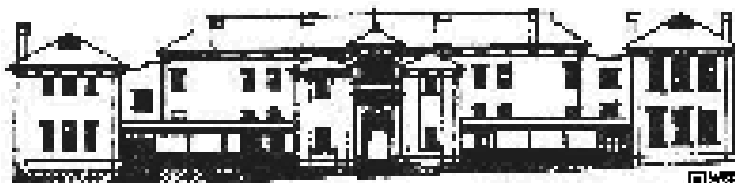


Week 11
Term 4

Wednesday
17 December
2014



Summer Hill e-News



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The staff of SHPS wish all our students and their families a very safe and happy Christmas. We wish our students and their families who are leaving us all the best in their new schools in 2015. You will be missed. We look forward to welcoming all our new students and their families to the Summer Hill school community in 2015 and sharing with them a year ahead full of exciting learning opportunities.

Classes 2015

Preparations are well underway for our 2015 classes. The class groupings are dictated by the staffing formula handed to us by the DEC and then marrying this allocation with the needs of all students across the school. When deciding on the classes for any year, we attempt to obtain as much information as possible to ensure that; given the resources of the school (number of teachers, classroom availability, number of children, etc..) we place children as best we can.

The classes are officially based on best social and academic fit - and they always will be. What we do is have teachers form classes in consultation with the Executive. Please be assured that 99% of the time the issues the parents bring to us we know about and have dealt with already.

50 Sporty Things To Do Before You Turn 12 & three-quarters

The PDHPE Committee at Summer Hill Public School have challenged the students to complete a series of sporting activities over the summer holidays. The idea was borrowed and adapted from an English program and is designed to encourage students away from excessive screen time. It has been explained to the students that the challenge is NOT mandatory and, if attempted, that it must be completed under adult supervision. It is advised that the activities are supervised by parents/guardians and that all possible safety conditions are taken into consideration. Photos of students completing the challenge will be collected early next year to be shown in an assembly. Have fun doing these activities together or thinking of new ones!

Year 6 Dinner Dance

I would like to congratulate all our Year 6 students on a wonderful night of dancing and excitement for their Year 6 Dinner Dance last night. The staff of Canada Bay Club spoke with me in regard to the student's excellent behaviour and I could not have been more proud of them. I wish them all the best in their journey into high school.

Please see the **P&C Annual Report 2014** on our website. The staff and students thank the P&C for their outstanding support throughout 2014.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Karen Shehata (Principal)

Unity

By Cleo V. Swarat

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher:
the tools he used were books and music and art;
One was a parent
With a guiding hand and a gentle loving heart.

And when at last their work was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had worked into the child
Could never be sold or bought!

And each agreed they would have failed
if they had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school,
and behind the teacher stood the home!

Coming Events

January 2015

Wed 28 - First Day Term 1
(Year 1 to 6 students)

- Wed 28 & Thu 29 - Band & Orch Auditions in Music Room
- Fri 30 - Yr 1-6 Assembly in Hall 11.05am
- Fri 30 - Yr 4-6 PSSA Summer Trials 1.20-3.00pm

February 2015

- Tue 3 to Thu 5 - Chess starts in Library
- Tue 3 - Stage Band rehearsal starts 3.00pm
- Wed 4 - Symph & Chamber Orch rehearsal 8-9am
- Wed 4 - Concert Band rehearsal 3-4pm
- Thu 5 - Senior Band rehearsal 8-9am
- Fri 6 - Yr 3-6 Assembly 11.05am
- Fri 6 - Yr 4-6 PSSA Summer trials 1.20-3.00pm
- Mon 10 - Junior Recorder start 8.15am
- Wed 11 - Kindy & Yr 1 'Try



**TERM 1 2015 STARTS WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY FOR YR 1 TO 6 STUDENTS.
KINDY STUDENTS START WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2015 AND WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THEIR
START TIME BY LETTER.**

SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN RESPONSE TO THE SYDNEY SIEGE

The siege that we are seeing unfold in Sydney today will be having, and will continue to have a significant impact on many people around Australia. There has been building anxiety that there will be deliberate harm done to people in public and the threat that this siege poses will touch on the fears of individuals, families and children.

