



# St Philip Neri Catholic School

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TERM 4

WEEK 6

19<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear Parents,

As educators one of our goals whilst working in partnership with the parents is to prepare children for the world in which they live. We always hope that we provide them with the necessary skills to survive and make a valuable contribution to society. The primary school curriculum encompasses all aspects of life to ensure this occurs. I would like to share a letter from one of our parents illustrating how our recent Surf Education program benefited one of our students.

## **Subject: Near Tragedy Averted**

Hi Sue, Teachers and Staff,

What was a great day at the Beach nearly turned to tragedy on Saturday at The Entrance Beach.

Monique and Liah were surfing on their boogie boards, as Patrick and I watched and kept reminding them to stay within the flags. Unbeknownst to us, a strong rip was dragging them constantly to the right. After about the 10th time we signalled them to move to the left, towards the flags, Monique caught a wave in but we could see that Liah was in trouble. Within SECONDS, still clutching her board, she was being dragged with incredible speed, out to sea. Patrick and I raced in, but we were swiftly overtaken by a super human speeding life saver, then followed by 4, then another 10 - of them all racing to get Liah. They were aware of the danger she was in as she was about to be smashed against a submerged concrete wall that was directly in her path.

The surf boat was started up and hauled into the surf, but those amazing life savers were already there, pulling Liah to safety, towards us worried parents waiting in the water. One life saver was cut and bleeding, but Liah only had a bump to the head, from the concrete wall they collided with.

Why do I email you this?

Liah stayed "perfectly calm" (although terrified) and floated WITH the Rip, as she was TAUGHT to do..... thanks to the "Surf Ed" program.

Please, **keep this program** going. The only reason Liah didn't drown or panic that day, was because of what she was taught, at "Surf Ed", a few weeks ago.

Sandra and Patrick Gaul

Let us give thanks that Liah is safe and well. We are extremely grateful that Liah was able to implement what she had learnt at her Surf Education lessons to ensure her well being. Mrs. Gaul, I can assure you that we will be maintaining this program at St. Philip Neri. We also give thanks to the Lord for blessing us with wonderful volunteers who so generously give of their time to protect us and provide us with the survival skills which we need.

### **Musical Final Rehearsal**

*We are all so very excited about our musical performance of "Kids At Sea". Everybody is busy ensuring everything is perfect for our big night!*

*This Tuesday, November 23, the children will be travelling to the North Sydney Leagues Club for a rehearsal. Buses will leave school at 9.30am and return to school by 2.30pm.*

*Parents are welcome to take their children home at this time so that they can be rested before the evening performance.*

*Children will need to bring their costumes as we will be having a full dress rehearsal with lighting and sound at 12.00pm.*

*If there is anybody who will not be able to attend the evening performance they are most welcome to attend the dress rehearsal performance at 12.00pm.*

*Children will also be required to take their morning tea and lunch in a disposable bag.*

*Children are to wear their sports uniform and will change into their costumes for the dress rehearsal.*

*Children will take their costumes home and will need to come back to the club fully dressed in their costume and with make-up by no later than 6.45 pm.*

***We still have a few spare tickets if you would like one. Please notify the office asap!***

### **Primary School Leaders Day**

*Last Tuesday our school captains, Emily King and Phoebe Rowland were invited by Ms. Gladys Berejiklian, our State Member for Willoughby to participate in the Primary Schools Leaders Program. The girls and their parents attended Parliament House where they were treated to afternoon tea and were presented with an award to mark their contribution to leadership in their school community.*

*"We were extremely honoured to have this opportunity to meet with our colleague leaders from neighbouring schools and reflect on our role as school leaders. It was extremely exciting when Ms. Berejiklian presented us with our award for Leadership and Citizenship. We are very proud to be the School Captains of St. Philip Neri Primary School.".....Emily King and Phoebe Rowland*

### **Basketball Gala Day**

*We wish our Senior Girls Basketball Team every success at the North Shore Senior Basketball Gala Day.*

### **IT HAS ARRIVED.... HOT OFF THE PRESS!!!**

*Yes St. Philip Neri's cookbook "Home made" is here. It looks fantastic. Hurry into the office for your early preview. A few copies are still available so please place your order asap!*

***Congratulations to the St. Philip Neri cookbook committee.***

*Yours sincerely*

*Ms. Sue Bevan  
Principal*

## ***From the Assistant Principal***

### ***Musical***

*On Tuesday we will be having a dress rehearsal at the North Sydney Leagues Club at 12 noon. Please ensure that your child has their costume items for the rehearsal. We will be taken to and from the rehearsal by bus. After the rehearsal, the children will bring home their costume and they will need to return dressed ready to perform at 6.45pm. Some smaller items associated with their costume may be kept by the teachers. You will have received a different note for each class regarding the costume.*

*All children will need to bring their morning tea and lunch in a disposable bag. Please pack nourishing snacks and food and no 'junk food'. Last year, many of the children arrived very early and were extremely excited by the time the musical started. If at all possible, allow your child to have a rest in the afternoon before returning for the concert.*

