Morning Drop Off

Student supervision commences at 8:40 am in the morning. There is no guarantee that any teacher or other staff member will be walking through the school before this time; accordingly no student should be dropped at school prior to 8:40 am.

On Monday there were children at school prior to 8:15 am which is totally inappropriate. No staff member is on duty to supervision children. Staff may not even be on site. For the safety of your children please drop them at school at, or after, 8:40 am.

Uniforms

The number of students wearing the correct school uniform for Singleton Public School has always been exceptionally high. When all of our students are attired in our uniform they are an awesome sight. I would like to encourage all parents to assist in maintaining the high standards that we have established by ensuring your son or daughter is in correct uniform including navy socks and black footwear.

School P&C

Last Wednesday all of the executive positions of the Singleton P&C were successfully filled. It is wonderful to have Mr James Skinner as President for another year to lead this highly valued sector of our school community. It would be fantastic to have more parents come along and contribute ideas to how our P&C can work more effectively for our students. The next meeting will be Wednesday, 6 April in our School Library.

Thank you Mrs Bailey

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to former teacher and current grandmother, Mrs Trish Bailey, for her fantastic garden between the COLA and the Library. What Trish has achieved in the space of four years is stunning and provides a wonderful addition to our playground and over all aesthetics of the school. Thank you, Trish!

Have a great week everyone!

David Crowe Principal

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar of Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zone Rugby League</td>
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| **Friday**        |
| 11 March         |
| Zone Netball     |
| Book Club orders and payment due |

| **Monday-Friday** |
| 14 - 18 March    |
| Year 6 Canberra  |

| **Thursday**     |
| 17 March         |
| Kinder Breakfast - more information later in this newsletter |

| **Friday**        |
| 18 March         |
| Hunter Rugby League |
| Uniform Shop - Winter Dress order form due |

| **Monday**       |
| 21 March         |
| University of NSW tests money and note due |

| **Wednesday**     |
| 23 March         |
| Zone Soccer      |
| Easter Service K-6 12.00 pm at school |

| **Thursday**     |
| 24 March         |
| Easter Hat Parade - 9.30 am Riding for Disabled starts (Support Unit) |
| Cross Country - 11.00 am 8 year olds – Year 6 |

| **Friday**        |
| 25 March         |
| Good Friday      |

| **Monday**       |
| 28 March         |
| Easter Monday    |

| **Wednesday**     |
| 30 March         |
| Military Museum money and note due |
| School Development Activities - CPR and Anaphylaxis Training 3.30 pm - 6.30 pm |

| **Friday**        |
| 1 April          |
| Hunter Netball   |

| **Monday–Wednesday** |
| 4 April - 6 April  |
| Military Museum Excursion |

| **Wednesday** |
| 6 April      |
| Zone Touch   |
| P&C Meeting 7.00 pm School Library |

| **Friday** |
| 8 April    |
| Hunter Soccer and Hockey |

This weeks assembly we will be presenting swimming ribbons at the starting time of 12.45 pm.

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Working With Children Check

Please be aware that all volunteers at school need to complete a Working with Children Check or declaration before entering the school. This includes working as a volunteer in the classroom for reading, canteen, uniform shop and breakfast club. This is a mandatory Department of Education requirement.
Visiting Show
On Friday, 4 March, The New Zealand and Australian Playhouse brought a clever, funny and entertaining show to SPS.

It was performed by three very energetic and talented young actors.

In the fairy tale based play the Magic Mirror discovers he is now redundant as everyone knows Snow White is the fairest of them all. He decides to get rid of the princess by hijacking her 21st century computer, all her social media accounts and posting rude, nasty comments in her name. His lack of success and final undoing provided some very funny and entertaining moments.

The children enjoyed the trip through their known fairy tales and the mirror's 21st century poisoned Apple attack on Snow White.

All the students and staff had a great time, thoroughly enjoying the hour long performance.

