Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday!

Well it is almost the end of the year. I can't believe how fast the year has gone by.

Thank you to all the students who worked hard and achieved so much. I would particularly like to thank the parents, carers and community members who have supported the school in so many different ways including volunteering in the canteen, helping in the classrooms or at sporting events, supporting students at district and area carnivals, assisting with fund-raising activities and especially the parents who helped transport students to the many events throughout the year. Without all of your support the students would miss out. Thank you also to the parents who helped the P&C or SRC with fund-raising events and for supporting your child’s learning through involvement in extra-curricula activities and excursions.

I would also like to thank all of the teachers and support staff who have worked extremely hard all year to provide excellent teaching programs and many opportunities for students to excel in sport, cultural and academic endeavours.

I would also like to especially congratulate our students who received special awards. Jessalyn Dizon for receiving the Mulgoa Award from Mrs Tanya Davies State Member for Mulgoa.

Our Honour Board students were Pujya Maharaj who received the DUX Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Eddie Faamausili Paese received the Citizenship Award, Ka-deesha King for Sporting Achievement and Jasmin Seko the Premier’s Sporting Challenge Award for sportsmanship and commitment to sport.

School Leaders 2016

I would also like to congratulate the new school leaders for 2016, School Captains, Lilianah Martinez and Erin Dale and Vice Captains, Bryce Fairweather and Luron Patea. I’m sure you will carry out school leadership roles in 2016 with commitment and diligence.

Judy Loader Principal
Panthers Eat Well, Play Well, Stay Well Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>Sarah Beardmore</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Dallas Marks–Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Bryzbyn Walraven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Kyle Pollard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Paola Mayol</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Award
Congratulations Isaiah Marsh
Isaiah Marsh chose a soccer ball from the prize cupboard

School Award
Congratulations Chelsey Savill
Chelsey Savill chose a soccer ball from the prize cupboard

Clarinet Performance
We would like to thank Miss Gilbert for giving up many lunchtimes to teach the students how to play the clarinet. We were very privileged to hear them play several tunes at the assembly a few weeks ago. Thank you again Miss Gilbert and the students, William Simpson, Pujya Maharaj, Kyle Pollard, Amelia Morgan and Calinda Surenne.

Kindergarten Assembly Item
Classes 16 & 18 certainly made it feel like Christmas with the wonderful assembly items of Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer and Reindeer Hokey, Pokey.

Knockout competition. The prize for winning, is a bike which will be raffled in early 2016 to raise funds towards additional Basketball equipment. Well done boys!
Principal’s Awards

Congratulations:
Darlene Paese, Lily-Jean Hodgson, Mackenzie Hodgkinson, Rabeet Nisar, Sarah Chavez, Isaiah Marsh, Charlotte Wilson, Ruben Hughes, Alexa Banguis

For trading 5 Mini Merit Awards
Anabel Fratti-Greenlees, Phillip Nguyen, Faran Ahmad, Grace Simpson, Lily-Jean Hodgson x 2, Sarah Chavez, Darlene Paese x 8, Kallum Nash, Hannah Bonwick, Mackenzie Hodgkinson, Jean-Marcel Bergerot x 2, Mackenzie Evans, Alexa Banguis, Skye Robertson, John Ah Mann, Harrison Bonwick, William Surenne, Kallum Nash, William Shepherd x 2, Elise Harrison, Scarlett Bell x 2, Jasmine Rutledge, Seb Santos x 4, Amy Tidyman, Morgan Savill, Amy Hoven-Leonow, Curtis Howell, Zuzanna Najda, Lachlan Stofregen x 2, Hayden Morgan, Laetitia Zamor Bongout, Jason Shaw, Harley Shepherd x 3, Luis Contreras Villajuan, Kaitlyn Beardmore, Dakota Garrow x 4, Genevieve Russell, Zachary Spagnol

Presentation Assembly 2015
Year 6, 2015
Farewell
P&C News

Position Vacant: The position of P&C Secretary has become vacant and we are looking for someone to fill this position. The Secretary’s role includes taking of minutes at our general meetings and AGM (held annually), typing the minutes and presenting them at the next meeting and occasional writing correspondence. The role also involves assisting out where possible with our fundraising events. If you are interested in this role, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Rutledge (President) or Mandy Vorhauer (Treasurer) through the school office.

Fundraising

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful staff at St Clair Public School who have supported and assisted the P&C with our fundraising efforts this year. We would also like to especially thank Mrs Brooks and Mrs Healey who always help out with the collection of notes and payments for our events as well as ensuring our notes get home to our families!! Thank you!! Thank you!!

