

# Newsletter

Somerton Public School

*Developing Respect, Responsibility, Resourcefulness*

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Term 1 – Week 2

Tuesday 2 February 2016

## Mr Reid's Message

Welcome back to school everyone! The students and staff have returned from their summer holiday refreshed and ready to begin another busy, productive year. We welcome Mr Nicholas Clark to our staff who will be mainly working with the K-2 students in literacy and numeracy. We were sad to see Mrs Cupples leave us at the end last year however we welcome Mrs Jodie Markwick to our staff as the new Student Learning Support Officer (SLSO). We also welcome our new enrolments in Kindergarten, Matthew Pollard, Sophie Hook, Keisha Johnston and Matilda Holden. Sadly we said farewell to our Year 6 student, Tiara Markwick who has gone to high school in Tamworth, and to Ben Gardner, who went into Year 6 in Gunnedah. We trust they are settling in well and are making lots of new friends.



This year we have 16 students attending Somerton Public School. Due to the increase in numbers we have decided to split the classes again and have a K-2 class taught by Mr Clark and a 3-6 class taught by Ms Reid. In the afternoon the students will combine to form one class and do afternoon lessons.

Thank you parents – the students look fantastic in their school uniforms and they are all well equipped with their hats, drink bottles and school equipment. Sports uniforms are to be worn on Fridays.

## New School Times/ Daily Timetable

After consultation with parents, there has been unanimous support for the following changes to the school times:

**School commences** at 9:00am

**Recess** 11:15 – 11:45am

**Lunch** 1:15 – 2:00pm

**School finishes** at **3:00pm** (new time)

**Please note:** This will commence Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 (next week). Please also note new time for the end of the school day. This will only affect students walking home or being collected by parents. Students catching the bus will remain at school until the usual bus time of collection.



## Weekly Assembly

Our weekly assembly is now on Friday afternoon at 2.30pm and **everyone is welcome**. Our first assembly will be this Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February and will include the School Leaders presentation.



## Scripture 2016

This year we welcome Mrs Hannah Pollard to join with Mrs Sonja Hook in teaching scripture on Friday 2:00-2:30pm.



## Cooking

We will continue our cooking classes this year. Ms Reid's class will cook on Wednesdays and Mr Clark's class will cook on Thursdays. The cost is \$2 every week to help cover the cost of the food and this can be given to the class teacher every week or in a lump sum for the term.



## Summertime Reading

In the last week of term in 2015 each student took home a pack of books for reading over the holiday break.

Congratulations to all those students who read and recorded their reading over the holiday break. As a reward students received a "Bluey" for every 10 books read and recorded in the reading folder. We are excited to announce that from those packs returned, the students at Somerton P.S. read a combined total of 235 times over their holiday break!

This wonderful response demonstrates our students' commitment to their learning as well as supporting the retention of their knowledge and skills in learning to read. Well done!

Congratulations to our champion reader Charlotte Heywood who read a total of 82 times and earned eight "Blueys" for her effort.

**Mrs Stoker**

## Breakfast Club



This year our **breakfast program is on every Monday and Tuesday morning**. If for some reason your child misses

having their breakfast they are welcomed to have breakfast at school consisting of cereal, toast and milk. **Canteen lunches are also on Monday and Tuesday at the cost of \$2**, which includes lunch, fruit dessert and drink. Mrs Markwick is compiling a yummy nutritional menu for the students to choose.

## Music @ Somerton PS

Our music instructor, Mr Jamie Brown will be continuing his music program of dance and rhythm this term. The Kindergarten students were very cute in learning their first item.



## Sport on Fridays

Sport this term will involve all students attending the Gunnedah Swimming Pool with Mr Clark and Mrs Markwick for swimming survival and confidence skills. We did a similar activity last year and it proved very successful. Students will be transported by bus and there is no cost involved as we have received a grant from Sporting Schools which covers all costs. Students are to wear their sports uniform to school and bring their swimmers, towels and a plastic bag to place their wet gear in when they have finished swimming. This activity will start this Friday so please return notes as soon as possible.



