



# Newsletter

## Shellharbour Public School

*Sincerity Provides Strength*

Website: [www.shellharbour.ps.education.nsw.gov.au](http://www.shellharbour.ps.education.nsw.gov.au)

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**A Word From The Principal**  
Dear Parents/Carers

**Tuesday, 4 May**  
**Term 2, Week 3**

### NAPLAN

NAPLAN tests are due to be administered next week for Years 3 & 5 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There will be many conflicting reports in the media about what will be happening. Parents should send their children to school regardless of what they read or hear.

As most parents would be aware, there has been a great deal of public debate about the use of NAPLAN test results to compare schools on the national MySchool Website. In particular this has led to the development of ill informed league tables by sections of the media. Clearly sections of the media and a significant number of politicians have limited understanding of the purpose of NAPLAN. As a consequence of this unfortunate outcome some schools may not be participating in this year's NAPLAN. The position taken by teachers at these schools should be respected.

Teachers at Shellharbour Public School have voted to support the moratorium proposed by the NSW Teachers Federation. This means that they will not be administering the tests to their classes. However, this does not mean that the tests will not be completed. With a week to go, I hope that some sense will be injected into the debate and a solution found.

### CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross Country Gala Day was held last **Wednesday, 21 April** and what a great day it turned out to be! Students were wholly engrossed in numerous sporting endeavours whilst waiting for their turn to prove their cross country running skills. Students were engaged in developing Cricket, AFL, NRL, Netball .... skills via the knowledge of Development Officers from major NSW sporting bodies, or knowledge of teachers like **Mr Baker**, who has devoted many years of service to promoting cricket skills in children.

This method of organising a cross country carnival day is far superior to days past when students sat idly beside the track waiting for their age group to have its turn. This carnival involves the students for the whole day in exciting activities, develops skills in a multitude of sports, giving them the excitement of participating in a cross country race and sends home some tired, but contented students. *Thanks to Mr*

*Good for organising such a wonderful day!* Students can only benefit from days like this. Sometimes, in the complex organisation involved in running these days, when a particular group of development officers give late notice of inability to attend, then re-organisation results in unavoidable timetable changes.

Congratulations to the following students on gaining first place in their event:

**8 Year Girls: Sarya**

**8 Year Boys : Harley**

**9 Year Girls: Jennifer**

**9 Year Boys : Riley**

**10 Year Girls: Georgia**

**10 Year Boys : Jake**

**11 Year Girls: Nicole**

**11 Year Boys : Troy**

**12 Year Girls: Kira**

**12 Year Boys : Jye**

### MOTHER'S DAY GIFT EXCHANGE

Our Mother's Day Gift Exchange is on **this Thursday, 6 May** (yes I know the last newsletter said Friday, 7 May!) in the school hall. The usual practice for this day is for students to bring in a small gift to the value of **\$5.00**. The gifts are then organised by our stall committee and then students who have bought a gift in, then go and choose a gift for their mother from all the gifts on display.

### WOLLONGONG HIGH SCHOOL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

Congratulations to **Kyle** and **Nicole** who have decided to pursue their desires to attend a high school where they can excel in the creative arts more fully whilst still achieving academic excellence. *We wish them all the best in their endeavours!*



### **ILLAWARRA SOUTH EAST REGIONAL CHOIR**

Congratulations to 5 students who have been successful in nominating for the Illawarra South East Regional Choir. The purpose of the choir is to provide opportunities for talented singers to enhance their skills in choral techniques, including unison and part singing, choral choreography and performance techniques. The choir is an exciting opportunity for vocalists who enjoy ensemble singing.

**Jade, Sophie, Rachael, Isabelle and Maddison** are all embarking on a wonderful journey that will culminate in travelling to numerous Illawarra schools to perform, and then to mesmerise the audience of the 'Southern Stars' during this event.

### **MORNING SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS**

Parents and students are reminded that, upon arrival at school after 8.25 am, students are to take their bags to designated areas and then immediately move to 'Area C' (the area around the fig tree) There are two teachers in this area to supervise students before school. **Students in KD, KA, KM, KS and 1B are not to stay in the area outside their classrooms at this time.** Parents are free to stay and talk, however their children **must be directed to 'Area C' (the area around the fig tree) where they must remain until the bell rings.**

Should the rare occasion arise when teachers are detained on the Friday morning staff meeting, children who are in 'Area C' are being properly supervised. In this way, parents who have work or other commitments are able to leave the school grounds on, or before 8.55 am knowing that their children are supervised.

### **ADDISON STREET CROSSING**

This crossing continues to cause concern. I would ask parents to accompany their children across whenever possible and teach them how to approach it correctly. Teacher supervision is available in the afternoon, but not in the morning. I have written to Shellharbour City Council with requests designed to improve driver vision when approaching this crossing.

### **ILLAWARRA SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL**

If any child in Year 6 is interested in applying to attend the Illawarra Sports High School in 2011, please contact the school office ASAP.

