

Newsletter to Parents

SINGLETON PUBLIC SCHOOL



Enter to Learn

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Week 8 Term 4

QUALITY RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY

27 NOVEMBER 2013

I have fielded a number of queries from parents regarding classes for 2014 in the past week. At present the school may be looking at losing a class which would result in 16 mainstream classes. The Department of Education uses a staffing formula to calculate the number of classes for each school, as such; we are approximately two students off retaining our current 17 classes. It is a complicated system and with possible changes that may occur during the holidays it is impossible to predict what may occur come the start of 2014. Our staff will sit down in the coming weeks to formulate classes for next year based on the most up-to-date information that we have.

Our entire school will be cheering on the start of the Special Olympics Torch Relay on Friday afternoon. The Relay commences at the Singleton Police Station before heading down Church Street. Two of our students, Samantha and Darcy, have been selected to run with the Torch during the relay. I am sure it will be a special day for the students and their families.

It is hard to believe that we are now less than a month away from Christmas. In the lead up to the end of the year, the school has a large number of events and activities for our students and families to participate in. Please keep an eye on the calendar on the front page of the newsletter for alerts of upcoming events. A couple of special events include the K-2 Christmas Concert (12th&13th December – entry by way of a food donation collected for Singleton Community Centre); P&C End of Year Party (4th December); Presentation Evening (10th December); and the various Party Day activities for our classes.

Congratulations to the ten students selected by their peers and teachers to be the school leadership team for 2014. The following ten students will present speeches next Monday as they vie for the role of School Captain of Singleton Public School. We are fortunate to have such a quality group of students to help lead our school next year:

Callum, Zaynab, Andrew, Sadie, Cambell, Claire, Cameron, Annaliese, Mick and Bridget

Last thing, please remember that our Christmas card delivery system commences next Monday. Children are encouraged to write the names and class of their friends on the envelope and then post them in our Santa's Letter Box in the Library. Some of our Year 6 helpers will sort and deliver the cards throughout the week to all classes. By doing this we are encouraging our children to practice addressing letters and it makes it really easy to track lost cards when they are appropriately addressed.

David Crowe
Principal



Education &
Communities

Calendar of Events

Wednesday 27 November	Intensive Swimming payments due
Friday 29 November	Adidas Fun Run - return your sponsorship forms No receipting of money in school office - end of school financial year
Monday 2 December	Intensive Swimming Year 2 and selected Year 3-6 Year 5 Surf Life Saving payments due No receipting of money in school office - end of school financial year
Tuesday 3 December	Kindergarten 2014 Meet the Principal Appointments Transition to school 2.00-3.10pm Year 6 free Science Show
Wednesday 4 December	Drumming Performance 9.45-11.00 am Transition to High School Year 6 P&C End of Year Party
Thursday 5 December	MADD Performance at SHS for Stage 3 Last day for After School Sports
Friday 6 December	Wheelie Warrior Visit—Support Unit Singleton Show Ground
Monday 9 December	Year 5 Surf Life Saving day Stage 2 Party Day Payment Due
Tuesday 10 December	Presentation Night 6.30 pm at Singleton Civic Centre
Thursday 12 December	K-2 Christmas Concert Yr 6 Camp Out Year 1 Walka Water Works payment due
Friday 13 December	K-2 Christmas Concert Sports Presentation Intensive swimming concludes 2014 Canberra Deposit Payment Due Payment Due Year 2 Tocal Party Day Last day for Canteen
Monday 16 December	Yr 6 Farewell assembly 12.15pm Yr 6 Farewell 6.00-8.30pm
Tuesday 17 December	Year 2 Tocal Party Day Kinder Zoo Party Day Stage 2 Party day
Wednesday 18 December	Last Day for students for 2013
Thursday & Friday 19-20 December	Staff Development Days

There is no assembly this week due to the Addias Fun Run.

Stage 2 End of Year Party

For Stage 2 end of year celebrations, children will be walking to Rose Point Park at 9.30 am on Tuesday 17th December.