Canteen News

Important Notice: Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the canteen will be closing on Friday 11th December 2015. The canteen WILL NOT be open at all during the last week of this term. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause to our students.

As you may be aware the manager of our school canteen has resigned. In light of this, the P&C in conjunction with Mrs Loader have decided to tender the canteen out to a private enterprise. The tender process will be handled by the Department of Education and we are hoping that this process will be done as quickly as possible. The canteen will be closed as from Monday 14th December 2015 and will remain closed until the tender process has been finalised. This means that canteen facilities WILL NOT be available when school returns next year. Please ensure your child is sent to school with enough food to cover crunch n sip, recess, lunch and drinks for the whole day.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause however, we are confident that the canteen will reopen bigger and better than ever.

Thank you for your understanding.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND FAMILIES A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!! WE LOOK FORWARD TO A FANTASTIC 2016!!

Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th February 2016 7.00pm in the staffroom – everyone is welcome to attend

Future 2016 Dates: Term 1 - Tuesday 22nd March, Term 2 - Tuesday 10th May & Tuesday 14th June, Term 3 - Tuesday 2nd August & Tuesday 6th Sept, Term 4 - Tuesday 25th Oct & Tuesday 29th Nov.

Year 6 2015

Our Year 6 students have worked hard to achieve academically, physically and creatively throughout their time in primary school. Many of them have represented the school with pride and they have shown excellent leadership skills in a variety of roles. At their farewell on Wednesday they all looked fantastic and so grown up. I would like to wish all of Year 6, all the best for High School. Continue to work hard and achieve great things. Remember to smile! I would like to thank our 2015 School Captains Judyann Sabbagh and Jasmin Seko and our School Prefects Christian Solomon, Eddie Faamausili Paese, Neda Stancev and Beondce Kalepo for their commitment to the job and their outstanding leadership. We will miss all of you!
Class Requirements 2016

Mainstream Classes

Stage 1 (Year 1 & 2)
2 x large boxes tissues (1 per semester)
2 x absorbent kitchen paper towels
5 x large Bostik Glue Sticks
1 x hand soap pump bottle
1 x hand sanitiser
1 x pack wind up Crayola Crayons
1 x pack felt tipped pens

NO Pencil case
4 x envelope style plastic folders
2 x A4 display books
1 x library bag
1 x set over ear headphones (not ear buds)
1 x paint shirt
1 x A4 lined book for homework
1 x labelled key ring (if not already supplied)

Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4)
2 x large boxes tissues
4 x large Bostik Glue Sticks
1 x hand soap pump bottle
1 x pack wind up Crayola Crayons
1 x pack textas
3 x envelope style plastic folders
1 x library bag
In pencil case with child's name on it
4 x lead pencils - HB
1 x quality eraser
1 x sharpener with catcher
1 x pack coloured pencils
1 x pair scissors
1 x ruler with centimetres & millimetres markings
1 x USB – 4GB (can re-use 2014’s)
1 x set over ear headphones (not ear buds)

Stage 3 (Year 5 & 6)
2 x large boxes tissues
4 x large Bostik Glue Sticks
1 x hand soap pump bottle
1 x USB - 4Gb or larger (can re-use 2014’s)
1 x pocket dictionary
1 geometry set (including compass, protractor, set squares)
2 x A4 - 96 page books for homework
1 x library bag
1 x ruler with centimetres & millimetres markings
In a pencil case (30x15cm) with child's name on it
4 x lead pencils - HB
4 x blue biro
2 x red biro
1 x quality eraser
1 x sharpener with catcher
1 x pack coloured pencils
1 x pack textas
1 x pair scissors
1 x USB – 4GB (can re-use 2014’s)
1 x ruler with centimetres & millimetres markings
In a pencil case (30x15cm) with child's name on it
4 x lead pencils - HB
4 x blue biro
2 x red biro
1 x quality eraser
1 x sharpener with catcher
1 x pack coloured pencils
1 x pack textas
1 x pair scissors
1 x USB – 4GB (can re-use 2014’s)
1 x set over ear headphones (not ear buds)

Support Unit
Junior Support Classes
4 x large boxes tissues (1 per term)
2 x Scrap books (blank pages)
1 x hand soap pump bottle
1 x hand sanitiser pump pack
2 x packs wet wipes
1 x pack wind up Crayola Crayons
4 x large Bostik Glue Sticks (blue glue)
1 x library bag
1 x fancy key ring( child can identify)
1x USB – 4GB
1 x set over ear headphones (not ear buds)

