Dear Parents and Community Members...

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday and are ready for a busy term 4!

Just to list a few things we have this term: starting our journey for Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL); Mrs Caldwell, Miss Jarvis and Mr Thomas complete their year long commitment to Language, Learning and Literacy (L3); Kindergarten transition starts; grades 5 & 6 have their Lake Ainsworth camp; Presentation Day and other important assemblies; as well as saying farewell to our Year 6 students.

We have been invited to participate in Operation Christmas Child. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to work together and give some children in developing countries a nice surprise and spread some happiness. More information is provided in the newsletter and another note will be sent home soon.

Late last term our school had an attendance audit. The Home School Liaison Officers collected class roles, printed attendance records and looked at student whole day absences as well as partial day absences.

Attached to the newsletter is a Compulsory School Attendance information brochure, (School Attendance Policy 2015). Please be aware that if reasons for late or being absent are not recognisable as being justified reasons by the Department of Education, they will still be recorded as being unjustified.

“The Education Act 1990 requires you to ensure your child attends school each day that instruction is provided unless they are prevented from doing so by sickness or other acceptable reason and for you to provide an explanation for any absence. The Act requires you to explain your child’s absences within seven days of their occurrence. Failure to do so will result in an unjustified absence being recorded.”

You can notify the school by one of the following ways: a phone call; writing a note; seeing the front office and/or the class teacher; or sending it through the school app.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me so we can work together to support your child's learning.

Have a lovely week,
Lorelle O'Brien

School App

Did you know we have a school app? If you search ‘Sir Henry Parkes Memorial Public School’ in the app store, you can download it for free. The app allows you to send in absent notices, see our newsletters, link to our facebook page, change any personal details etc.

Book Fair

“Buy One Get One Free” Book Fair will be starting Monday, November 2, Week 5.

"STAFF MEMBER OF THE WEEK"

Mark Thomas

My journey to the world of teaching has involved a few twists and turns along the way. Whilst growing up in Sydney and the Hunter Valley, I developed a passion for the outdoors and decided to pursue a career in horticulture. After finishing my horticultural studies I headed off to explore the amazing world that we live in.

It was during this time that I met my future wife, Marie, in London. After our daughter Jessica was born, we left London to spend time living in Marie’s homeland (the Czech Republic) before settling in Brisbane to be near my parents.

During our time in Brisbane both our boys, Adam and Phillip, were born. It was also in Brisbane that I studied environmental science and grew more involved in the Landcare/Bushcare conservation movement. This involvement led to my employment with Granite Borders Landcare and the reason that the Thomas family now calls Tenterfield home. Through environmental education activities I began to appreciate the significance of empowering the next generation to value and care for the world around them.

Progressing into the education profession seemed to be a logical step and I completed my postgraduate studies before commencing employment at Sir Henry Parkes as an intervention teacher.

Although my journey into the world of teaching has been somewhat unconventional I enjoy each and every day in the classroom. No two days are the same and it is a pleasure to be involved (with all the staff at SHP) in helping our students on their lifelong educational journey.

Did you know we have a school app?
Meal Deal: “Rock n Roll”
R U Hungry
Enjoy a hot dog in a roll topped with tomato sauce and cheese, plus a popper and a banana split served in a bowl topped with ice cream & strawberry topping. (no nuts). $5.00
Other choices: 6 chicken nuggets
Egg & lettuce sandwich $2.50

Parents, Grandparents, Carers
If anyone has a spare hour or two on any day we would love to hear from you. Our roster is in need of some extra hands to cope with the day to day running of the canteen. If you can help please phone Vicki on 02 6736 1732 Thank you.
K/1C REPORT

K/1C has had a great holiday.

We have all grown a little taller, had lots of haircuts and have lots and lots of wobbly teeth.

We have also counted and worked out it is only 80 days until Christmas!!

We are using Term 4 to help us get ready for being in Year 1 and 2 next year.

We are working really hard on our reading and these are some of the activities we have been doing in our room.
Photo Day Term 4 Week 1

Photo day will be on Wednesday, October 7 (tomorrow).
As this is a Wednesday we are asking students from 3-6 who are involved in sport photos to wear full sport uniform this day.
If you would like to order a sport photo, envelopes are available at the front office.

Twitter @SHPMPS
Don’t forget to follow us on Twitter @SHPMPS

Operation Christmas Child

This year our school will be participating in Operation Christmas Child, which is a project of the charity Samaritan’s Purse that delivers Christmas gifts to children living in poverty in developing countries.
These Christmas gifts are in the form of shoeboxes filled with items. Each class will be asked to put together 3 shoeboxes. We are inviting each child to purchase one item to contribute to these shoeboxes. Each class has been assigned a type of item and a note will be coming home soon with all the information needed to help you in your purchase. Please bring items in by Friday, October 23.
Our students will also be able to include a letter about themselves and our school within the boxes and we will be able to track where our shoeboxes are sent.
To raise the funds required for delivery of our shoeboxes, we will be having an out of uniform Crazy Hair Day and BBQ on Tuesday, October 27. All students are encouraged to come to school with crazy hair and donate a gold coin. Sausages can also be purchased for $2 and poppers $1. Thank you in advance for your support.

STEM Club

Primary students interested in developing their understanding of computing and coding will this term have the opportunity to participate in the new STEM Club. Members will meet weekly on Monday lunchtimes to explore, invent, innovate and problem-solve using ‘Raspberry Pi’ devices.

Some readers will be aware of the national push to include STEM; a combination of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in both Secondary and Primary curriculums. Students involved in the STEM Club will be at the forefront of any possible future curriculum innovations.
Students will be nominated by class teachers this week and may also self-nominate, depending on the availability of positions. Students involved in the pilot of the program this term will then be able to lead similar learning in their classes in 2016.