The children will stay at Rose Point Park for their picnic lunch and a play. The children will play in the park and on the equipment. Children will need a packed picnic/party lunch and drinks. It could be hot so please ensure your child has plenty of water.

The children will then walk to Majestic Cinemas to view an animated feature called The Smurfs 2 (PG). The cost is \$6.00. Permission notes have been sent home. Please return notes and money to the class teacher as soon as possible.

Library News

As we approach the end of the year our Library team needs to ensure that all of the books on loan are returned prior to the end of the year. We ask for assistance from both students and families in encouraging all borrowed books to be returned to the library over the coming weeks. For this reason this week will be the last opportunity for students to borrow new books to take home but as always the library collection will continue to be available for use during school hours.

As I am sure you all would be aware we have had an exciting year with many different titles being added to our collection and lots of borrowing from all of our students. I would like to extend a big thank you to all of the families that have supported us in making reading a valued past time for our students.

Presentation Evening

On Tuesday, 10 December our school will be holding our 2013 Presentation Evening at 6.30 pm at the Singleton Civic Centre. Invitations will be sent home to all award recipients and performers in the coming weeks. This allows families and caregivers of awards recipients to make arrangements to enable them to attend. If your child is attending and will be presented with an award, they will need to be in full school uniform (including black shoes). Please be aware that staff will have special seats near our students for the ceremony at the front of the hall and that photography and videoing from these areas will not be permitted. Seating for parents and other visitors will be towards the back of the hall.

Students in the school band, choir, glee club and a selected drumming group will also be performing on the night. All students and families are welcome to attend.

Garden Club

A huge thank you to Mark and Stacie Haines and Rob Grant for fencing the garden club area on Sunday. Mark spent many extra hours collecting, welding and returning the old verandah railings so they could be reused. I very much appreciate your assistance and the children are suitably impressed.



FUN RUN - Friday 29th November.

The school's fun run will be held this Friday, 29 November. Children should be in their school uniform as they will be representing the school later in the day as we line the streets for the torch relay. Children will need to take a cold water drink and wear a hat to Cook Park. Those without their general walking note will not be able to participate.

K-2 will go down at 9.30 am after their rolls are marked. We will run a few laps, play some games and return to school by 10.45am. Students in Years 3-6 will walk down to Cook Park ready to start at 10.30 am. They will do their laps and games and return by 12.30. Children with no sponsors will still participate.

SPONSOR FORMS AND MONEY MUST BE RETURNED BY NEXT TUESDAY. This is to ensure that the prizes arrive before the end of term.

Parents are more than welcome to run/walk with their children.

The simplest way to encourage children to eat veggies



Here's our Top 10 tips:

1. **Children copy you.** Eat healthily and they are more likely to too.
2. **It takes 10 – 20 tastes.** New takes time, so keep trying!
3. **Start sweet.** Pumpkin, carrot, capsicum and snow peas.
4. **New with old.** Introduce veg with a meal they already love.
5. **Let kids choose.** Ask them to pick a new veg to try.
6. **Start raw.** Some children prefer it to cooked.
7. **Help other parents.** If a tip has worked tell your friends.
8. **Encourage self-service.** Put a bowl of veg or salad out with the meal.
9. **Grate veg additions.** Add into favourites like bolognaise.
10. **A handful of spinach.** Throw leaves into favourite dishes.

For more information please visit www.cancercouncil.org.au/eatittobeatit



Uniform Shop Roster - Week 9, Term 4 2013

Mon 2/12/13 (8.30 - 9.30 am) Rebecca Hobbs
 Fri 6/12/13 (8.30 - 9.30 am) Lisa Smith, Debbie Hamson
 Please contact Uniform Shop Co-ordinator Cindy Dippel on 02 6577 3191 if you need to swap your duty.

Canteen Roster - Week 9, Term 4 2013

Mon 2/12/13 **2 Helper Please**
 Tues 3/12/13 Kelly Hourn, Angela Johnston
 Wed 4/12/13 Pam Dicks, Di Cooke
 Thurs 5/12/13 Deb Boston, **1 helper please**
 Fri 6/12/13 Natlie Moore, Judy Felton, Heidi Moore
 Please advise Nicole Gray if you have any changes to your rostered day.