Senior Support Classes
4 x large boxes tissues (1 per term)
2 x Scrap books (blank pages)
1 x hand soap pump bottle
1 x hand sanitiser pump pack
2 x packs wet wipes
4 x large Bostik Glue Sticks (blue glue)
1 x pack wind up Crayola Crayons
1 x pack coloured pencils
1 x pack textas
1 x pair scissors
1 x USB – 4GB (can re-use 2014’s)
1 x set over ear headphones (not ear buds)

Please note: some items will be collected by the teachers and stored for whole class use. E.g. tissues, hand soap, sanitiser, glue and in the younger grades, wind up crayons & textas.

We are requesting Bostik glue as it last longer and does not dry out like cheaper brands.

Early in Term 1 some teachers will send home a note outlining additional requirements specific for their class.
Holiday Activities @ Your Library

Penrith City Library

School Holiday Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hula Hoop Dance Workshop</td>
<td>$13</td>
<td>Tuesday 12 Jan</td>
<td>For 5 to 12 year olds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once Upon A Time Puppet show</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>Wednesday 13 Jan</td>
<td>For the whole family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Workshop</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Thursday 14 Jan</td>
<td>For 5 to 12 year olds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picture Book Writing Workshop</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Tuesday 19 Jan</td>
<td>For 7 to 12 year olds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comedy Magic Show</td>
<td>$5</td>
<td>Wednesday 20 Jan</td>
<td>For the whole family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Life Science workshop</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>Thursday 21 Jan</td>
<td>For 5 to 12 year olds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For Tickets: ph 4732 7891 or visit Penrith Library

Art Club - After School Activity Term 1 2016 4.15 to 5.15pm Thursday 4 Feb to 7 April

St Clair Library -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digging Dinosaurs Workshop</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Saturday 17 Jan</td>
<td>For 5 to 12 year olds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Collect tickets from St Clair Library

STORT TIME Thursday 4 Feb for 0-6 year olds

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Supreme Dance

BRAND NEW dance studio opening 2016!

- Ballet
- Tap
- Lyrical
- Jazz
- Contemporary
- Acrobatics
- Hip Hop

$10 Classes!

- Family friendly
- Beginners welcome
- Age appropriate music and costuming
- Performance opportunities
- Exam classes available

3 years to adults

RIDGE PARK HALL
17 – 23 Woodland Ave, Oxley Park

Contact Abby – 0431 834 526
Or email supremedance@outlook.com.au

Find us on Facebook!
Got It! Tip of the Week
Help your child to use words to describe how he is feeling in the moment. You might say something like, “It seems like you’re feeling a bit worried”. Providing words can help him to feel understood. It helps him to know that emotions are a normal part of everyday life and that they can be handled. Labelling emotions can also help him to bounce back more quickly when he is feeling upset. Be aware of not telling your child how he should feel, but helping him to develop a vocabulary to express his emotions.

(BOOK Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child : The Heart of Parenting by John Gottman)

Got It! Tip of the Week
While it’s important to let your child know that all her feelings are OK, it’s also important to let her know that some behaviours are not OK. These behaviours include hurting herself or others, or damaging property. You can guide her to think of more helpful ways to handle her strong feelings. For instance, you might say to her: “You are mad that Sally took that doll from you. I would be too, but it is not OK to hit her. What could you do instead?”. This will help her to trust her feelings and feel good about herself while learning to manage her own behaviour.

(BOOK Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child : The Heart of Parenting by John Gottman)

Got It! Tip of the Week
While supporting your child to understand his feelings, it’s often useful to help him to come up with some ways to solve the problem that triggered the feelings in the first place. He will probably need to know that you understand his feelings before he is ready to think about what to do next, so help him to take his time. You might say something like, “What do you think we should do?” or “What would make things better?”. Praise him for trying hard to come up with different ideas to solve the problem and when he uses more helpful strategies next time a similar situation occurs. This will help him to feel good about himself and develop effective problem-solving skills.

(BOOK How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish)

During the January school holidays The Australiana Pioneer Village at Wilberforce will be open the 5th and 6th, 12th and 13th and 19th and 20th as well as Sunday’s 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th from 10am to 4pm. Our school holiday Theme is Water fun - be prepared to get wet, don’t forget to bring a towel. We have plenty of activities for the whole family. Bring a picnic or eat at one of the cafes. Have a carriage ride, do a tour, visit all our shops and buildings and enjoy yourself.