Teresa Price
Organising Teacher

P & C News
The SPS P&C Annual General Meeting was held on 2 March. At the meeting the President, James Skinner, acknowledged the hard work of the small number of active P&C members over the last year as well volunteers who had assisted in the canteen and uniform shop. He thanked the skilled and dedicated teachers and staff at SPS for another successful year of working together. The Assistant Treasurer presented the audited 2015 Financial Statements. Mr Crowe thanked all the following members for their hard work and support for the school in 2015: President - James Skinner, Vice President and Assistant Treasurer - Donna Croft, Treasurer - Rob Ella, Secretary - Rebecca Hobbs, Uniform Shop Co-ordinator - Nicole Furness, Magazine Coordinators - Graeme and Sandy Tickell, Band Representative - Jan Fallding, Breakfast Club Co-ordinators - Penny Clancy and El Keulamans, and Canteen Liaison - Robyn Skinner. The following people were voted in to the P&C Executive and other roles for 2016:

- President - James Skinner
- Vice President - Jan Fallding
- Vice President - Rebecca Hobbs
- Secretary - Donna Croft
- Treasurer - Vicki Ella
- Uniform Shop Co-ordinator - Nicole Furness
- Band Representative - Jan Fallding
- Magazine Coordinators - Graeme and Sandy Tickell
- Breakfast Club Co-ordinators - Sandy Tickell and El Keulamans
- Canteen Liaison - Robyn Skinner

At the P&C General Meeting the P&C committed an extra $5,000 to the covered walkway (giving a total commitment of $25,000) and also committed funds to the Year 6 Teen Talk, Sunscreen, The School App annual fees, library books, Enter to Learn bursaries, library bags, Garden Club, the Year 6 Farewell function, school band resources, and lunches for teachers and volunteers at some school sporting events.

Our next P&C meeting will be on 6 April at 7.00 pm in the library. All parents and carers are welcome to join the P&C. Please come along to find out more about our wonderful school and how we can all help to make our children's education even better. Ideas on how we can make further improvements to our school are always most welcome.

James Skinner
Singleton Public School P&C President
Uniform Shop Roster - Week 8 Term 1 2016
Mon 14/3/16 (8.30 - 9.30 am) Kirsten Roxburgh
Fri 18/3/16 (8.30 - 9.30 am) Rebecca Tutt
Please contact someone else on the roster if you need to swap your duty.

Canteen Roster - Week 8, Term 1 2016
Mon 14/3/16 2 more helpers please
Tues 15/3/16 Rebecca Tutt, 1 more helper please
Wed 16/3/16 Brenda Bell, 1 more helper please
Thurs 17/3/16 Tammy Cox (1/2 day), Maree Davidson
Fri 18/3/16 Maxine Kollinos, Lisa Krammers
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:-

“Demonstrating the core values of our school”

Information from the DEC
Public speaking
Does your child suffer glossophobia? Fear of public speaking is common. Try creating opportunities for your child to present speeches to the family, without putting pressure on them to perform. Here are some tried and true tips to make your child’s next speech a success.

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.

Student's Name: ................................................ Class: .........................
What are you paying for? .................................................................................................. Date .......................
Credit Card Type (please tick one)    □ VISA    □ Mastercard    Amount paying $.........................
Cardholder Name (as shown on card) Please print in capitals
........................................................................................................................................
Credit Card Number ___ ___ ___ ___    ___ ___ ___ ___    ___ ___ ___ ___    ___ ___ ___ ___
Expiry Date ______ / ______
CSV ___ ___ ___ (last three digits on back of card)
Signature of Cardholder ..................................................................................................... Contact Number: ........................................
NAPLAN Information

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008.

On Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 May, students in Year 3 and 5 will take the 2016 NAPLAN tests.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australian children. It also provides valuable information that allows schools and governments to better target effort and support to help all students achieve their potential and acquire the basic skills to help them build successful and happy lives.

All students are expected to participate in the tests. Students with a disability may qualify for reasonable adjustments that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom. Some students with very specific circumstances may be exempted from participating in the tests. For information about participation in NAPLAN, you can go to: http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support/parent-carer-support.html

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child’s results to discuss progress with teachers. More information is available at www.nap.edu.au.