Information from the DEC

Dinovember

Cute alert! Look at the lengths these parents go to every November to convince their kids their plastic dinosaurs come to life at night and frolic through the house.

See the dinosaurs: <http://bit.ly/1e70E5b>

The world's oldest living creature

Care to guess what is oops WAS ... the world's oldest living creature? Here's a quick fact to get you guessing first, then impress your kids.

Science fact: <http://www.news.com.au/technology/science/yearold-clam-ming-worlds-oldest-creature/story-fnjwkt0b-1226759556979V>

Credit Card Payment Slip

The school can accept credit card payments (Visa and Mastercard only) over the phone or by mail. Please note, this is not an EFTPOS facility. EFTPOS (Savings or Cheque a/c) can only be paid over the counter.

This facility can be used to pay school contributions, excursions, uniforms or P&C levy etc. The minimum payment is \$20.00. Building Fund and Library Fund cannot be paid by credit card.

Student's Name: Class:

What are you paying for?

Credit Card Type (please tick one) VISA Mastercard Amount paying \$.....

Cardholder Name (as shown on card) Please print in capitals

.....

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date ____ / ____

CSV ____ (last three digits on back of card)

Signature of Cardholder

Spelling Bee

Another congratulations to Zaynab Alam on achieving a highly commendable placing of 5th in the State in the NSW Premier's Spelling Bee.

She is pictured in action here at the Spelling Bee.

Photos removed for internet publishing.

Intensive Swimming Program

Payments for Year 2 and selected Year 3-6 Intensive Swimming are due today - Wednesday, 27th November.

If your child is in Year 3-6, was selected for Intensive Swimming again this year and is not participating in the intensive swimming program, please contact the office.

Appointments with Teachers

The school would like to remind parents and caregivers that should they have any concerns relating to their child that they may phone the school office to leave a message for their child's teacher to return their call. Please do not approach your child's teacher before, during or after school as they are often busy during this time with lesson preparation and other matters.

Canteen News

The canteen will closed for the year as of Friday, 13th December. This gives Nicole and the ladies a chance to clean the canteen in readiness for 2014. Please keep an eye out for next year's roster in a following newsletter. As you can imagine, there will be a few families moving on to high school and so there are also a few days that need volunteers, so if you can spare a day your help would be appreciated.

2014 Year 6 Canberra Excursion

The Year Six major excursion for 2014 is a 5-day trip to Canberra. The excursion is confirmed for Monday, 12th May to Friday, 16th May 2014. The excursion supports and enhances our study of Democracy and Government, as well as significantly contributing to the children's social development.

To secure a place, students are required to pay a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00, which must be paid by 1:00pm on Friday, 13th December 2013. If no deposit is paid by the due date it will be assumed that your child will not be attending. The approximate cost of the excursion is \$560. This amount includes your deposit of \$50.00, so when you pay a \$50.00 deposit, you will owe \$510. You may pay in weekly/fortnightly instalments if you wish.

The inclusion of parent helpers for the excursion will be limited. Preference will be given to parents of students with specific health/medical needs. Interested parents will be notified after all student deposits have been received and numbers established. The cost to parents will be approximately \$650 and successful parents will be notified as soon as possible after numbers are finalised so that they can begin to make payments. Permission notes have been sent home and are available on the school's website.

Year 6 Orientation Day at Singleton High School

Singleton High School extends an invitation for Year 6 to attend the Year 6/7 Orientation Day on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 from 9.30am to 2.15pm.

Students will meet in East Quad on arrival.

Please bring food and drinks for recess and lunch or use the school canteen. Hot food can be ordered from the canteen in the morning.

Students will be organised into their Year 7 classes and will participate in a range of activities to get to know each other and the high school.

Parents/carers are welcome to attend the Orientation Morning and are invited to stay for Morning Tea as well as to talk to staff.

The Uniform Shop will also be open on the day.

