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17 December 2019

Thank you to everyone for your generosity of spirit.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Soldiers' Settlement Families,

A Community Thank You...

The 2019 school year has been full of many wonderful events and learning experiences. We thank our caring and supportive community for the wonderful support you have given our school during 2019.



Our school is incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated group of parents and community in our P&C, who have worked so hard to support and fundraise for our students and community.

Thank you to all the parents who helped in the coordination or in a volunteer capacity at our school events. Your enthusiasm has shone this year and has provided so many opportunities for our families to feel part of a caring community.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered at our school events this year. You have given the students lots of fabulous opportunities to participate in many different activities.

Thank you to the parents involved in our P&C and Uniform Shop. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you this year. You have given many families the opportunity to purchase new and discounted uniforms.

Thank you to our students, particularly our Year 6 students who will be leaving us tomorrow. I have really enjoyed watching you grow into the wonderful human beings you have become and will continue to be. Please come back and visit us and tell us your stories.

Finally, thank you to the staff of Soldiers' Settlement Public School. You are one in a million and I have really enjoyed our journey together in providing such a wonderful educational environment that encompasses all aspects of our students - academics, friendship and wellbeing.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Teachers will return on Tuesday 28 January for a Staff Development Day.

On Wednesday 29 January 2020 students in Year 1 to 6 will return from 8.30am and will assemble on the assembly area/ COLA at 9.00am. Students are to sit in their 2019 class lines with their bags.

Kindergarten 2020 will commence lessons on Monday 3 February, after they have completed their Best Start Assessments on Wednesday 29, Thursday 30 January and Friday 31 January 2020.

For all students in 2020, the first few days will be spent in temporary classes.

As in previous years, due to the unpredictability of enrolments and the size of our primary school, Soldiers' Settlement will retain the tried and tested model of forming temporary classes until student numbers are finalised. The days in these temporary classes are highly structured with our Grow Your Mind Program, PBL Values Programs and general Key Learning Areas all being covered.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in our community a very happy and safe Christmas and holiday season.

Please take time out with your family and friends to relax, reflect and recharge. I look forward to seeing everyone when school resumes on Wednesday 29th January, 2020.

Polly Palaitis
Principal

Class formations for 2020

Teachers take into account student needs including academic and wellbeing requirements whilst forming classes. All teachers, executive staff and specialist teachers consult and communicate over a 3 month period to ensure every effort is made to achieve the best possible combination of teacher and learning cohorts.

I appreciate the community's ongoing support in allowing teachers to use their educational expertise and professional knowledge to best place your children into class groupings. The final appointment of individual teachers to specific grades and classes for 2020 will be finalised in the New Year.

Coming up in 2020

We have quite a few exciting items coming up early in Term 1 that we need to communicate early so that families are prepared and can budget accordingly.

Swimming Carnival

Our swimming carnival for students aged 8 years onwards will be held on Monday of week 2 and permission notes and payment information will be sent home on the first day back of 2020.

Stage 3 School Camp

The Year 5 and 6 camp to Milson Island will be held in week 7 from Wednesday 11th – Friday 13th March. The approximate cost for the camp will be \$300+. We encourage all students in years 5 and 6 to attend, hence our early announcement of the camp and the cost involved.

SPORT REPORT



2019 Sport Wrap Up

What an exciting time this year we have had with our sporting programs.

We really value our focus on the health and wellbeing of our students and particularly encourage our students to be active during the school day and after hours. This year we have enjoyed the following:-

- Swimming Carnival and Got Game skills focus in Term 1;
- Athletics Carnivals, Bob McCarthy Cup and ESPSSA Sport in Term 2 and 3; and
- Got Game Infants Gymnastics, League Tag, League Gala Day and AFL sport clinics in Term 4.

In 2020, we are re-joining the ESPSSA summer sporting program. Students who are involved in the program will need to attend sport training in the mornings. We will inform community about times and days when the new school year begins.

School Swimming and Water Safety Programme

This term, our students in Years 2 and 3 have had the opportunity to participate in the DoE School Swimming and Water Safety Programme. It's an intensive learn to swim programme which develops water confidence and provides our students with basic water safety and survival skills. The level of participation was very encouraging. A huge thank you to everyone for their participation in this very important programme.

Thank you for a great year in our sporting endeavours. I look forward to more sporting fun and opportunities when school resumes in 2020.

Brayden Irons
Sports Coordinator

NSW HEALTHY SCHOOL CANTEEN STRATEGY

The Menu Check Service has recently assessed our school canteen menu against the food and drink criteria of the NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy. Last week we were informed our school canteen is meeting the requirements of the Strategy.



By having a healthy canteen we are supporting the health and wellbeing of our students. To acknowledge this achievement, our school has been awarded the Great Choice Certificate and badge that will be used to inform the broader school community of our commitment to a healthy school canteen. The certificate is valid for two years from the date of issue.

Our school name will be added to the NSW Healthy School Canteens list that lists all NSW schools that are meeting the Strategy. We would like to thank James Anthony from Anthony Catering who has been working really hard to ensure that we have a healthy canteen. Excellent news and results!

SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT CO-CURRICULAR CLUBS!

Term 4 was extremely exciting with the implementation of our Co-Curricular Clubs program. Our attendance data during term 4 was very positive with a marked decrease in absences and lateness. I would like to thank all the teachers who have offered their own time to provide these extra opportunities for our students in the following areas:-

- **Coding Club** – Miss Barr, Mrs Theobald
- **Farm Friends** – Miss Lawrence, Miss Fursey, Mr Gilbert, Miss Barr
- **Green Garden Gurus** – Miss Lawrence, Miss Fursey, Mr Gilbert, Mrs Vandenberg
- **Film Club** – Miss Barr, Mrs Palaitis
- **Debating Club** – Mr Irons, Miss Jackson
- **Craft Club** - Mrs Theobald
- **Book Club** - Mrs Rose
- **Fit Fridays** – Mrs Keegan, Mrs Strbac, Mr Bridges

We look forward to more Co-Curricular opportunities from week 5 in the new year.

MUSIC

On Monday 9th December, thanks to our partnership with Credit Suisse and The Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Year 3 and 4 took part in a fantastic African drumming workshop presented by the 'Lucky African Dance' group. The group all came from Ghana and told us that in Ghana, there are 46 languages. Lucky, Sammy, Née, and Izzy sang songs, danced

and encouraged the students to dance and sing as well. They taught us the African names for the different instruments they brought. I have written them phonetically:

Djembe (which means 'the symbol of joy')

- Blejane
- Dundumba
- Dolompo

Adeka (which was a wooden box Lucky hit with a stick)

Students played rhythms on their own Djembe and had such a wonderful time. I think most of the school heard and were bobbing along whilst working. We are very grateful to our friends at SSO and Credit Suisse for organising this amazing workshop.

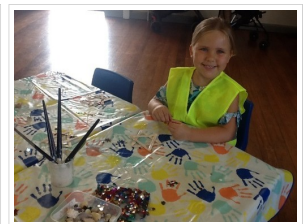
Mrs Christian.
Music teacher



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Playgroup

On Wednesday 4th December, preschool attended playgroup where they engaged in a range of activities, including completing puzzles, playing instruments, dramatic play and craft activities. Children were then provided with a delicious morning snack as well as fun songs and games for group time. It was great to be able to talk to so many of our preschool families for 2020 at the playgroup. We would like to thank Randwick and Botany Supported Playgroup for inviting us to join their session today and look forward to many more visits next year.

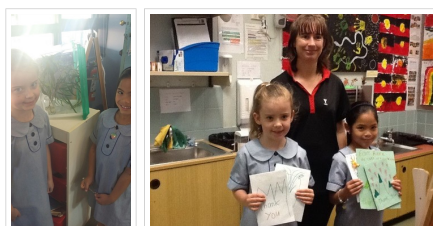


Spiny Leaf Insects

We recently have had many spiny leaf insect eggs hatch and needed a new home for them as there were too many for us to look after. The OOSH centre were so grateful to receive some from us for their children to learn about and look after at their centre. The children even made cards for our pre-schoolers to say thank you.

A week later we went to the OOSH centre to visit our spiny leaf insects and see how much they have grown. We were amazed to see one of them had already shed its skin!

If any of our families would like some spiny leaf insects as pets for their home please let us know.



TERM 4 EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Monday 16th December

Year 6 Parent/Carer Breakfast

Tuesday 17th December

Preschool Graduation

Wednesday 18th December

Last Day of School for 2019

BACK TO SCHOOL FOR 2020

Tuesday 28 January

Staff Development Day – Staff Professional Learning

Wednesday 29 January

Year 1-6 Back to School

Wednesday 29, Thursday 30 January, Friday 31 January

Kindergarten - Best Start

Monday 3 February

Kindergarten first day at school

Swimming Carnival – 8 years old and older

STUDENT ABSENCES – REMINDER

- The Department of Education deems that all students must attend school every day.
- Families are also advised that holidays should be taken during school holiday periods.
- If your child is absent from school please notify the school in writing by either sending an email to the school email or sending a note to the class teacher explaining the absence.
- **If your child is sick for one day, you DO NOT need to ring the school but can send a note to school with your child on the following day.**
- If absences are not explained, a letter will be sent home from the class teacher asking parents to explain.
- Absences are recorded in the class roll and this roll is admissible as evidence in a court of law.

- Partial absences are also recorded in the roll, where a child arrives late to school or leaves school early.
- If a student is late to school, a parent should escort them to the office so they can give the reason for the late arrival.
- Sleeping in, bad traffic and general lateness are not justifiable reasons for being late to school and these absences are marked as unjustified.
- Students, who are constantly late to school, miss the morning lesson introduction leading to gaps in learning.
- Please endeavour to maximize your child's attendance at school to ensure that they have the best start possible, every day!

EVERY DAY COUNTS ...				
A day here or there doesn't seem like much but ...				
When your child misses just ...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Prep to Year 12, that is ...	This means the best your child can achieve is ...
1 day a fortnight	20 days a year	4 weeks of school	Nearly 1½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days a year	8 weeks of school	Over 2½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days a year	16 weeks of school	Over 5 years of learning of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days a year	24 weeks of school	Over 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

Give your child every chance to succeed ...

