This will be my last column in the newsletter for 2015 as I will be taking leave for the remainder of the term to travel with my family. For the past thirteen years, Nicole (also known as Mrs Crowe) and I have watched our daughter grow and develop into a wonderful, sensible young lady as she has progressed through school. Now with Nateisha’s HSC behind her, we are planning on extending our learning by exploring various countries from Italy to Norway, and many interesting places in between during a long exploration of Europe.

Mr Russell will once again assume the role of Relieving Principal, and Mrs Dibben has agreed to step up into the relieving Assistant Principal role for Stage 3. I have a great deal of confidence in these people, and the other staff of our school, to continue to smooth, effective operation of our school.

Last week, our school became the first school in NSW to undergo ‘External Validation’ by which two independent principals review the procedures and practices of our school against a document known as the ‘School Excellence Framework’. The findings of the review panel were very positive and reflect the excellent work being conducted across our school in a wide range of activities and areas. Congratulations to our staff, students and community for such a glowing assessment of our school.

Congratulations also to each and every person involved in this years’ pantomime, Aladdin. In excess of 1000 people were treated to a wonderful display of acting, humour, and dance. The efforts of Mrs Di Merrick and Mrs Robyn Dibben deserve special praise as they moulded our students (and staff) into a great show... shame nobody could ‘mould’ the Panda!

May the rest of 2015 be smooth for everyone and I trust that you will have a wonderful holiday period during summer. I look forward to catching up with friends, staff and students upon the commencement of 2016.

Arrivederci!

David Crowe
Principal

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11 November</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13 November</td>
<td>Band to Sydney Youth Orchestra Concert 12.00 pm at Sacred Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17 November</td>
<td>Year 5 Aussie Bush Excursion departs 9.15 am 2016 Kinder Orientation 2.00 - 3.10 pm Uniform Shop open 1.30 - 3.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18 November</td>
<td>Year 5 Aussie Bush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19 November</td>
<td>Year 5 Aussie Bush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20 November</td>
<td>Year 5 Aussie Bush to arrive back approximately 2.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24 November</td>
<td>2016 Kinder Orientation 2.00 - 3.10 pm Uniform Shop open 1.30 - 3.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25 November</td>
<td>Matilda Excursion Departs SPS at 8.00 am returning to SPS approximately 6.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26 November</td>
<td>Sporting School Concludes for Term 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27 November</td>
<td>Aboriginal Culture group excursion to Wollombi Depart 9.15 am and return by 1.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 30 November</td>
<td>Year 6 Surfing Program 9.00 am - 3.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2 December</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7.00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 3 December</td>
<td>Year 6 Orientation Day Singleton High School 9.30 am - 2.00 pm K-2 Christmas Concert 9.45 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4 December</td>
<td>K-2 Christmas Concert 9.45 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This weeks assembly is hosted by 7B at the starting time of 12.45 pm.

P&C Meeting tonight
7pm in the Library. All welcome.

OPAL CARD - Important changes to school bus travel - see Page 2 for full details.
Matilda Excursion
The Matilda excursion will be leaving school at 8.00 am on Wednesday, 25 November. The students and staff will arrive in Sydney at approximately 11.30 am and have lunch at Darling Harbour before heading to the Lyric Theatre. The matinee performance begins at 1.00 pm. Then we will return to school around 6.00 pm. Children will need to wear full school uniform and hat. They need to bring morning tea, lunch and at least 2 drinks. Please no lollies or soft drinks on this excursion. Information regarding arrival back at school will be sent out on the School App during the afternoon.
Di Merrick (Organising teacher)

Kindergarten Transition Days
The first of the Kindergarten Transition days was held on Tuesday, 10 November and was a successful afternoon. The next two transition days will be held on Tuesday 17 and 24 November. During this time, the Uniform Shop will be open from 1.30 – 3.00 pm.

Student Health – Shingles
There has been reported cases of Shingles (Varicella-zoster) within the school community. Please see the facts below taken from the NSW Government Health website:-

What are the symptoms?
Shingles begins with painful skin eruptions that generally appear on 1 side of the body.

How is it spread?
Shingles is spread by direct contact with an infected person.

