Dear Parents and Friends of SGS,

The Primary Swimming Carnival was a fabulous event. The wonderful excited cheering and support, the talent and participation in the pool was heightened by the very close finish in the House competition. Congratulations to all students and especially Jones House on the narrow win.

Paperless
We have moved to all electronic communication rather than paper copies. This is due to the ease of sending notes and details of activities through this method as well as the reduction in paper and photocopying. We have had some difficulties with this change for which I apologise. We received some very good feedback and suggestions from the P & F on Tuesday night, which we will seek to implement. We will not be printing copies in the meantime but will endeavour to continue to improve these processes. If you have any need of help using the electronic methods please make contact with Mrs Alice Forsythe in the office.

Learning
You will often hear me talking about the focus on learning and this being a key to help prepare students who are at school now for the ever changing fast paced world they will enter. This learning needs to incorporate the dispositions or capabilities to learn for oneself. This is different than working through a set curriculum and retaining the knowledge and using it.

The Building Learning Power language that we have spent time using over the last 18 months are the key capabilities that we seek all students to develop in their learning journey. Please consider how you can use this language at home to strengthen the connections to the learning of your child/ren at school.

Paul Smart
Principal
The drought has broken!
Congratulations to Jones House on a thrilling win at the Primary Swimming Carnival held last Tuesday. What a wonderful day it was in every respect!
Well done to all students on your wholehearted efforts in the pool, on your amazing house group cheering from the grandstand, and on your general behaviour throughout the Carnival. You were all superb!
Thank you Miss Day for your excellent organisation; Primary staff for your tireless assistance, and parents who took on various support roles, which all ensured the programme ran so smoothly. Special thanks to Mr Darren Crowther and Mr Nigel Jones, who assisted so generously all day, with race starting and stroke judging duties respectively.
There were so many wonderful efforts at the Carnival from the students, however, one young boy, epitomised the spirit of the day for me so clearly. Campbell Smith in Year 2, at his first carnival, swam in all four 50m events for his age-group (freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly), and while not winning in any event, never gave up, showing amazing determination and sportsmanship. His enthusiasm was just a delight to share. Well done Campbell! You were a winner in my books for sure!

A reminder that our Kinder/Year 1 Swim Fun Day will be held next week on Friday, 19 February, at the Scone Memorial Pool for all students in Years K-1. Information has been sent home in a letter to all families, and again, we do look forward to sharing in this special activity.

Over these first weeks of term, students in Years 1-6 have participated in various ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research) Assessments, which have included: PAT Maths, PAT Reading Vocabulary, PAT Reading Comprehension and PAT Spelling. The ACER PAT (Progressive Achievement Tests) provide us with valuable information to inform teaching and learning.

The ACER PAT assessments are an Australian, nationally normed series of tests, designed to provide objective, norm-referenced information to teachers about their students’ skills and understandings in a range of key areas. At the centre of each PAT test is a described proficiency scale, providing both quantitative and qualitative data on student performance, making the PAT tests ideal for understanding students’ current strengths and weaknesses, informing teaching and learning, and monitoring progress over time. These assessments will be completed again in Term 4. You may be interested to discuss these tests with your child’s class teacher, during Parent/Teacher Interviews in Week 11 of this term.

In 2016, our Primary Classroom theme is ‘Great Leaders Who Change Their World’. Classroom names are:

Kindergarten Blue - David Attenborough Kindergarten Gold - Galileo
Year 1 Blue - Steve Irwin Year 1 Gold - Teddy Roosevelt
Year 2 Blue - Martin Luther King Year 2 Gold - Bono
Year 3 Blue - Walt Disney Year 3 Gold - Oprah
Year 4 Blue - Charles Perkins Year 4 Gold - Nelson Mandela
Year 5 Blue - Lady Di Year 5 Gold - Theodor Geisel (Dr Seuss)
Year 6 Blue - Confucius Year 6 Gold - Jane Goodall
Primary Music - Mozart Learning Support - Nancy Wake
School Chaplain - Jesus Primary Office - William Carey

We trust the students will enjoy learning about these leaders and their stories during this year, as well as being inspired to go out and become leaders in their own generation and in their own field – leaders who also change their world.

Good Humour for the Week
Why was the cookie sad?
Because his mother was a wafer so long!
What is a pirate's favourite subject?
Arrrrrrrt!