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

ONLINE SAFETY TOOL

Introducing a New Interactive Online Safety Tool for Parents and Carers

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner has introduced a new interactive online tool for parents and carers. This tool is to assist and teach the foundations of online topics such as social media, screen time, personal information, inappropriate content, cyberbullying and contact with strangers. Whether you're a parent, carer, aunt, uncle or grandparent it can be a difficult task keeping up with young people and technology or even knowing when and how to start the conversation about online safety in your household.

Meet Screen Smart Parent Tour - our new interactive self-reflective tool that helps parents and carers of pre and young teens keep on track with online safety.

The virtual tour takes you through six important online topics including **social media**, **screen time**, **personal information**, **inappropriate content**, **cyberbullying** and **contact with strangers**. Each topic offers practical tips and advice on how to allow children to explore safely and manage online issues if they arise.

SCHOOL PAYMENTS

Parent Support

One of the best ways you can support our school is by reading our newsletter each fortnight and paying your school fees and

voluntary contributions in a timely manner. These funds are essential in enabling our school to provide all the learning opportunities for your child. They allow us to provide the very best education for your child, above what the government funding allows. Fees assistance is available for any families if required and can be arranged via a confidential phone call or email to the principal requesting assistance.

Payments

Cash and cheque can be sent to school and given to your class teacher or can be directly dropped off at the office. If paying by cash please send the exact amount.

The preferred method of payment is Parent Online Payments through our school website. Parent online payments (POP) provide parents and school debtors with a secure payment facility to deposit into the school's account via a credit or debit card. The payment portal is accessed via the school's website and allows parents to pay using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card.

Please visit our school website below and click on "Make a payment". Once you fill out the payment details, you have an instant receipt. It is a safe and secure way to pay for school fees, performances and excursions.

<https://matravilss-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Please note: As a Westpac-hosted solution cardholder and account details will be held securely, helping to protect the school and its customers from fraudulent transactions as well as assisting in meeting the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCIDSS) compliance requirements.

Please note, once your payment is made online, we still require signed permission notes for all excursions and sports for each child participating in the activity to be sent to the office. Please also ensure you enter your child's name and not your own.

OFFICE NEWS

Reminders:

A permission note must be completed for every student in the family for all activities.

Please note the office does not carry change. If you are paying in cash we ask that you pay the exact amount.

Absences Notes

Absence notes should be given to each child's teacher on the day they return to school after an absence. Explanations should be clearly outlined so the reason for the absence can be accurately recorded.

If you are intending to take leave for more than three days, and you know in advance, it is important that this be discussed with the school as an application for leave may be required. If your child is absent for longer than three days it is important that you contact the school to let them know the reason for the absence.

After school arrangements

If you need to get a message to your child regarding any change to their afterschool arrangements, please contact the

office and ensure we have enough time to relay the message. Sometimes it is difficult to locate children just before the bell is about to ring. Students that are not collected from school at 3.00pm will wait with their teacher and a call will be made to confirm pick up arrangements. As a reminder, the office

SCHOOL NOTICES

Parking Safety around our School

A friendly reminder to parents to assist us in keeping our children safe when driving and parking around the school grounds. Several parents have been seen and spoken to about driving and parking illegally in kiss and drop zones in the surrounding streets. We appreciate that parking has become increasingly difficult due to local building works and increased student numbers. However, students' safety is of greater concern. Please ensure you park safely near kiss and drop zones and in the streets at all times. Also, please ensure when arriving at school and leaving the school grounds that the pedestrian gates and ramp gates are used. Those walking through the staff carpark entry are putting both themselves and their child at risk.

Please do not park in or across our neighbour's driveways. Community members who do so risk a fine from the council rangers or our local constabulary.

The staff carpark is for staff only

Please do not use the staff carpark to drop off or pick up your children from before/after school care. Entry to and exit from the school should be via the Menin Road ramp gate or Lawson street gate.

After School Playground Use

Please be reminded that after the 3.00pm "home time" bell, no formal student supervision is provided either in classrooms or the playground, especially the synthetic grass at the rear of the school or the playground equipment. Students are asked to safely make their way home after the bell. Parents on site after 3.00pm are reminded of their Duty of Care and asked to watch their children to prevent any unforeseen accidents. Students waiting to be picked-up by parents will be asked to safely sit around our meeting tree at the Menin Road gate.

Your attention to these requests is greatly appreciated.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR ENGAGING LEARNERS (PBEL)

Soldiers' Settlement Public School promotes the values of Respect, Responsibility and Learning. PBEL plays a fundamental role in supporting the Learning and Wellbeing Policy whilst promoting positive expectations for student behaviour.

Positive Behaviour Engaging Students (PBEL) is a school wide program that is all about creating a positive and encouraging learning environment where students know what is expected of them.

PBEL provides a proactive school-wide system for defining, teaching and supporting appropriate student behaviours. The result of PBEL is a positive school environment in which learning and student engagement is enhanced through consistent expectations of behaviour.