On Australia Day we are open from 9 - 5 and have many things on. We have all day entertainment with food stalls, horse and cart rides, hay rides. See the penny farthings, steam engines, vintage cars and motorbikes and the penny arcade. Just to name a few. Bring a picnic or eat in one of our two cafes. All our other shops will be open as well.
The simplest way
...to create a simple spring meal.

This easy and delicious vegetable frittata can be enjoyed hot for dinner, with leftovers served cold in kids’ lunch boxes!

**Ingredients** (serves 4)
- 1/3 cup pasta (parmehow-tastico)
- 100g mushrooms, sliced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium tomato, chopped
- 2 eggs, whisked
- 1 medium zucchini, sliced thinly
- 2 tbsp parsley

**Method**
- Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease 20cm cake pan.
- Cook pasta in water until tender. Drain.
- Heat oil in large frying pan, add onion, zucchini and mushrooms until just tender.
- Combine all ingredients in large bowl. Mix well.
- Pour mixture into prepared pan, bake for 45min.

Serve with a side salad.

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

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The simplest way
...to make tabbouleh.

**Ingredients**
- 1 cup cracked wheat (bulgar)
- 2 large ripe tomatoes, diced
- 1 small cucumber, diced
- 3 spring onions, finely sliced
- 1 bunch parsley, chopped
- 1 bunch mint, chopped
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp olive oil

**Method**
Cover the cracked wheat with water and soak for 15 minutes. Mix with remaining ingredients and serve chilled. Make a great addition to your kids’ lunch box—add to sandwiches/wraps or serve in a small container.

**Tips**
For best results, use flat leaf parsley when available.
For a more substantial meal: add 425g can drained chickpeas; or serve with grilled fish or meat and flatbread.

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

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The simplest way
...to make fruit & veg festival!

Who says the festive season can’t be fun and healthy?

With these super-cute strawberry Santas, you’ll be wowing the Christmas crowds and feeding them nutritious fare too.

To make: Hull and chop the top third off each strawberry; mix 100g cream cheese and 4 tbsp of golden sugar, and pipe mix on for face filling and hat pom-poms; add raisins or mini choc bits for eyes. Easy!

Or try these eye-catching Christmas creations:

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

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The simplest way
...to make a healthy Red Bean dip.

**Ingredients**
- 1 can of kidney beans
- 1/2 cup reduced-fat natural yoghurt
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Pinch salt and pepper
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 tablespoon diced spring onions
- 1/2 cup diced avocado (optional)
- Vegie sticks to serve

**Method**
Rinse and drain kidney beans. Place beans, along with yoghurt, olive oil, salt, pepper and cumin into a food processor and blitz until smooth. Spoon into a bowl, and top with spring onions and avocado, if desired. Serve with vegie sticks...delish!

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit
PENRITH OBSERVATORY
School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics

ASTRONOMY NIGHTS
Saturday 12 December – 8.00 pm – 10.00 pm

SPACE JUNK - Our planet isn’t the only place we are leaving trash. Orbital debris, the collection of old or unused man-made objects in orbit about the Earth is a real problem to satellites, the ISS and rockets when they launch. The evening will also include a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory’s telescopes.

Saturday 23 January - 8 pm – 10 pm

OUR MOON - A close up look at our neighbour including its formation and structure as well as phenomena associated with the Moon such as phases and eclipses. The program will also include a 3D astronomy movie and viewing of the night sky through the University’s telescopes.

School Holiday Hands-on Science Program
Wednesday 20 January -10 am – 12 noon

ROCKET WORKSHOP - Lots of fun for kids of all ages. Make and launch your own paper rocket and watch water rockets being launched. The program will also include a short presentation, a 3D astronomy movie and SAFE and detailed viewing of the sun through our telescopes (weather permitting). Cost $15 per person

Our programs run regardless of the weather.

Cost: Astronomy Nights: $18 adult, $12 child/concession and $50
Bookings are essential: Book and pay online: westernsydney.edu.au/observatory, What’s On
Contact: Tel: (02)4736 0135 Email: r.mccourt@westernsydney.edu.au westernsydney.edu.au/observatory
www.twitter.com/uwsobservatory www.facebook.com/UWSObservatory

Sydney’s largest school holiday program returns this summer school holidays! There are 60+ fun-filled activities to keep kids active, outdoors and entertained. A range of activities are free or under $25, making it affordable to discover Sydney’s most exciting playground this holidays.