### **PARENT CONFERENCE 2010**

This conference, organised by the ISER Council of P & C Associations, is being held at Smiths Hill High School on **Saturday, 8 May** between **9.30 am** and **4.00 pm**. It will explore the special characteristics of young people aged 10—18 years and the skills and attributes they may need

to become confident, productive and ethical citizens of the world of constant change. The keynote speaker is Michael McQueen who will address 'Understanding and Engaging Generation Y'. If you would like to attend please contact the office for more details.

### **MRS RIDDINGTON'S RETIREMENT**

During last term's long service leave, I found out that due to the requirements of my superannuation it was not to my benefit to return to permanent teaching and so, recently, I tendered my notice of retirement. It was not something that I did willingly or in haste, as my ties and my family's ties with Shellharbour Public School have lasted almost half my life, and my feelings for the school have and always will be positive. I am sorry not to return to the class that was to be my 2010 class, but I am sure they will work hard to succeed with whoever takes my place.

Unable to sever ties completely, I will continue to work behind the scenes and assist with the junior choir and in other ways that I can help. I will always feel proud to have started and ended at Shellharbour Public School, as a student, a student teacher, a teacher and finally an Assistant Principal. I am grateful to have encountered the warmth of Shellharbour parents and have loved the time spent teaching your children. These children will stay in my memory for a very long time—*Rose-Anne Riddington*

### **NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY**

On **Friday, 7 May 2010 (this Friday)**, we are asking all Shellharbour Public School children to participate in Walk Safely to School Day. This is a **no cost** event that aims to promote the message that *Active Kids are Healthy Kids*.

This annual event, currently in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, encourages parents, carers and their children to build regular walking to and from school into their daily fitness routine. It also aims to encourage safe pedestrian behaviour and promote the health and environmental benefits of walking. Our whole school community can benefit from driving less, as it will decrease the vehicle congestion around our school, reduce carbon emissions from idling cars and teach our children how to use our local roads safely.

Each child who walks to school on this day will be given the official National Walk Safely to School Day sticker. So, if you do have to drive, why not try parking a couple of streets back from the school and walking the remaining distance, so that your child has to opportunity to join in this simple, but extremely important experience.

So dust off the joggers, offer a hand to hold and let's make walking to school a safe and regular activity for Shellharbour Public School students—*Mrs Prisk, Co-Ordinator*

### **BOOK CLUB NEWS**



Please note that the current issue of Book Club **closes on Wednesday, 5 May 2010—NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED!!** Please ensure you enclose correct money in envelope—**NO CHANGE WILL BE GIVEN!!** - Please also ensure name, class and item ordered is correctly filled out on order form—*Thank you, Book Club Organisers*

**STEWART HOUSE CLOTHING BAG APPEAL & ENVELOPE DONATION DRIVE**

**REMINDER:** The Stewart House Donation Drive envelopes which were sent home last term are to be returned **by Monday, 24 May 2010**. Additional envelopes are available at the school office. Attached to this newsletter is the first of our annual Stewart House Clothing Appeal Bags. Please note that the scheduled day for the pick up of the clothing bags is **Tuesday, 11 May 2010**. **Could you please ensure bags are returned to school by this date.**

**SPORT NEWS**

Congratulations to our non-training SUPER FISH, **Harley Nizza** in **3R**, who swam 8th in the final of the 50m freestyle at the State Swimming Carnival. *Awesome effort Harley, you can be extra proud!!* *Kate Prisk, Sport Co-Ordinator*

**PRESENTATION ASSEMBLY AWARD WINNERS**

We congratulate the following students who received awards at our Presentation Assembly held today, **Thursday, 29 April 2010:**

**GOLD MEDALS**

D'arcy

**BANNERS**

Britney  
Isabella  
Thomas

**PENNANTS**

Lucas	Korey
Emma	Jett
Holly	Chloe
Isabella	Rosie
Jayden	Mikayla
Ellen	Thomas
D'arcy	Samuel
Mathew	Bailey
Evan	Jemma
Jemma	Chelsea
Riley	Trent
Kye	Sarah
Luke	Grace
Ella	Samuel
Eden	Olivia-Rose
Georgia	

**KID'S CAFÉ ROSTER REMINDER**

**WEDNESDAY, 5 MAY**

Dino Guarnaccia & Kim—**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**THURSDAY, 6 MAY**

Ricky, Carol Bartlett & Kim

**FRIDAY, 7 MAY**

Peita White, Ann Olsson & Colleen Johnston & Kim

**MONDAY, 10 MAY**

Val Moon & Belinda—**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**TUESDAY, 11 MAY**

Ricky, Shannon Martin & Belinda

**WEDNESDAY, 12 MAY**

Chris Natrass & Belinda—**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**THURSDAY, 13 MAY**

Ricky, Carol Bartlett & Kim

**FRIDAY, 14 MAY**

Ann Olsson & Kim—**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**MONDAY, 17 MAY**

Val Moon & Belinda—**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**TUESDAY, 18 MAY**

Ricky & Belinda—**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**FOUND:** A pram with black sloppy joe on seat found in staff car park—please contact school office on 42951334 for enquiries.





