

# Newsletter to Parents

## SINGLETON PUBLIC SCHOOL



*Enter to Learn*

Find us at: 8 Hunter Street, Singleton NSW 2330  
Phone: (02) 6571 2250 Fax: (02) 6572 3076

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website: [www.singleton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.singleton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Week 7 Term 1

QUALITY RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY

12 MARCH 2014

Congratulations to the incoming executive committee of our P&C association. Mr Andrew Turner has taken on the presidency and will be supported by Donna Croft (Treasurer), Rebecca Hobbs (Secretary), James Skinner (Vice President) and Kathy Lamph (Vice President). In addition to these roles a number of parents have stepped up to lead various sectors of the P&C including Kim Carter (Canteen Supervisor), Jan Fallding (Band Programs), Syed Alam (School Magazine) and Penny Clancy and El Keulemans (Breakfast Club).

There is a vacancy for the position of Uniform Shop Coordinator which is an important position to ensure our shop has appropriate stock levels; have sufficient volunteer staff; and ensure all accounts are forwarded to the treasurer. You do not have to be in the shop during opening hours. We have had a number of well organised people in the role previously and their comprehensive notes and guidelines are available to assist the lucky person that fills this position. A coloured flyer was distributed on Monday to promote the role as well as the School Yard Blitz.

On Sunday afternoon commencing at 1pm, Miss Moon is asking for parents and carers to come to the school to assist with a general clean up in preparation for the judging of our school in the National Tidy Towns competition. For the past few years King Street Public School has won the local schools category and Miss Moon feels that we should give them a real challenge. Even if you can only spare an hour your assistance would be greatly appreciated. There is edging to be done, pruning, mulching, weeding, everything that is required to make our school look absolutely smick.

David Crowe  
Principal

### School Hats

A reminder that school hats must be worn at all times in the playground. Should children come to school without a hat, they will be required to play under the COLA or in the School Library as per the school's Sun Safe Policy.

### Calendar of Events

<b>Friday 14 March</b>	Zone Winter Trials Book Club payments due back at school Netball Trial <b>Year 4 excursion - please advise the school if your child is attending (if you haven't already)</b>
<b>Wednesday 19 March</b>	Lion King Excursion
<b>Thursday 20 March</b>	Kindergarten excursion to the Vet
<b>Friday 21 March</b>	Supercover payments due Hunter Rugby League
<b>Friday 28 March</b>	University of NSW ICAS Tests payment due (see Page 5 for further information) Zone Cross Country
<b>Monday 31st March</b>	EnviroMentors Workshop
<b>Tuesday 1 April</b>	EnviroMentors Workshop
<b>Wednesday 2 April</b>	Harmony Day - out of uniform - gold coin donation
<b>Friday 4 April</b>	Hunter Winter Trials
<b>Monday 7 April</b>	Military Museum
<b>Tuesday 8 April</b>	Military Museum
<b>Wednesday 9 April</b>	Military Museum
<b>Thursday 10 April</b>	Easter Activates (Easter Parade starts 10.30am)
<b>Friday 11 April</b>	Canberra Final Payments due Last Day of Term 1
<b>Monday 28 April</b>	Staff Development Day
<b>Tuesday 29 April</b>	First Day Term 2

**This week's assembly will be hosted by 2P starting at 12.45pm. We will also be presenting zone swimming ribbons.**



Education &  
Communities

## Swimming Carnival Age Champion

Congratulations to Bailey who was also Senior Boys Age Champion at our School Swimming Carnival. Well done Bailey.

## Debating

On Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, the Year 6 debaters drove to the Heights Public School for a day of learning! We were taught many debating skills, tricks and the 'important' rules of debating. Throughout the day we did lots of great games which involved outwitting the other debaters that were attending. We had a great day and learnt many things! We are looking forward to a great year of debating!

By The Persuaders and The Convincibles.

## Harmony Day Celebration 2014

On 2nd April for a gold coin donation that will go to the Red Cross, students may wear either traditional dress or an Orange or Red top.

## School Yardblitz

SUNDAY 16TH MARCH

1-4pm

Parents and children welcome. (Lots of jobs for the kids!!)

Judging for Tidy Towns competition Tuesday 18th March.