Year 6 Farewell Cake Thank You

Year 6 would like to say a big thank to David and Tammy Cox of Singleton Heights Bakery for their kind donation of the Year 6 Farewell cake in Week 11. We are looking forward to devouring it!!

After School Sports

Next Thursday, 5th December is the last day for after school sports for the year. After School Sports will resume in Term 1, 2014.

UNICEF Donation

Thank you for the kind donations received at the school's pantomime towards the Philippine's Typhoon Haiyan. Singleton Public School made a donation to UNICEF for \$543.00!

Wheelie Warriors Visit

The Support Unit have been invited to attend **Witmores Fun Day** and **Wheelie Warriors** at the Singleton Show Ground. Last year's Fun Day with Witmores and Wheelie Warriors was so successful, that they are organising it again on **FRIDAY, 6th DECEMBER 2013**. The Wheelie Warrior rides and excitement they give to the children has to be seen to be believed.

The Fun Day will run from 10am to 2 pm and take place at the Singleton Show Ground. The students will leave the school grounds between 9:30am -10:00am, and return to school by 2:15pm. This allows time for the shuttle run to and from school using the Mini bus between the two support classes. Permission notes have been sent home with the children.

Year 5 Surf Life Saving Day

Year 5 students will be participating in the Surf Fun Safe Program this term. It is a fantastic one day event where students will learn different Surf Life Saving skills and techniques.

A sheet for what students need to bring with them on the day and a program with the activities your child will be participating in was sent home with the permission note or can be found on the school's website.

When: Year 5 – Wednesday 9th December, 2013

Where: Nobby's Beach, Newcastle

Time: Depart 8am from Singleton PS
Return approx. 4pm Singleton PS

Total Cost: \$25 (This total cost has been partly subsidised by the school).

Students are to wear full school uniform. Students are to bring their towel, swimmers and thongs and any extra clothing needed. A rash shirt will be provided on the day.

Administration - End of Financial Year

The school's end of financial year is on Friday, 29 November and is quickly approaching. Please ensure if you are intending on paying any school contributions or P&C levies for 2013 that they are paid before this date.

The school office will be unable to receipt any money on Friday, 29 November or on Monday, 2 December while the end of financial year rollover is underway.

Once complete, the school intends to have all 2014 invoices for school contribution and the P&C levies ready for payment by mid-December for those families who like to pay in December and in readiness for Term 1, 2014.

Year 1 Walka Water Works

For the Year 1 end of year party day on Wednesday, 18 December, we have planned a picnic day at Walka Water Works located in Maitland. We will be travelling to and from the venue by bus leaving at 9.30 am and returning by 3.00 pm. Children will be accompanied by the Year 1 teachers and learning support officers. The children and teachers are looking forward to enjoying this special day together. Some students from the Support Unit will also be attending.

Upon arrival at Walka Water Works we will have a play on the equipment in the park and then our lunch. Children need to bring **their own** lunch and recess with 2 drinks and a special party treat for themselves (no sharing of food please). They can wear party clothes but need a **hat** and **good walking shoes** (please, not open shoes, high heels or thongs).

Students will also have the opportunity to have a ride on the train at Walka Water Works. **Please send \$3.00 with your child on the party day as they require a cash payment on the day.**

The cost will be \$13.00 for the bus fare. Payment and the permission slip should be returned to the school office by Thursday 12 December 2013.

Year 2 Tocal Party Day

To celebrate the end of the year, Year 2 will be visiting Tocal on Tuesday 17th December, 2013. Children will be able to experience activities involving British Settlement of Australia.

The bus will leave at 9.00 am sharp and return by 3.00 pm. You will need to have your child at school by 8.45 am in time for the morning bus. The bus will leave from the Elizabeth Street side of the school.

The cost for this experience is \$25.00 (\$9.50 Tocal and \$15.50 bus) which should be sent in to the school office with the permission slip by Friday 13th December, 2013.

Everyone will need to bring morning tea, lunch and at least 2 cold drinks (water please) as there is no canteen at Tocal. Last year it was quite warm so one frozen water would be good. Students may wear dress up clothes like the olden days or party clothes with closed in shoes and a hat.

