**Swimming Success**

We've had a splashing time this week, with the Swimming Carnival being successfully held on Tuesday despite the early morning rain.

When children travel on buses and attend locations outside of the school they are ambassadors for our school community and their behaviour is expected to reflect our school code of conduct and values system. What a pleasure it was to witness so many of our students displaying such great behaviour, being in the right place at the right time, using manners when speaking to teachers and other adults as well as showing care and consideration of others.

Of particular note was the enthusiastic sportsmanship and team support shown. War cries were shouted with vigour and I am sure that many students were well worn out by even that amount of energy being expended, let alone with all the mammoth swimming efforts.

Congratulations to all participating students, whether as swimmers or as spectators, who contributed to make the carnival the success it was.

A huge thank you to Miss Benson for her co-ordination of the day and our team of teachers and parents who assisted in making the day run well.

**Band Recommences**

The walls have been vibrating with the sounds of music as the students in the Junior and Senior bands have recommenced their rehearsals and tutorials. The dedication of our students in practising their instruments is noticeable and those who have put in the time over the holidays have certainly shown their progress in aptitude. It is most helpful to the Band Conductor, Mr Skues, and the various tutors if students arrive on time and we thank our parents for the commitment they too make, when they provide these opportunities for their children.

**Property on the Playground**

The playgrounds of school have been littered with lunch boxes, drink bottles and other lost property at the end of the school day. These valuable items are the property of children of our school. Items being left on the playground causes problems of lost property for the children involved but also encourages scavenging by vermin. We pride ourselves in our school grounds and our health and safety management. We hope that all children will be encouraged from home, as they are at school, to be responsible for their personal property.

**Parents collecting children from school.**

Our school has a very supportive parent body, which is evident each morning and afternoon by the number of parents who bring and collect their children from the school grounds. In the interests of sound education of all students in the school, we ask that meeting places be arranged for students and their parents away from classrooms, nearer the hall and shelter areas. It can be quite difficult for teachers to engage their students in lessons when there is a lot of noise outside the classrooms. Your assistance in this matter would be greatly support sound educational practice.

Mrs Anne Whale  
Relieving Principal

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**Value of the Week**

The Personal Value for the coming week is that of **Responsibility**, with a particular emphasis on **“learn all you can”**.

Part of becoming an independent and self-directed learner is taking responsibility for one’s own learning. Appreciating that it is your responsibility to pay attention in class; to be on task; to complete work within the set time; to produce your best work; to ask questions; to seek help if you don't understand; to listen; to concentrate; to complete homework: these are all components of “learning all you can” and of developing responsibility.

Next week, teachers will be talking with students in class and at assembly about this value and will be looking for opportunities to reward students who demonstrate these behaviours.

Parents can assist by also talking about **responsibility** and how it relates to learning, and encouraging their children to “learn all they can” each and every day.

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**Dates to Remember 2011**

**Term 1**  
23 Feb Welcome BBQ & disco  
28 Mar School Photos

**Term 1 Money & Note due**  
18 Feb BBQ reply  
18 Feb $50 Yoga  
18 Feb $60 Futsal  
18 Feb Drama Club Expressions of interest  
25 Feb $40 Hip Hop  
25 Feb $65 PSSA season 1 Sport payment
Welcome to all families attending our P&C meeting, particularly those new to our school. Your support through our parent organisation is very important to our school community.

Our classes are established and operating smoothly. We now have 21 classes, which includes our largest Kindergarten intake of 98 students. Parent Information Meetings are being held currently to assist parents in understanding the processes and expectations of specific classes and programs run within the school. Best Start assessment of our Kindergarten students is complete and Maths and English groups for classes from Yr 1 –6 will begin during Week 7. These programs and arrangements allow teachers to cater for different student needs and learning styles and for students to be confident within the classroom/group.

Secondment
Mrs Hewson has been seconded to Regional Office at St Peters and will return to Connells Point on Monday March 7th

BER Program
Our building program is being wound up with only some minor items to be completed prior to the handover of our 3 new classrooms and the library. Classes are already using our new facilities and are delighted with the new extensive learning areas.

