Welcome back to the new school year

Welcome back to the 2016 school year. I trust that the summer break gave our families an opportunity to rest, enjoy the company of those close to them and reflect on God’s goodness to us in Jesus Christ.

My wife Kara and I spent some time in Cambodia and Vietnam, travelling to many of the places the Year 10 and 11 school trip will visit at the end of the year.

We found our time away restful and good fun, including riding a water buffalo in the middle of a rice paddy!

The teachers came back to school last week for preparation and professional development.

One of the numerous worthwhile activities for teachers last week was to spend a full day considering the role of Christian education in the school.

Chris Parker, from the National Institute for Christian Education, provided a stimulating presentation that I am confident will both equip and motivate our teachers to provide an excellent Christian education.

The first day of school

The first day of school can be a nervous time for some people.

Existing students may be a little anxious about who their teacher will be, how they will connect with their friends, or how they will perform in their assessment tasks.

Teachers can also be a little stressed as they want to make sure that they get everything right for the beginning of the year. I have a particular concern for anyone who is new to the school community this year because they are coming into...
Our extraordinary HSC result in perspective

a community that may be foreign to them.
Please pray for our new students and staff

Visit from the Premier

In a letter I sent to parents last week, I alluded to a visit by the NSW Premier and the Minister for Early Childhood Education next Wednesday 10 February. They will be at the school from approximately 8 am until 9.15 am as part of the launch of our new before and after school care program.

Parents are very welcome to come to the school in the morning to be a part of this launch and I encourage any parent who would like to use the before and after school care program to register through the link on the school website as soon as possible.

The Premier’s visit should not cause substantial disruption to our normal routines, although we will need to make some modifications to traffic management in the morning. Additional staff will be on duty to direct cars and buses.

Extraordinary academic result

Finally, I cannot let the opportunity pass in the first newsletter of the year without recognising the extraordinary academic results of our students last year in the HSC.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald, our school was ranked 65th in the state based on the number of band 6 results the students achieved. A band 6 in a subject means that the student received 90% or higher in that subject.

This ranking placed our school as the highest ranking non-government school in the whole of the St George district and Sutherland Shire. The only schools with a high ranking were the academically selective schools.

What this ranking demonstrates is that a substantial number of our Year 12 2015 students were academically talented and very diligent.

The ranking also shows that our teachers have the ability and commitment to work with academically able students to help them achieve excellent results.

It also demonstrates that there was a wonderful culture of learning amongst this Year 12 group where teachers and students spurred each other on, so that every student could achieve to the best of his or her ability.

Some members of our school community might wonder whether our school can repeat this success in future years. While I think it is definitely possible, I think it is highly unlikely that we would do so every year.

Our school is not academically selective and we love and value every student regardless of his or her academic ability.

It is possible in future years that we have a Year 12 group who is warm and committed to learning, but where only a few students are particularly academically talented and a substantial number of students have particular learning needs and struggle to achieve high results.

Should God bless us with a Year 12 group like this, it is likely that we would only achieve a small number of band 6 results and therefore a low rank against other schools.

Should this happen, it would not be a negative reflection on the school because our teachers would have worked with the same degree of care and commitment as they did with Year 12 2015.

I trust that your son or daughter has had a very positive start to the school year and I look forward to catching up with you at future parent events.
An invitation to an open morning with the Premier and Minister for Early Childhood Education

By Mr Brett Hartley, Principal

Parents and community please join us

We are hoping that as many parents and children as possible will be able to join us at an Open Morning for the new Out of School Hours Care service being operated at the school by Camp Australia.

A very special event

This is a very special event, as we are expecting the attendance of both the NSW Premier and Minister for Western Sydney, the Hon Mike Baird, MP and the Hon Leslie Williams, Minister for Early Childhood Education, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Assistant Minister for Education.

The event will commence at the school at 8 am on Wednesday 10 February.

The morning will provide an opportunity for you and your children to view the OSHC and learn about the service free of charge, to meet the new staff of the service, and to celebrate with us, with the Premier and the Minister, the establishment of the service that has been supported with funds from the NSW Government’s Before and After School Care Fund.

