**Principal’s Report**

Many thanks to those parents who have provided positive feedback in relation to our Skoolbag app. I would encourage all parents to download this app to their mobile device as we will regularly inform and update parents in relation to events occurring at the school.

I appreciate your feedback in relation to all aspects that affect the teaching and learning of your children. Included in this newsletter is an updated staff list and map of the school.

As advised, due to increased enrolments we have re-structured classes in our Kindergarten and Year One section of the school. We have endeavoured to minimise disruption to classes but, at times, this is unavoidable. Your understanding in this matter is greatly appreciated.

An additional Year One class has been formed. Miss Nguyen has been engaged to undertake the teaching of 1N. I welcome Miss Nguyen to Colyton Public School.

Mrs Smallwood is currently on sick leave. We wish Mrs Smallwood a speedy recovery but until Mrs Smallwood returns I have engaged Mrs Collier to undertake her role within the school. I welcome Mrs Collier to Colyton Public School.

As you are aware, the school was forced to conduct an emergency evacuation on Thursday 11th February. Colyton Public School, like many other schools in Western Sydney and across the state have been required to evacuate. This week all Principals received a memo from the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education advising evacuation from the site in the event of specific threats. I have taken on-board feedback from staff and the community and I have negotiated an off-site Evacuation “Safe Place”.

The Principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School, Mrs McGuinness, and I are in complete agreement that in the event that either school receives a threat that requires evacuation off-site that we would evacuate to the hall of the other school. This ensures access to toilets, water and shelter. It also ensures that we are able to manage the emergency situation with the cooperation and assistance of our neighbour school. Mrs McGuinness and I believe this is a common sense solution and ensures the safety of students and staff.

*Greg O’Neill*
*Principal*

**2016 Student Leaders**

At a special assembly on Monday 15th February the school captains, vice-captains and prefects for 2016 were announced. This ceremony also involved the induction of our captains and prefects. All of the students involved pledged their commitment to fulfilling their duties throughout the school year. It was fantastic to see the family support for each of the captains and prefects.

We are very proud to announce that our Captains and Prefects for 2016 are:

**Captains**

Max Kogler            Kiyana Smith

**Vice Captains**

Kai Huet              Katianna Fuamatu Sopi

**Prefects**

Yasmeen Chandab       Falekava Mahe
Khusi Patro            Kalaya Ryan
Ryan Bennett           Kesu Patro
Joshua Gange          Athena Auw
Congratulations to all students involved and to the parents who attended. Thank you to Mrs McKervey for ensuring the smooth running of the assembly.

OC Camp

Reflections on OC Camp!

By Adyan Iqbal and Adyaan Reza.

Guess what the best camp of all time was? 5R’s OC Camp 2016!

It all started on Tuesday morning. Everyone came to school, with anticipation written on their faces. We were so excited! It was the most exciting moment at this school, since the Orientation Day! As soon as Mrs Rodgers told us that it was time to get on the bus, every single one of us 5Rians zoomed to the bus as fast as we could!

As soon as we arrived at Hartley Lodge, we unpacked, had a little rest, got our cameras and we went straight to the Three Sisters! It was probably one of the most awesome things we had seen over the three days! Since 5R is so great and brave… we rode on the Scenic Railway, the steepest railway in the world, and believe us, it was fun!

We went to many other excellent and beautiful attractions, so all of our cameras were mostly full of photos from camp. On the last day we went on the Cableway and the Skyway to top off a brilliant experience.

But another great thing was the food! We absolutely loved all the food that the chef had cooked for us. On the second night, we had loads of fun with our Drama teacher, Mr Innes.

Overall, every single 5Rian loved camp. We don’t think any other camp would beat this one. PEACE! 😊
Swimming Carnival

On Friday 5th February Colyton Public School held the annual swimming carnival at Mt Druitt pool. We had a large number of students show their talents in the water, making the day a huge success. The behaviour and participation of the students was impressive, as the children continually showed unwavering support for their house mates. While all houses were well represented, it was LAWSON who were the carnival champions.

