Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to a very busy and exciting Term 4. During the holidays I was very fortunate to be part of an Educational Tour of China. Mr Mark Warnock accompanied me and along with 13 other Principals and executive teachers from schools in NSW, we spent 12 amazing days in China, visiting schools, meeting education officials, and learning about the Chinese culture.

To manage the school's growth, we need your help
Summer Hill Public School continues to grow. Our school now has approximately 810 students, with around 900 students predicted by 2019. Our optimal number is based on the permanent classrooms and is 701 students. The school can’t manage this projected number of students with the classroom space we currently have and important decisions need to be made now about the future of the school.

What are our strategies to cope with this growth?
1. Accept the predicted student numbers.
   If we take this path, we will need to build several more demountable classrooms. However, this will significantly erode the already limited playground space the children have access to and will make it much harder to monitor the children’s safety. After consideration, the School Executive and P&C have decided not to progress this strategy.
2. A need to better manage space and slow the growth in student numbers.
   After consulting with the school community and the Department of Education & Communities we believe the best approach to the challenge is to manage growth.

   Working together we have already implemented two strategies:
1. to only accept new students who live within the existing designated boundary area for the school; and
2. to install another demountable classroom and to reconfigure some existing school space to accommodate current growth.

However, to specifically slow the growth, more needs to be done. The P&C has met multiple times with significant input from the Department of Education & Communities to consider additional strategies.

As a result two further strategies have been discussed:
1. for the Department to further reduce the intake boundaries of the school. As the boundaries were changed two years ago the Department won’t progress this at the present time. This may need to be considered again sometime in the future.
2. to reduce the number of Opportunity Classes from four to two. It is this option which the P&C and the School have explored and need your feedback.

The Proposed Strategy
As a result of these meetings, the School Executive and the P&C would like to explore the option of reducing the number of ‘Opportunity Classes’ (OC) at Summer Hill, from the current four classes to two. Opportunity classes are offered at particular schools and are for academically gifted and talented children in Years 5 and 6 across New South Wales. This proposal wouldn’t take effect until 2016. It will not affect any current students, and will slow growth.

The School Executive and the P&C believe that reducing the number of Opportunity Classes is the best strategy to slow growth.

What are the implications of the proposed change?
Summer Hill Public School has a long and rich heritage in OC; we opened our first OC class in 1937 and this tradition will continue. Summer Hill is not planning to close all our OC classes, but we are considering reducing the number we have, for the benefit of the broader school community.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S OFFICE
No currently enrolled OC students will be affected. No students will be required to leave the school. The change will occur in 2016 & 2017 when OC students currently in Year 5 & 6 will have already left the school. Summer Hill Public School will still have OC classes. The heritage in offering OC at Summer Hill will continue into the future. Another NSW school will be given the two OC classes. NSW OC students will not be disadvantaged; another school will be allocated these classes.

We need your response!
To act on this proposal, the Department of Education & Communities must have a clear mandate from our school community. The school has decided to engage a professional and independent firm, Arnold & Bolingbroke Pty Ltd to administer a survey.

You will receive an invitation via email from Arnold and Bolingbroke to participate in this very short survey later this month. We need your response to help us make progress on this important issue for our school.

For further information contact the Principal at the school on 97978160.

Karen Shehata.

FROM THE DEPUTIES’ OFFICES

STUDENT WELFARE

STUDENT LEADERS 2014
Term 4 has arrived and the student leader (2015) elections/selections will soon be here. As part of the lead-up to this time the Year 5 students with their teachers have discussed the qualities the students think a leader should possess and display. Each class came up with a list of qualities and these have been condensed into a single list (see below).

Our student welfare policies, including student leadership policies, can be viewed on the school’s website at:

A GOOD STUDENT LEADER:
1. Is inclusive and tolerant of others and their opinions
2. Is respectful and trustworthy
3. Is responsible and leads by example.
4. Is reliable and honest.
5. Is organised, cooperative, confident and an effective communicator
6. Is flexible and displays initiative
7. Is compassionate, genuinely friendly and optimistic
8. Shows maturity and pride in their position

By Year 5 2014

A letter regarding the student leader elections/selections will be distributed to students and families this week. Please see your child’s class teacher if you do not receive one.