Television coverage

As this is a key event for the Premier and the Minister, we are expecting that photography and television filming will occur and that event participants – both parents and children – may be filmed, including as incidental backgrounds when dignitaries are being interviewed and when standing or playing in the school grounds.

If you would like to attend

If you would like to attend this exciting event, it should be on the understanding that you or your child may be filmed or photographed and that the resulting footage or photographs may be used in the future by the State Government to promote after school hours care or the school for its own promotional purposes.

If you are not comfortable with the possibility of you or your child being filmed or photographed, you and/or your child should not attend the school during this event which will conclude at 9.15 am.

I look forward to celebrating this important event with you.
CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2015

Outstanding HSC results

• Of the 51 students who completed their HSC, 61 Band 6 and 103 Band 5 results were awarded.

• These HSC results meant our school was ranked 65th in NSW by the Sydney Morning Herald, making SSCS one of the highest ranking schools in the whole of the Sutherland Shire and St George region.

Special acknowledgements

• HSC All Rounders: Georgia Baker, Emilie Davila, Lani Oataway
• Art Rules: Joshua Ioakim

Nominations

• Onstage: Jon-Paul Brookman
• Encore: Bronte Conroy, Keiran Parker, Christen Theodorou, Blake Velkovski

Well done to our distinguished achievers

Olivia Holden
ATAR 97.4

Lani Oataway
ATAR 97

Emilie Davila
ATAR 96.45

Georgia Baker
ATAR 95.85

Angelica Katsolos
ATAR 94.85

Jon-Paul Brookman
ATAR 94.1

Marika Naude
ATAR 91.4

Emily Knoblauch
ATAR 93.15

Blake Velkovski
ATAR 92.9

Emily Carter
ATAR 92.85

Tim Griffiths
ATAR 91.5

Samantha Begg
ATAR 90.2

A Christian learning environment based on strong relationships, where teachers encourage students to achieve their personal best.

Sutherland Shire Christian School
Our children and grandchildren (a company of 26 plus a few friends) all went camping together on the South Coast last month and my wife and I joined them for four days.

There is something about camping in tents that is very restful and relaxing - which is what we all needed to get ready for the challenges of 2016.

There is also something about camping in tents that makes us much more sensitive to changes in the weather! On two occasions - including the day they were to pack up to come home - our family left the campsite for the beach in brilliant sunshine only to scuttle back a short time later to a scene of absolute devastation: broken struts, torn canvas, wet clothing, collapsed tents.

The cyclonic weather we are seeing at present is an interesting atmospheric phenomenon that is not part of our normal experience. (As I write this, the staff of the Junior School are probably studying their weather maps fairly closely as they plan the Swimming Carnival - and by the time you are reading it you will know the outcome! I had my motorbike at school last Friday when the violent storm hit, which was quite a worry; but by going home time the sun was shining!)

Life is full of surprises. There have been some unexpected health issues experienced within our SSCS family over the holidays, as well as those we already knew about last year.

We don’t always understand God’s providence, and sometimes, like Job, we are totally confused by it. But what we do know, like Job, is that everything is God’s providence.

As the Heidelberg Catechism explains it: “Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God by which he still upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty - all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but from his fatherly hand.” (Q 27). What he calls on us to do is to trust him in the midst of the storms.

When the disciples were out in their little fishing boat and the life-threatening wind and waves struck them they were panic-stricken - and not a little irritated by Jesus’ seeming lack of concern about the danger they were in. But remember the Master’s word of gentle rebuke? “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” And remember their response? “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!” (Mark 4:40-41).

I like the way Katharina von Schlegel identifies with this: “Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.”

There will yet be more challenges for us to face as we begin the new school year. How thankful we can be that we have at SSCS a ‘community of faith’ where we can encourage each other in our walk with the Lord, and where we can uphold one another in prayer knowing that whatever ‘storms’ we might be facing in our own families there are others who care about us, pray for us, and help us not to lose heart.

The school of faith

Chaplain talk

Rev Bruce Christian
Chaplain
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” - Lamentations 3:22-24 (ESV)

• Give thanks for a safe holiday time and a refreshing break.
• Pray for our new staff and students and their families. May they feel welcome, settle quickly and make good friends.
• Pray for any students in the playground who are finding it hard to find friends to play with.
• Pray that each student will have an enjoyable year in which they grow and learn many things – especially in their relationship with Christ Jesus.
• Praise God for his steadfast love, his enduring mercies and his faithfulness.