Refurbishment of the ‘old library’ into 2 new classrooms is underway. Once this is complete 6B and 5/6G will occupy these rooms. It is hoped the rooms will be ready by the beginning of March.

Becoming Asia Literate
Last year we participated in this program through our links with Blakehurst High School. The program was very successful and students in Year 4 enjoyed learning how to speak some Japanese language and learning about Japanese culture. The opportunity to again offer this program to Year 4 will be taken up for 2011 and it is hoped lessons will begin next week. Classes will have lessons each alternate Monday.

Sport and Dance Selections
This is the time of year when many children are trying out, perhaps for the first time, for selection in PSSA teams and dance/choir/drama groups. Unfortunately, not all children will be selected for an activity they have set their hearts on. Places are limited, because we can only select a set number of players in the PSSA competition, or because we can only supervise or train a restricted number of students.

This is the time when resilience is needed. Resilience is part of our emotional intelligence. When faced with a problem, resilient people focus on finding a solution rather than getting depressed and feeling like victims. It is important that children understand that even talented students miss out on spots, because we have so many students who work hard and perform well. Every year, there are disappointed students and disappointed parents. Teachers do their very best to select on merit, based on their judgment and what they see on the day. Your support in helping children handle disappointment (or success) gracefully is crucial to their ability to grow and learn. Children who try out for selection need to understand they may miss out. No child should expect to be selected; if they are successful, then that’s a wonderful bonus.

Children who are lucky enough to make a team are expected to be considerate towards those who may be feeling very disappointed. Having empathy for how others are feeling is a very important quality that we encourage in all our students, and this time of year is the perfect opportunity to demonstrate it.

Welcome BBQ
I look forward to seeing all families at our Welcome BBQ next week. Let’s hope the weather is kind to us. I remind those attending that all DET sites ban the consumption of alcohol at events where children are present, and that there is no smoking within school grounds at any time.
School is an opportunity for much more than academic achievement; it is a caring place in which children can learn a myriad of life skills. As much as we would like to defend our children from the difficulties in life, from experiencing crisis, change or loss, we cannot! However, we can give them the tools to recover from difficult times when those hit.

Life is not about what happens to us but what we do about it - Ronit Baras

One of the most useful life skills is resilience. For some children, changing seats in the classroom, a friend saying, "I'm not your friend anymore", or not being invited to play during a break can be "the end of the world". Still, the way children (and adults) deal with these difficulties is what sets them apart. Psychologist Dr Barbara Leffler says, "Resilience can be learned and developed".

Resilience is part of our emotional intelligence. When faced with a problem, resilient people focus on finding a solution rather than getting depressed and feeling like victims. Resilience is another name to emotional strength. According to Dr Leffler, everyone is born with a different temperament and how it interacts with our life experiences, can determine how resilient they become. However, resilience can also be learned. We cannot control many of our life experiences; we can only control our response to them. As parents and teachers, our role is it to help our children respond positively and with strength.

Are you Robbing Your Child of their Resilience

**Robber 1:**
Fight all their battles for them.
Nothing wrong with going into bat when kids struggle or meet with difficulty inside or outside school, but make sure this is the last resort, not the first option.

**Resilience notion 1:** Give kids the opportunity to develop their own resourcefulness.

**Robber 2:**
Make their problem, your problem
Sometimes parents can take too much responsibility for issues that are really up to children to work out or decide. Here's a clue if you are wondering what I am talking about: a jumper is something a mother puts on her son when she is cold!

**Resilience notion 2** Make their problem, their problem.

**Robber 3:**
Give kids too much voice
In this era of giving children a voice it is easy to go overboard and allow them too much of a say in what happens to them. Kids often take the easy option to avoid hard or unpleasant situations.

**Resilience notion 3** Make decisions for kids and expect them to adjust and cope.

**Robber 4:**
Put unrealistic or relentless pressure on kids to perform
Expectations about success and achievement are important. Too low and kids will meet them. Too high and kids can give up. Too much and kids can experience anxiety.