Congratulations to Isla Hamson (Year 6 Gold), Maggie Callinan (Year 1 Gold), Hamish White (Year 5 Gold), Elsie Kennedy (Kinder Blue), Jackson Selwood (Year 1 Gold), George Patterson (Year 2 Gold) and Jack Murphy (Year 1 Gold), who are all celebrating birthdays this week. I do wish these students all the best as they enjoy this special milestone and share the time with family and friends.
From the Chaplain

In Chapel this week we marked the first day of the Lent Season by observing ‘Ash Wednesday’. At our ‘Ash Wednesday’ services we traced the sign of the cross on our foreheads with ash, to remind ourselves that we are imperfect, that we experience a sense of incompleteness (our human sin), however also to remind ourselves that because of Jesus, our faith in Him, we can stand forgiven and can be friends with God. We discussed the need to confess our failings to a loving God in the full confidence that when we do, we can become closer to God. The Bible says that it is ‘sin’ that separates us from God.

We prayed that chapel today, and our upcoming six week series leading to Easter, may assist in deepening our understanding of Jesus. We will be taking a fresh look at the person of Jesus, focusing on the epic events of His life that show us who He is. Today, and as this season unfolds, may we be reminded of God’s great love for us, most fully embodied in Jesus.

Weekly Chapel Bible passages and relevant links can be found at twitter.com/sgschapel

‘App’ of the month: Matthias Media Bible overview and daily devotional

In Prayer this week:
Reflect on: 1 John 1:7-9

Give thanks for: God’s generosity in giving us Jesus; for opportunities to grow and serve others; for those who serve our school; the safe and positive time Year 7 & 11 camp last week; our School Council
Pray for: For new students and families who have come to our school this year; Families and students who are ill or struggling at the moment; For Year 2 & Year 9 students
(specific prayer requests can be sent to prayers@sgsnsic.edu.au to be prayed for by our weekly prayer group- not published in newsletter)

Rev’d Nate
natkinson@sgs.nsw.edu.au

Parents & Staff Prayer Time
Meet: Multi Purpose Room
When: Mondays 3:15pm
prayers@sgs.nsw.edu.au

‘Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful’
Colossians 4:2

Caring for the individual
We would like to say a huge thank you to all our families for jumping on board with all our new communication system. We hope you have been enjoying looking at the White Boards inside our rooms and getting updates from “Keptme”. All the educators have been very excited to make the children’s programme and learning more visual to you, the families.

We have been lucky enough to receive a donation of $1500 from Godolphin and Sheikh Mohammed. We have purchased and installed two outdoor notice boards. These boards are used to display important information for families. These are an excellent addition to our outdoor areas. We sincerely thank them for their very generous donation.

Over the holiday period we added some handy links for our families to our web page. If you visit our website you will find information links to local services that may be useful to Yellow Cottage families and you can now access a link to our “Lunchbox Traffic Lights”. We would be interested to hear from families about any other links or information they would like available on our website. Please chat to Kirsty if you have any suggestions.

Please remember at pick up time if you have older siblings coming over to The Yellow Cottage that they are to stay with you, while you organise your preschool child and sign them out. We have had a few safety issues with older children being boisterous on the preschool equipment. Some of the younger children have found this overwhelming. Please be very aware that for some of the younger children they are very tired at this end of the day. They are waiting for their family to turn up and sometimes they are feeling emotional and vulnerable, so a much older child running at them and climbing fast is scary and enough to set them off.

Over the last two weeks we have been helping Year 10 PASS with a major assessment task. The Yellow Cottage children have been lucky enough to take part in some sport coaching clinics organised and run by the Year 10 students. These students have proved themselves to be excellent role models and mentors to the preschool children. Mr Croucher approached us about this idea and it has become such a special time for The Yellow Cottage and Year 10. It has been magical to watch the Year 10 students interact and mentor the pre-schoolers, they all made huge efforts to call them by name, get down to their level and encourage them all while having lots of fun. I had the opportunity to stand back and watch it all taking place and you could not miss the smiles on the pre-schoolers faces and the looks of adoration while the Year 10 students were completely engaged and focused on encouraging and supporting their little preschool friends through the set tasks. Thank you Mr Croucher for including us and thank you Year 10 for being such caring mentors. We look forward to more fun next week.

Our digital portfolio system is an integral part of our day. Please ensure you have your “KeptMe” app installed and working. Please see Kirsty if you are having any difficulties. All staff use this platform everyday to share information with you, it is essential that you can access this.

Don’t forget if you are interested in doing “Amy’s School of Dance” and you are at preschool on Wednesday you can enrol in her Yellow Cottage class held at The Yellow Cottage at 1.00pm on Wednesday. There will be both a ballet class and Hip Hop. Also “Musical Moments” will again be offering “ABC Music and Me”, if you attend preschool on a Monday these classes will be held at 10.30am. Please see staff for more information about these exciting opportunities.

