From the Principal

Stages 2 and 3 had a fantastic time at their respective camps last week, in spite of some illness at the end for some students in stage 3. Here is a selection of comments from some students about camp:

Canoeing was the best of all the activities I tried. It was the first time I had tried canoeing. Tai Mapusua.

The thing I enjoyed the best was the giant swing. You go so high and when you pull the rope, that’s the scariest part. Lincoln Robertson-Mundy.

We got to ride on real horses. My horse’s name was Tommy. It was lots of fun. Amelia Barron.

At camp we did the giant swing, archery, abseiling, lost island, rock climbing, raft building and orienteering. My favourite was rock climbing because I like heights and climbing. Nedd Langley.

My favourite part of the camp was when everyone did lost island because you could see everyone’s strength and everyone was happy. Jessica Casey.

We are often reminded in so many different ways, about the talented students we have at our school. Stephanie Ellsmore in year 6 has just been selected to be part of the state girls cricket team! I know you will join with me in wishing her and the team every success in their competition against the other states, starting in January.
Reading books

Colouring books (unused) and blank paper or books

I was approached by the Ingleburn Lions club who are working to support schools in the Soloman Islands. They are keen to receive things such as:

Pens, pencils and colouring equipment
Dictionaries and encyclopaedias
Toys for children 0-6 years old.

If you can help them with any of these things, please contact Laurie Dickenson on 04 2997 9287 to arrange a pick up.

Two reminders:

First, please note that the car park is for staff only. There have been a number of occasions lately when staff have not been able to access the car park because of parents parking in the wrong places. Our waste removal bin could not be emptied recently because someone had parked in front of our bin. Please park on the street when dropping off or collecting your children. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Secondly, school is open for students from 8.30 am when there is teacher supervision in the playground. If it is unavoidable that your child arrives before 8.30 am, please remind them that they are to sit on the silver seats outside the canteen until the 8.30 bell. Because there is no supervision prior to 8.30, there are not to be any ball games until the teacher arrives on duty.

We pride ourselves in trying to do our best for your students but we acknowledge that sometimes we do not get things right. You are more than welcome to contact us and let us know if we have made a mistake or if you believe something could be improved. I would ask though that, if you write to us, please include your name and contact number so we can get back to you with any follow up or explanation as appropriate.

"Be vigilant; guard your mind against negative thoughts."
Buddha (568-488 BC, Founder of Buddhism)

Janet Chan
Principal

An Important Notice about Justifying Attendance

Over the past fortnight, Karen Reveleigh, the Home School Liaison Officer, and I have been interviewing a number of families in regards to attendance.

We are a large school, with over 500 enrolments and in excess of 300 families. We know that parents and caregivers, teachers and office staff are very busy. For these reasons, it has been decided that it will no longer be possible to accept verbal justifications for student absences.

When a student is ill and going to be away for a period of time, families should inform the school. A letter or medical certificate will need to accompany the student the first day that he or she returns to school.

Absences need to be explained to the school within the first five business days after the student comes back to school. Following this time, the absence will be declared unjustified.
Justifications can be a quick note to the school, with the date of the absence and a reason, signed by a parent or caregiver. Medical certificates will also be accepted as justifications for absences.

To assist with this new procedure we have attached a sheet called, *Parent Explanation for Student Absences*, to the back of this newsletter.

**Mrs Hill**
Attendance Co-ordinator

**Public Speaking**
On Monday, three students went to Wattle Grove Public School to compete in the final of the Regional Public Speaking Competition.

Anwyn White Stage 1
Caitlyn Murhan Stage 2
Tamara Gielis Stage 3

All students spoke very well in their prepared speech and impromptu speech where they had only 5 minutes to prepare before presenting it to the audience.

The school is very proud of their achievements.

Sue Cancian
Public Speaking Coordinator

**Bus Passes for 2014**
If you have a child in year 2 who currently has a bus pass, you will need to reapply to receive a new pass in 2014. Application forms are available at the front office. These need to be completed and returned to school by 15th November 2013 so that they can be submitted to the bus companies.

**2014 School Year**
We are beginning to have a look at student numbers for next year. We are asking parents to let us know if their child is not returning to our school next year.

We also need to know if your child will be returning after the start of school on Wednesday 29th January 2014.

Please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

**Library News**
**Overdue Library Books**
There are still a large number of books not returned from last term. If your child still has books, please assist in returning them to the Library.

**W. Chenoweth** - Teacher Librarian

**P & C News**
**Christmas Carnival**
This week a note went home about the P&C’s exciting Term 4 CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL! On Thursday, 5th December students are invited to attend SSPS from 4pm-6.30pm. There will be a massive jumping castle, a giant tandem slide and an inflatable obstacle course to have fun on. For dinner students will have a hot dog, ice cream and drink to get them moving and shaking to the DJ at the disco! Face painting will also be available. The cost to attend this event is $10 per student. A note with information and a payment slip and option for halal food will go home next week for payments to be made in an envelope marked ‘Christmas Carnival’ to the office up until Monday, 2nd December.

**Term 3 Disco**
The P&C term 3 disco (18th September) raised $789.00. Thank you SSPS students, staff, volunteers and families for supporting your P&C
to donate much needed funds and resources back to our school.

**Uniform Shop**
The uniform shop will be open on Wednesday 6th and 13th November during Kindergarten Orientation. Helpers are needed on both days—please see Karen in the uniform shop this Friday morning (1st November) if you can help. New uniform price lists are available from the front office if you did not get one last term.

**Next P&C meeting**
The next P&C meeting will be on Monday, 25th November. This will be our last meeting for the year and we will be discussing the 2014 calendar and ideas for future fundraising. Would you like to be part of the P&C, Day Club and Uniform Shop next year? Come along to the P&C meeting to find out what’s involved. Everyone is welcome to attend and contribute your ideas for fundraising, uniform, donations, etc to our school.

**Day Club News**

**Cupcake and Cookie Day**
There will be a Cup Cake and Cookie Day on Wednesday, 20th November. We are asking Kindergarten to please donate cupcakes or cookies this time. Please leave the cupcakes or cookies in the school hall on that morning and they then will be sold for 50c at recess in both the K-2 and 3-6 area. We ask for cupcakes or cookies and not large cakes as they are easier for the kids to handle and to be served.

**Day Club Christmas Raffle**
The Christmas Raffle note and tickets will go home next week. If you do not receive a note or you would like to buy some extra tickets there will be spares at the front office.

**Next Meeting**
Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 20th November in the staffroom from 9.15am. These meetings are a great way to find out what is happening in your school. Everybody is welcome including babies and toddlers.

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**Payments that are due:**
Stage 3 Imax Excursion - $30

**Notes that have gone home this week:**
Stage 3 Imax Excursion
Selective High School Test 2014
Sackville St Reading Challenge 2013

Copies of all notes that go home are on the school website.

www.sackvillst-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

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**We are currently accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2014.**

If you have a child turning 5 before 31 July 2014 please come to the office to collect an application form.

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**STUDENT NOT RETURNING IN 2014 OR RETURNING AFTER 29TH JANUARY 2014**

Student’s name: _____________________________
Class: _________

☐ Will not be returning for 2014

Name of school student is attending in 2014: __________________________________________

☐ Will be returning on _______________________

Reason: ___________________________________
________________________________________

Website: sackvillst-p.schools.nsw.edu.au      Email: sackvillst-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au