



Education &
Communities

Public Schools NSW

Zig Zag Public School

NEWSLETTER

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Term 4 – Week 4

Thurs 30 October, 2014

Principals Report

Wow – what an eventful 10 days!

Snow in the Playground



Firstly, I would like to say a big thank you to parents and carers for your support during the school's three days of being non-operational.

The amount of damage and the machinery required to clear the debris was extensive. The ultimate goal was to make the playground safe as quickly as possible.

Agile Arbor dedicated 2 crews to our school on Thursday in order to get the job done as quickly as possible. I must congratulate the men who worked tirelessly to restore our playground. They worked 12 hour days and the clean-up was done to perfection – even down to raking the roof and restoring the top field to make it “twig free”.



Whilst it was an amazing operation to watch, it was also a very emotional and upsetting time; watching our two beautiful oak trees come down in a matter of hours was devastating – 80 years of extending their majestic canopy over our playground! The filtered light through their beautiful leaves has given our playground the ambience and shade that so many students, families and community members have taken for granted for so long. Losing these magnificent trees brought the teachers to tears as we watched the end of an era.

Year 5/6 Canberra Excursion



Year 5/6 students, Ms Simpson & Mrs Ellery thoroughly enjoyed their excursion to Canberra.

They impressed the personnel at Old Parliament House and the Australian Electoral Commission with their knowledge of our government. Well done boys and girls!

The Australian Museum was a great source of enjoyment as the children explored the wide and varied historical exhibitions and they showed great respect when visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Australian War Memorial.

As usual Questacon was a favourite venue as the students investigated the scientific questions posed by the displays and the Australian Institute of Sport gave them a better understanding of the level of training required by our Australian representative athletes.

To top it all off what fun was had at Cockington Green and Ten Pin Bowling! The whole experience was wonderful!

Music Count Us In Jenolan Caves

Only one word can describe how the Teachers felt last Wednesday – **PROUD! PROUD! PROUD!**

It was such an exciting day; the official camera crew from “Music count Us In” and the television reporter from Prime 7 filmed our every move. They captured our magnificent experience of singing in the Cathedral Chamber at Jenolan Caves.

WOW...what a privilege to perform in one of Australia's most unique places - with the best acoustics! Not to mention the experience of our entire school walking through the Lucas Cave.

The students behaved perfectly, they sang beautifully and it was a pleasure to take them on this excursion.

Thank you to the P&C for assisting with transport costs.

Thank you to Mrs Rappard, Mrs Dziendziel, Mrs Dean and Mrs Ellery for assisting with extra transport.

Thank you to Parents and Carers for being so prompt and understanding at our late arrival back at school.



School SMS System

The past few weeks has really tested our school SMS text emergency messaging system.

If you did not receive text messages over the course of the snow days or the late arrival message after the Jenolan Caves excursion, please let the school know. It might be the case that we have a wrong mobile phone number on our database.

This is a good reminder to notify the school of any changes to your contact details or emergency contacts.

Any feedback would be appreciated.

Year 6 Lithgow High School Dates

The transition program for students going into Year 7 at Lithgow High School in 2015 is as follows:

Wednesday 5 November – Parent information Morning Tea in the LHS library from 9.15 – 10.45am.

Wednesday 12 November – Small Schools Orientation Day – 9.30am in the LHS Hall (Parents to arrange transport)

Wednesday 3 December – Year 6 into Year 7 Orientation Day – 9.30am – 1.00pm in the School Hall (Parents to arrange transport)

Responsible Pet Program

K-2 students were visited by staff from the Responsible Pet Program. Following the visit students wrote about what they had learnt.

If you want to greet a dog ask the owner and let the dog sniff your hand. Victoria

Don't go near the dangerous dog because it might bite you. Makayla



Year 3/4 Lutanda Mt Victoria Excursion

Wow! What a great place and what a great time we all had!

The children looked fantastic in their olden day clothes in front of the historic Hartley buildings (come and look at the great photos in our room).

The accommodation, food and activities at Lutanda were wonderful. The children participated with great enthusiasm in every activity (except sleeping) and Mrs Wallace and Mrs Corney were extremely proud of all of them.

Lunch and a run around at Mrs Corney's farm (and a piece of Mrs Corney's mother's slice) finished off a great few days.

Thank you to the Rappard, Page and Taylor families for helping out with transport.

Zig Zag Public School Facebook Page

We now have an official Zig Zag Public School Facebook Page. We will endeavor to update daily to share and celebrate daily life at our school.

Please ensure that you have returned the Social Media Permission slip so that we can include your child/children in our updates.

Our Facebook guidelines are as follows:

"The purpose of this page is to share and celebrate daily life at Zig Zag Public School. We encourage responsible community engagement in social media as it supports positive digital citizenship throughout our community.

Zig Zag Public School values the ethical use of social media. This is identified through a range of policies and guidelines that govern the expectations of online behavior, including the DEC Code of Conduct, Social Media Policy and Facebook Terms and Conditions. We reserve the right to remove any content that we believe is in breach of these policies, guidelines and the values of our school."

Visit our page at www.facebook.com/zigzagps

Puffing Billies Graduation

Our 2014 Puffing Billies will have their Graduation Morning Tea at 10.45am on Tuesday 4 November.

The first day at school for 2015 Kindergarten students is Thursday 29 January 2015.