Mark Warnock and Jane Williams

FRIENDLY REMINDER - TERM 4 ACTIVITY STATEMENTS

The Term 4 Activity Statements for Year 6 have been sent home with students. Please return the Consent Form, with payment, to the office by Friday 24 October.

Thank you to all families of students in Kindergarten and Years 1 to 5 who have already paid for Term 4 Activities. For those families that are yet to finalise their Term 4 Activity Statements, please note that the final date for handing in notes and making payments will be Friday 17 October. The school relies on all families to pay by the due date to enable accurate accounting of numbers of student participation. This is to ensure that we are fully organised and able to purchase tickets and confirm bus and venue hire.

If you are experiencing difficulties, please contact either the Stage Coordinator or Mrs Shehata to make alternative arrangements.

For your convenience, the Term 4 Activity Statements are now available on the school’s website, in Forms for Parents.
CONGRATULATIONS CARA AND EVA!

Congratulations to Cara (5/6TK) and Eva G (5SH) who were selected to receive a Highly Commended Award as part of the 2014 Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Student Achievement - Community Languages Schools.

This is a remarkable achievement and reflects Cara’s commitment to the study of Greek and Eva’s commitment to the study of Chinese.

Congratulations to both girls!

GEES WRITERS take off....

At Summer Hill we have been focusing hard on improving the skills of ALL of our writers: young and old, enthusiasts and reluctant authors. In the coming weeks I would like to share with you some of the fantastic work that has been emerging from that teaching/learning journey:

SPLENDID, SIZZLING AND SUSPENSEFUL.....

HUng DEAD

The crinkle of the browned pages drifted through the room as she read from page to page. The lamp’s light reflected off her eyes. Night fell and the crinkle of the pages ceased.

It was all too late. The vine crept slowly from the book. The only sound in the room was the solitary buzzing of the lamp. Her outstretched hand was draped over the side of her bed as if reaching out for something...

I’d warned her. She was stubborn, this one. The last boy who took the book was never seen again. I still remember his small, narrow face, his curious eyes. Mystery hung in the air. Dead or alive?

Written and illustrated by Alexa O’R.
The Circus

Hi, my name is Claudia Junior and I am a sentimental clown in The Circus. I love performing as a clown. I get to perform ukulele and sing. Making people laugh makes me happy because it means to me that people like me...

I was just getting ready for my act. I could see every one of my circus friends all laughing and prancing around having lots of fun. I could smell hot buttery popcorn and sweet sugary fairy floss. My nose was tingling what a smell! I thought. I was so drowined in the lovely smell I didn’t even realise that I was about to be trampled by a horse. Suddenly I heard a whip and somebody shouted I closed my eyes, panic ran through my body. I dropped my extremely expensive ukulele. I hit the ground like a speedy bullet and I thought that this was the end of my circus reputation, and possibly my life!

Luckily the horse trainer saved me, she stepped out cool as a cucumber and with a lightning crack of her whip the horses changed direction and missed me by millimetres. I stood up and faced the laughing, smiling audience and toppled it off with a back flip! Trouble turned into triumph! I was the star of the show!

Claudia C 4AW

Cirque Été Colline

Upside down, that’s how the world looked when I was performing my act. The stage was a blur as I cartwheeled and somersaulted across the bright and colourful arena. All the clowns were dressed in matching costumes with high pants and shiny silver buttons. The acrobats were in gold pants and black singlets performing on a rainbow net. As for me, I was wearing an awesome costume. Shiny purple pants and a matching sleeveless jumper. I had a pair of Michael Jackson gloves with shiny sequins all over them.