The nature of events, such as this siege, is that they are seemingly random, unexpected and take place in places where people go about their daily business with the belief that they are safe. And this is one of the factors that makes an event such as this trigger our fear. It threatens one of our core beliefs that we are essentially safe.

Media coverage at times like this is important in providing people who are affected with news and information about loved ones, about where to go and when it is safe. Reading and watching the media coverage and following what is happening on social media leads to feelings of worry, anxiety and distress for most of us. It is normal to feel anxiety and sadness for those who are involved, their loved ones and others that are affected. We know, though, that for some people, this ongoing media coverage has the potential to lead to some more significant feelings of anxiety, worry and sadness. This can be especially true of children, who do not always have a good understanding of what they are reading about or witnessing in the media, and to some extent need to be protected from some of this ongoing coverage.

When distressing events, such as this siege, are shown on TV, or covered on the radio or internet, parents need to be mindful of how much exposure their child has to this. The media can tend to focus on some of the more frightening aspects and images. Seeing this type of media coverage can cause distress or worry for children and young people. Children may also discuss these events amongst themselves, so even though children may not see images on TV, they may still be exposed through their conversations with others.

Some of the ways this sort of media coverage can affect children and young people includes:

It can lead to children and young people thinking a lot about the event, which can impact on their sleep and can also impact on their concentration when they are at school. It can cause worry and anxiety that the same thing may happen to them or their family. It can lead them to feel generally unsafe and worried and that some other bad event may happen to them or their family.

Families can help to support children at this time by:

- Restricting the amount of media coverage children see of the event.
- Watching media coverage with your child so that you are there to answer any questions they may have

Watching media coverage with your child so that you are there to answer any questions they may have.

Helping to remind your child that they are safe and that you are there to answer any questions for them if they feel unsafe.

Giving support to your child if they are upset and comforting them.

Many children may feel worried or anxious over the days to come, but for most this will settle. If your child has worries or sadness about this event that continues over the days and weeks, then it is good to speak with a health professional about how your child is going.



Signs of possible trauma in children and adolescents

[Disasters, the media and your child](#)

[The strengths of children and families](#)

The [Australian Child & Adolescent Trauma, Loss & Grief Network](#) website also has an extensive range of resources on the impact of trauma for people working with children.



The [Trauma & Grief Network: Supporting Families](#) website has lots of helpful information for families on helping children with the impact of trauma. Some helpful resources include:



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM MRS SHEHATA

KAREN KEKALE AWARDS

Congratulations to 2014 Karen Kekale award recipients Oscar H. (2JA) and Tacha R (2AH).



Exodus Graduation

Each day in Terms 2 & 3 four students attended the Exodus Literacy in Redfern, which was established by Bill Crews, to work on their literacy skills. They attended the graduation ceremony last Friday and received certificates of completion, books and a backpack full of gifts. Charbel T. (4SB) gave a thoughtful speech to thank the teachers and volunteers, and then was given the most improved award - congratulations! He graduated along with Nicholas B. (5KB), Andrew M. and George L. (4LG), and I was very proud of them all! Keep up the reading boys!