Year 7 Selective High School Applications

There have been changes to the application process for Selective High School placement in 2016. **All applications are now to be made online – no paper application forms will be printed.**

Parents must apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement. Applications for entry into 2016 can be made between 14 October and 17 November 2014. All applicants will be required to sit the Selective High School Placement Test on Thursday 12 March 2015.

Congratulations Mrs Sirisisavath

We are so excited to announce that Mrs Sirisisavath has been awarded the 2014 ASG National Excellence in Teaching State and Territory Award.

Mrs Sirisisavath was nominated by parents for her innovative teaching of technology in primary classrooms. At Zig Zag Public School for only a short time, she has worked with the staff and students to successfully implement new technology goals.

As a specialist teacher, Mrs teaches from Kindergarten to Year 6, and has set up log-in keyring cards for students to manage their usernames and passwords to web-based programs. Some of the programs she uses with students include Storybird, Glogster, Studyladder, Word Mania, Wikispaces, Wordle, Bubb.us and Voki.

Online learning spaces in Wikispaces have also proved popular, and Mrs Savath uses them to support learning, classroom experiences and excursions. She has students learning in a scaffolded online environment and using social media to interact about the content in the Wikispace and the classroom.

Teaching the students to touch type was a beneficial activity, and Mrs Savath also introduced the use of web-based Class Dojo for behaviour management.

She has led the staff's professional development in technology by introducing an 'An App a Week' to increase her colleagues' confidence and to help them use the school's iPods.

Mrs Savath is also a learning support teacher and has taken the lead in a review of the whole school maths program. She is currently in the process of writing a new program that will take into account resource management, sequence of learning concepts, and the requirements of the new maths syllabus.

Well done Mrs Savath! How fortunate we are at Zig Zag to have such talented staff.

Mrs Ellery – Leave

Mrs Ellery will be taking some extended leave this term. Mrs Wallace will be teaching Year 5/6 while Mrs Ellery is on leave.

Stewart House

Stewart House Hi-bounce Handballs are now available at the school office for \$3.00 each.

We are again asking our school community to support the Stewart House Clothing Appeal. This is a great opportunity to get rid of those items that keep hanging around at home.

Please fill the bag that has been sent home and return it to school by Friday 7 November.

National Bilby Crossword Competition

Congratulations to Samara Morgan who has won a family pass to Featherdale Wildlife Park.

Students donated a gold coin and all funds raised will be sent to the Save the Bilby fund.

Pink Day Fundraiser

Tomorrow Friday 31 October Zig Zag PS is turning PINK.

Children are invited to wear pink mufti clothes and donate a gold coin towards raising funds for cancer research.

If you would like to donate an extra gold coin, teachers will decorate your child's hair with pink hairspray.

Exciting Technology Addition – Lego

Thank you to our amazing P&C and their continued fundraising efforts. Some of these funds have been used to purchase Lego Story Starter sets.

These sets incorporate computer technology using the storystarter visualizer software and the endless creativity of Lego Bricks to strengthen literacy skills.

Story Starters enable students to create build and produce written stories, a scene at a time – bringing their ideas to life. Using the software visualizer students publish their stories choosing from a variety of visual styles and importing images of the scenes created.

I am sure these will very quickly become a favourite activity.

Vicki Gillmore

Principal

P&C News

A summer school uniform order will be sent home with students shortly. There is a sample of the two new skort options for girls and the microfibre boys shorts in the office.

Stock Loss

Unfortunately the power outage following the snow storm has resulted in a loss of all the perishable stock in the canteen. The loss will not affect the canteen however; we have restocked and will run as usual.

Help Needed

The P&C are planning to go shopping for Zig Zag Carols' "pick of the table" on Thursday 6 November meeting at 9.15am in front of Michele's in the Valley Plaza.

It would be great to have extra parent helpers, all are welcome.

CALENDAR

Week 5

Tues 4/11/12

**Puffing Billies
Graduation 10.45am**

Wed 5/11/14

**Yr 6 LHS Info Morning
Tea**

Thurs 6/11/12

LHS Band 10am

Week 6

Wed 12/11/14

**Yr 6 Small School
Orientation - LHS**

Week 7

Week 8

Tues 25/11/14

Swimming School

Swimming School

Fri 28/11/14

Turramurra Band Visit

Week 9

Wed 3/12/14

SAKG Dinner

Week 10

Week 11

Tues 16/12/14

Presentation Day 10am

**Sem 2 Reports sent
home**

Wed 17/12/14

**School Christmas
Party**

Last Day for students

Thurs 18/12/14

Staff Dev Day

Fri 19/12/14

Staff Dev Day



Sport and Recreation's Swim and Survive starting soon

Australian summers usually involve plenty of fun in and around the water, but no parent can forget how important it is to make sure children stay safe.

Sport and Recreation's Swim and Survive classes for preschoolers and school-aged children help youngsters learn important ways to be safe and enjoy our pools, rivers, beaches and lakes.

The intensive nine-day programs give wonderful results, and are great fun as well! Plus, family discounts make our program affordable for all the children in the family.

Sport and Recreation runs Swim and Survive classes in pools throughout regional NSW, including somewhere near you.

Our instructors are nationally qualified and screened for their suitability to work with children.

Prices for nine lessons are \$67 for school-aged children and \$48 for preschoolers (prices exclude pool entry fee).

For more information or to make a booking, visit
www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/swimandsurvive or phone 13 13 02

NSW Office of Sport
Sport & Recreation