**Resilience notion 4** Keep expectations in line with children’s abilities and don’t put excessive pressure on them.

**Robber 5:**
Let kids give in too easily
Resilient learners link success with effort. They don’t give up because they don’t like a teacher or when confronted with multi-step or more complex activities. Similarly they don’t bail out of a sporting team half way through the season because the team is not winning or they are not enjoying it.

**Resilience notion 5** Encourage kids to complete what they have started even if the results aren’t perfect.

Continued next page
**Robber 6:**

**Neglect to develop independence**
Don’t wait until they are teenagers to develop the skills of independent living. Start early and promote a broad skills set so that they can look after themselves if you are not around.

**Resilience notion 6:** Don’t routinely do for kids what they can do for themselves.

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**Robber 7:**

**Rescue kids from challenging or stretch situations**
There are many times kids are put in situations that are outside their comfort zones. For instance, giving a talk, singing at the school concert or going on school camp may be challenges for some kids. They are all situations that kids usually cope with so show your confidence in them and skill them up rather than opt for avoidance.

**Resilience notion 7:** Overcoming challenges enables kids to grow and improve

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**Medical Information**

This week every student has been given a Medical Information Form. Please fill in the details requested on the form to enable us to best cater for your child. If teachers are fully aware of conditions or activities which impact on your child, they are able to keep your child safe and/or modify activities where need be.

Up to date contact information is also vital in the event we need to contact you urgently. Your prompt completion of this form allows for excursion planning, playground arrangements and classroom management to proceed smoothly.

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**Student details reminder**

**Are your details up to date?**
Have you moved or changed phone numbers? Please inform the front office with any changes in your living situation so we can contact you if the need arises.

**If your child is absent from school**
If your child has to be absent from school for any reason, please send a signed note explaining the reason for the absence within seven days.

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**CPPS Chess Competition**

Our Chess Club is commencing on Tuesday, 22 February on our giant outdoor board with the first competition being held for Year 3 students.

Those students who are interested in participating should see Mrs Stevenson 2nd half of lunch next Tuesday on the primary playground. Time to hone those strategic chess playing skills!
Create East 2011 “THE BUTTON”

Gifted and Talented Workshops and Performance

Students who are gifted and talented in the arts are invited to take part in Create East’s 2011 production “The Button”. This regional initiative is a three-day workshop, culminating in an integrated, high quality performance. Students are invited from year 4, 5 and 6 who are gifted and talented in Band, Choir, Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Film Production.

Program details:

Workshops Monday 4 April & Tuesday 5 April 9:00am – 4:00pm
Continuing Wednesday 6 April 10:00am – 9:00pm approx. Including 2 shows.
The workshops and performances are held at the Seymour Theatre Centre, corner of Cleveland St and City Rd Chippendale. Some Art workshops are at Glebe Public School, Derwent St Glebe.

Student fees are $120 per student for the three days, including workshops and performances.

DANCE AUDITIONS are on 4 March at Forest Lodge Public School, Cnr Bridge & Ross St, Glebe 9-11am. Wear suitable clothing & bring any dance shoes.

DRAMA AUDITIONS will take place on 4 March at Forest Lodge Public School, Cnr Bridge & Ross St Glebe 1-3pm. Wear school uniform.

Applications can be obtained at the school office and must be returned with payment by Monday 21 February. Please see Mrs Stevenson if you have any questions.

Awards

Principal’s Awards have been received by:

- Adriana
- Georgia
- Bronwyn
- Lara
- Phoebe
- Aya

Congratulations to these students for consistently displaying our Values in Action.

Band News

Congratulations to Sophia who through her dedication to music outside of school, has picked up skills and has been able to successfully join our School Senior Band in a vacant position as a flautist.
**Sport**

Sport arrangements begin this week with both PSSA competition and Leisure sport activities commencing. Students involved in these activities, whether leaving the school or those who have a specialist teacher come in, are representatives of Connells Point PS. They are therefore expected to display exemplary behaviour and sportsmanship at all times. A Code of Conduct will be issued to every student in a team which needs to be read, discussed and signed by both the pupil and a parent. Your support in making sure your child understands the expectation of the Code of Conduct is most appreciated.