Year 12 morning tea
2015 graduates and teachers share a special morning tea together.
Congratulations Mr and Mrs Arthur

When SSCS teachers Liz Flick and Brendon Arthur got married in December, they invited KF 2015 to the occasion. Here are two beautiful pictures from the day.

Parents’ Prayer Meetings in 2016

Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

- Psalm 61:1-3 (ESV)

Whenever we read the beginning of Psalm 61, we feel like it’s a special Psalm for Australians - calling from the “ends of the earth”! And what an incredible joy it is to be able to approach God in prayer and know that He hears us.

Every year we have eight prayer meetings for parents and friends to come along to on Friday mornings, Week 4 and Week 8 of each term.

And we never seem to run out of things to pray for! There is so much happening at school, so much happening in our community, in our world and in our lives. And there is so much to be thankful to our God for, and so many things to petition Him about.

The dates of Term 1’s prayer meetings are:
- 26 February
- 1 April (Week 5 due to Good Friday)
- 20 May
- 17 June
- 19 August
- 16 September
- 4 November
- 2 December

If you are able to, we would love you to come and join us in prayer this year.

Learn German with Frau McWhirter!

5 week course: Thursdays 7- 8.30 pm

Great for parents who want to help their children in their language learning at SSCS or for others who want to try their hand at learning another language.

Email gmcwhirter@sscs.nsw.edu.au if you are interested. Please reply by Friday 12 February. Starts February 18. Minimum numbers required.
A great start to the new year
The P-6 Teaching Staff would like to welcome you and your family back to the new school year, 2016. We have had a great start to the year with many children settling into school quickly and getting into their learning.

Nearly 90 new students began in the Junior School this week, ranging from Shire Prep to Year 6. Our staff are looking forward to working with parents as we teach your children to walk in God’s ways and learn about Him, His Word and His world.

Class newsletter
A class newsletter was forwarded home and will be emailed to you this week. I am sure you will find this helpful as it outlines the planned learning for this term. If you have any questions about our school, please ask your class teacher in person or write a note in the diary.

If you would like to speak further about a matter, you are welcome to contact the school to speak with the relevant Section Coordinator; Mrs Sue Robinson (P-2) and Mr Andrew Mellor (Yrs 3-6) or the Head of Junior School.

Student diary
The Student Diary is an important form of communication between home and school. Please be familiar with the front section and with your child’s use of the diary.

Teachers will note any behaviour or health issues as well as class achievements or Merit Awards. Please view and sight the diary each day if you can.

We are not requiring parents to sign the diary every day, but it is helpful to regularly review it to check for any information forwarded to you from the teacher.

Encouraging students to be safe, learn with others and respect one another
On page 5 of the student diary is printed our Code of Conduct. This outlines expectations that we are helping the students to achieve. Our key words are Safe, Learn, Respect.

Our Biblical focus for this is found in this statement and the accompanying verse from Isaiah.

Our Creator God desires
His world to be a safe place,
A place where all can learn,
And where everybody is treated with respect,
As an image bearer of God.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and life to those who walk in it.
- Isaiah 42:5 (ESV)

During the next few weeks students will be learning how keeping our Rainbow Reminders will help us to be safe, help us learn with others and how to show respect to one another.

You may like to reinforce and discuss these ideas and the key verse at home.
Secondary School: Who to see when . . .

**Pastoral Care Teacher**
Individual student welfare needs, e.g.: relationships with peers

**Year Patron**
- Substantial student welfare issues.
- Holistic learning needs in multiple subjects

**Subject Teacher**
Learning needs relating to a specific subject, e.g.: a student is not coping with Maths homework, so the parent speaks to the student’s Maths teacher, initially.

**Head of Department**
Speak with the relevant Head of Department when it is not possible to talk with the classroom teacher.