Parents are welcome to attend Tocal with the children. There is room on the bus and the cost will also be \$25.00.

Presentation Night - Donation of Plants

The school needs some plants to decorate the stage for presentation evening. If anyone has some potted plants that they could loan us it would be very much appreciated. Examples include flowering bush or patio roses, small pines, hydrangeas, leafy green shrubs. We would need about 5 plants in total. They would need to be dropped to the Singleton Civic Centre or to the school on Tuesday, 10 October. Please contact the school office if you are able to help.

Enrolments 2014

Throughout this term, planning of classes for 2014 will be taking place. It is very helpful to know whether families have plans to relocate during the summer holidays. Please contact the Office if you are aware that your children will not be returning in 2014 so that appropriate information is used to make up our classes.

Additionally, if you have specific requests regarding classes please forward in writing to the Principal the reasons for your request. At this point of time, actual teachers and class formation is unknown, however it is possible that due to enrolment numbers a number of composite classes may be made across the school.

Fiji Donations

At the end of October, Mrs Reynolds organised the freight from Sydney, collection in Nadi, Fiji, and then the delivery of approximately 70 kgs of reading books and exercise books to the Ratu Filise Memorial School in Namatakula, on the Coral Coast of Fiji.

This is the second year our school has given generously to this small village school. Most of the reading books and about 15 frisbees, were donated to the cause by a relative of our school community, and some were donated by Scholastic, which Mrs Reynolds then packaged up and took to Sydney to be freighted to Fiji. The school council of Singleton PS held a disco earlier this year, and the some of the funds raised from that disco paid for the air freight of this donation. By doing this, our Singleton PS children are showing an empathy for those less fortunate than themselves and actively doing something to assist in enriching their lives.

From the children of Namatakula: Vinaka vakalevu or Thank you very much! They all wanted to make sure that everyone at our school knows how grateful they are for our generous donation. They especially wanted to thank the children for their part in raising the funds necessary to air freight the 70kgs of boxes.

Photos removed for internet publishing

Drumming Performance

The Drumming Groups that have been practising this Semester with Isabella from the Song Room, and will be performing next Wednesday, 4 December at 9.45 am in the school hall. The classes that will be performing includes 3/4H, 3DE, 4S, 4B and KS. There will also be a Year 1 and Year 2 group performing. Parents are invited to attend for a 9.45 am prompt start.

Aussie Bush Excursion

We would like to congratulate the Year 5 students who attended the Aussie Bush Camp excursion this year for their support and assistance with the students in the unit. They displayed all of our school core values.

Thanks Jo and Judy.

Photos removed for internet publishing

From Mrs Reynolds:

It is difficult to explain to anyone not present during this delivery of the donation, but the children were genuinely excited seeing our donation. They carried all the boxes from my hire car over the narrow planks that separate the school buildings from the playground and up the steep stairs to the school verandah. I have never seen children so excited, elated, and yet sad. They unpacked all the boxes, arranged them on a couple of old tables on the verandah and then every class came out to see what they were being given. They smiled, they laughed, they shook my hand, they hugged me, they thanked me profusely, but what touched me the most were the ones who wanted to give me a hug, crying, but telling me how grateful they were that the children and community of a school in another country cared enough about them to send all those things.

I have stayed in this village many times, gotten to know most of these children fairly well, and their gratitude is genuine. They might be poor by our standards, but they live extremely full and happy lives. Our donation may seem trivial to some, however it is a very big event for these village children and their teachers, as education is a very precious commodity to Fijians and they take it extremely seriously even though they have virtually no resources compared to our state of the art school.

The pen-friend letters that this school has recently returned to our students, is just another way that these students are really reaching out to our school community for recognition and wanting to have a connection with the world outside of Namatakula. It would be of so much benefit to these village children and our own SPS children, to continue this pen-friend exchange as it gives everyone involved that feeling of acceptance, of being part of a global community rather than just of our Singleton or their Namatakula.

Keep up the great writing SPS, you have given these children some very happy memories already, let's hope there are many more to come in the future, as they are very keen to continue.