The Swimming Carnival

By Kiyana Smith

It all started with the war cries from all the houses. Blaxland, Druitt, Lawson and my house Marsden. Everyone was cheering!

Then the swimming carnival of 2016 started! The first race was 100m freestyle but I chose not to attempt it because I was so nervous. So because I didn’t do the 100m freestyle I chose to do the 50m freestyle. When I first dived in all I could hear was all the houses cheering and screaming. Every breath I took I could still hear everyone cheering and screaming. Then when I finished I placed first in my heat. But in the end I got a second place ribbon. So that meant I was going to District.

Then when I got out of the pool everyone congratulated me so I knew I had done my house proud. Next was breaststroke, which I was doing and I was coming first and I finished first, but when I finished the teacher said I was doing the stroke wrong. So I won’t be doing it at District which is disappointing to hear.

I had backstroke next and even though I’m not confident in backstroke I still chose to try it, but the thing was I still placed third. Then it was butterfly and because I’m not confident in butterfly at all I chose not to do it this time.

And that was the end to my last swimming carnival for Primary School.

P&C News

I hope everyone has settled into the New Year at Colyton. A reminder that the P&C A.G.M (Annual General Meeting) is coming up. We welcome and encourage all parents/carers to come along and have their say in electing P&C committee members for 2016. The P&C are volunteers who give up their time to work for the good of the school’s students and I encourage all parents to actively support the P&C representatives where possible.

What: P&C Annual General Meeting

Where: The Residence (located at the back of the school)

When: Tuesday 1st March at 7:00pm (parking and entry via Nelson St or Allen St)

Children are welcome to attend and Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

We will be organising various events throughout the year to raise funds in support of school activities, student learning and upkeep of school grounds. We would greatly appreciate any assistance, big or small, from parents willing to help out with any of these events. Some of the planned events include:

* Mother’s Day stalls to be held on Thursday 5th May and Friday 6th May (morning only)

* School Disco in early March (date to be confirmed)

* Easter Raffles and Stall on Easter Hat Parade day on Thursday 24th March

Notes detailing these events will be sent home with children in coming weeks. We will also be asking for donations for the Easter Raffle and assistance in making up raffle books. Reminders will be in the newsletter and sent to your Skoolbag app closer to the events.

If you would like more information about the P&C or how you can help, you can contact me via email at grantpickering@y7mail.com. You can also speak to one of our committee members, Melanie Taylor, Yvonne Manera or Nabiha Abu-Zer in the playground before or after school or head down to the Residence on Tuesday mornings after dropping off your children. I look forward to meeting more parents and building a strong P&C for 2016.

Grant Pickering
P&C President
Lightsabers at School

In line with the recent release of the latest Star Wars movie, many of our students have a current interest in lightsabers and are bringing them to school. The children are using the lightsabers to engage in some creative and imaginative play with their friends in the playground at recess and lunchtime. Staff have been monitoring the use of these toys and have noted that, on the whole, the play is safe. Students have been reminded of the following, which is the case for all toys:

- they require parent permission to bring lightsabers to school
- lightsabers can be brought into the playground at recess and lunch time (not before school)
- if a students is being unsafe they will be instructed to put the lightsaber away
- the school can take no responsibility for lightsabers

Setting up the ‘Push Categories’ on your Skoolbag App

I’m sure you will agree that our Skoolbag App has been a very useful addition to our school communications. One of the most useful functions is the ‘Alerts’ function, where each push notification is accompanied by an alert sound. These notifications can be adjusted on your app so that you only receive alerts that apply to your child’s grade. If there is an alert that applies to the whole school you will still receive this even if you have only selected your child’s grade.

You can adjust these notifications by:

- Opening your Skoolbag App

- Clicking on ‘More’ in the bottom right hand corner of the home screen.

- Click on ‘Setup Push Notifications’

- Turn ‘on’ only the grades you want to receive alerts for.
**Free to Good Home**

We are disposing of some older items in the school, including these 2 pianos and an electric organ (pictured below). These items are in working order however the pianos may need to be tuned. The new owners must be able to arrange pick-up and transportation of these items. If you would like any of the items please contact the school on 9625-8185.