Excluded: cases should be excluded until full recovery or for at least five days after the first eruption appears and/or ball blisters have crusted.

Bus passes in 2016
The NSW Department of Transport has advised that Hunter Valley Buses will start using the Opal system in 2016. All current bus pass holders will have their new Opal card sent to the school in 2016. However, students progressing into Year 3 or 7 in 2016 will have to reapply.

If your child will be in Year 3 in 2016 and currently travels with Hunter Valley Buses, you will need to apply for a new bus pass ONLINE at https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/howToApply.

Click on the Apply Now button and complete the form. You will need to be attached to a printer so that you can print the form at the end and bring to the school for endorsement.

If your child will be in Year 3 in 2016 and currently travels with Saxbys or Anvil, you will need to complete a new bus pass application MANUALLY on the standard blue bus pass form and return to the school.

Please note from Year 3 onwards, to be entitled to free bus travel, you must live over 1.6 km from the school.

Please also note that the school and Department of Transport must have your correct address. If you have moved and not updated your details with your bus company, your Opal card will not work.

Brochures were sent home with students last week.

Year 6 Orientation to Singleton High School
An orientation day at Singleton High School for incoming 2016 Year 7 students will be held Thursday, 3 December 2015 commencing at 9.30 am concluding 2.00 pm. Students will leave our school to walk to the High School in the morning and return before the afternoon bell. Students will need to bring a pen and paper, food and drinks for recess and lunch, or money to purchase them from the canteen.

Aussie Bush
Year 5 Aussie Bush excursion will be leaving school on Tuesday, 17 November at 9.15 am. Please have all Year 5 students that are attending the excursion at the school hall by 8.50 am. The students are due to return to school on Friday, 20 November at 2.00 pm. Please see the school App for further updates.
### Uniform Shop Roster - Week 7, Term 4 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 16/11</td>
<td>Peggy Ann Towns, Kim Carter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 20/11</td>
<td>Robyn Skinner, Kirsten Roxburgh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact someone else on the roster if you need to swap your duty.

### Canteen Roster - Week 7, Term 4 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 16/11</td>
<td>Anna Adamthwaite, 1 more helper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 17/11</td>
<td>Angela Johnson, 1 more helper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 18/11</td>
<td>Nicole Furness, Claire Elgar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 19/11</td>
<td>Melissa Muddiman, Sarah Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 20/11</td>
<td>Carmen Lee Williams, Renee Mouser, Kate Howe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please advise Nicole Gray if you have any changes to your rostered day.

### Positive Behaviour for Learning – PBL Post-It

Every fortnight our school focuses upon a new behaviour to reinforce our school values of RESPECT – RESPONSIBILITY – QUALITY. All classes engage in small discussions about the various behaviours and students are rewarded for acting in an appropriate manner. This fortnight's focus is:-

"Maintaining quality behaviour at all times"

### Information from the DEC

**Ready for high school**


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**Credit Card Payment Slip - Singleton Public School**

The school can accept credit card payments (Visa and Mastercard only) over the phone or by mail. Please note, this is not an EFTPOS facility. EFTPOS (Savings or Cheque a/c) can only be paid over the counter.

This facility can be used to pay school contributions, excursions, uniforms or P&C levy etc. The minimum payment is $20.00. Building Fund and Library Fund cannot be paid by credit card.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student's Name</td>
<td>................................................................. Class: ..............................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are you paying for?</td>
<td>........................................................................................................... Date ..........</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Card Type (please tick one)</td>
<td>□ VISA □ Mastercard Amount paying $............................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardholder Name (as shown on card)</td>
<td>Please print in capitals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardholder Name (as shown on card)</td>
<td>...........................................................................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Card Number</td>
<td>................................................................. Expiry Date /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSV</td>
<td>................................................................. Expiry Date /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSV</td>
<td>(last three digits on back of card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature of Cardholder</td>
<td>........................................................................................................... Contact Number: ...........................................</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pre-School Small Steps Program
During Term 4, a pre-school small steps program has been conducted on Fridays for 2016 Kindergarten students. There are two sessions - a morning and an afternoon session. Pictured here is the morning session group having a great time visiting the office.

