spring Singers will also be performing items on the night. P&C will be selling ice-blocks, soft drinks, water and some small snacks. There will be some food vans in the school grounds on the night. Year 6 2019 will be selling glow sticks as a part of their fundraising efforts. There will be a Wishing Tree set up in the office by the

P&C for those who are able to donate an unwrapped gift. Donations can be placed under the tree in the office before the day of the Christmas Concert or on the night.

Date: Tuesday 18th December 2018

Time: Gates open at 5:30pm

Location: Spring Farm Public School - the middle grass area facing the COLA

- Children must be accompanied by a parent/carer at all times.
- Due to WHS requirements, no bikes, skateboards or scooters are permitted on the premises. All schools are alcohol, dog and smoke free zones.
- In the case of server weather, please see the SkoolBag app for updates regarding this event.

Assisting the school

We are lucky to have a new building and modern furniture for each classroom. We are not even 3 years old and as a school we have been very creative in establishing good teaching and learning practices. The P&C and the Department of Education have been proactive in supporting the school. As we are a growing and developing school, our funding and staffing entitlements do not meet the ongoing growth of student enrolments. As a result, we have limited staff to do the programs or organise events in a timely matter. However, in this situation we all work together to support each other in order to maximise student outcomes. Similarly, the school counsellor only attends one and a half days a week in which to meet the needs of 370 students. The counselling role has changed and most of his time is now taken up on observing particular students, conducting assessments and writing up reports for specialists such as, paediatricians who are then able to make various learning diagnoses. It is difficult for the counsellor to manage the time to do the traditional one to one counselling and some students may require extra counselling support. Parents may need to see their GP to get a health care plan which can assist in extra outside counselling. I thank you for your understanding in this matter and encourage all families to work together with the school to support our students.

If you feel strongly about public schools receiving the right funding and obtaining the proper support such as more counsellor time, please access: <http://www.fairfundingnow.org.au/> to express your concerns to various governments about the importance of equitable funding and support for all public schools.

Transition programs and 2019 Classes

The school is currently implementing various transition programs and placing students into various grouping so that teachers can observe the interactions and responsiveness of students in particular groups. We have been working on 2019 classes and trying to work on the best solution for next year. We have a growing community and for this reason we need to consider establishing classes that will allow for student growth whilst working within our staffing and classroom entitlements set by the Department of Education. Structuring classes for the New Year is a lengthy, well-planned and considered process that revolves around the needs of our students and how we as a school can best cater for them. As a school, we consider many aspects of student, cohort and school needs in order to structure our classes to maximise student learning. We have a requirement to meet many different Departmental Policies as well as maintaining our school vision and culture.

As a part of our Gifted and Talented Policy and departmental requirements, the school has set up 'Cluster Groups' as a part of our class structures. The NAGC defines Giftedness as *"those who demonstrate outstanding levels of aptitude (defined as an exceptional ability to reason and learn) or competence (documented performance or achievement in top 10% or rarer) in one or more domains."* A cluster group is a group of 6-8 students who have been identified as gifted through our school's identification process. For each new school year, we will have two Stage 1, one Stage 2 and one Stage 3 cluster groups throughout the school.

The students who were selected for these groups will be provided with a range of opportunities to support and enrich their skills and knowledge in their gifted domains. It is important to note that these groups do not mean we have 'streamed' or 'extension' classes and our class formation processes still take into account a range of other factors. As a school, it is a requirement that we cater for the needs of these students and have selected cluster grouping as the research indicates that it is one of the most effective ways to ensure Gifted students are engaged with their learning and reaching their potential.

If you have any questions or queries regarding our cluster groups, we invite you to look at our Gifted and Talented Policy or visit the following website for more information on Departmental Policy and some information for parents

Class placement is a complex processes especially in a growing community, with class sizes set by the Department of Education and school structures must take these policies into consideration when forming classes. If student numbers increase we will need to form another class or classes and therefore student movement may happen during the New Year. Therefore, the school is putting a lot of thought and forward planning to limit too many class changes throughout the year. **Within Term 4 of this year, the school has enrolled over 20 students** and we have been able to manage and welcome our new families and students. At this point, teachers have not been allocated any classes as we are waiting for new staff to join us. Spring Farm Public School teachers are K to 6 trained and will be placed in different class years and stages each year. This is beneficial for their professional development and for the school community to view all of our teachers as having the skills to teach in all years.