**Student Banking**

Student banking has commenced again for 2011. Anyone who wishes to bank through the School student banking system needs to forward their books and deposits into school on Wednesdays. If you don’t have a student banking account and would like one please leave your child’s name, class and contact number with the office ladies and I will forward an application to you. It’s a great way to not only save money but to also help fund raising for our School. Happy banking!

Linda

**P & C News**

**Canteen News**

We now do lunch orders on Fridays but not for Primary students in PSSA sport teams.

Due to some roster re-organising we are short volunteers the 2nd Monday and 4th Thursday. Please contact Sharon or Robyn if you are able to help. Thank you.

**Canteen Roster**

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**Pick Up Zone Roster**

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We held our AGM on Tuesday night and, once again, I have been re-elected as President of our P & C. As in the past few of years, I will endeavour to perform my role to the best of my capabilities. I can assure you that my first and foremost objective is to support Connells Point Public School in whatever way I can in a dedicated, friendly and professional manner.

Working with me on the P&C Committee are:

- **Vice Presidents:** Mrs Valmas & Ms Olney
- **Secretary:** Mrs Fernandez
- **Treasurer:** Mr Chen

I would like to thank our outgoing committee member Ms Jeakings, who has been Vice President for the past three years. Ms Jeakings has decided to spread her wings within our school and has taken up the position of School Banking Coordinator. I would like to thank our outgoing Bank Coordinator, Mrs Soussa who has held this position for the past eight years.

At the P & C AGM we were very proud to give Mrs Whale, on behalf of Mrs Hewson, a cheque for $40,000 to spend in areas that Mrs Hewson feels will benefit our school the best. I’m sure Mrs Hewson will detail where the money will be spent once all funds have been allocated.

A **BIG** thank you to everyone at Connells Point Public School for your support and generosity. All the money we raise goes back into making our children’s schooling bigger and better!

This year, we have decided to hold a Spring Fair to celebrate all our new buildings and also our annual Trivia Night. We will also be holding an Election BBQ and our usual Mothers, Fathers and Cup Cake Day stalls. Stay tuned for more information about these events!

The P&C meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the staff room to discuss various events and happenings in our school. It is a good way to keep yourself up to date with what is going on at your child’s school. Please feel free to come along and join us. If you cannot make these meetings but would like to table something please do not hesitate to contact me.

Looking forward to working with everyone throughout 2011.

Mrs Szalay  
P&C President
WELCOME TO 2011 BBQ AND DISCO

The P&C Committee extends an invitation to all families at Connells Point Public School to join us at this annual event to welcome new families to our school community.

WHEN: 23rd February, 2011 at 5.45pm - 8.30pm
        K - 6 Disco - 6.30pm - 8pm

VENUE: At the School

YOUR HOSTS: The P&C Committee supported by the School Council

Sausages and chicken kebabs will be provided at a cost of $2.00 each. Soft drinks & water will also be available.
A gold coin donation for the Disco on the night would be appreciated.
WHAT TO BRING: Your picnic rug and/or chair and dancing shoes! You may also bring along some of your own nibbles and drinks.

RSVP: Friday 18th February using the form below

To assist with catering, please return this form together with your money to your class teacher or to the office by Friday 18th February.

The ___________________________________________Family of Class(es) ____________________________
will be attending the school Welcome BBQ and Disco.

No. of adults attending_____________ No. of children attending__________________________

No. of Sausages____________________ No. of Kebabs__________________________

Please indicate if you are a new family to the school □

Please indicate if you could assist on the night with the □ Setup, □ BBQ, □ Welcome table or
□ Disco Supervision
Contact name & Phone: _______________________________________________________

Connells Point Public School is a Smoking and Alcohol Free Zone.