Canteen
The canteen is urgently after helpers, if you have any spare time please contact Nicole at the canteen.

The canteen will be closed in the last week of term. The canteen’s last day for 2015 is Friday 11, December.
CANTENE, UNIFORM SHOP & BREAKFAST CLUB VOLUNTEERS

The Singleton Public School P&C run the Uniform Shop, Canteen, and Breakfast Club. All services are run on a volunteer basis and we are always looking for volunteers to help out. The funds raised by both the canteen and uniform shop go directly to the school to purchase equipment, which benefits your children. In fact, over the last 3 years the P&C has donated close to $100,000 providing the school with air conditioning, books for the school library, playground equipment and seating, stage curtains and sound equipment for the school hall, school band equipment, ovens and fridges for the canteen, laptops, helping to fund the school app, classroom resources and renovating the Year 1 corridor. To continue this amazing work we need your help.

Volunteers in the canteen help Nicole Gray, the canteen supervisor, to prepare healthy and nutritious lunches and snacks, many of which are canteen made. You already have all the experience you will need and Nicole will always be on hand to help you out. The canteen volunteers are needed between 9am & 2pm, but we are happy to have your help just in the morning between 9am & 11am.

The uniform shop is open on each Monday & Friday of the week from 8:30am – 9.30am. We hope to have enough volunteers to have 2 people rostered on each shift. This is an easy job, where you are required to sell uniforms, that’s it! A training session will be organised before you start to make sure you are armed with all the knowledge you need.

Breakfast Club is a free service available to all children at the school. It provides a healthy and nutritious breakfast every school day. Lunch box top-ups are also provided on request. Breakfast Club Volunteers prepare healthy and nutritious breakfasts and lunches. You already have all the experience you will need and the co-ordinators will familiarise you before you start. We plan to have 2-3 volunteers each day, and they are needed between 8:40am and 9:30am. Your pre-school aged children are very welcome to accompany you.

Canteen and Uniform Shop rosters run on a four-week cycle. The roster is attached with the dates for each rotation, while Breakfast Club runs on a weekly roster, and also has a list of casuals who are happy to be on-call for occasional volunteering. The P&C would be delighted to include you on the roster and remember volunteering is for everyone, mums, dads, aunties, uncles, grandparents and friends...... Everyone is welcome! Please nominate on the form below if you are able to help out.

Name: .................................................................................................................................................................

Contact Number: ................................................................. Email: ........................................................................................................

I am able to volunteer on the canteen roster (please circle your preferences)

Week 1     Week 2     Week 3     Week 4

Monday     Tuesday     Wednesday     Thursday     Friday

If you are unable to commit to a regular day but would still like to help out when you can please contact Nicole in the Canteen

I am able to volunteer on the uniform shop roster (please circle your preferences)

Week 1     Week 2     Week 3     Week 4     on a Monday or Friday

☐ I understand that when my name is added to the roster it will be uploaded to the schools website.

I am able to volunteer on the Breakfast Club roster (please circle your preferences)

Weekly:     Monday     Tuesday     Wednesday     Thursday     Friday

Occasionally:     Monday     Tuesday     Wednesday     Thursday     Friday

PLEASE COMPLETE & RETURN THIS FORM TO THE OFFICE EVEN IF YOU ARE ALREADY ON THE ROSTER THIS YEAR.
THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING - EACH PAIR OF HANDS HELPS LIGHTEN THE LOAD FOR EVERYONE.
Bush Tucker Garden Update

The link between our school and the community has resulted in wonderful support for our Outdoor Indigenous Learning Area.

On reading about the Bush Tucker Garden project parents Shara and Vic Mossley arranged a donation of fertiliser and wetting agent from Kirkwoods.

Parent Anne McSweeney approached Hunter Local Land Services and following a meeting with Maria Cameron, we were thrilled to receive a grant of $1500. Our next step will be meeting with an Aboriginal Elder and plant specialist.

To all those who have and will be supporting this project in the future we say......
Temporary and Casual Teacher’s Aides 2016 (SLSOs)

Throughout the year our school has limited employment opportunities for experienced casual and/or temporary teachers’ aides (School Learning Support Officers).