The tigers roared, the crowd cheered and everybody was happy at that moment, but no one had any idea at what was going to happen soon. The acrobats on the net were blurs of gold and black as they jumped and twirled like happy kangaroos. The clowns were doing a silly dance which involved every one of them stacking on one person who looked awfully uncomfortable. The terrifying tigers pranced and danced around as the tiger tamers ran around like maniacs trying to keep them under control. The crowd was howling like hyenas at the Ring Master and the clown as the clown tried to mimic the Ring Master.

The acrobats on the net had stopped jumping for some strange reason. Suddenly I saw the ropes that were holding them up, they were hanging by one thread! They were about to fall! The crowd screamed as the net collapsed on top of the tigers, which caused mayhem. The tigers ripped out at the net and tore it in half. Luckily the acrobats were already off the net and running for safety. All hands were on deck working to capture the tigers on the loose. I could hear screaming and yelling as the crowd ran for their lives out of the arena.

by Louis R 4AW
CONGRATULATIONS CAMILLA

Massive congratulations to Camilla M (3ES) for producing the wonderful drawing which is the centrepiece of our 2014 Spring Fair poster. We love it. Here is the final artwork for you all to have a look at.

To say thanks we will be giving Camilla a Spring Fair prize pack. Enjoy seeing your beautiful artwork all around the school and neighbourhood Camilla.

THE SPRING FAIR IS ONLY 3 1/2 WEEKS AWAY!

At the end of this week, all students will be coming home with the Spring Fair info pack. These lovingly stuffed envelopes contain information about the stalls, a book of 10 raffle tickets and the volunteer form. Details of how to volunteer are included in this pack. Please put up your hand to help out on one of the stalls – it would be greatly appreciated.

Raffle ticket money, and any unsold tickets, can be to the P&C box in the office by Friday, October 31st.

Also, at the end of this week, there will also be posters available for you to grab and put up anywhere and everywhere you can think of.
There will also be flyers for letter box dropping and a map to indicate which area you will do.

Posters & Flyers will be available in the duplicating room.

Any queries about The Fair, please get in contact with me
Jo Munroe: jo.munroe@simonandschuster.com.au / 0438 882 174
SUMMER PSSA DRAW

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUND &amp; DATE</th>
<th>SOFTBALL</th>
<th>CRICKET</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 – 10 October</td>
<td>Mortlake @ Timbrell</td>
<td>Mortlake @ Timbrell</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 – 17 October</td>
<td>Croydon Park @ Centenary</td>
<td>Croydon Park @ Centenary</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 – 24 October</td>
<td>Croydon @ Centenary</td>
<td>Croydon @ Centenary</td>
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<td>12 – 31 October</td>
<td>Newington @ Queen Elizabeth/St Lukes</td>
<td>Newington @ Queen Elizabeth/St Lukes</td>
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<td>13 – 7 November</td>
<td>Burwood @ Centenary</td>
<td>Burwood @ Centenary</td>
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<td>14 – 14 November</td>
<td>Wash Out Games</td>
<td>Wash Out Games</td>
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<td>15 – 21 November</td>
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<td>16 – 28 November</td>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Final</td>
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UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY READING PROJECT

In Term 3 SHPS was given the opportunity to be involved in an exciting project run by the University of Sydney. 16 pre-service students in their final year of studying for a Bachelor of Education visited our school twice a week to run an individualised reading program for students to increase and improve reading and language skills. The 18 SHPS students involved made significant improvements after having this one to one tutoring all term. It was a valuable experience for both the children and the university students. A big thank you must go to Ms Shehata and all our SHPS teachers for letting the students use the staff room two sessions a week!

Gillian Bale
Learning and Support Teacher
This year SHPS has been invited to participate in the first SpecConnect program. It is designed to broaden educational opportunities for teachers and their students through the Schools Spectacular primary choir experience. The program involves five metropolitan and five non-metropolitan schools and builds on and complements the departmental initiatives Great Teaching, Inspired Learning and the Rural and Remote Education, providing opportunities to:

- strengthen collaborative practice
- share and showcase good practice
- offer students in rural and remote schools access to paired urban schools

SHPS’s Year 5 Schools Spectacular Choir has been paired with Gloucester Public School on the mid north coast.

