



## Support Unit News (SUN)



Welcome to term 2! We hope you all enjoyed the holiday break. Last week we celebrated Autism awareness month with a rainbow theme to promote awareness, understanding and acceptance. Children with Autism are a big part of our school community as we have 6 Autism support classes, a double Early Intervention Unit, ASPECT as well as children in our mainstream classes. A big thank you to our Smithfield community for supporting this day. We were able to raise over \$600, which will go to the Autism Advisory Service in Liverpool. I have shared 2 great YouTube links below which are only 5 minutes long, these are great to watch to understand a little more about Autism.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbwRrVw-CRo>



### Amazing Things Happen - by Alexander Amelines

Professional category finalist Alexander's film gives an uplifting introduction to autism for young non-autistic audiences, aiming to raise awareness, understanding and tolerance in future generations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaRdPYvWt48>



### Fast Facts About Autism (World Autism Awareness Day)

This video is part of my new project called Autism Explained. It's an autistic created resource for parents providing practical advice to help you create healthy supportive environments for your children. Check it out here: <https://autismexplained.com.au> or on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/autismexplained.com.au/> CHANNEL LINKS:

Bitia Christos  
Deputy Principal Special Education



## Smithfield Public School Newsletter

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Term 2! It was very exciting to hold the first 'Back to School Assembly' in almost two years! Fortunately, the rain held off just long enough to have the assembly and send the students off to class. It is lovely to see students dressed in full school uniform (including black shoes) and refreshed ready for a term of great learning.

### Writer's Festival

At the very end of last term, Stage 2 and 3 held a Writer's Festival. This was a fabulous event where students passionately shared their stories with family members and students from other classes. Students were genuinely proud to share their stories. The quality of writing displayed across both Stage 2 and 3 was excellent. The exceptional amount of effort and engagement demonstrated by students in the writing process ensure high quality pieces of writing were produced. Congratulations to Stage 2 and 3 students for challenging yourselves and exceeding expectations. Celebrating and sharing a love of literature and writing was observed in every classroom. Thank you to Ms Sander, Mrs Subotic, Stage 2 and 3 teachers for making this event possible.

### Harmony Day and Celebrations Parade

Despite the rain, students were able to enjoy the annual celebrations parade and show off their amazing hats. This coupled with the Harmony Day orange mufti day ensured a sea of colour across the hall. It was a bright and happy celebration that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you to the parents who were able to join the event. In addition to the parade, students and parents enjoyed delicious hot cross buns, sold by the P&C. Thank you to the P&C who made this possible. In classes, students participated in lessons relating to Harmony Day where they explored the meaning of 'harmony' and learnt the importance of acceptance of all despite differing family and cultural backgrounds. Thank you to Mrs Rekah and committee for coordinating this special day.

### ANZAC Day Dawn Service and School Ceremony

Ms Sander and I had the honour of accompanying the student executives, Ruby, Aydin, Jessica and Sanah, and their families at the Smithfield RSL dawn service on ANZAC day. This was a beautiful service attended by many community members, including several past Smithfield PS students and their families. I was very proud of the way our student executive conducted themselves, as they paid respect to fallen soldiers by laying a wreath on behalf of Smithfield Public School. Thank you, student executive and parents, for attending this important service.

Thank you to the families that joined Smithfield PS' ANZAC ceremony in week 1. Once again, the rain hindered plans, resulting in an indoor event instead of our usual outdoor ceremony in front of the school flag. The service was very moving and humbling. A particular highlight was the annual poem read by ex-serviceman Mr Cheline and a presentation by Sergeant Sheree from the air force. Thank you to Miss Thompson and the student executives for hosting the assembly.

### Playgroup is back!

We are very pleased to have playgroup running again. There are two sessions each Tuesday, 9-10.30am and 10.30-12pm. It is wonderful to see these young people enjoying being at school with their parents.





### NAPLAN and Parent Information Session

This week, Year 3 and 5 students will complete the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This is the first year students will complete the tests online (excluding Year 3 writing which will be a paper version). Students will sit reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy tests. Later in the year, parents will receive individual student results. These results are used by the school to help direct further learning and school strategic planning. I implore all families to encourage their children not to stress about these tests. All we ask is that every student tries their very best.

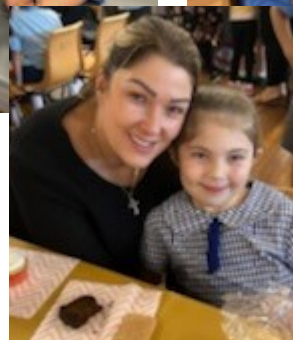
If you like further information, please contact Mr Albanese through the school office.

### Mother's Day Stall and Afternoon Tea

On Thursday 5 May, the P&C held their annual Mother's Day stall. Each class was given a time to visit the stall to purchase gift/s.

On Friday 6 May, the P&C held an afternoon tea to celebrate Mother's Day. The turn out for this event was exceptional. It was thrilling to see the hall filled with mums, grandmothers, carers and students enjoying time together over a cup or tea/coffee. Thankyou to the P&C for hosing this event.

I would like to wish all mothers and significant carers in our students' lives a very happy Mother's Day .