Gillian Bale
Learning and Support Teacher

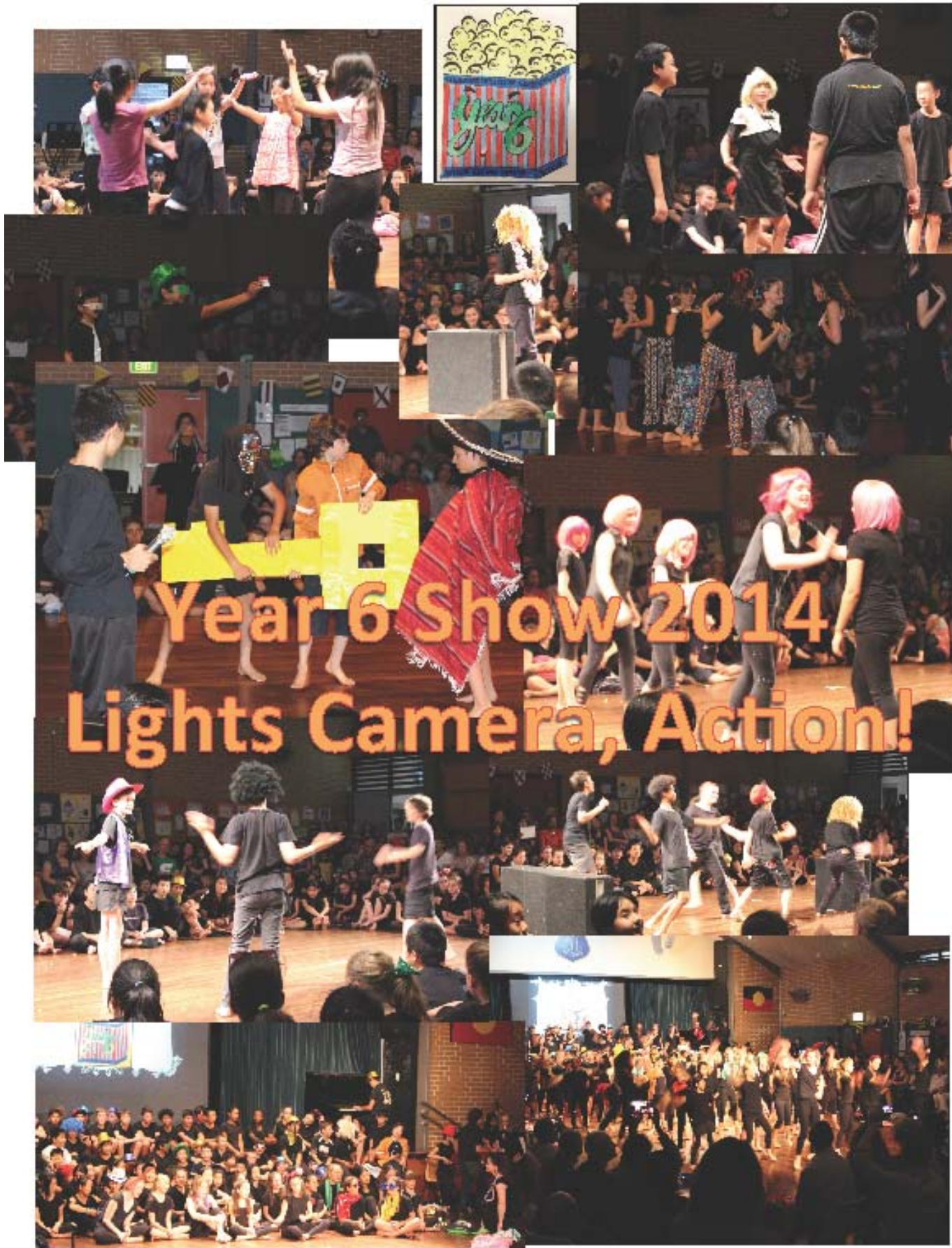
GOLDEN BIN AWARD

"CONGRATULATIONS all students for your efforts in keeping the playground clean this year. The winning team in the 2014 House Teams 4 Habitat Competition is BORDER! Border Captains pictured here receiving the Golden Garbage Bin trophy."
Thank you Ms Adele and the Sustainability Committee for your tremendous energy and support of this initiative.



UNIFORM SHOP EXTENDED TRADING HOURS

Monday 19th January 2015 to Friday 23rd January 2015
10.00am to 12.00pm



MUSIC NEWS

Congratulations Michaela!

Michaela V from 4JM was successful in her audition and has been offered a position to play the viola in one of the Sydney Youth Orchestras in 2015. "

P & C NEWS

This is my final report as President, and it gives me great pleasure to be able to report that it was another great year in 2014. The fundraising team led by Helen De Wolfe, organised a number of very successful events raising \$101,214 in gross revenue, a slight decrease on income in 2013. This represents a net fundraising income of \$53,726 for the year which is a wonderful result.

The result of all this work is our contribution to the school, and this year we made a financial contribution of \$101,599. In line with our Disbursement Policy, this included \$73,830 in Strategic funding, \$25,948 in Committee and Curriculum funding and \$1,822 in Contingency funding. Not all of this money was raised this year, but had been held over from previous years waiting for the right project to fund.