## Small Schools Swimming Carnival

**The Small Schools Swimming Carnival is being held on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> February at Werris Creek Pool.** All information is on the notes

going home and we would appreciate if the notes could be returned as soon as possible.

This year it is Somerton Public School's turn to provide morning tea and lunch at the carnival for the participating schools. We hope all parents can help out by providing something yummy for the morning tea and also help with the cooking and serving with the sausage sizzle barbeque lunch. This is a great fundraiser for the school and as we don't have many opportunities to fundraise it would be great if the parents could help out in any way to make it a success.



## Parent / Staff



Our Parent / Staff Meet and Greet evening is next week on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016** beginning at **6.30pm**. This will be a very informal evening of chatting to the staff and sharing a cuppa and nibbles. We would love to see all the parents attend as we would like your input into your involvement in activities and events being held at the school to benefit your students and promote the school within the community. We will also explain learning programs that your students are involved in, and we can answer your questions.



## P&C News

*P&C Meetings are held once a term. All 'new' and 'old' members are welcome to attend. The P&C are a wonderful support to the staff and students. It is an evening of sharing and discussing and planning school activities, as well as getting to know other parents and community members over a cuppa and snack. The date for this term is yet to be finalised and an invitation with times and dates will be sent home.*

## School Dates for 2016

Term 1	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan (SDD) Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan (Students 1 <sup>st</sup> day) – Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April (Easter: 25 March-28 <sup>th</sup> March)
Term 2	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April (SDD) Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> (Students Return) – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July
Term 3	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> July (SDD) Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> (Students Return) – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September
Term 4	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October – Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December (SDD)



Why not visit our Website:

<http://www.somerton-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>

## Weekly Focus Concept – Sun Safety



This week's focus concept is **SUN SAFETY**. Students need to take care in the sun by wearing their school hat **each day** to school and bringing a water bottle to keep hydrated.



## SCHOLASTIC

Book Club has gone home today. **Issue 1, 2016** orders & payment must be returned to school by this **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016** in an envelope with your child's name clearly marked on it.



## Good for Kids good for life

### PACKING A HEALTHY LUNCHBOX

Many products marketed as being a healthy lunchbox addition can be high in sugar and fat, and low in nutrients. Here are some healthy options to consider swapping in your child's lunchbox:

- An apple or banana instead of a fruit roll-up.
- Swap chips for unsalted air-popped popcorn.
- Include low-fat plain milk instead of drinks high in sugar such as sports drinks and fruit drinks with less than 99% juice.
- Swap sugary snacks, such as cake or biscuits, for a low-fat plain/fruit-based yoghurt.
- Use wholemeal or multi-grain bread instead of white bread for sandwiches.



Health  
Hunter New England  
Local Health District

PHONE 4924 6499

**TERM 1 2016 DATES**

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	25 January School Holidays	26 Australia Day	27 Staff Development Day	28 <b>Start of School Term for All Students</b> Welcome Back 😊	29
2	1 February	2	3 9:30am StEP Vision Screening	4	5 <b>Swimming</b>  2:30pm Assembly
3	8	9	10 6:30pm Meet & Greet Parent Evening	11	12 8:45am-Small Schools Swimming Carnival (Werris Creek Pool)
4	15	16	17	18	19 <b>Swimming</b>
5	22	23	24	25	26 <b>Swimming</b>
6	29	1 March	2	3	4 <b>Swimming</b>
7	7	8	9	10	11 <b>Swimming</b>
8	14	15	16	17	28 <b>Swimming</b>
9	21	22	23	24	25 Public Holiday Good Friday
10	28 Public Holiday Easter Monday	29	30	31	1 April <b>Swimming</b>
11	4	5	6	7	8 <b>Swimming</b>  Last Day Term 1