Archery – Kids on Target & Little Archers
All Day Holiday Recreational Program
Science, cooking, writing workshops
Gymnastics
Circus Skills & Flying Trapeze
Apia International Sydney Kids’ Tennis Day
Summer Wetlands
Sport & adventure camps
Australia Day celebrations - FREE
....and lots more

Full details at www.kidsinthepark.com.au
The team at Lamrocks Solicitors has been helping people from across the Nepean and Blue Mountains region for over 100 years.

If you need advice or assistance with a legal issue, contact the experienced lawyers at Lamrocks for friendly, professional advice that offers real value-for-money.

Our office is conveniently located in Penrith, with parking outside the door, so you don’t have to travel into the city to get the best advice. Our professional staff are highly experienced in their chosen fields of law and can quickly identify the key issues in your matter, and how best to address them.

Please contact our friendly staff if you, or someone that you know, requires assistance with

Property & Conveyancing - Family Law
Compensation Law - Wills & Estates

Contributing to the community since 1882
Art Classes for kids opening in 2016!

Using a range of materials and inspired by art history, students will make 2D and 3D artworks.

$140/$120 for 8 weeks during school term. Various locations around Emu Plains. Tue morning Tots (3-5 years old with a carer), Wed afternoon (5-10 years old) and Sat morning (5-10 years old).

Contact:
Na’ama Atzmon-Simon
0413-694-030
naama@reach4stars.com.au
www.reach4stars.com.au

SUMMER KIDS’ CAMPS
THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

✅ New friendships ✅ Fun ✅ Great value ✅ Safe

Summer is all about having FUN in the great outdoors. There is no better way for kids to jam-pack their school holidays with adventure and excitement then by attending a Sport and Recreation Kids Camp.

Choose from day programs and residential camps to Duke of Edinburgh’s Award journeys. Activities include raft building, mountain biking, flying fox, giant swing, cookouts and more. With so many programs on offer, you’ll be sure to find a camp your kids will love.

Kids’ day camps start from $50. Residential camps include 24-hour supervision, accommodation, meals and activities and many offer supervised transport to and from Central Station, Sydney.

sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps | 13 13 02
fb.com/nswsportandrecreation

We’re looking at you!

The great host family hunt is on again! WEP Australia is looking for volunteer host families to welcome exchange students arriving soon!

Jump online to see student profiles or contact us as soon as possible!

info@wep.org.au | wep.org.au/hosting | 1300 864 733

WEP
WORLD EXCHANGE PROGRAM
AUSTRALIA

Arts
Creative

REACH FOR THE STARS

Contact:
Na’ama Atzmon-Simon
0413-694-030
naama@reach4stars.com.au
www.reach4stars.com.au

SWIMMAD
Netball Club

2016 REGISTRATION
Come and play netball with us

Players of all ages
From 5 to Seniors

Friday 29th January
Holy Spirit Primary School
5pm - 8pm
Saturday 30th January
7 Todd Road, St Clair
9am - 1pm

Check our www.tailorbooks.com/NewcastleAudience or email info@wep.org.au
Phone: 0413-694-030

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HolySpiritNetball
Email: eugenia@wep.org.au
7 Todd Road, St Clair 2300 2513911
What a wonderful year for all the students and teachers who participated in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program! Each year we learn more exciting new things, about both the kitchen and the garden. It has definitely changed the way the children think about food. They now know how to grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh, nutritious food.

For the last two weeks, our dishes were very simple and were fun to make. We made a simple yet effective Tomato Base Pizza with our garden-harvested zucchinis, Roasted Herbed Garlic Potato Wedges served with Homemade Mayonnaise, Dates and Oat Balls (which were a hit), Penne Pasta with Tomato and Herb Pasta Sauce and our Amish Style Sweet Bread.

Besides cooking, students also helped tidy and clean the kitchen. It is amazing what we accumulate over the years! Thank you to all students, who have worked so hard for the last few weeks. We have certainly enjoyed our time in the kitchen and most importantly discussing and reviewing what we have learnt.

To all year 6 students who are graduating this year I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for doing such a wonderful job both in the kitchen and in the garden. All the best and enjoy high school life! Also THANK YOU to all parents, teachers and students who helped, donated food supplies and volunteered in the kitchen. Your time and donations were such a big help!