Overall we provided funding for student insurance, support for the music program, support for the sport program, funding for interactive whiteboards and most importantly, much needed funding to resurface the playground. We have also committed to provide an additional \$30,000 in 2015 for the playground. The Annual Report is on the website, and it provides more detail about our activities in 2014.

It has been said before (and will no doubt be said again) but our volunteers are our lifeblood. On behalf of the community I thank everyone who has helped at the school either as a class parent, or helped in the classroom, helped at an event, attended a P&C meeting or attended one of our events. Thank you for supporting your kids' school.

I would also like to thank the staff who have given us so much support throughout the year. Thank you to Eve who puts up with so many questions from me, and Poppy who makes our contributions to the School Newsletter look so professional; to Mark and Jane who come to our meetings bringing their ideas, energy and commitment to the education of our children; to all the teaching staff who support our events; to the office staff who support us; and to Karen who has been so wonderful to work with and who is leading the School so capably.

The P&C has done some wonderful things over the last few years, and none of it would have happened without such a committed executive team. I would like to thank all of the office bearers I've had the pleasure of working with, and in particular, I'd like to thank: the Vice-Presidents for helping to share the load, especially Priscilla for stepping in when I couldn't; Frances for meticulous records and keeping our email database up-to-date; the Treasurers, especially Sandy who makes financial reporting so easy even I can understand it; and the indefatigable Helen. Thank you all for your commitment to the School, for your hard work, for your intellect and most importantly for your senses of humour We have had fun!!

Thank you to everyone who has helped us support Summer Hill Public School so it continues to be such a great school. We really couldn't do what we do without all of you.

Deborah Samuels
President

P&C Executive Positions – ELECTION

All P&C Executive
tion next year.

Are you keen to get

- President
- Vice President(s)
- Secretary
- Deputy Secretary
- Treasurer
- Deputy Treasurer
- Fundraising & Events Coordinator

Positions will be up for elec-

involved.....

No experience necessary, just enthusiasm and commitment.

A fantastic way to meet people and have a say about what happens at Summer Hill PS.

Election of these positions are at the first P&C Meeting in 2015 – Tuesday 17th February.

If you are keen, considering or just want some more information please get in contact now.....shpandc@gmail.com.

FORTHCOMING CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

Christmas Eve (Christian) – 24 December

Christmas Eve is the Christian celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. Although Christmas Eve is not particularly celebrated in English speaking countries, in European countries religious ceremonies and celebrations such as lighting a yule log and having a special Christmas Eve are that animals can talk, water turns to wine and hidden treasures are revealed.

Christmas Day (Christian) -25 December

On Christmas Day, Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is the most widely celebrated Christian festival. Families gather to attend church services, sing carols, exchange gifts and enjoy special Christmas food.

Boxing Day – 26 December

This day's name comes from the tradition from opening alms boxes placed in churches during the Christmas season. The contents of these alms boxes were distributed to the poor and needy of the parish.

Hogmanay – 31-December

Hogmanay is the Scottish New Year's Eve celebration. At midnight people farewell the old year and welcome in the new year by drinking a 'toast' and holding hands to sing 'Auld Lang Syne'.

CHESS NEWS

Sydney Academy of Chess are planning to hold another "Try Chess Day", which will be free for Kindergarten and Year 1 children to attend next year on Wednesday 11th February, 2015 from 8am-8:45am in the library.

Why Chess?

- Create Brighter Thinkers
- Improve Student Focus
- Achieve Academic Success

Educational Benefits of Chess:

- Improves concentration and focus
- Develops logical thinking and problem solving skills
- Enhances memory
- Encourages creative and lateral thinking
- Promotes discipline
- Accelerates emotional development
- Expands visualisation and spatial awareness
- Demonstrates actions and consequences
- Rewards correct decision making
- Increases self-confidence
- Provides opportunities to make new friends from diverse backgrounds



**Combines
learning
with fun!**

Summer Hill Public School - Try Chess Day
Wednesday 11th February, 2015 8am - 8:45am in the Library
FREE for all Year K-1 students

All Kindy and Year 1 students are welcome to join a free beginners chess class, in which basic instructions will be given about the rules of chess by a professional chess coach. Also, children will receive mentoring via the school chess captains. No prior chess knowledge is necessary, and both boys and girls are welcome to join!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Canterbury Junior Football Club

Canterbury Junior FC is a community club run by volunteers.