Kindergarten Big Breakfast 17 March 2016

Breakfast Club is hosting a "Big Breakfast" for Kindergarten students on 17 March. This is instead of the whole school "Big Breakfast" run in the last two years. We feel that there is sufficient awareness of Breakfast Club in the wider school and would like the opportunity to introduce Breakfast Club to just new students. Therefore each Kindergarten class, including K/1L, will have a turn at visiting Breakfast Club in the morning from 9.30 am.

We are proposing the following:

Students arrive at breakfast club and wash their hands at a hand washing station (we will set up 2 or 3);

Students sit down at the existing breakfast club tables and chairs with a plate and cup. The tables and chairs could be set up on the grass area if weather permits;

Students are offered and served fruit pieces (bananas, apples, oranges, watermelon, grapes) scrolls, fruit muffins, pikelets, toast, water and milk; and

Breakfast club volunteers mingle with the students and talk about breakfast club and the importance of eating a healthy breakfast every day.

A note will be sent home soon with further information. This is a complimentary breakfast for the children.

Gift Voucher Found

There has been a gift voucher found in the school grounds. If you believe this is your voucher it has been returned to the place of purchase.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Years K-6 Hunter Life Van - Various sessions from 22 June – 30, June 2016 (covered by Supercover).
- Year 3 - Active Education/Outdoor Experience overnight camp, Thursday, 15 September to Friday, 16 September, 2016.
- Year 4 - Sydney Excursion, Monday, 29 August to Wednesday, 31 August 2016.
- Year 5 - Great Aussie Bush Camp, Tuesday, 22 November to Friday, 25 November 2016.
**Military Museum Excursion**

The students of Singleton Public School will be visiting the Military Museum at the Singleton Army Camp on Monday, 4 April, Tuesday, 5 April and Wednesday, 6 April. This is the last week of Term 1.

The cost of the excursion is $6.00 per student, unless you have already paid Supercover. Children need to wear school uniform. Please return the permission note and money by **12.30 pm on Wednesday, 30 March** in readiness for this excursion.

**GRADES WILL LEAVE SCHOOL AT:**

- **Monday, 4/4/16**
  - 9.30 am - Year 3
  - 11.00 am - Kinder
  - 12.40 pm - Year 2

- **Tuesday, 5/4/15**
  - 9.30 am - Year 6
  - 11.00 am - Year 4
  - 12.40 pm - Year 1

- **Wednesday, 6/4/15**
  - 9.30 am - Year 5

Support Unit students will be travelling with their appropriate grade.

Each grade looks at, and learns about, different aspects of army history with an interactive component. Children do not repeat the same sessions seen in previous years. All students will be accompanied by their class teachers.

**Gastroenteritis**

There have been a few reported cases of Gastroenteritis in the school. At Singleton Public School we follow the guidelines from NSW Health. If your child has Gastroenteritis please exclude them from school for at least 24 hours after the resolution of symptoms.

**Nut Allergies**

A reminder that there are children in our school who have life threatening allergies to nuts. This includes all nut products including peanut butter and Nutella. Even a trace of peanut butter on another child’s breath or coming in touch with some residual peanut butter from eating lunch can be fatal for children who are anaphylactic. Please support these children by not sending your child to school with any nut products.

**Family Occupation and Education Index (FOEI)**

The Department of Education has requested that the school contact parents/caregivers to update their Family Occupation and Education Index (FOEI). These are questions that appear on the enrolment form regarding education and occupation of parents and carers.

The Department of Education use the data you provide to best reflect our schools student profile and to ensure accurate record keeping.

The information gathered determines a portion of our school’s funding from the Government. Without the correct information in our system, the school receives funds based on the state average.

Some families will receive a letter that contains a print out of the current information our school has recorded for their family. If you receive a letter, please make any updates or changes on Page 2 (in red pen if possible). Once complete, return the letter to the school office as soon as possible to enable staff to update your child/ren’s records. You only need to complete the questions where the school has the response **Unknown/Not Provided** unless circumstances have changed.

The information that you submit will be treated with utmost confidentiality and securely stored at the completion of the data update.

Please contact the school if you need any further help clarifying the occupation group.