Looking forward to seeing you again next year! Have a safe and wonderful holiday!

Happy Cooking! Cazendra

Premier’s Reading Challenge
We would like to congratulate all of the students who received a GOLD Premier’s Reading Challenge certificate at Monday’s assembly. Well Done! Keep on Reading!
As school draws to a close, it's time to reflect on "A Year in the Life of a Garden".

January saw blistering hot days, but lots of watering and shadecloth preserved the garden for the return of school. Thanks to Mrs Renshaw and Mrs Condie for their help with the garden while I was in Brisbane 3 times in 2 months. We had masses of zucchinis and tomatoes, plus beans, cucumbers, as well as watermelons and rockmelons ripening on the vines. By the time the kids started cooking in late February, the freezer was full of tomatoes, so lots of pasta, pizza and other tomato based dishes were on the menu, including the vegetable spaghetti which was a great hit!

By March and April, the nights were getting cooler and the days shorter, so the autumn crops were planted - carrots, cabbages, cauliflower, broccoli, beetroot and spinach. The shade cloth was taken down to allow the crops more light to grow and we had a bountiful supply of the climbing spinach especially.

May and June were times to maintain equipment, continue planting, composting and trying to coax ever more produce from the garden, despite the cold. A new fence was put up across the wild area, so the chooks were able to be fully free range even on the days when I was not working. Pumpkins were harvested after being allowed to sprawl freely in the wild area and we had another bumper harvest. We also held two Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden workshops at our school - unfortunately, these are the last workshops that the SAKG Foundation will hold in Sydney, so we won't get to see our great friends and colleagues much anymore.

July and August saw the Jerusalem artichokes dug up, and although most of the kids had never eaten them previously, they proved to be very popular! We also started work on Moolissa our cow sculpture and had a very poorly attended Working Bee, but we managed to get all the jobs done including building a frog pond, putting in poles for the shade cloth and getting rid of 2 wicking beds. We also turned the old rabbit hutch into a Bug Hotel with great habitats for our native bees and beneficial insects.

September and October were taken up with ongoing work on Moolissa, changing boxes that were breaking down for stronger new ones and trying to find time to plant the spring crops in the middle of all that. I've also changed the location of the compost bay, upgraded parts of the irrigation system, put up a semi-permanent structure to support the netting over the fruit trees, and put the shade cloth up over the garden.

November and December has been a whirlwind of changing boxes as fast as I can so crops can be planted ready for cooking when school comes back next year. Unfortunately, my box supplier is having a quiet period so boxes aren't readily available at the moment, so I am currently experimenting with making my own from recycled pallets, using my latest toy (sorry, tool!), the reciprocating saw. I expect to have it down to a fine art and have lots of new boxes when school comes back next year.

As always, a huge thank you to my great SAKG partners, Cassie and Mrs Condie - we've worked out the kinks and have it down to a fine art now! Thanks also to Mark for his constant mowing and assistance on two-man jobs, Darren Woods for his ongoing mechanical expertise, Mick at Austas, Wayne who sporadically delivers mushroom compost, and an especially huge thank you to Angelo at Metwest Engineering for his extraordinary generosity yet again. Thank you to Mrs Brooks and Mrs Healey in the office, for whom no request is too weird or too much trouble - I really appreciate your cheerful willingness to laminate, print, look stuff up etc. Thank you also to Mrs Loader for my new toy, which will get lots of use over the holidays!

And last but certainly not least, thank you from the bottom of my heart to all the wonderful kids who love to help out in the garden (and the ones who "don't want to get my clothes/shoes dirty" too!) You have been awesome, helping me do so many jobs that would otherwise take far too much time to do. I will miss those beautiful feisty Year 6 kids, but look forward to seeing the rest of you next year! Have a peaceful, fun, happy and safe Christmas, and see you in the New Year.

Until next time, happy gardening! Juanita
SC Factor 2015

**What?** SC Factor 2015

**When?** Tuesday 15th December at 11:30am

**Where?** School Hall

**Who Can Attend?** All family and friends!

**In conjunction with our Christmas Mufti Day,**
we will be singing a few Christmas Carols at the completion of the show!

We hope to see you there!

SRC CHRISTMAS MUFTI DAY!

**When?** Tuesday 15th December, 2015

**Why?** To raise money to purchase gifts for the Kmart wishing tree to help those less fortunate.

**How Much?** Please donate a gold coin (or more if you can)!

Thank You!