Spring Farm Public School will continue to **have stage classes or cross stage classes** as they have a number of benefits to students: teachers are able to focus on individual student's academic and social needs. They can plan fluid academic movement for all students in their class. Stage classes provide opportunities for students to broaden their friendship bases and be clear role models to others in their class. These type of classes will assist with the new enrolments throughout the year without disrupting existing classes. More information can be accessed on this link:

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/wcm/connect/25cb2fe5-c5f4-4ce8-920c-6b4b108bb30a/parents-guide-2015.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=>

School Reminders

Successful morning and dismissal routines

A reminder that school gates and **teacher supervision commences at 8:30am**. This is important for the safety of students, as there is no supervision prior to the 8:30am.

I also ask for all parents and carers to **enter the school grounds from 2:45pm onwards** if they are picking up their child or children at 2:55pm. Due to Work Health and Safety requirements, entering the school grounds earlier than 2:45pm, you will be required to sign in at the school office, thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Signing your children out of school

When you need to take your child or children out early from school please go to the office to have your ID checked and wait for your child to come to the office. The office staff will contact the class teacher to arrange your child or children to come to the office. If no one is in the office, please stay there until someone returns. Due to safety and privacy laws, it is imperative that parents and carers stay in the office and not go to the class when you need to take or pick up your child or children.

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.

The change of seasons has seen an increase of students and staff being way. All efforts have been made to obtain casual staff to replace sick teachers and staff. At times, it is difficult to secure casual staff and classes may need to be split into other classes.

P&C news

The next Spring Farm Public School P&C meeting will be on Monday 3 December 2018 at 6:30pm in Block F. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

Please contact the P&C via email: springfarmpublicschoolpc@gmail.com

https://www.facebook.com/Spring-Farm-Public-School-P-C-297673650711663/?hc_ref=ARR3cR29p9FJv7yb9wC62_8aAHu50O00kMmRV8-EbQ3lx4VusSs2PDk0p4fMtlwLlow

THANK YOU

staff at Spring Farm Public School would like to honour all of our helpers and volunteers. If you have assisted our staff or students throughout the year, please join us for afternoon tea

What: SFPS Volunteer appreciation afternoon tea

When: Monday 10th December 1:30pm

Where: Library

RSVP: Wednesday 5th December

If you are able to attend our afternoon tea, please email your RSVP to

springfarm-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

by Wednesday 5th December for catering purposes.

We look forward to seeing you all and celebrating another fantastic year at Spring Farm Public School!



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THINGS FOR CAMDEN KIDS

20 THINGS FOR CAMDEN KIDS & FAMILIES TO SEE, DO OR VISIT IN CAMDEN
As chosen by Camden children

- 1** Visit Camden, Narellan or Oran Park Library to read and borrow books.
- 2** Cool off at Camden Memorial Swimming Pools or Mount Annan Leisure Centre.
- 3** Take the family along to the Camden Show.
- 4** Visit one of the many historical houses in the Camden area such as John Oxley Cottage, Camden Park House, Gledswood Homestead, Belgenny Farm or Wivenhoe Heritage House.
- 5** Walk, scooter or bike ride along the Camden Bike Track. *Can you spot the ginormous White Gum tree?*
- 6** Take the family out for dinner and treat yourself at a dessert place in the Camden area.
- 7** Have a BBQ at Mount Annan Botanical Gardens.
- 8** Watch a movie at United Cinemas Narellan.
- 9** Get-fit, healthy and have some fun as a family playing at one of our many playspaces. *Have you tried going down a flying fox or a big slide?* Burrell Road Riverside Park, Birriwa Reserve, Merino Reserve, Narellan Urban Forest, Grand Prix Park, Onslow Park and Kirkham Park are children's favourites.
- 10** Stroll down Argyle Street, Camden. Download the Camden Heritage Walking Tour from Camden Council's website for a self-guided exploration of Camden's history.
- 11** Ride your bike at the BMX track at Kirkham.
- 12** Go shopping at Narellan Town Centre and if you stay until the evening there is an awesome water fountain show with colourful lights and music.
- 13** Take the family on a picnic at Macarthur Park.
- 14** Kick a ball around at a rugby or soccer field, or head to the new netball courts at the Narellan Sports Hub.
- 15** Watch the ducks at Harrington Park Lakes.
- 16** Purchase fresh fruit and vegetables at the Camden Fresh Produce Markets or one of the local green grocers.
- 17** Explore Camden by car. You never know where you will end up or what you might discover in your local community.
- 18** Get outdoors and explore the many nature walks - collect sticks and leaves from the ground and take them home for craft!
- 19** Visit the cow statues at Oran Park Town Park.
- 20** Go to the skate park at Kirkham - everyone can enjoy the skatepark.