**Tell Them From Me**

Students from Years 4 to 6 will be participating in the Tell Them From Me survey between 14 March and 8 April at school. This survey provides the school with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them.
Student Health - School Sores (Impetigo)

There has been a reported case of Impetigo in the school. Please see the following from the NSW Department of Health - Time from exposure to illness: - 1 to 3 days. 

**Symptoms:** Small red spots change into blisters that fill up with pus and become crusted; usually on the face, hands or scalp. 

**Do I need to keep my child home?** Yes, until antibiotic treatment starts. Sores should be covered with watertight dressings. Please exclude if sores on exposed surfaces such as face, scalp, hands. **How can I prevent spread?** Careful hand washing.

School Letters regarding unexplained absences

As you may be aware, the school runs autogenerated letters each Friday that are sent home to parents to provide an explanation for unexplained absences. In the past, this has been for any whole day absences where a reason has not been supplied.

After the school’s recent audit, there has been a change in the process. Now, students with unexplained partial absences will also require a written explanation to justify the times that they are away from school. Unexplained partial absences are those where the student has not had a parent/caregiver sign them into the late/early leavers register at the office.

This can be easily managed by parents and carers coming into the Office to sign students in or by ensuring students are at school by 9:10 am.

Working with Children Checks

All volunteers that come into the school to help with Uniform Shop, Canteen, Breakfast Club, classroom, or excursions, etc should have completed either:

- A Declaration for Volunteers and Contractors - Appendix 5 (available at the school office) as well as taking a 100 point check to the school office, or
- A Working with Children Check by visiting http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children/working-with-children-check to apply and then taking the application and a 100 point check to the RMS.

*If you have not completed a declaration in the past 2 years, please update your declaration and 100 point check at the school office.*

Your co-operation with completing these checks is appreciated as it is a Department of Education requirement.

Parking

Although parking nearby the school can be limited at certain times of the day, we ask that all parents adhere to the Parking Signs that appear at and around the school. The parking rules around Hunter and Elizabeth Streets have been put in place to ensure the safety of all members of our school and broader community. Please do not park or drop off your children in the designated school crossing areas as this area should be kept clear. **The driveway of the Parsonage also needs to be kept clear at all times as it is an emergency entrance and exit to the school.**

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*The School of Ants at your Library*

**Ants are everywhere, and carry out important ecosystem services that we take for granted. So what are the ants doing in our backyards, school grounds, towns and cities?**

Dr Kirsti Abbott is an ant ecologist at the University of New England. She coordinates a citizen science project called School of Ants. Participants at this workshop will have a look up close and personal at the little things that are really running our world, collecting and examining ants under microscopes. There will even be a trivia event with prizes!

Singleton Library | Thursday 17 March
5:30pm - 7:30pm | Bookings Essential
Enter to Learn

Singleton Public School

University of New South Wales Tests

Each year the University of New South Wales offers students across the world the opportunity to participate in a number of tests across a number of curriculum areas for children in Year 3-12. These tests are the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) and occur through the year. A new ICAS test is developed annually for each subject in each year level by our team of subject matter experts. All ICAS tests are reviewed by experienced teachers to ensure that they accurately assess students’ skills and are relevant to what they are learning at school. Each test is sat at the student’s school and is invigilated by teachers under normal examination conditions.

This year we are offering for any interested children from Years 3-6 the chance to participate in the following UNSW competitions:

- Digital Technologies (Computer Skills): Tuesday, 17th May
- Science: Tuesday, 31st May
- English: Tuesday, 2nd August
- Mathematics: Tuesday, 16th August

Each of these tests costs parents $8.80. If you would like your child or children in Years 3-6 to participate in any of the tests please complete the form below and return it to the school by Monday, 21 March. Unfortunately we will be unable to accept late entries.

×__________________________ Child's Class ______  (return to office by Monday, 21 March 2016)

Tests I would like my child to participate in:

English / Mathematics / Science / Computer Skills

(Please cross out whichever is not applicable)

Each tests costs $8.80  Total enclosed: $___________  Signed: ____________________
Artwork by 2P