Our club offers:

Small Sided Games (5 yrs to 12 yrs) - Saturdays for boys & mixed teams to 11yrs

Junior competitions (boys, girls & mixed teams) - Sundays for girls & from 12yrs

All skill levels catered for, no experience necessary

Participation encouraged within a family friendly, social environment.

We are looking for new female players for all age groups



Register online January at My Football Club website: www.myfootballclub.com.au

Clubhouse Registration Dates: First Three Sundays February Lees Park Clubhouse, Harmony St, Ashbury

Contact Details:

Club Secretary: clubsecretary@cjfc.asn.au Club Registrar: Lorraine Cox, m: 0408 883 197 (after 5pm) registrar@cjfc.asn.au

For more information see our website: www.cjfc.asn.au

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Please check the Community Notice Board for School Holiday activity notices run by the local community.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

As of Wednesday 28th January 2015 the new School Office hours are between 8.30 and 3.45pm.



WISHING THE SUMMMER HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR





Summer 2014-15 Holiday Workshop Timetable

This summer, The Writing Workshop is delighted to offer a huge range summer holiday creative writing workshops for children aged 5-15. All workshops are conducted by prize-winning authors.

The Writing Workshop helps young writers build confidence, take pride in work, develop creativity, improve literacy, increase general braininess and have a lot of fun.

December 2014

- Sunday 21st December 10am - 1.00pm "Selective Schools Entrance and ACER Test Preparation Workshop" for current year 5 students. Includes notes and example tests.
- Tuesday 23rd December 10am - 3.30pm "Write Your Own Book" workshop for 8-13 year olds. Everything your child needs to write their own extended creative work.

January 2015

- Wednesday 7th January 10am - 3.30pm "Heroes, Anti-Heroes and Nearly-Heroes" workshop for 8-13 year-olds. Create real heroes and heroines, nasty pieces of work and the kinds of characters for whom things don't always work out as expected, no matter how hard they try. Bring a picnic lunch and plenty of ideas.
- Wednesday 14th January 10am - 3.30pm "Tales of Mystery and Suspense" workshop for 9-14 year-olds. Create characters with secrets of gold or power or crime, smart and greedy rivals, red herrings and smart detection. Gain all the skills and inspiration you need to write your own mystery story.
- Thursday 15th January 9.30am - 12.30pm "Story-Making Fun" workshop for 5-8 year-olds. Entertaining and creative session of oral and written story-telling: write and illustrate your own imaginative stories. Fun and educational workshop for our youngest writers. All materials provided.
- Sunday 18th January 10am - 3.30pm "Write Your Own Book" workshop for 8-13 year olds. Everything your child needs to write their own extended creative work. \$132.
- Monday 19th January 10am - 3.30pm "Skilled Young Writers" workshop for 10-15 year olds. Advanced characterisation, narrative voice and imagery. Add nuance and over-all brilliance to your writing.
- Tuesday 20th January 10am - 1.00pm "Selective Schools Entrance and ACER Test Preparation Workshop" for current year 5 students. Includes notes and example tests.
- Tuesday 20th January 1pm - 4.30pm Half-day "Writing for Performance" creative writing workshop for 9-14 year olds. \$75. Combine your dramatic and literary sides! New techniques and approaches to writing for performance.
- Wednesday 21st - Friday 23rd January 10am - 12 noon each day for 6-9 year olds. "Kids in the Park" creative writing workshop. Fun and inspiration for enthusiastic and reluctant young writers.
- Wednesday 21st - Friday 23rd January 12.30pm - 2.30pm each day for 8-12 year olds. "Kids in the Park" creative writing workshop. Learn new ways of writing about the world. Great fun and highly productive.

For bookings and information on availability, cost and presenters, please visit www.writingworkshop.com.au/holidays.html, email bookings@writingworkshop.com.au or telephone 0468 543 933.