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### 2016 Year Patrons

- **Year 7**
  - Mrs Catherine McGovern
- **Year 8**
  - Mrs Julianne Holdsworth
- **Year 9**
  - Mrs Jacqueline Haralambou
- **Year 10**
  - Mr Peter Richardson
- **Year 11**
  - Miss Lucinda Garner
- **Year 12**
  - Mr Joel Manns

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### Heads of Department

- **English**
  - Mrs Natalie Bluhdorn
- **Drama**
  - Mrs Kathryn Breen
- **Science**
  - Dr David Ruys
- **HSIE**
  - Mr Matthew Miller
- **Mathematics**
  - Mr Chris Kearns
- **Music**
  - Mr David Humphreys
- **TAS**
  - Mr Reg Clarke
- **Visual Arts**
  - Mrs Libby Jackson
- **PDHPE**
  - Mr Phil Askew
- **Christian Studies**
  - Mr Neil Walker
- **Learning Support**
  - Miss Lauren Dalrymple
Welcome one and all to the new school year 2016

See our Facebook page for more photographs
Important notices

Head lice reported
There has been a case of head-lice reported in the high school and primary school.

Changing arrangements
Please make after school arrangements with your children before they leave home in the mornings.

We understand that circumstances can change during the course of the day, but due to the busy nature of the school Office we cannot guarantee that messages will reach your children before the end of the school day.

Return 2015 novels
To ensure that students can borrow the necessary novels for 2016, it is very important for them to return all their novels from 2015.

Please ensure that this is chased up as soon as possible!

The library can assist your child if they do not remember which books are still assigned to their name.

Congratulations to Amaris Rader and Kyle Lisk
... for their Academic Achievement Awards in Photographic & Digital Media for 2015 at Sydney Distance Education High School. Amaris placed First (100 hours) and Kyle placed Second (200 hours).
Well done on your academic success!

SSCS raises most funds for Daffodil Day
Congratulations to Sutherland Shire Christian School for winning a years' supply of Cancer Council sunscreen for being the highest fundraiser in NSW for Daffodil Day 2015.

The $2,165.90 our school raised has contributed to an amazing total of $1.95 million in NSW which will help fund cancer research and prevention programs like SunSmart and Eat It To Beat It.

Every dollar raised will make a big difference, not only in research but supporting patients and their families throughout their cancer journey. Again thank you all for your very generous donations and showing that you care.

Secondary students: check sports noticeboard before Friday
All students need to check the noticeboard in the Gym before Friday for sports arrangements, and to confirm what sports roll they are on.
Meet our new staff

Mr Nathan Asher: Christian Studies and PDHPE

Tell us a bit about yourself.
I am married to a beautiful, godly woman - Jess (who used to come to this school) and we have two children (William and Aurora). I have been involved in schools for eight years.

Why did you want to teach at SSCS?
I have always heard great things about the community here at SSCS and that has always intrigued me.

I really wanted to be part of a school community that strives for academic excellence, as well as bringing glory to God in all aspects of school life.

Which of your teachers had the biggest influence on you? Why?
My tech teacher in high school. He took considerable time to teach me many practical skills I still use today. Looking back on it, he mentored and guided me as I made that journey in becoming a young man.

Where did you work before?
I was the Chaplain at Mamre Anglican School.

What is your vision for your students this year?
For the students I teach to have engaging lessons where they come to a better understanding of the world that God has made and also the Word that God has revealed to us. I also hope that I can use my gifts to serve the wider school community as well.

Mrs Katherine Haralambou: Year 1 Teacher for Term 1 2016

Tell us a bit about yourself.
Growing up, have always wanted to become a primary teacher, so I very much enjoyed my four years at Notre Dame University!

I am the middle child of three girls and am definitely the loudest. I love to play all types of sport and dance. You may often hear me singing randomly while completing a simple task – my life is very much a musical.

Why did you want to teach at SSCS?
I have taught at state public schools, however none of which were Christian based. I never had the freedom to share my joy and passion for God’s love with the students, and I knew that that is exactly what SSCS encourages!

Which of your teachers had the biggest influence on you? Why?
I will never forget my Kindergarten teacher Mrs Higlet. Her beautiful spirit and kindness made the classroom seem a safe place. I felt I could try my best and always take risk with my learning.