*Item A – Upright Piano*

*Item B – Upright Piano*

*Item C – Electric Organ with seat*

**Clothing Pool**

The Clothing Pool is open every Tuesday morning from 8:45-9:45am in the Residence (located at the back of the school).

If you would like to donate uniforms that you no longer use, please drop them off at the office any time or at the Clothing Pool on a Tuesday morning.

**Keep Germs at Home**

Viruses can spread very quickly through a classroom of children and can lead to a number of children being away sick. Encourage your child to wash their hands after going to the toilet and before eating to minimise the spread of germs. If your child is sick in the morning please keep them at home or arrange alternative care to help minimise the spread of viruses. When your child is well enough to return to school please send a note to the classroom teacher with the date and reason for absence.

**Head Lice**

Back to school for another year and unfortunately this often means the start of the head lice season too. We see an increase in the number of head lice cases in the February to March period, particularly amongst school aged children.

Head lice are extremely contagious. Early treatment is recommended to kill head lice and their eggs and to limit school and family contamination.

95% of lice are transmitted through close head to head contact and by sharing objects such as hats, hair brushes, head bands, pillows and towels. Ensure that you and your household is protected from head lice this season by taking the necessary preventative steps to keep head lice away;

**Below are 4 crucial steps to keep your school head lice free:**

- Avoid sharing clothing, especially hats, ribbons, head bands and helmets
- Discourage children from playing with each other's hair
- Don't share brushes, combs, towels and pillows
- Keep long hair plaits or firmly tied back to prevent contact from other kids
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Junior Indoor Cricket

STARTING WEDNESDAY 30th MARCH 2016

- Wednesday- U8’s, U10’s, U12’s
- Thursday- U14’s and U16’s
- Times from 4:20, 5:20 and 6:20pm
- 6 a side, Individuals and teams welcome!
- U8- U16- Boys and Girls Mixed Indoor Cricket
- $7 per game per child. (Playing Shirt Included)
- Register any weekday from January from 4-6pm.

Where to Find Us:
20 Forthorn Place
St Marys NSW 2760
Phone 9623 5523/0406237779

www.stmarysindoorssports.com.au
info@stmarysindoorssports.com.au

WHEN YOU PLAY INDOOR CRICKET AT OUR CENTRE $5 FROM YOUR REGO IS DONATED BACK TO YOUR OUTDOOR CLUB

Junior Indoor Cricket.
Rego only
$40 per Child.

FUSION Western Sydney Youth & Community Centre
12 Carson Lane, St Marys
Term 1, 2016: Feb 16, Mar 1, Mar 8 (9:30am-12:30pm)

Course Fees: $70 pp / $40 pp Conc or $90 Couple Conc

Presented by FUSION Western Sydney
Information: Salie Hammond
Phone: (02) 8805 5000
Email: salie.hammond@fusion.org.au
www.fusiontraining.org.au
ST CLAIR BJP PHYSICAL CULTURE CLUB

2016 REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW

CLASSES COMMENCE TUESDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

ALL WELCOME

Physie is a fusion of dance and sport. We empower girls for life. We help build Strength, Flexibility, Good Posture & Fitness.

From 3 yrs - Ladies
Classes held locally at St Clair
for more information contact us at
physie.stclair@hotmail.com
or visit or website
www.stclairphysicalculture.com
Chifley College
Mt Druitt Campus

EVENRYONE WELCOME
Monday 7th March
4-6pm
School tours
Student Expo
BBQ Performances FREE ENTRY

Old MacDonald's
CHILD CARE

ENROLLING NOW
Limited Vacancies Available

Brand New State of the Art Facility
Specialising in Child Care Early Learning, currently taking enrolments.

To Book an Enrolment Tour
Call 9670 1522, or Visit www.oldmacdonaldschildcare.com.au

- Catering for all kids aged 6 weeks-6 years old
- Beautiful rural setting with its very own farm animal nursery units including chickens, chicks, lambs, goats, pigs, donkeys, & much more
- Fresh & healthy food prepared daily
- Excellent range of outdoor play areas complete with sandpit & variety of play equipment
- Providing large horticultural areas for children to experience the joy of growing their very own plants from seedling.