**JOB:** weeding, hedging, mowing Hunter Street and edging, cleaning street gutters in Hunter Street, composting, watering, mulching vegetable gardens, whippersnipping around sandpit, gardens, seats....

Bring gloves, hats, sunscreen, water. Refreshments will be provided.

Also a few more whipper snippers, edgers, shovels and rakes will be needed.

Please let Fiona Moon know if you can help by Thursday 13th March.

Please avoid parking on the Hunter Street school side as that is our major focus for clean up.

Thanking you all in anticipation of a big turn out.

**LET'S GET OUR SCHOOL LOOKING GOOD!!**

## Kinder Vet Excursion

On Thursday, 20 March, Kindergarten will be walking to the Singleton Veterinary Hospital to learn more about caring for pets. Kindergarten will leave school at 12.30 pm and return by 2.00 pm. This excursion is covered by the general permission note.

## Health Alert - Chicken Pox

There has been a reported case of Chickenpox (Varicella) within the school community. Please see the facts below taken from the NSW Government Health website:-

### What are the symptoms?

- Chickenpox begins with a sudden onset of slight fever, runny nose, feeling generally unwell and skin rash.
- The rash usually begins as small lumps that turn into blisters and then scabs.
- Symptoms usually occur two weeks after exposure to the virus.

### How is it spread?

- Early in the illness, the virus is spread by coughing.
- Later in the illness, the virus is spread by direct contact with the fluid in the blisters.
- Please exclude for at least 5 days after the first spots appear and all of the blisters have dried.

## Zone Swimming Carnival Ribbons

Zone Swimming Carnival Ribbons will be handed out at this Friday's weekly assembly at 12.45 pm.

 Nutrition Snippet

## The simplest way

...to create a tasty arvo snack

Try this quick, tasty banana toastie recipe to add some fruit to your kids' arvo tea.



**Ingredients**

1 small egg, beaten	1 banana, sliced
1 tsp orange juice	1 tbsp sultanas
1 tsp caster sugar	Pinch of cinnamon
4 slices multigrain bread	1tbsp reduced-fat ricotta cheese

**Method**

1. Combine egg, juice, ricotta and sugar.
2. Add banana, sultanas and cinnamon and mix.
3. Place two slices of bread on the sandwich maker, divide mixture over the two slices, top with remaining slices of bread
4. Toast until heated through and egg is cooked. 1 serve of fruit. Serves 2.

Yum! Simple + delish!

For more information visit  
[www.eatittobeatit.com.au](http://www.eatittobeatit.com.au)  
 or join us at [facebook.com/eatittobeatit](https://www.facebook.com/eatittobeatit)



### Uniform Shop Roster - Week 8, Term 1 2014

Mon 17/3/14 (8.30 - 9.30 am) Rebecca Hobbs, Cindy Dippel

Fri 21/3/14 (8.30 - 9.30 am) Kathy Lamph, Leane Knox

Please contact someone else on the roster if you need to swap your duty.

### Canteen Roster - Week 8, Term 1 2014

Mon 17/3/14

**2 more helpers please**

Tues 18/3/14

Nadia Brown, Nicole Furness

Wed 19/3/14

Liz Tudor, Renee MacDonald

Thurs 20/3/14

Karen Bull, Louise Cuttriss

Fri 21/3/14

Paula Stokes, Kim Carter, Mandy Ward

Please advise Nicole Gray if you have any changes to your rostered day.

### Information from the DEC

#### Great books for tweens to read

Favourite books from the Premier's Reading Challenge team that will inspire kids aged between nine and 13 to read read read!

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/hu/homework-and-study/english/my-book-club/helping-tweens-to-love-reading/ideal-books-for-tweens-to-read>

#### Science assignment starters

Not sure where to go to help your child find out about electricity, natural disasters, the solar system or other science projects? Have a look at our project starters.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/other-subjects-and-projects/science/>

### 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 .....

## **A Big Brekky Thankyou!**

A huge thankyou to all the kids who came and took part in the Big Brekky and made it so much fun on Thursday, 27 February. You successfully ate through 380 savoury scrolls and fruit muffins, over 200 pieces of fruit, 120 pieces of toast, 50 bowls of cereal, and 400 serves of cold milo!