Where did you work before?
I have previously worked at schools located in the Inner West of Sydney. This includes: Petersham Primary School, Ferncourt Public School and Dulwich Primary School.

While studying and Notre Dame, I was working as a café manager and barista for five years.

What is your vision for your students this year?
I believe a crucial part of being an educator in a Christian school is to ensure that the students understand that God has made us all different, and with different gifts. I hope by the end of the term, the students feel safe enough within the classroom to try their best, take risks and be who God made them to be. I would like to be able to show the progress they have made in different learning areas, to encourage and inspire them to continue their hard work!
Junior School Teacher

Our school is seeking to appoint a Junior School teacher. Committed Christians are welcome to apply for the full time position, starting at the beginning Term 2, 2016.

Some further details and specific duties of this role include:

- Personally committed to the school’s statement of faith. The statement of faith is located on page 4 of the application form.
- Actively involved in a protestant church.
- K-6 trained, passionate and experienced in Stage 1 learning.
- Able to incorporate Christian perspective across the curriculum.
- Able to implement quality programs in Stage 1 Numeracy and Literacy with a Phonemic approach.
- Ability to integrate technology and apply 21st Century learning practice.
- Able to perceive and assess learning needs, engage students and differentiate learning.
- Able to work collaboratively and build positive relationships with students, parents and staff.

All applications should be submitted using the application form below.

How to Apply:

All applications should be submitted using the application form on the school website. www.sscs.nsw.edu.au (under the community tab / positions vacant).

Hard copy applications are to be addressed to the Principal, Sutherland Shire Christian School, PO Box 390, Sutherland NSW 1499. Electronic applications please email to principal@sscs.nsw.edu.au

Applications close Friday 26 February 2016.
Kinder parents morning tea

Alice in Wonderland coming to a Junior School near you!
Auditions beginning soon!
Hot Weather Procedures

**Uniforms**
Students have a summer uniform, worn in Terms 1 and 4, and a winter uniform, worn in Terms 2 and 3. The summer uniform is designed to keep students cool. When the temperature is forecast to exceed 25 degrees in Terms 2 and 3, students may choose to wear their summer uniform on that day.

**Hydration**
The school has bubblers and water bottle refill stations. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to school on hot days. Teachers will manage student hydration during lessons. This may include allowing students to drink water from their water bottles in class.

**Sun exposure and vigorous activity**
On hot days, teachers will use their discretion to discourage students from prolonged exposure to the sun. Students are encouraged to wear sunscreen, sunglasses and the school hat on hot days. Teachers may also advise students not to be involved in active outdoor games on hot days.

**Air-conditioning**
On hot days, the Heads of Junior and Secondary Schools may re-room lessons to provide greater access to air-conditioned rooms.

**Changes to the school day**
The school will not be closed, nor will students be sent home, in the event of hot weather.
Powerful words

In her preface to New York City pastor Tim Keller’s landmark book for workers, Every Good Endeavour, Katherine Leary Alsdorf has some powerful words to kick off our year in careers at SSCS - words about work, the gospel - and you!

The gospel assures us that God cares about everything we do and will listen to our prayers. He may not answer them as we want but that is because He knows all things and we do not. Any degree of success or failure at work is part of his good plan for us. He is our source of strength and perseverance.

The gospel reminds us that God cares about the products we make, the companies we work for and the customers we serve. He not only loves us, but also loves the world and wants us to serve it well. Work is a critical way in which God is caring for human beings and renewing his world. God gives us our vision and our hope.

The gospel is good news. In the words of pastor and counsellor Jack Millar, “Cheer up: You’re a worse sinner than you ever dared to imagine and you’re more loved than you ever dared hope.” In other words, you will continually err and sin, and yet God will prevail in our lives in his goodness and grace.

The gospel gives meaning to our work as leaders. We’re supposed to treat all people and their work with dignity. We’re to create an environment in which people can flourish and use their God-given gifts to contribute to society. We’re to embody grace, truth, hope, and love in the organisations we create.

We’re to express our relationship with God and his grace to us in the way we speak, work, and lead, not as perfect exemplars but as pointers to Christ.

