**Principal’s Message**

**Zone Swimming**

Last Thursday, our swimming team achieved their personal best when they competed in the Zone Swimming Carnival at West Pymble pool. All races were strongly contested by competitors representing many schools across the Ku-ring-gai network. Our team fully participated in all the programmed events including the exciting relay races. Amy in Year 3 made the freestyle finals after achieving first place in her heat. Mrs Apter and Mrs Byatt who officiated at the carnival were very proud of all SIPPS students. Thank you also to the team of parents who provided transport and assistance during the day.
This year’s round of school maintenance has included further painting to renew and refresh the overall appearance of our school. Our verandas in blocks A, B & C now have fresh coats of paint on the benches, railings and balustrades and our new colour scheme on panels under the windows has brightened up the exterior of these buildings giving them a lift.
School Band 2015

This year we have an exciting opportunity to expand our band program by engaging a private company called Bandemonium. Next **Monday 16 March** at **2:15pm** in the hall a representative from Bandemonium will give a 45 minute demonstration to students in years 3-6 and interested parents about the program they can offer our school. Parents can then complete an expression of interest if they would like their child to take part in the band program. Here is a short introduction from Bandemonium.....

'We are **Bandemonium**, a small Sydney based company. We pride ourselves on providing enjoyable and effective instrumental music tuition, within a fun and social musical environment. For many students the School Band is their first exposure to instrumental music. We aim to give our students the skills and knowledge necessary to inspire a lifelong participation in music. Our features include regular band and instrument lessons, as well as varied performing and learning opportunities.'

Harmony Day

Harmony Day is celebrated in schools every March to celebrate Australia’s rich cultural diversity. It provides a great opportunity for students to learn that not only do they share common ground with other cultures, but also that our differences make Australia a special place to live. SIPPs will celebrate Harmony Day next **Friday 20 March** by encouraging students to **wear something orange** in addition to their regular sports uniform. Teachers will engage students in activities that will help them learn how important it is to understand and respect one another and that as young people they can play a big role in helping to make Australia a great place to live **where everyone belongs**! **Please note this is not a mufti-day.**

Warm regards.

Gillian Tegg
Principal

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**Notes from Office**

- Year 6 students moving into Year 7 in a NSW Government School in 2016: An Information Guide and Expression of Interest form has been sent home to all Year 6 students (excluding International Students). These forms need to be completed by parents and returned to the office by 20th March. If a placement is not required we still need the return of this form - please complete Section E, sign and return. Please contact Mrs Morris in the office if you have any questions regarding completion of this EOI.

- Stage 3 Excursion – Thursday 19th March: The Observatory and Powerhouse Museum. This permission note is being prepared and will be sent home this week. Please return the signed permission by Tuesday 17th March.

- We have had a good response to our term invoice/statement so far – if you have not already done so please send in your payment to the office before the end of March. Thank you.

- A big “Thank You” to all families who brought in their Smith Family bags – this fundraiser helps support **STEWART HOUSE** – a great effort looking at the vast pile of bags awaiting collection this week. There will be another collection in May.
SIPPS is participating in Scholastic Book Clubs this year. Twice a term during the school year, a Scholastic Book Club brochure will be sent home for you to read and decide if you would like to purchase any of the titles for your family.

**Issue 2 will be distributed this week on Wednesday 11th March to each class. Orders close on Wednesday 18th March.**

If you would like to order books for your children you need to read the brochure, select the books you would like to order, mark them on the order form on the back of the brochure and return the order form to school with payment by the due date (see payment options for further details).

The books will arrive at school 1-2 weeks after the order is placed and will be then distributed to the students.

**Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for our library**, however there is never any obligation to order.

**Payment Options**
At SIPPS the payment options for Book Club are as follows. We do not accept cash.

1. **Cheque** made out to Scholastic Australia and attached to a completed order form with both cheque and order being returned to school in a sealed envelope with child’s name and class written clearly on the front by the due date.

2. **Credit card using LOOP:**
This is a new ordering platform for parents to use. It eliminates the need for paper order forms being returned to school. The platform is linked to our school so we are able to track your order. Your book purchases are still sent to the school and are distributed to the students when they arrive.
Introducing

SCHOLASTIC Book Clubs LOOP for Parents

NOW AVAILABLE AS AN APP!

LOOP is the NEW Scholastic Book Clubs Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, our new platform makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our NEW iPhone and iPad app from the App Store!

- For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child’s class
- Add your child’s first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club brochure
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child’s classroom if you order by the close date
- There’s no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

For a quick how-to-order video, log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP and click on HELP in the top menu.

Looking at the App Store
The Uniform Shop will be open this week on Wednesday 11th March from 8:45am. Assisting in the shop are Monica, Anthony, Kate and Po.

All the stock that we were waiting for has arrived including our new rain jackets. These new jackets are lightweight and tuck into a small bag that’s part of the jacket, so it’s perfect for leaving in the bottom of your child’s school bag as it doesn’t take up much space.

We have a huge amount of good quality second hand uniform, including tunics, white blouses, red polos, jumpers and many other items. Most items are just $5 and tunics are $20, so perfect for a backup.

We also have a number of new jumpers that do not carry the school logo, older style (but brand new) red sports polos and boys grey trousers. Look out for these items as they offer great bargains.

This week will we begin selling our winter stock. In early Term 2 Mrs Tegg will let the children know when to change over to the winter uniform, so there’s plenty of time to organise and buy your winter uniform. We’re also open this term in week 9, the 25th of March and again in Week 1 of Term 2.

If you cannot make it in this week but know the size and quantity you need, please feel free to email your requests to sippsuniforms@yahoo.com.au.

Please note - from this week we will no longer be accepting cheques as a method of payment. Please bring cash with you, or alternately you can take your invoice with you and pay by direct debit. We are in the process of bringing eftpos and credit card facilities in as well to make things easier for parents. We hope to have this ready to start in Term 2.

From the 1st of March we have increased our prices. This is to compensate for increased prices from our suppliers, freight charges and also the fees we will need to pay for setting up EFTPOS / Credit Card facilities.

Any volunteers who are able to help for a week in Term 2 please let me know, either by email or when you see me in the playground. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Finally if anyone has an old sandwich board that they could lend/give us, please let me know. It would be great to put outside the hall to let people know we are open.

Matt
The SRC are raising money this term for the leukaemia foundation by having a crazy hair day.

Come to school on Monday 16th March with **crazy hair**

- Glitter
- Hair spray
- Wigs
- Clips
- Plaits
- Ponytails

The cost for crazy hair is $2.00. Our year 6 SRC leaders will collect the money on the day.
SIPPS Tennis Courts available for permanent and casual hire.
To arrange a booking please call Vera Dedijer 0403 500 301 or sippstennis@gmail.com

ELECTION DAY - Saturday 28th MARCH
8am – 6pm

SIPPS is a polling station for the upcoming election and we are planning the following to refresh our local public voters!

- BBQ Bacon and Eggs/Sausages
- Cake/slice/cupcake/muffin/cookie stall
- Cold drinks
- Coffee
- Plus second hand kids toys and book stall.

We will soon be heading out and asking for volunteers to bake cakes and 'man' the BBQ and cake stalls. Please help where you can as this is a fantastic opportunity to raise some funds for the school.

The cake stall always sells out early and makes a lot of money - so the more cakes we have the more we will sell. Everything always goes!

We will be asking for any donations of good quality toys and books that can be sold on.

If you would like to put your hand up to volunteer now - please email Becque at becquev@yahoo.com