21A Mandaalong Close, Orchard Hills
NSW 2768
Attention Parents of Year 7 Students 2017
INFORMATION EVENING FEBRUARY 23 2016

At Colyton High School you will find a warm and caring environment offering all students outstanding opportunities to achieve their personal best.

Our aim is to support and develop students to become articulate, confident and caring young citizens. We provide a diverse curriculum with a focus on quality teaching and learning. Students' best efforts are encouraged and celebrated.

Our school provides an extensive range of career pathways, including many Vocational Education Courses. We are recognised as a school of excellence in Trade Education in the region.

Colyton High School Trade School cordially invites the parents of Year 7 student for 2017 to an information evening and a tour of the school facilities on Tuesday February 23. Please attend to see first-hand the quality learning resources provided for all students and discuss information regarding enrolment at Colyton High School Trade School in 2017.

The Principal, Mr Butler, and staff will be available to provide information about the school; curriculum pathways; sporting opportunities; as well as other outstanding opportunities provided to all students to achieve their personal best in education at Colyton High School.

WHEN: 5.00PM TO 7.00PM
WHERE: IN THE SCHOOL HALL
BBQ PROVIDED
Principal: Mr D Butler
37-53 Carpenter Street, Colyton 2760

Contact the school if you require further information
Phone: 9623 2789  Fax: 9833 1165
colyton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
EXECUTIVE:

Principal: Mr Greg O’Neill
Deputy Principal: Ms Tracy Kemp
Assistant Principal (ES1): Mrs Cobi Candy
Assistant Principal (1): Ms Donna Reid
Assistant Principal (2): Mrs Pauline Devile
Assistant Principal (3): Ms Shannon McKervey

CLASSES:

KA Miss Melissa Neil/Mrs Roslyn Rowling
KC Mrs Cobi Candy
KD Mr Eoin Durkin
KM Mrs Amanda Cooper
K/1H Mrs Stacey Hind/Mrs Jenine Smith
1B Mrs Leanne Benson
1M Miss Mariana Sleiman
1N Miss Thuy Nguyen
1S Mr Irfan Shah
2D Mrs Janine Dabait/Mrs Natasha McSharry
2M Miss Ashley Moore
2P Mrs Deborah Palombo
2S Mrs Sarah Sabellico
3C Mr Michael Cleary
3J Miss Jessica Campbell
3P Mrs Eleanor Palmos
3/4D Mrs Pauline Devile
4K Mrs Sarah King
4H Mrs Ella Hunt
4R Miss Ashley Reddacliff
5H Miss Jessica Hulse
5Z Mr Tristan Zlotkowski
5R Mrs Lisa Rodgers
5A Miss Lee Angell
6J Mr James Clark
6C Miss Bree Castle
6M Ms Shannon McKervey
6H Miss Leanne Hall

Release Program Mrs Lauren Bacaes, Miss Nina Carroll, Ms Natalie Schreurs, Robyn Smallwood, Alison Miller

Reading Recovery: Miss Nina Carroll, Mrs Christine Pink
Learning Assistance: Ms Donna Reid, Mrs Christine Pink
ESL/EALD Teacher: Mrs Laura Cleary, Mrs Judith D’Cruz, Ms Lauren Bacaes
Teacher/Librarian: Mrs Isabelle Cumberland/Mrs Tracey Cox
School Counsellor: Ms Melissa Mellish
Administrative Manager: Mrs Ainslie McMillan
Administrative Officer: Mrs Gloria Aarts
Administrative Officer: Mrs Sandra Desborough
Administrative Officer: Mrs Haley Cormack
Administrative Officer: Mrs Anne Napthali
SLSO: Mrs Jos Zakostelsky
SLSO: Mr James Schembri
SLSO: Mrs Janine Bonner/Mrs Jane Kelaher
Community Hub Leader: Mrs Eva Hanna
General Assistant: Mr William Lloyd