From the Preface to Every Good Endeavour by Timothy Keller

This is what we hope and pray for the students who leave us each year. 2015 HSC students are now either working in full or part-time jobs with many going on to full time further study preparing them for their work life. The following is just a snapshot.

A number of students are completing Year 13 at Youth Works or SMBC The Bridge course, while others are studying at TAFE in Floristry, Events Management, Photography, Electrical and Fashion. Many are studying at University a variety of courses including Biodiversity and Conservation, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Music, Communication, Primary Education, Economics, Psychology, Digital Media and Production, Engineering, Science and Health Sciences.

What’s in store for 2016

So what is in store for 2016 Term I Careers for us still at SSCS? Already, Year 12 have attended the University of Wollongong Discovery Day this week, giving them first hand an experience of what university life is like.

Year 11 will attend an Incursion called U-Turn the Wheel, a road safety awareness day which is a joint venture between Sutherland Shire Council and Rotary.

Year 10 will have the opportunity of attending the very helpful and future-shaping Careers Testing Day in March and not long after will be seeking a placement for work experience which they will complete in Term 2.

Stop press - positions vacant plus retirees drop sick beats

Last week I noticed a number of great jobs for School Leavers in the Leader newspaper. These included positions for an Optical Dispenser, an apprentice Carpenter and Cabinetmaker, Childcare Traineeship, Dental Nurse and also a Pharmacy Assistant.

Also in the Leader over the Christmas holidays was an advertisement for anyone who has recently retired and loves music!! Local community radio station 2SSR 99.7 FM has openings for budding DJs to have their own radio program.

All that’s needed is a passion for music!! It’s proof that even in retirement it’s not too late for a career change! So are there any sick silver haired beat jugglers in da house with the kicks for some old skool scratchtastic on the plastic fantastic?
Images from today’s primary swimming carnival
What’s on

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<tr>
<th>Prep to Year 6</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 8 Feb</td>
<td>Year 7 Bootcamp</td>
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<td>Wed 10 Feb</td>
<td>Year 10 Drama Excursion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Premier’s visit: 8am to 9.15am</td>
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<td>Thu 11 Feb</td>
<td>Year 12 Drama Excursion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Years 11 &amp; 12 Drama Excursion (4.30-11.30pm)</td>
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<td>Fri 12 Feb</td>
<td>Secondary Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Mon 15 Feb</td>
<td>Primary School Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Tue 16 Feb</td>
<td>Year 10 Rites of Passage Seminar</td>
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<td>Year 8 Rites of Passage Seminar</td>
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<td>Thu 18 Feb</td>
<td>New Parent’s Coffee and Dessert Evening: 7pm - 9pm</td>
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Community Corner

Free Workshops for parents of learner drivers

To help parents in supervising learner drivers, the Roads and Maritime Services has set up a FREE 2 hour workshop for parents offering practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

A FREE parents’ workshop will be conducted by David Riches and hosted by Sutherland Shire Council

Date : Wednesday March 9th
Venue: Sutherland Shire Council Offices in Eton Street from 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm.

Early bookings are essential, by phoning Council on 9710 0341 now to reserve your place, or email mstuart@ssc.nsw.gov.au

NSW churches football association

New competition for 2016. Competitions cover all age groups from under 6’s through to premier league. All games are on saturday.

New girls team age 13-16 year olds.

All enquiries should be directed to the secretary on 0458 003 495 or email secretary@nswcfa.com.au or register online at www.nswcfa.com.au

Greek school at St Stylianos, Gymea

Modern Greek language school and Greek dancing lessons.

Two locations:
Tharawal Primary, Illawong.
Enquiries: Fr Constantine 0418 511 212
Sylvania Heights, Primary.
Enquiries: Maria 0431152159

Items in Community Corner of the newsletter are placed at the discretion of the School. However, the School does not endorse any such item.
Dear Parent/Guardian,

Each year, NSW Ministry of Health offers the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the School Vaccination Program. In 2016 the following vaccines will be offered free:

- **Year 7 Students**
  - Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine for those who have **not** previously received chicken pox vaccine or had chicken pox disease - one dose only needed.
  - Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine - 3 doses over 3 visits needed.
  - Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping cough vaccine. This is a routine adolescent booster for all Students - one dose only needed.