Mrs Salter, Mrs Bale and our 16 Year 5 choir members have already begun working together to complete activities with our paired school - a partner school orientation, a video conference (see photo) and a cross schools blog – and these will culminate in a SpecConnect presentation to all the schools involved. We look forward to sharing these activities with the school and the school community soon!

STAGE BAND PERFORMANCE

The Stage Band performed at the Sydney Town Hall on Thursday 18th September. Cathy Chan and the students were amazing! Thank you to Ms Carroll for helping out with supervision.

SPELLING BEE

We competed in the Regional Spelling Bee Competition at Ashfield Public School. I did a very good job of hosting it. The announcer was very encouraging to the people who got our. Louis lasted until Round 8 and Dyon lasted till Round 4. The words were very hard and it was a good experience for both of us.

By Louis R and Dyon F
SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SHOP

Firstly, apologies for not having the shop open each Tuesday morning during Term 3, however, the ever-reliable Annette has had the shop open on Friday mornings. Hopefully, this term, I will be more reliable and have the shop open on Tuesdays too.

LOST PROPERTY - As you know some of our clothes are from the Lost Property baskets. Please ensure that you place the name & current class, so that lost items can be returned to the correct owner, otherwise they will be sold at the shop.

Most items are $2, with the exception of girls summer uniforms, jackets & school bags, which are $5.

Opening hours:-
Tuesday 8:45 - 9:30am
Friday 8:45 - 9:30am

Thank you - Dilum (Parent Volunteer)

3ES DIORAMA

3ES designed and made 3D models of an ecosystem to be used in an advertisement to tell people about different kinds of biodiversity.

DEADLINE: Please make all submissions for the next issue of the Summer Hill e-News BEFORE TUESDAY 14 October, 12.00PM.

SUMMER HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL
ABSENTEE NOTE

(To be returned to classroom teacher first day back after absence)

Students Name:...........................................................................................................................Class:........................................

Date/s of absence/s:............................................................................................................................

Reason for absence:............................................................................................................................

..........................................................................................................................................................

Name of Parent/Carer:..........................................................................................................................

Signature of Parent/Carer: .................................................................Date: ........................................

.................................................................
SUMMER HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL
INFANTS CHESS TOURNAMENT

DATE: MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2014
VENUE: SUMMER HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL
        MOONBIE ST, SUMMER HILL
DIVISION: INFANTS (YEAR 2 AND BELOW)
TIME: 8:30AM–9:15AM REGISTRATION
       9:30AM ROUND 1 BEGINS
       2:00PM AWARDS PRESENTATION
       THERE WILL BE A LUNCH BREAK, AND SHORT BREAKS
       BETWEEN THE ROUNDS.
COST: $10 PER CHILD

FORMAT
This tournament is run as an individual event. The
winning school is determined by adding the 4 highest
scorers from each school. This means that your school
can enter any number of players, and there is no need to
rank them by ability, or assign teams.

This tournament is a 7-round ‘Swiss’ competition. This
means that all players play 7 games and no-one is
'knocked out' of the tournament.

TIME LIMIT
Chess clocks will be used in this event. There will be a
short demonstration on the use of chess clocks before the
start of the tournament.
The time limit is 15 minutes per player per game.

PRIZES
★ Trophies awarded to top
    scoring players:
    1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th.
★ Trophies awarded to top
    3 placed schools
★ All participants
    receive a certificate of
    participation.

TO ENTER
Please fill in the attached entry form and return to us by one of the following methods:
1. Fax your entry to (02) 9745 1176
2. Email your entry to bevan@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au

To ensure your school’s place in the competition, please enter by Thursday 9th October.

For general enquiries about the tournament, please call our office on (02) 9745 1170.

For information about this event and other chess activities, please visit our website:

SYDNEY ACADEMY OF CHESS
(02) 9745 1170

Email: info@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au  www.sydneyacademyofchess.com.au
Address: Level 1, 30a George Street, Burwood NSW  Postal Address: PO Box 1326, Burwood NSW 1805