FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S OFFICE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The staff of SHPS wish all our students and their families a very safe and happy Christmas. We wish our students and their families who are leaving us all the best in their new schools. You will be missed. We look forward to welcoming all our new students and their families to the Summer Hill school community in 2016 and sharing with them a year ahead full of exciting learning opportunities.

Classes 2016
Preparations are well underway for our 2016 classes. The class groupings are dictated by the staffing formula handed to us by the Department of Education then marrying this allocation with the needs of all students across the school. When deciding on the classes for any year, we attempt to obtain as much information as possible to ensure that; given the resources of the school (number of teachers, classroom availability, number of children, etc..) we place children as best we can.

The classes are officially based on best social and academic fit - and they always will be. What we do is have teachers form classes in consultation with the Executive. Please be assured that 99% of the time the issues the parents bring to us we know about and have dealt with already.

50 Sporty Things To Do Before You Turn 12 & three-quarters
The PDHPE Committee at Summer Hill Public School will be challenging the students once again to complete a series of sporting activities over the summer holidays. The idea was borrowed and adapted from an English program and is designed to encourage students away from excessive screen time. It has been explained to the students that the challenge is NOT mandatory and, if attempted, that it must be completed under adult supervision. It is advised that the activities are supervised by parents/guardians and that all possible safety conditions are taken into consideration. Photos of students completing the challenge will be collected early next year by Mr Williams to be shown in an assembly. Have fun doing these activities together or thinking of new ones!

Parent Volunteer Thank You
The staff and students are extremely grateful to all our parent volunteers who have given of their time and energy throughout the year to provide support in the classroom, participating in committees, through working bees, helping with excursions, or being part of the P&C. A very special “Thank You” to the members of our P&C who will be leaving us at the end of the year. The school could not achieve all our goals without your assistance and your support is greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank our Scripture and Ethics teachers who volunteer their time each Thursday to provide our students with religious and ethical instruction. We have an amazing school community.

Presentation Day Assembly
Parents are invited to join us on Friday 11 December at 11.05am for our Presentation Day assembly. This special assembly acknowledges the many achievements of our students and is an opportunity to celebrate the year we have had. I would also like to thank all my staff for their dedication and commitment to the education of all our students.
Karen Kekale Award

This award was created 11 years ago in order to recognise a boy and a girl in Year 2 at Summer Hill PS. who show the same character and values held by this wonderful teacher who passed away suddenly. She treated others with genuine respect, compassion and kindness. She dedicated her working and personal life to putting other people’s needs ahead of her own.

It is really very grounding to stop at the end of every busy year to think of how these simple and genuine values are demonstrated by so many of our wonderful students at Summer Hill. It is wonderful to reflect on the behaviour and actions of these young people who show kindness towards their peers and understanding of other people’s needs at such a young age. It is a pleasure to announce that the Karen Kekale recipients for 2016 are Zoe L 2JA and Jack M 2CM These 2 students make a difference to other students’ lives through their demonstration of fairness and kindness and they are two really important values in all our lives. Congratulations Zoe and Jack!

Indigenous Literacy Certificate of Appreciation

Our school supported the Indigenous Literacy Foundation this year. Through our support, and the support of other schools, the foundation has:

Gifted over 30,000 new and culturally appropriate books to remote indigenous communities; supplied nearly 5,000 early literacy books in their Book Buzz project to a smaller number of remote communities; published 6 children’s stories for communities in the Tiwi Islands, Manyallaluk and Alice Springs in NT; and conducted literacy workshops in Tjuntjuntjarra, Melville Island and Sydney. In 2016 their goal is to raise $100,000 to buy 10,000 books for remote communities. They need to support 1000 schools and I know that Summer Hill PS can again support them to achieve this goal next year. Well done SHPS!

Child Sponsorship

I am excited to inform you that our school will be sponsoring a young girl from Cambodia, Pukoeuth Rorvita. Money raised through our mufti days will go towards providing the funds to educate and support this child.

Our School Mascots

During 2015 we have undertaken a process of designing mascots for each of the School Houses. The following animals were chosen by students after discussions and advice from the Ashfield Aboriginal Consultative Committee - Bottlenose dolphin (Border), Lyrebird (Lewis), Black Cockatoo (Campese), Flying Fox (Flemming ). These birds and animals lived on the traditional lands of the Wangal People of the Eora Nation, on which our school is built. The creeks of this area flowed into the bays where the bottlenose dolphins swam.