### Sentral Parent Portal

Sentral Portal has now replaced the School App. Please refer to the portal for the school calendar, messages, notes and student attendance. As we become more familiar with this platform, we will utilise its other features, such as online payments. Please contact the school office if you are having any issues accessing the portal.

Have a wonderful fortnight!

Kind regards  
Jodi Harris  
Principal



# Harmony Day

## Important Date OC Placement

This applies to Year 4 Students wishing to apply for the opportunity class for 2023

**Tuesday 26 April 2022:** Online applications opens

**Friday 13 May 2022:** Online applications closes (Parents and carers must apply by the due date.)

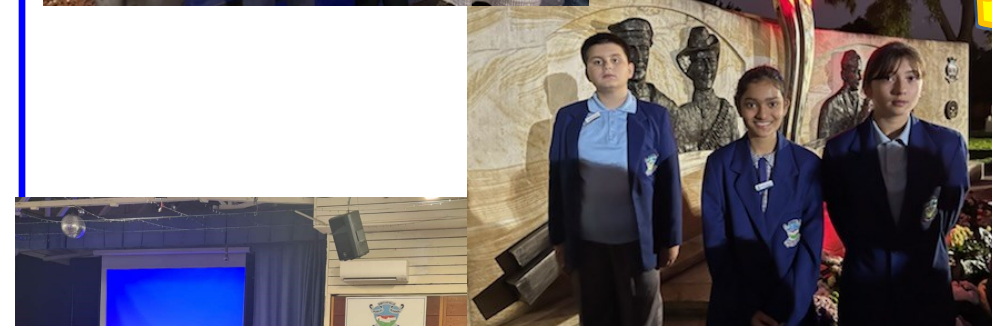
**Tuesday 17 May 2022:** Principals' processing site opens

**Friday 3 June 2022:** Principals' processing site closes

**Thursday 28 July 2022:** Opportunity Class Placement Test



# Anzac Day







Smithfield Public School will run a program called PaTCH (Parents as Teachers and Classroom Helpers) where parents will be trained to help students in class with reading and mathematics. This training will provide parents with the skills and confidence to volunteer in classrooms. Parents will be involved in 4-5 professional learning sessions (2 hours each) and will be given opportunities to learn and practise strategies learned to support student learning in the classroom. The participants will visit the room for one to two sessions per week (30-40 minutes).  
If you are interested, please advise Mrs Basil, Ms Thomas or your child's classroom teacher.

Katerina Basil  
Learning and Support Teacher

## Wellbeing Committee

- Smithfield PS has put together a wellbeing team, to ensure that all members of the community feel heard and supported with their wellbeing needs. The Wellbeing Committee consists of:
- Arthi Naidu
  - Pia Maturana
  - Linda Matheson
  - Vicky Luong
  - Brandon Vuong
  - Rabeeh Khoury
  - Maryam Baydoun
  - Sulaf Hamid
  - Sandra Keene
  - Monica Mueller

The goal of the committee is to ensure a planned and consistent whole school approach to wellbeing that promotes resilience and a mentally healthy community. Please speak to any of the committee members if you have any further questions.

Teacher wellbeing can affect both students' wellbeing and achievement, because "well teachers promote well students" (McCallum and Price 2010).  
Last term, Wellbeing Leaders presented professional learning on staff wellbeing. Smithfield PS staff members looked at the 5 dimensions of wellbeing and set wellbeing goals for themselves. Planning for their wellbeing, will ultimately enable them to better engage with and support students.



### Silver Awards

Alana	2M	Wesley	Apesct	Audrey	3/4T	Rihana	4L
Younil	2M	Violet	6S	Jonah	3/4T	Catherine	3H
Nomas	2M	Chloe	6S	Avery	3/4T	Reeleen	3H
Mary	2m	Aaditya	5/6V	Mohamed	4L	Emaan	3M
Rafi	4k	Eze	4K	Joseph	5/6B	Takla	5/6B

### 50/100 Nights Home Reading

Ray	5D	Donita	3H	Mehdi	3N	Catherine	3H
Hannah	3/4T	Takla	5/6B	Sara	3H	Emaan	3H

## SPS Attendance Committee News

Welcome back to Term 2! We hope you enjoyed a restful and enjoyable break.

Unfortunately, in the first 3 months of 2022, Sydneysiders have endured the same amount of rain we would usually expect in a year! The Bureau of Meteorology predicts that this pattern will continue for some time yet.

We are noticing on especially wet days, some parents are choosing to keep their children at home and later explaining this absence by the extreme weather.

According to the Department of Education Attendance Policy, we are **unable** to accept 'Wet Weather' as justification for student absence, unless the weather resulted in flooding to the student's property or blocked access to local roads, making travel to school dangerous or impossible.

As our local area has been relatively fortunate in regards to localised flooding in comparison to other parts of the state, it is uncommon that a 'Wet Weather' justification at SPS fits in with the Department of Education Policy. As a result, when a parent provides 'Wet Weather' as justification for leave, our teachers are often forced to record the absence as 'Unjustified Leave'.

We sympathise with our families on account of the miserable weather, but encourage families to make arrangements to safely transport their children to school everyday; rain, hail or shine.