We hope you enjoyed seeing the photos on the front page of the Argus last week. Otherwise, check out the article at [www.singletonargus.com.au/story/2124582/break-for-breakfast/](http://www.singletonargus.com.au/story/2124582/break-for-breakfast/) and more photos at [www.singletonargus.com.au/story/2126424/photos-tuesday-4-march/?cs=1786](http://www.singletonargus.com.au/story/2126424/photos-tuesday-4-march/?cs=1786). Shannon Dann certainly captured the enjoyable atmosphere.

Again a massive thank you to the wonderful parents who volunteered on the day, those that volunteer regularly and the Singleton High School hospitality students and their inspiring mentor, Tracey Holloway. The success of the day is a credit to your toasty-warm practical souls.

We would also like to particularly thank the volunteers who did extra help behind the scenes and in the lead up to the day (including baking all those yummy treats): Nadia Brown, Maree Davidson, Stacie Haines, Susan Henderson, Deb Hannan, Cybel Orton, Genna Pfeifer, Robyn Skinner, Liz Tudor, Anne Marie McNamara, Mel Vesper and Jason Dippel (for being our go-to-man on the day). Thankyou also Nicole Gray (our Canteen Wonder Woman) and Garry for your ongoing assistance.

Thankyou to Singleton Neighbourhood Centre and XStrata Coal (for funding the program), Chemart Chemist for your generous donations and support of Brekky Club, Aljam Computers for your donation, Councillor Ruth Rodgers for your attendance on the day, and Singleton Public School and P&C (especially our fantastic Treasurer Donna Croft) for recognising the need to eat a good breakfast so you can get the best out of your school day.

Penny Clancy & El Keulemans

**Photos removed for internet publishing**

## **Year 4 Sydney Excursion**

Our school is currently organising the Year 4 Sydney excursion. The dates for this will be Monday 8th – Wednesday 10th September, 2014. Year 4 will plan to visit Chinatown, the Sydney Opera House, the Botanical Gardens, Darling Harbour, Taronga Zoo, Sydney Aquarium and the Australian Museum. They will be staying at the Namaroo Cabins in Lane Cove National Park.

**PLEASE ADVISE THE SCHOOL OF YOUR INTENTIONS BEFORE FRIDAY, 14 MARCH 2014 AS NUMBERS HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO THE BUS COMPANY.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE EXCURSION AS A PARENT, PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW ASAP.**

## **Positive Behaviour for Learning – PBL**

### **Moving sensibly around our school!**

RESPECT – RESPONSIBILITY – QUALITY! Three words that combine to make a fantastic individual. The majority of our students naturally display these traits on a daily basis.

Safety is an important issue for all families therefore there are a number of topics that you could discuss around the kitchen table including;

- Does your child see others engaging in silly or dangerous behaviours when travelling to and from school?
- Talk about considering others when in public places i.e. walking on the left; moving to the side to have conversations with people; not stopping in the middle of an entrance.
- Are your children riding their bikes, scooters or skate boards in a sensible manner?

PS: A family I stayed with recently designated each Monday night as family night. They did not have any electronic devices or phones for that evening. They engaged in activities that encouraged positive family interaction including barbeques, family walks, games, bike rides, etc. By removing the 'easy entertainment' of technology that family were engaged in meaningful conversations with each other and could discuss highs and lows from the previous week – think about it.

## **School Cross Country Results**

Last Friday morning the Cross Country Carnival was held at Rose Point Park. All students from Years 2-6 attended the carnival with the 8,9 and 10 years completing 2km and the 11, 12 and 13 years completing 3km. It was great to see all the students giving it a go and trying their best. It was also great to see the support the students gave each other as their peers ran past.

The top 3 runners from each age group (boys and girls) will progress through to the Zone Carnival on Friday 28th March at Muswellbrook. We wish all of these runners the best of luck as they represent our school.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped out on the day and made the carnival run so smoothly. A table of results from the Cross Country appears on the next page.

Joel Andrews, Sports Co-ordinator

**On Friday the 21st March Cross Country ribbons and medallions will be presented at assembly.**

**Photos removed for internet publishing**

## Library News

### Overdue Book Draw

Last week we had a prize draw for all students with no overdue library books. Congratulations to Haajrah Alam who won the K-2 draw and Fynn Johnston who won the 3-6 draw.