All 3 vaccines offered are now on the one consent card. **You will need to ensure you sign consent for each vaccine you request in the appropriate box provided, or the nurses will not be able to complete the vaccination for your child.**

Please note that for parents/guardians must record their Medicare Number (all 10 digits and the 11th number beside the child’s name) on the consent form.

*Parent Information Kits / Consent cards* will be sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of child, you are advised to read all the information provided, complete the consent form in blue or black pen ensuring all areas are filled out and return it to your child’s school.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal. The procedure for withdrawal of consent can be obtained from the school and is also available on the NSW Health website at [http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/withdraw_consent.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/withdraw_consent.aspx)

A record of vaccination will be given to your child to take home for each dose of vaccine they are given. Please keep these records in a safe place as your child will need them as a record of vaccination for future employment, travel and work experience. It is also recommended that you inform your local doctor that the vaccines have been given so they can update their patient records.

Some translated material for parent/guardians is available on the NSW Health website at [http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/school_vaccination_language.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/school_vaccination_language.aspx) you may wish to distribute or guide parents/guardians to this information but only the English version can be filled out and use.

To improve vaccine course completion, students will be offered any missed doses throughout the year at any of the scheduled clinics at school.

Please note that free vaccination is only offered to the above year groups. Vaccination outside these year groups will not be offered at school and will not be free at the GP.

Yours sincerely,
School Immunisation Team
Welcome back to a new school year! Sutherland Shire Council Parking Officers will be out at all schools again this year helping you to ensure that all children get to and from school safely.

**DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP YOUR CHILDREN**

Schools are areas where there is a lot of interaction between cars and pedestrians: your children. Children are small, hard to see, behave unpredictably, and are extremely vulnerable.

Their lack of road experience means it is difficult for them to judge dangerous situations. Boys are twice as likely to be involved in pedestrian accidents as girls and children 10-14 years have the highest rate of child pedestrian casualties (RMS).

- Children up to eight years old should hold an adult's hand on the footpath, in the carpark or when crossing the road.
- Children up to ten years old should be actively supervised around traffic and should hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.
- Take the time to make sure your children are aware of, understand and follow traffic safety regulations when they are walking.

**HAVE A PLAN**

Plan with your son or daughter how you will collect them. When and where will you be after school? Where should they wait? Make sure they know not to try and get into your vehicle while it is still in traffic, even if you are stopped; they should wait until you have parked at the side of the road.

Plan to arrive AFTER the school bell goes in the afternoon, so your children are ready and waiting for you and you are not blocking traffic.

**NO PARKING ZONES**

A No Parking zone is a pick up and drop off area: you can stop here for a maximum of two minutes to drop off or pick up passengers and must remain within three metres of the vehicle. When parents park in a No Parking zone for longer than two minutes they prevent other parents from stopping to drop off or pick up their children, creating frustration and dangerous situations. If you arrive before the school bell and block the pickup areas, you risk a fine.

Parking offences in school zones carry heavier fines and loss of demerit points. Sutherland Shire Council makes no apologies for fining drivers who break the law around schools and in school zones.

See the Roads and Maritime Authority website at [www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au) for more about Australian Road Rules and other road safety information.

**SOME SIGNS YOU WILL SEE AROUND YOUR SCHOOL**

**NO PARKING**

*What does it mean?*

You CAN stop in a NO PARKING zone for a maximum of two minutes to drop off and pick up passengers. You must stay within three metres of your vehicle at all times.

*Why is it there?*

To provide a safe place for older children to be set down and picked up without endangering other children.

**NO STOPPING**

*What does it mean?*

You CANNOT stop in this area FOR ANY REASON.

*Why is it there?*

To keep sight lines clear for drivers AND children so both have more time to avoid crashes.

**BUS ZONE**

*What does it mean?*

You must NOT stop or park in a bus zone unless you are driving a bus.

*Why is it there?*

To provide a safe place for large buses to set down and pick up. Cars parking in bus zones put lives at risk by forcing buses out of ‘their’ safety zone.

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**Items in Community Corner of the newsletter are placed at the discretion of the School. However, the School does not endorse any such item.**