www.camdenkids.com.au

2018

Spring Farm inaugural COMMUNITY CAROLS

BRING ALONG A
PICNIC BLANKET AND
ENJOY A NIGHT UNDER
THE STARS

SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER
SPRING FARM PUBLIC SCHOOL
5:30PM – 8:30PM

LIVE MUSIC
JUMPING CASTLE
FACE PAINTING
FREE KIDS CRAFT ACTIVITIES
BBQ & FOOD TRUCKS
CHRISTMAS MARKETS
SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA

GOLD
COIN
DONATIONS
WILL BE
COLLECTED ON
THE NIGHT WITH ALL
PROCEEDS GOING TO
BIG YELLOW UMBRELLA
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES.

SPRING FARM
COMMUNITY
CAROLS

IS AN

ALCOHOL-FREE
EVENT

MAJOR
SPONSORS



MINOR
SPONSORS



Government announces improved NDIS mental health support

Minister for Families and Social Services, Paul Fletcher, and Assistant Minister for Disability Services, Sarah Henderson, jointly announced a new 'psychosocial disability stream' for the landmark scheme during World Mental Health Day. Psychosocial disabilities are those that may arise from severe and persistent mental health issues.

Mr Fletcher said the new stream is a critical step for the NDIS in providing a better pathway and support to about 64,000 Australians with psychosocial disability, as well as their families and carers.

The new stream will be implemented progressively and includes:

the employment of specialised planners and Local Area Coordinators;

better linkages between mental health services and National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) staff, partners and;

a focus on recovery-based planning and episodic needs.

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/media/mental-health-pathway>

The NDIS is working with Health and Education to host events to explain the interface between NDIS and Mental Health. As venues are identified events will be advertised and Principals and their staff, students and community invited to attend.

Ministers welcome national guideline for autism assessment and diagnosis

The Federal Government has announced a new national standard for diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), improving diagnostic consistency across Australia.

Minister for Families and Social Services, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, and Minister for Health, the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, today welcomed the release of the national guideline, funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency.

About 164,000 Australians, including 136,000 children and young people under the age of 25, have ASD. That represents a 79 percent increase from 2009.

Mr Fletcher said ASD is a complex condition with increasing prevalence in Australia.

"This guideline brings greater clarity to the way Autism is diagnosed – that's good news for the families of people undergoing assessment," Mr Fletcher said.

"The new guideline will drive better diagnostic standards so people receive optimum and comprehensive assessment that directs them to the right supports.

"The guideline includes a step-by-step, best-practice process for health professionals conducting an autism assessment and is supported by case studies and templates."

<https://www.ndis.gov.au/news/media/autism-assessment>

NEW PLANNING FORMAT

There is new NDIS plan format from the 5th November 2018. This will make it clearer for participants and their families what funds are attached to each support area and linked to their goals.

Early Childhood Early Intervention

Young People with disabilities accessing the NDIS through the Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) Pathway can have Transition to School supported as part of their plan. This will ensure information and strategies are shared with schools and support is in place for a successful transition.

Post School Pathways

Support Teachers Transition (STT) and Careers Advisors are working with families and students with a disability to plan for effective transitions post school.

Disability Employment Services (DES) helps people with a disability find and keep a job. To be eligible students need to receive a disability support pension and complete an Employment Services Assessment.

School Leaver Employment Support (SLES) will remain a reasonable and necessary support available nationally to NDIS participant school leavers. LAC's will work closely with STTs to gather information to inform planning decisions and test student eligibility for NDIS.

Students must be NDIS participants to access SLES.

Students may also consider supported workplaces such as Australian Disability Enterprises.

Students with disabilities may also consider if Community Participation support to enable engagement in social and recreational activities in the local community is the most reasonable setting.