Kerry Toomey, a contemporary Aboriginal artist, guided our students through the process of designing new symbols for our school house mascots. Kerry worked on the project with students from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community along with House Captains and SRC Representatives.

Kerry Toomey and the group of students who participated in the design project.

The project was linked to work enabled by a grant obtained from Ashfield Council by the P&C. It aims to create a focus for innovative learning programs about biodiversity and cultural diversity within the school. Work has commenced on planting a bush tucker garden to create habitat for birds and native bees and installing a landscaped path and seating circle in the garden. The mascots will be mounted on the wall overlooking the Diversity Garden, at the Junction Road entrance to the school.
The new mascots were revealed during a ceremony at the end of our annual PSSA Assembly last Friday. Our special guests were Kerry Toomey, artist/mentor and Aunty Fay Carroll, Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer. The day was made very special when Kaleb Taylor and Harry Whitting (a former sports captain at SHPS) performed a traditional Aboriginal Smoking Ceremony and led the mascots to their permanent place in the school grounds. Look out for the new mascots on sports shirts soon.

Thanks to all teachers and students for their enthusiasm and involvement in this project. Thanks also to Freya Hartley and the SHPS P & C Sustainability Committee for their wonderful support.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year
Karen Shehata
Principal

LOST PROPERTY
Please check the lost property containers outside 5TK classroom for lost hats, jackets, lunch boxes, drink bottles etc. before Wednesday 16 December.
Thank you

Tyriq, Kohan and Jack talked about the design process.
CONGRATULATIONS ICAS MEDAL WINNERS!

On Friday 27th of November, Jasmine G, William S and Eva G attended the ICAS Medal Presentation Ceremony at the University of New South Wales. This was a ceremony that only awarded students with the highest score in the ICAS tests. A total of 135 students attended, and the three of us were proud to be part of them. Jasmine and William won medals for Maths while I received a medal for English. Before leaving, we were provided with delicious afternoon tea. We would like to thank our parents for their hard work and Mr Warnock for his support.

Eva G 6SH

SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR

This year I was lucky enough to be part of the 32nd Schools Spectacular at the Qantas Credit Union Arena. I was singing with the Junior Singers (part of the Performing Arts Unit) in the Schools Spectacular Choir, along with my friends from SHPS, Alexandra P, Saskia M and Sasha L. We all had an amazing time. There were lots of rehearsals and many early starts and late finishes. The Senior Choir from SHPS was also part of the show, along with Ms Salter and Ms Philips.

But there was one part of this experience that was really special for me. My mum, Hilary, went to the Conservatorium High School and she was part of the very first Schools Spectacular (before it was even called that) in 1983. She was one of the kids that was in the concert that tested the acoustics of the “Ent Cent”, as she calls it. My mum then performed in the Orchestra for Schools Spec until her last year of high school in 1987. So my mum was in the very first Schools Spec at the Entertainment Centre and I was in the very last one at the Entertainment Centre, 32 years later.

by Holly B (4DG)
As we come to the end of the school year, on behalf of the P&C I would like to thank the following people who are stepping back from our school after in some cases many years of involvement across many different areas. Each has made a significant contribution to our various activities, committees and through the engaging with different parts of our school community. To Shelagh Doyle, Steve Burkitt, Tegan Sadlier, Tony Clayton, Dipika & Kalpesh Gandhi, Kath Wawatai, Karen Taylor, Jacob Messer, Sandy Robertson and Deborah Samuels. Thank you.

Earlier this week we received the fantastic news that we have been successful in our application for a grant under the state government’s Community Building Partnership Program. We were awarded $29,000 to pay for the upgrade of the some of the softfall areas in the playground. We hope to have the works done over the Christmas holidays. This is a great example of how we can supplement our fund raising activities with different grants to help our school get the resources it needs. Thanks to Helen De Wolfe for making the application.

To all our parents, carers, staff and children - have a happy and safe Christmas holiday and we will see most of you in 2016.

Paul Gaukrodger
President

For Sale......
Looking for that something extra to give family and friends for Christmas??
Summer Hill School tea towels printed by Sweets Workshop $20 plus a free cookbook
Mixed Packs of beautiful “Card Creation” greeting cards $15
Both are available from the office.

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CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Awarded to:

Summer Hill Public School

In recognition of your kind donation towards the Pozieres School Project, the Camp Gallipoli Foundation wishes to thank you for your support.

