**Sefton Infants School Newsletter**

**Principal’s Report**

*Dear Parents/Carers,*

Term 2 has made a very successful start at Sefton Infants School. Our students have continued to consolidate and extend their skills and strategies in literacy and numeracy as well as undertake new learning experiences in creative arts and sport. This term our students will also study safety with medicines as part of their drug education in the curriculum area of Health and Personal Development. In Science and Technology, Kindergarten will be investigating the features and interdependence of living things, while Years 1 and 2 will explore the world of mini-beasts, the life-cycles of these small animals and their importance to our environment. To support and extend these studies in Science, all students K-2 will be going on an excursion next week (**Wednesday 28 May**) to Wild Life Sydney Zoo at Darling Harbour. Permission notes with all the details of this exciting excursion have already been distributed to the students. Please contact the school office if you need another note or would like assistance with payment of this school activity.

I wish extend my gratitude to all the families who supported our recent Mother’s Day Gift Stall. Close to $400 profit was made from this fund raising venture with proceeds going to the purchase of new home readers and library books for our students. A special thank you to Mrs Abdallah, Mrs Tran and Mr Alyamani for helping to operate the stall. I hope that all of our mothers and grandmothers enjoyed their gifts and had a lovely Mother’s Day.

**Year 2 students at our recent ANZAC Service.**

*Kind regards,*

Sharna Labbe

**Please note** Sefton Infants School Parents & Friends Association will be meeting on Friday 23rd May 9-10am in library. **All welcome.**
Attendance and lateness to school

Education in NSW is compulsory and legally required for all children from six years of age and under the minimum school leaving age.

Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will help your child to succeed in later life. Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps build and maintain friendships with other children. If your child doesn’t learn the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in later years.

It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day. A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

• has to go to a special religious ceremony
• is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (eg a funeral)
• is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

Do not keep your child away from school for the following:

• birthdays, shopping, minding other children, routine check-ups or care such as haircuts, minor family events, sleeping in.

What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?

All absences need to be explained to the school. Please send a note, telephone or visit the school to justify your child’s absence.

What should I do if our family is going on a holiday in school time?

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their child from school for family holidays as valuable learning time is missed. If your holiday is during school time, please inform the school office in advance and request for a leave and/or exemption form.

Why is arriving at school on time so important?

Arriving at school and class on time:

• ensures that your child doesn’t miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when children are most alert
• reduces disruptions to the learning of others when children arrive late to class
• helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine.

The attendance and punctuality of students at Sefton Infants School are monitored closely. If the principal does not consider an explanation for absence or lateness to be satisfactory, they will be recorded as unjustified. The NSW Department of Education and Communities may prosecute parents/carers if children of compulsory age have recurring numbers of unjustified absences from school.

Thank you for supporting your child’s regular attendance and punctuality at school.

Did you know?

If students miss as little as eight days a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed a year of education.

Does speaking another language at home confuse children?

Are your children fortunate enough to be growing up in a home where two or more languages are spoken? Many parents worry that bilingualism can cause confusion and even delays in learning for their children, but according the Raising Children Network, that’s not the case at all. A good knowledge of your native language can actually help your child with learning English. Bilingual children who are read books and spoken to in their in their native language find it easier to learn to read and write in English when they get to school. More information is at www.bit.ly/1m0agnk
2013-2014 Family Energy Rebate

DON’T MISS THE DEADLINE!
Apply before 5pm Friday 13 June 2014

$125* TOWARDS ENERGY BILLS

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the costs of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2013 - 2014 the rebate gives:

• A $125 credit against electricity bills for eligible applicants who receive electricity from an electricity retailer.
• A $137.50 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a caravan or mobile home park and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST:

• Be eligible for Family Tax Benefit A or B during 2012-2013 and have received a relevant payment; and
• Be the primary account holder of an electricity retailer, OR a long-term resident of a caravan or mobile park home, whose name appears on the electricity bills supplied by the park operator.

YOU CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO APPLY FOR THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE

• ONLINE – it takes a few minutes to submit and processing starts immediately.
• PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE
PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au

APPLY ONLINE NOW!

* eligibility criteria apply
At Sefton Infants School we are safe, respectful learners.

SAFE:
* Be in the right place.
* Move safely.
* Hands and feet to yourself.

RESPECTFUL
* Follow teacher instructions.
* Be kind to others. Let others learn.
* Care for our school.

LEARNERS
* Try your best.
* Be responsible for your own behaviour.

This Week’s Award Winners
There are many award winners this fortnight. Well done everyone! Keep working hard to be safe, respectful learners at our school.

Principal’s Award - 10 Super Sefton Awards
Timothy Tran - KB
Louis Ngo - KB
Ananya Seth - 1R
Adam El-Bikai - 1R
Zahra Rajayee - 1R
Lucy Fang - KB
Hamzah Masri - KB
Connor Billington - KB
Manahil Khan - 1R
Ghassan Bakkour - 1R
Erina Luu - 2Y
Rider Parata - 2Y

Younis Ramadan - KB
Conrad Krasu - 1R
Vy Tran - 1R
Hamze Elrich - 1R
Iris Guan - 1R
Rufayda Mazouz - KB
Lucas Francisco - KG
Sameer Khushbakat - KG
Krystal Nguyen - 1R
Atour Hammide - 2Y
Gary Angury - 2Y

Bronze Awards - 20 Super Sefton Awards
Khalidah Abdallah - KG
Mahnoor Sultan - KG
Zalia Billington - 1R
Elizabeth Banh - 1R
Ann Ngo - KG
Mohammad Djouah - 1R
Jamal Khushbakat - 2Y
Dylan Nguyen - 2Y

Veronica Luu - KG
Ali Dirani - KG
Savannah Kattan - 1R
Hugh Phan - 1R
Ahmad Haddad - KG
Menekse Yag - KG
Krystal Lam - 2Y

More award winners on the school website.