The schools way of thanking me personally was to invite me to their annual inter-school sports carnival at Lawaqa Stadium in Sigatoka and their inaugural Military Police Cadet passing out parade at the school.

There is a power point on the school computer system showing the donations, the sports carnival and the passing out parade - for those who have not seen this yet, please ask Mr Andrews or maybe myself, Mrs Reynolds, next time you see me, and one of us will arrange for your class to see everyday life, the sports carnival and the parade in this small village school on the Coral Coast of Fiji.

Keep up the great work SPS!



Do something special. Give blood.
Call 13 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au

Visit our website | Make an appointment | Find your nearest donor centre

DONOR MOBILE VISITING SOON

The Australian Red Cross Mobile Blood Service is visiting **Singleton Senior Citizens Hall**, Cnr of Bathurst & William St

- Monday 2 December, 10.00am – 3.00pm (14 more donors needed)
- Tuesday 3 December, 1.30pm – 6.30pm (6 more donors needed)
- Wednesday 4 December, 1.30pm – 6.30pm (10 more donors needed)
- Thursday 5 December, 1.30pm – 6.30pm (16 more donors needed)
- Friday 6 December, 10.00am – 3.00pm (26 more donors needed)

If you haven't already made an appointment to give blood, you can [make an appointment online](#) or call us on 13 14 95.

SINGLETON CALENDAR OF EVENTS
2013 / 2014

<p>MONTHLY Singleton Markets Singleton Showground 8am – 1pm, 4th Saturday of each month T: 0459 700 022</p> <p>NOVEMBER Christmas Lights Spectacular Hunter Valley Gardens Friday 15th November 2013 – Sunday 26th January 2014 www.hvg.com or T: 02 4998 4000</p> <p>Indulge Your Senses – Wine & Chocolate Master class Wyndham Estate Dalwood 16th & 17th and 30th November 2013 www.wyndhamestate.com or T: 02 4938 3444</p> <p>Sacred Tree Markets St Brigids School, New England HWY, Branxton 9am – 2pm, Sunday 17th November 2013, www.sacredtreemarkets.com.au</p> <p>Historic Movies Under The Stars Callicoma Hill Eco Cabins, Mt Royal 8pm - Saturday 23rd November 2013 Contact Martin & Jan Falding on T: 02 6571 1208</p> <p>Special Olympics Torch Relay Carnival Singleton Rose Point Park, Singleton 3pm – 8pm, Friday 29th November 2013 E: svicc@singleton.nsw.gov.au or T: 1800 449 888</p>	<p>Sculpture in the Vineyards Wollombi Valley Wine Trail 2nd November to 1st December 2013 www.sculptureinthevineyards.com.au</p> <p>DECEMBER Community Carols at the Heights Allan Bull Reserve, Singleton Saturday 7th December 2013 E: office@singletonbaptist.org.au or T: 02 6573 1582</p> <p>Indulge Your Senses – Wine & Chocolate Master class Wyndham Estate Dalwood 1st, 21st, 22nd, 28th & 29th December 2013 www.wyndhamestate.com or T: 02 4938 3444</p> <p>Sacred Tree Markets St Brigids School, New England HWY, Branxton 9am – 2pm, Sunday 15th December 2013 www.sacredtreemarkets.com.au</p> <p>JANUARY Australia Day Celebrations Civic Centre Green, Civic Avenue, Singleton 11am – 1.30pm, Sunday 26th January 2014 E: svicc@singleton.nsw.gov.au or T: 1800 449 888</p> <p>Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this brochure and all details were correct at the time of publication. Subject to change without notice.</p>
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Singleton Visitor Information and Enterprise Centre
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1800 449 888 T: 02 6571 3488 F: 02 6571 5599
E: SVI@singleton.nsw.gov.au
www.visitingleton.com

Coming to Singleton!

When: Saturday 30 November 2013
Time: 10 am - 12:30 pm
RSVP by: Friday 22 November 2013
Call for more details: 1300 200 558 (local call cost)

Living Well After Cancer

A program for cancer survivors, their family and friends.

1A Animal Shelters