Students are allowed to borrow books for 2 weeks. They can renew the books if they still need them. Remember it's never too late to return your books.

### Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge officially starts this week. This year they have released an app to help students pick and keep track of their books.

Students in K-2 need to read 30 books. This will be completed at school in their classes.

Students in 3-6 need to read 20 books. This will not be done as class groups although books used for independent reading in class may be used. 15 books need to come from the list. The remaining 5 can be free choice.

For students who find reading a challenge, why not become a member of the Singleton Council Library and download the audio books for children to listen to as they follow on with the book.

### A Personal Note

Thank you to the school community for the warm welcome I have received to the school. I am really enjoying working with the staff and students and look forward to meeting more of the parent community throughout the year.

Mrs Van Der Wel

## POSITION VACANT

Uniform Shop Coordinator

Singleton Public School P&C Role



Volunteer required to coordinate the operation of the P&C

Uniform Shop. Duties include:

- Stocktake and ordering
- Reviewing new stock ideas
- Coordination of Volunteer helpers

- ✓ Flexible hours would suit parent or carer that regularly visits the school. Commitment varies throughout the year approx. 2.5 – 5 hours per week.
- ✓ Plenty of guidance and previous experience to assist the lucky applicant.
- ✓ Please contact the School if you are interested 6571 2250

## Cross Country Results 2014

Congratulations to the following children who gained places at the school Cross Country on Friday:-

### **8/9 Year Girls**

1<sup>st</sup> Lucy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Emily  
3<sup>rd</sup> Emma

### **8/9 Year Boys**

1<sup>st</sup> Brock  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hamish  
3<sup>rd</sup> Oliver

### **10 Year Girls**

1<sup>st</sup> Lexi  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hannah  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sophie

### **10 Year Boys**

1<sup>st</sup> Ryan  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ethan  
3<sup>rd</sup> Callan

### **11 Year Girls**

1<sup>st</sup> Jules  
2<sup>nd</sup> Chloe  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sophie

### **11 Year Boys**

1<sup>st</sup> Campbell  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cambell  
3<sup>rd</sup> Flynn

### **12/13 Year Girls**

1<sup>st</sup> Tess  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ella  
3<sup>rd</sup> Reece

### **12/13 Year Boys**

1<sup>st</sup> Will  
2<sup>nd</sup> Braith  
3<sup>rd</sup> Cooper





Is your child gifted, talented, intelligent, curious, creative and filled with promise?

**WE CAN HELP YOU!**

An invitation to participate in a series of innovative workshops at UTS

**WhizzKyd's workshops**

Creative Teaching, Dynamic Learning!



Sponsored by:

**Further Details:**

**2014 Program Dates:**  
 March 22/23rd  
 June 7/8th  
 August 8/10th  
 October 25/26th

**Cost:**  
 \$80 (+ GST) per day  
 or \$165 (+ GST) per weekend

**Time:**  
 8:30am-3:30pm  
 (Saturday and/or Sunday)

**Workshop Categories:**  
 Year 3/4, Year 5/6 and Year 7/8

[www.inspirationeducation.com.au](http://www.inspirationeducation.com.au) | 1300 677 336

## AN INVITATION TO PARENT/CARERS

*Do you provide care and support to a Child/Young Person who is aged Pre-School to School Years with a Disability, Mental Illness or Chronic Condition?*

*You are Invited to attend our  
**FREE Parent/Carer Information Sessions***

**Where:** Club Macquarie, 458 Lake Road, Argenton  
**Time:** 9.30am — 2.00pm  
**Cost:** FREE — Morning Tea & Light Lunch Provided  
**RSVP:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April – For Catering Purposes  
 Ph: 4921 4895 or 1300 887 776  
 or [Educare-Admin@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Educare-Admin@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au)

**When:** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014  
 • The Impact of being a Parent/Carer – HNE – Carer Education & Support Program – Hunter  
 • Building Parent Resilience – Jackie Currey, First Chance

**When:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
 • Siblings – HNE – Carer Education & Support Program - Hunter  
 • National Disability Insurance Agency – Suzanne Punshon  
 • Using Assisted Technology – Ben Coombe, Samaritans