**Important Dates for this term:**
- **February 22-26** Fire Drill Week. Every day at The Yellow Cottage we will complete a Fire Drill.
- **February 26-March 8** Life Education Visits will occur across this week.
- **March 2** Jeral Puppets’ Performance.
Sarah Caslick delivered a presentation at the University of New England last week as part of the GRASS (Growing Regional and Agricultural Students in Science) scholarship programme which Sarah was successful in attaining.

Below is a statement from UNE with a brief explanation on the UNE GRASS Scholarship programme.

"Tertiary bound school leavers, who completed a UNE GRASS Industry Placement Scholarship will offer a presentation outlining their experience in exploring careers in agricultural science. This scholarship experience has been designed to present to these motivated and able high school students, the broad range of science based career opportunities supporting primary industries available following a tertiary pathway. These students have also attended the UNE GRASS Industry Placement Scholarship student camp held at the university, which show-cased and allowed students to discover and experience the academic opportunities and campus life for students at UNE. Students presenting will outline their experiences and the impact this scholarship will have on their future choices".

**Equestrian News**

Just a reminder that Tuesday Horse Sports will commence on Tuesday 1 March. If you have any queries please contact me – adavies@sgs.nsw.edu.au.

I have not had any confirmation in regard to Blandford Horse Sports Day this year. As it appears to be on the same day as Grandparents’ Day and the School Musical, we as a school would not be able to compete.

On a positive note – Scone Horse Sports for Schools will definitely be held at White Park on Monday 2 May 2016. Plans are also underway for a Scone Grammar Horse Sports day on Monday 1 August – Horses’ Birthday!! More information about this will be in future newsletters.

For Secondary Students wishing to compete at Coonabarabran this year please note entries open on 23 February and close on 8 April. Keep an eye on the Coonabarabran High School website. Please indicate to me if you intend to compete at this event in 2016.

More school saddle cloths are on order and should be in the Clothing Shop soon.

Anne Davies
The Scone Grammar School Foundation

The Scone Grammar School Foundation was established in 1989 with specific, short, and long term objectives. These goals are there to ensure that the Foundation assists the School to thrive and grow according to the Strategic Plan of the School Council. The Foundation is a company limited by guarantee.

The Foundation committee meets six times within the school year at the library on a Thursday from 5.30pm. Generally the committee consists of interested parents, ex-school parents and friends of the School and members of the Foundation who wish to make a contribution to the School, their children’s education and the education of future generations of SGS children.

More specifically the Foundation’s role is:

- To provide a substantial and varied asset base to ensure ongoing financial independence of the School.
- To provide finance for capital works for the growth and development of the School.
- To ensure the provision of essential facilities and additional specialist staff.
- To provide scholarships and bursaries to enable deserving students to benefit from Scone Grammar School’s unique environment.
- To encourage financial commitment from the School community, as well as personal interest in the general development of the School.
- To educate the School community to better understand the role of the Foundation and the School’s supporters in funding the development of the School for the present and future generations of the children of the Upper Hunter.

The Foundation welcomes your interest and contribution. The Foundation is lead by Mr Brett Hails as the Chairman, Mrs Kelly Harvison as Treasurer and Mrs Kirsty Cole as Executive Officer managing the administration and a great committee.

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2016 – 5.30PM**
**IN THE SGS LIBRARY**

**History Tour 2017**

In conjunction with Academy Travel, SGS will be running a History tour in April 2017. There have been two previous successful tours in 2011 and 2014, incorporating sites of historical interest and relevance to both Ancient and Modern History. The ability to run the tour will be subject to numbers of participants. I invite all students and parents who are interested in the tour to read the proposed trip itinerary which is on the home page of the SGS website under QUICK LINKS. If you would like to find out more information please download the Expression of Interest Form and return to me by February 22. The 2017 tour would begin in Istanbul and visit the Gallipoli peninsula; from there the group would fly to Rome and visit the Bay of Naples, including Pompeii and Herculaneum, which is the core study for HSC Ancient History. The tour would then fly to Germany, taking in the cities of Munich, Nuremburg and Berlin, relevant to the study of Germany in HSC Modern History. Whether you are a student or a parent, this tour should provide a wonderful opportunity to see some amazing places of historical and cultural interest! If there is sufficient interest, there will be an information evening later in the term.

Ms Gibson
Head HSIE Faculty  E: cgibson@sgs.nsw.edu.au
10 February 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Expressions of Interest in a Japan Trip in 2016**

I would like to propose a 12 day trip to Japan, for secondary students, in December 2016.

