Sefton Infants School
Newsletter

Principal’s Report

Dear Parents/Carers,

Every school day counts! Did you know that if a student misses as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed over a year of education?

Why is regular attendance at school so important?

Regular and punctual school attendance is vital for your child’s learning in academic and social arenas. Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps to build and maintain friendships with other children. If your child misses learning the basic skills during these early years of schooling, they may develop learning problems in later years.

Education in NSW is compulsory for all children between the ages of six and below the minimum school leaving age. Sending your child to school every day is a condition of enrolment. Only a small number of absences from school may be justified if your child:

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

If your child has to stay away from school for one of the reasons stated above, it is important that you contact the school via letter or the telephone to explain 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 so a meeting can arranged with the school principal.

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.
- ensures your child hears important messages provided at the morning assembly.

Student attendance and punctuality are monitored very closely by the school and the district Home School Liaison Officer. Recurring unexplained student absences or lateness to school may be investigated by the Home School Liaison Officer and legal action may be undertaken. Thank you for supporting your child’s regular attendance and punctuality at school.

Kind regards,

Sharna Labbe
Meet the Teacher Afternoon

All parents and carers are invited to a special ‘Meet and Greet’ session involving the teachers of Sefton Infants School. This informative session will take place on **Wednesday 18th Feb from 4:30—5:30pm**. Come along to meet your child’s class teacher, find out about your child’s class routines and expectations, as well as the key concepts and topics he/she will be learning about in 2015. It is also a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents at the school. The meetings will be taking place in the K-2 classrooms and an informal afternoon tea in the school playground. Parental involvement and interest in schooling is a positive factor in children’s learning success. This meeting is just for parents and carers. Please find alternative care arrangements for your children. We hope to see you at our 2015 Parent Meet and Greet.

Vision Assessments

Professional optometrists and orthoptists will be conducting comprehensive vision assessments for all students from Kindergarten to Year 2 over a series of days during the first two weeks of March. This is the same vision assessment that would be done if you were to attend an optometrist and will take approximately 20 minutes per child. The purpose of the vision testing to identify and measure any vision problems, eye teaming, eye focusing, eye tracking difficulties and visual perceptual skills that may affect learning in the classroom. Such undetected vision problems can interfere with a child’s ability to learn and meet their full potential. A report of the findings from the assessments will be provided and will include whether glasses or vision therapy may be indicated and whether further testing is needed.

The vision assessments are free, being covered by medicare. We do, however, require parents’ permission and your medicare number in order for the comprehensive vision assessments to take place. These permission notes will be distributed soon and need to be returned to your child’s class teacher as soon as possible. The optometrists and orthoptists visiting our school will **not** be able to provide the comprehensive vision assessment unless your child has returned the signed permission note. If you have any questions about the upcoming vision assessments please contact Ms Labbe (Principal) at the school or the Eyecare Plus Chullora (9642 7799).

Parents and Friends Association (P&F)

All parents and friends of Sefton Infants School and Preschool are warmly invited to our first **P & F (Parents and Friends Association) Meeting for 2015** being held in the school library on **Wednesday 25 February** at 9am. Come along to this friendly get-together to meet other parents, enjoy some morning tea and find out more about what is happening at our school. It is also a wonderful opportunity to contribute your own ideas to school events and fundraising activities. We look forward to seeing you there.
**Staff 2015**

Here is a current list of 2015 Sefton Infants School staff members. If you have any concerns in regards to your child’s learning or need to relay any important information about your child, please make an appointment to speak to your child’s class teacher before or after school.

- Principal: Ms Labbe
- School Administration Manager: Mrs Costello
- School Administration Officers: Mrs Mencinsky / Ms Kingman
- Preschool Teacher: Mrs Talevska
- Preschool Support Learning Officer: Mrs Richards
- Kindergarten Blue: Miss Colley
- K/1 Green: Ms Lee
- 1 Red: Ms Dulaurens
- 2 Yellow: Mrs Davidson / Ms Labbe
- English as a Second Language: Mrs Taranec
- Reading Recovery / Learning Support: Ms Cosovan
- Community Language - Vietnamese: Mr Tran
- Community Language - Arabic: Mrs El-Asmar
- Teacher Librarian: Mrs Nicholls
- Release Teacher: Mrs Koumoulas
- School Learning Support Officers: Mrs Tyson / Mrs Byrne /Mrs Meesorn-iam / Ms Kingman
- School Counsellor: Mrs Kosac (Fridays)
- General Assistant: Mr Atterton

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**Playgroup 2015 - Support Needed**

Sefton Infants School is planning to soon recommence Playgroup sessions for local children aged 0-4 years on Friday mornings (9:30 - 10:30am) in our school playground and library but we need your support. Play is vital for young children’s learning. Playgroup provides an informal play session in a relaxed and friendly environment for children aged between 0-4 years. Mums, dads, grandparents or caregivers bring their children and stay at the session to interact with other adults and to play with their children.

Why come along to playgroup?

- Playgroup gives children an opportunity to have fun, make friends and develop new skills through play.
- Playgroup provides parents and carers with an opportunity to meet other parents and carers, make friends, as well as share ideas and experiences.
- Playgroup allows parents and carers to spend quality time with their children, encouraging, helping or simply playing with their children.
- Playgroup is not-for-profit. There is no cost to this worthwhile program.
- Some 103,000 families already participate regularly in playgroups all around Australia.

To gain the great benefits of playgroup, we need the help of parents to help set up and run the informal sessions. No formal training is required and you will be supported by staff from the school. If you are willing to be part of a great team to help with our weekly playgroup sessions, please contact Ms Labbe in the school office. Your help is much appreciated.
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.

Super Sefton Awards

You may have noticed your child with a bright orange Super Sefton Award in their hand or heard that he or she has received a ‘Super Sefton Award during the school day. Our Super Sefton awards are part of the whole school student welfare policy and procedures which aims to reinforce positive student behaviour. The students earn Super Sefton awards for being safe, respectful learners in the classroom or playground, demonstrating our school rules. The students place any awards earned in a special gold award box with a weekly award draw from the box giving a student an opportunity to gain a prize. In addition, the students collect their ‘Super Seftons’ to earn other awards categorised at different levels. The collection and counting of awards starts afresh each year.

The award levels are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF SUPER SEFTON AWARDS</th>
<th>AWARD LEVEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First 10 Super Sefton Awards</td>
<td>Principal’s Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Super Sefton Awards (2nd lot of 10)</td>
<td>Bronze Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Super Sefton Awards</td>
<td>Silver Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Super Sefton Awards</td>
<td>Gold Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Super Sefton Awards</td>
<td>Platinum Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 Super Sefton Award</td>
<td>Medal Awarded</td>
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Stationery for School - Years 1 & 2

Children in Years 1 and 2 are required to bring a basic stationery pack to school with them each day. This pack should include:

- Glue Stick
- 2 lead HB pencils
- Rubber/eraser
- Pencil sharpener
- Coloured pencils (6 or 12 packs only) – no need for larger numbers
- SMALL pencil case

Would you please regularly check your child’s pencil case to see whether you need to buy replacements. Please label all items with your child’s name. This equipment will also be necessary for children to complete their weekly homework.

Thank you for your support with these school items.