As this is a paid position (approximately $28.54 per hour for casual employment) we would like to invite suitably experienced or qualified people to provide an expression of interest to the school. In **one page** please outline:-

- Your experience or qualifications to fulfil this position;
- Specific knowledge or understanding of children with additional learning needs.
- First Aid, Working with Children Checks and previous experience are highly desirable.
- Two referees that can attest to your ability to work well with children.
- Written application addressed to the Principal by 3.30 pm on Friday, 13 November.

Any queries, please contact Kerrie Burns in the school office.

Please note you will be contacted by the school if we require further information or if your application has been accepted.

David Crowe, Principal

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**Singleton Public School**

**Staff Profile**

*Respect | Responsibility | Quality*

The school will be introducing one staff member each week so that parents and carers can get to know our dedicated staff. This week we are introducing:-

**Name:** Sam Johnson  
**Class:** 3/4J  
**How long have you been teaching at SPS?** Term 3 and 4  
**Favourite Colour:** Green  
**Favourite Sports Team:** Newcastle Knights  
**Favourite Movie:** Too many to name  
**Favourite Dessert:** Caramel Sundae  
**Favourite Song/Band:** Hoodoo Gurus—"Like Wow, Wipeout"  
**Favourite Subject:** PE/Sport

**Do you have any pets, and what are they?**

**Hobbies:**  
Surfing, soccer, gold and basketball.

**What do you love about working at SPS?**  
I really enjoy working with the fantastic staff at SPS and teaching the kind and caring students.
The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a new way of providing individualised support for people with a disability who have a permanent or developmental delay that affects their ability to take part in everyday activities.

If you live in Maitland, Newcastle or Lake Macquarie and are under 65 you may be eligible to access the NDIS.

Visit us

Find out how the NDIS might assist you, your family member or friend by visiting our information stands between 9.30 and 4pm at:

Rutherford Marketplace
28th October, 18th November & 9th December

Lake Macquarie Fair
4th November, 25th November & 16th December

Morisset Square
11th November & 2nd December

Bonnells Bay Shopping Centre
9th November & 1st December

Phone: 1800 555 727  www.ndis.gov.au

Transport for NSW

Fact sheet: The School Opal card

Who's eligible?
To be eligible for a School Opal card, students need to be NSW residents and may need to live a minimum distance away from their school:
- Years K-2 (Infants): there's no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary): 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary): 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking or further.

Students completing secondary studies at TAFE, boarding school students and students temporarily in Australia may also be eligible for a School Opal card. The eligibility criteria for these students is available at transportnsw.info/school-students.

A School Opal card is provided to eligible students who need to travel within the Opal network. Paper travel passes are issued to eligible students who need to travel outside the Opal network.

Who needs to apply?
Most students or parents won't need to apply for the School Opal card. The School Opal card will be sent to a student's school automatically at the beginning of the new school year in 2016. However, a new application is required if:
- The student is just starting school or has not had a pass for travel before.
- The student is progressing from Year 2 to 3, or Year 6 to 7.
- The student is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school.
- The student's personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Applications must be made by a parent or guardian for children aged 15 years and under. Applications must be made by the student if aged 16 years or older.

How to apply
Step 1 Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students.
Step 2 Print, sign and submit the form to the school for endorsement.
Step 3 The school will then forward the application to Transport for NSW for processing. Once approved, Transport for NSW sends the School Opal card to the home address given in the application.

The application may take several weeks and the applicant's email address is required.

If the student doesn't qualify for free travel
They may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.
Apply at transportnsw.info/school-students.

Find out more
For more information on the School Opal card and the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS), please visit transportnsw.info/school-students.
7W'S NEW VEGIE GARDEN

7W WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO THE SINGLETON LIONESS CLUB FOR THE DONATION OF $500 FOR EQUIPMENT AND PLANTS AND THE WONDERFUL HELP OFFERED BY JANE BRYSON. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK SINGLETON BULK LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES FOR THEIR DONATION OF SOIL AND THE HARD WORK OF JANE'S HUSBAND DELIVERING AND UNLOADING IT FOR US. WE HAVE CREATED A WONDERFUL GARDEN TOGETHER.