**When:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
 • The Importance of Support Groups – Bronwyn Thoroughgood - Families Supporting Families  
 • Child Behaviour that Challenges Us – Craig Moore, Clinical Psychologist  
 • Discrimination – Your Rights and Responsibilities – Claire Williams – Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW

Respite may be available by contacting Commonwealth Respite & Carelink Centre on 1800 052 222



Health  
 Hunter New England  
 Local Health District



## Become a CHESS HERO

**Chess Workshop**  
 Learn cool techniques to outsmart your opponents. Chess Wizard, David Absalom will facilitate the morning sharing his expert knowledge of the game.

9am to 12noon Saturday, 5 April 2014  
 Singleton Public Library  
 Gold coin donation

## TWO EVENTS WITH DAVID ABSALOM CHESS WIZARD

Great prizes

**Chess Tournament**  
 Battle it out with other under 18s in a Chess Tournament umpired by David Absalom

9am to 12noon Saturday, 12 April 2014  
 Singleton Public Library  
 Gold coin donation

RSVP [rstalker@singleton.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rstalker@singleton.nsw.gov.au) or 6571 4687

Singleton COUNCIL

NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK  
 ONE VOICE OUR MIND  
 1-18 APRIL 2014



## Holiday Fun

### SINGLETON STRIKERS FOOTBALL CLINIC 2014

Monday to Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2014.

Cost: \$130.00 per child, Second child in a family pays \$110.00.  
 Third and subsequent child pays \$90.00.

Included in this cost is 9 Hours of Professional Coaching under the direction of Singleton Strikers First Division Team Head Coach, Scott Baillie.

Each player will also receive an Admiral playing shirt & shorts, a Nike Football, a cap, a drink bottle, fruit and a lunch pack each day (including a fruit drink), and chances to win vouchers from local business & A League Merchandise (including a signed Jets Shirt & Ball).

PLEASE NOTE - NO SOCCER EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED - IT'S A FUN FILLED THREE DAYS OF FOOTBALL SKILLS, LEARNING AND GAMES

Where: Howe Park, Boundary St, Singleton.  
 Time: 9:00am to 12:00pm (please arrive by 8-45am for a warm-up)  
 Ages: 5 to 17 years

For more details visit  
<http://www.singletonstrikers.com/2014clinic.html>  
 or email us at [2014clinic@singletonstrikers.com](mailto:2014clinic@singletonstrikers.com)

## Class work from 6M

### **Darren Shan – Chapter 24**

**6M have been studying 'Darren Shan' and have written their own chapter for the book. You'll have to read it now to see if they predicted correctly!**

As I walked down the stairs, they creaked and my body shivered. I was so scared. I didn't know what to say or do. It frightened me a lot. As I got down to the cellar there it was, the coffin, but it was empty. "Where is he?" I thought to myself and then I heard the sound of footsteps coming closer and closer.

I spun around to see who my opponent was. It was Mr Crepsley with Madame Octa in his left hand.

"I know what you did, you stole Madame Octa and now you've put your friends life in danger," Mr Cepsley said fiercely, looking at me, wide-eyed. Chloe



**I started to go down the stairs, I felt like my legs were going to give way but I steadied them. Finally I reached the bottom of the stairs in what felt like minutes yet only seconds had passed.**

**"Ok" I said to myself, "it won't be much longer". Then I saw it. The black coffin right in front of me and there was a hand coming out of it!**

**Jeremy**

As I crept down the old, dusty stairs, silent as a mouse, I thought to myself, what if I don't find a cure for Madam Octa's bite? What if Steve dies? It will be my entire fault. I regret stealing that stupid spider I yelled, I regret it, I regret it. At that moment I fell silent and then as I reached the bottom of the rickety stairs.



"Hello Darren, I was expecting you," a voice said from behind me. A shiver of fear ran down my spine. It was Mr Crepsley. I turned around slowly, my body was numb from head to toe.

Claire Lamph

**I crept down stairs, grabbed the torch and then the batteries ran out after a couple of minutes. It was dark. I found the stairs and walked down, they creaked. There he was, Mr Crepsley, with Madam Octa in his hand. He was really, really, really angry.**



**Steve**