Inspired by the kindness shown by Australian school children to Villers - Bretonneux in the 1920’s, the Pozieres French-Australian School Project was formed to rebuild the school in the small French village of Pozieres. This tiny French village holds a special place in Australian history and the nation’s memory. The Pozieres School will be built with donations made by a new generation of Australian school children and will reinforce the memory of ANZAC from The Battle of Pozieres.

Mr Will Davies
CHAIRMAN - AUSTRALIANS AT POZIERES

Mr Christopher Fox
CEO OF CAMP GALLIPOLI

CAMP GALLIPOLI
SPIRIT OF ANZAC

2016 SCHOOL TERM DATES

TERM 1 Thursday, 28 January to Friday, 08 April
TERM 2 Wednesday, 27 April to Friday, 01 July
TERM 3 Tuesday, 19 July to Friday, 23 September
TERM 4 Monday, 10 October to Friday, 16 December
FROM THE MUSIC SUPPORT COMMITTEE

It was once again a busy and successful year for the ensemble program at SHPS in 2015. The Music Support Committee would like to extend its thanks to the conductors, music teachers, administrators, music captains and the school Principal who make the school Band and Orchestra program happen. This year the program has involved 230 children in seven ensembles – over a quarter of the student population - a remarkable feat for the School.

The P&C continued to support the program by funding the purchase of sheet music; professional development for the conductors and the purchase of a tenor sax. The P&C also provided additional financial support for the music tour held in September that travelled to the Port Stephens area with 45 Senior & Stage Band & Chamber Orchestra students. The tour was a great success and performed and held band workshops at three country schools including Bob’s Farm, Anna Bay and Soldiers Point.

Special thanks go to Cathy Chan for all her wonderful work as Principal Conductor and Janet Sutherland who worked tirelessly throughout the year co-ordinating the program. The Committee itself met once a month to discuss programming and co-ordination for events and supported over 15 school musical events throughout the year.

The tenure of a number of the long-term members of the Support Committee comes to an end this year including my own as Committee Co-ordinator and Karen Taylor who served as Committee Secretary for a number of years. It has been a great pleasure and privilege to be a part of “making the music” at SHPS. We wish you well for all the wonderful musical years ahead at Summer Hill.

Shelagh Doyle
Music Support Committee Co-ordinator

LIBRARY NEWS

MANY HAPPY RETURNS!
We appreciate the effort that many students and families have made to find and return misplaced library books. Good Luck to all our lovely Year Six students, please drop off any remaining library loans before you leave us. Please contact Carmel Grimmett, Teacher Librarian if you require information about your children’s library loans.
Carmel.grimmett@det.nsw.edu.au

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

CHINA TOUR IS ON THE EXPANDING HORIZONS!!!!!

I am writing to you to thank you for a wonderful year of music making. To all the musical ensembles and their families, thank you for your hard work and commitment throughout the year. Congratulations on your performances and achievements. To the students moving on to high school, I wish you well in all future musical endeavours. As you know a world without music would B flat.

In 2016, we have applied and been invited to tour China with senior members of our bands and orchestras (current Year 4 & Year 5 students) as part of “Expanding Horizons”.
At the moment the tour is in planning mode, rough dates for the tour are 18th to 28th September 2016. Students on the tour will perform in premier venues, experience life in Chinese schools and work musically with students from China. They will explore significant sites and have tourist opportunities, as well as developing lifelong friendships with other students from Australia and abroad.
At the moment I am asking for an Expression of Interest. This does not mean you have to commit to the tour, but so I can pass on information about meetings and costs as they become available. Please respond by email to Donna.M.Ross@det.nsw.edu.au if you would like to be kept in the loop about the tour.

In Term 1 2016, there will be an information evening for interested families, where a lot of potential questions will be answered. Before you make up your mind this would be a good place to ask questions, and hear all the information about the tour. There is also a parallel tour for parents for the same cost. The two tours run separately, however, parents will get to see all the performances, and (I hope) experience the main tourist attractions with their child.
The Cost of the tour is $3700 which includes, flights, accommodation, visas, travel insurance, uniform, and internal travel. The only additional cost would be the amount of spending money students would like to bring. Payment can be done in instalments, and I am hoping the families that are going can work together to do (a lot) of fundraising to make the tour feasible for everyone!
This is an amazing opportunity for students, and a once in a lifetime experience, if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to ask!