### ***Message from the students***

*Dear Parents,*

*When we are singing our National Anthem, we are concerned that some of the children are being distracted by parents chatting to their friends while we are standing and singing our National Anthem. We would like to invite all parents to join in and sing with us while we sing our anthem to show respect and pride for our flag.*

*Kind regards*

*Emily King and Phoebe Rowland  
School Captains*

## **P&F NEWS**

*It's finally here!!!*

*Check out the sample copy of **HOMEMADE** in the front office. We are very proud of it and hope that you enjoy many happy meals with your family and friends. Don't forget to order your copy by leaving an envelope with \$30 (or multiples thereof if you want more than 1 copy) and your contact details at the front office.*

*Book the babysitter and get ready to enjoy some festive cheer at the SPN Parent's Christmas Party! The invitations have made their way home via the school bag mail system - so check them out for all the details.*

*The Walking Bus is an initiative of Tony Martin, a member of the P&F Executive and I would really appreciate it if you could please take the time to read the proposal attached to this week's newsletter. We are looking forward to your feedback, comments and suggestions so that we can see if it is something that meets the needs of the school. A big thank you Tony for driving this exciting new initiative on behalf of the school community.*

*Kind regards*

*Liska Turner  
President SPN P&F 0412 144 156*

## *Introduction of a - Walking Bus at St Philip Neri*

**Tony Martin, a member of the SPN P&F Executive has proposed the establishment of a Walking Bus at SPN and initiated a meeting with Alison Jones from Willoughby Council regarding introduction of a Walking Bus to the SPN school community.**

**He has prepared the follow update for the P&F and parent body:**



*They are very enthusiastic about our proposal and will assist in any way possible. They have provided a guideline that they have seen work with Mowbray Public School, where the program has worked for a number of years. The essential ingredient for success is going to be parental participation and a good organizational committee.*

*If we are going to be in a position to initiate a program we need to be advertising in the newsletter to garnish potential support. Without a critical number of supporters the program would not work. My initial thoughts are we try and run twice a week (say Monday/Friday or Tuesday/Thursday) for term 1 and then increase if it is successful. As far as adult participation is concerned we would need no less than 1 adult per 8 children. Assuming that there will be converging routes we would need at least 4 parents per day, which would allow for 32 participants.*

*One way of encouraging participation is to have a travel competition in each class. Children that use the walking bus or walk to school attract 5 points, riding the school bus 3 points and private car 1 point. At term end the child in each class who has the highest points wins a prize (potentially offered by a local retailer i.e. food, toys etc), with the schools top points winner recognized also. At Mowbray this set has seen participation in the scheme quadruple from the initial stages.*

*Another way of encouraging participation is too attract major sporting codes to send participants along to walk with students. Already people that come to mind in Northbridge include Phil Waugh (Wallabies & Waratahs) Simon Katich (NSW & Australia cricket). I have contacts in cricket and rugby at high levels, whilst other members of the school community could attract NRL support. This would not only give the codes some much needed community exposure, but would also allow access to role models for our students and greater exposure for the school.*

*Therefore in summary we need to seek interest from parents as to what level of support they are prepared to offer and see if we have a viable level to move this forward, for a potential commencement in week 2 or 3 of 2011.*

*We look forward to your feedback and in particular those of you would be prepared to "staff" all or part of a Walking Bus route. Please contact us as below*

*Liska Turner*

*0412 144 156*

*[liska@aplaceforspace.com.au](mailto:liska@aplaceforspace.com.au)*

*Tony Martin*

*0413 313 395*

*[anthony.martin@ap.cushwake.com](mailto:anthony.martin@ap.cushwake.com)*

# CAROLS @ NORTHBRIDGE

*Come along to join in the Christmas Celebration at Warners Park on Saturday 4th December. The carols will begin at 7pm and all the details can be found on the website [www.carolsatnorthbridge.com.au](http://www.carolsatnorthbridge.com.au).*

*This free community event is organized by the combined Churches of Northbridge and will include performances by local school choirs including our very own St. Philip Neri Choir.*

*Bring a picnic and the family and join in the fun!*

## PARISH NEWS



**FATHERS – DID YOU EVER PLAY IN A BAND?** Do you know how to play bass guitar? We are desperately seeking a bass player for our Christmas Carols at the Outdoor Mass at St Philip Neri Church on Christmas Eve. So if you would like to dust down your guitar and join us, we would be delighted.

Please call Trevor 9958-8611 or the Parish Office 9438 1011, or [office@lns.org.au](mailto:office@lns.org.au) and we can explain the program and rehearsal times. Thank you.

### **Volunteers required**

*The Parish is requiring volunteers to become acolytes to serve at the 9.00am mass on Sundays. If you are interested in taking up this role and contributing to the ministry of the church could you please contact Paul Mason @ Parish Office on 9438 1011.*