Regards and have a great festive holiday
Donna Ross
CHESS NEWS

KNOX CHESS CHALLENGE
On Sunday the 8th of November, our school participated in the Knox Chess Challenge. We sent five teams to compete in the tournament and each team scored impressive results. A total of 116 teams participated and our A team came in equal 7th place, scoring 14.5 out of 21 points. Our C team was one and a half points behind on 18th place.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS ONE-DAY TOURNAMENT LOCAL HEAT
Two of our teams competed in the local heat of the Primary Schools One-Day tournament. It was a tough competition where each point was precious and only the top three teams could qualify for the final at North Sydney Boys’ High.
Despite the strong field of players, our A team came out victorious on 22.5/24, 2.5 points ahead of Abbotsford A. Our B team claimed 3rd place on 15.5/24. Although both teams won trophies, unfortunately only one team per school could attend the final. Congratulations to Eva G, Kevin S, Finnian C, Kevin Z, Jasper B and Vincent L for bringing back two trophies for our school!

PRIMARY SCHOOLS ONE-DAY TOURNAMENT FINAL
On the 29th of November, Summer Hill Public School sent our A team to participate in the final. In the local heat, we won comfortably 2.5 points ahead of second place. In the final, the top three schools from all over Sydney joined the battle. How would we fare this time?
Unfortunately, we lost to Sydney Grammar 1.0-2.0, allowing more teams to catch up. We lost again to St Ives’ North the next round 1.0-2.0. The next round was critical for us - we had to win all three games in order to come in the top three. We missed out on third place by just one point! We won against Westport 2.0-1.0, but it wasn’t enough to clinch a trophy. Instead, we ended up in equal 5th place with a score of 14 points- still a great effort.
Congratulations again to our team, Eva G, Kevin S and Finnian C!

ITALIAN NEWS

ITALIAN 2016
Italian classes will take place on the following days in 2016:
Mondays 8:00-9:00 a.m: Years 3-6 class (Begins Monday February 1st)
Tuesdays 8:00-8:45 a.m: Kindergarten class (Begins Tuesday February 9th)
Wednesdays 8:00-9:00 a.m: Years 1-3 class (Begins Wednesday February 9th)

Please note that Year 3 students who are beginners or relatively new to Italian will be placed in the Wednesday class. Year 3 students who have been with the program for 2-3 years will be moved up to the Years 3-6 class. However, if parents have two children that are in the year 1-3 age bracket and wish for them to be together in the Wednesday class, this can usually be accommodated. Children in Year 4-6 who have never done Italian are welcome to join, and will be put with their peers in the oldest class. The teacher will give them some take home exercises to bring them up to speed.)
We are very fortunate to have Maestra Elisa back for next year, who will teach all three levels. Elisa is a native speaker from Italy and knows the children well. She combines language and culture through a variety of engaging activities.

Please email sterravecchia@hotmail.com to reserve a place for your children. We have waiting lists every year, so don’t delay!
Grazie e Buon Natale
Susan Terravecchia
Volunteer Coordinator of the SH Italian Program
**2015 Survey: Primary parents & teachers**

In 2013, Marrickville High School surveyed our primary communities to find out what they wanted from their local high school.

Over 500 parents and teachers gave feedback and the results helped us better communicate and strengthen our links with local schools.

Two years on, we want to find out what has changed and give current primary parents the opportunity to shape MHS’s future.

Please complete our online survey here: [https://essentialmedia.a21.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_dhhnrcFlq4YER](https://essentialmedia.a21.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_dhhnrcFlq4YER)
or click from our website [http://www.marrickvillehighschool.nsw.edu.au](http://www.marrickvillehighschool.nsw.edu.au)

The survey is open until 18 December 2015.

Your feedback will help us provide a high quality comprehensive high school to our local community.

Regards, Arety Dassakis, MHS Principal

For more info: laurence.treloar@det.nsw.edu.au
Do you feel like you have run out of answers for parenting your child?
Are you feeling stressed and overwhelmed?

The Health Psychology Unit, UTS is offering a free treatment research program for families who have children with behavioural problems.

Clinical psychologists from the Unit located near Royal North Shore Hospital will see families with children aged 7–14 for up to 14 sessions.

For more information please contact Dr Rachael Murrihy on 9514 4077 or at Rachael.murrihy@uts.edu.au
Website: www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/our-research/health-psychology-unit

How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

iPhone & iPad Users
1. Click the “App Store” icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click “Free” then “Install”.
4. If iPad, change the drop list to “iPhone Apps”, your school will then be visible, click “Free” then “install”.
5. When installed click “Open”.
6. Select “OK” to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

Android Users
You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.
1. Click the “Play Store” button on your Android device.
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the “Install” button.
5. Click “Accept” for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click “Open” when installed.
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

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Summer Hill Public School
Spring Fair

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