The trip would include some time spent in Tokyo where we would visit the Tokyo Sky Tree, Asakusa Shrine, Shinjuku and Akihabara. We would then spend a day at Tokyo Disneyland. This would be followed by a trip to the beautiful nearby region of Hakone which is near Mt Fuji. After that, we would travel by shinkansen to Hiroshima where students would do a one night homestay (two students per family) and then visit the historic towns of Kyoto and Nara.

The cost is estimated to be approximately $4,100 for 15 students and 2 teachers which would be paid in installments.

Parents are also welcome to come on the Excursion.

If you are interested, at this stage, in your child attending this overseas trip, please return the note below. It is only an Expression of Interest at this stage. We will hold an Information Evening in preparation if there is sufficient interest to go ahead. A definite commitment would need to be made by Friday, 26 February.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Regards

Mrs. Foote
Head of Languages

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**Expressions of Interest in a Japan Trip in 2016**

Please return this note to Mrs. Foote by Monday, 15 February 2016

I am interested in my child ________________________________ attending the excursion to Japan in 2016.

Signed: ________________________________ (Parent/Guardian) Date: ________________
SCONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRESENTS

ALL SHOOK UP

Inspired by and featuring the songs of
ELVIS PRESLEY

Book by JOE DIPETRO

The story is all new.
The hits are all Elvis.

Dates: Thursday 3 March, Friday 4 March, Saturday 5 March 2016
Time: 6:00pm  Location: Scone High School  Tickets: $25 - available from sgs.nsw.edu.au

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:

AngloAmerican  david&claire paradise  Scone Equine Hospital

Allison Sedgwick  Muswellbrook Security Services  evolve advertising & marketing  Scone Medical  The Hunted Gourmet
Rotary Club of Scone  Upper Hunter Shire Council  Reg Osborn  Scone Lions Club  Victoria’s Hair & Beauty  Sparke Helmore

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Outdoor Activities

Year 7 to 11 Leadership Camp

Thirty seven Year 7 students, twenty four Year 11 students and 7 staff travelled to Omadale Orchard near Moonan Flat last week to take part in the Year 7/11 Leadership Camp. The purpose of this 2 day excursion was to allow the Year 7 students to interact and to enjoy each other’s company whilst participating in some “bush” activities. The staff provided the framework of the activities whilst the Year 11 students acted as mentors and group leaders. The Omadale Orchard and the Lodge lie near The Omadale Brook which meets The Hunter River about a 2 minute walk away. These 2 water courses provide much of the enjoyment for our students. Where the river and the brook meet there is a difference in temperature which is very noticeable if one stands with 1 leg in The Hunter and 1 leg in the Omadale. The Omadale is much cooler.

Other activities included yabbying with Mr. Price, novelty games with Mrs. Foote, food preparation with Mrs. Hollis, sports with Mr. Noble and the making of fire and string from tree bark with Sam “the bushman”. Sam is a professional educator; his classroom is the Australian bush and in his own unique manner he demonstrates many survival skills that he has learnt over many years. The making of fire is a favourite activity. It provides the spark that lights the campfire used for our skit night. The students present bush songs that are critiqued by our panel of judges. The presentations were of various standards.

Mr. Brian Tilse of Omadale Orchard allowed us to visit the orchard where the apples were ready for picking. Everyone enjoyed the ‘Jonathans’ and ‘Golden Delicious’ apples. Mr. Tilse explained that some of them went to make cider. The apples were sent to Orange to be crushed and then made into cider at the old Oak factory in Muswellbrook. It is very popular in Newcastle.

The students found the 2 days to be fun and interesting. Our Year 11 students claim that this camp is one of the best as it is less structured and it allows students to interact more in the free time available.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Newly enrolled students will be starting their Award soon. They will start at the Bronze level and some will continue on to Silver and Gold. This year we have 5 students who are nearing the completion of their Gold Award. The Bronze Award requires students to complete 2 bush expeditions as well as be involved in community service, a skill or hobby and in a regular sport or fitness programme. Students need to be aged nearly 14 to be able to register.

India visit

There is still the opportunity for students to be part of the exchange with Welham Girls and Boys School in Dehradun in Northern India. I received during the recent holiday photographs from Vidalya Primary School showing the new classroom and the computers that were able to be purchased from the money raised at Scone Grammar School. These photos will form part of Chapel in the near future. The Primary is close to The Welham School but its facilities are sparse; it provides a lunch time meal for all its students. In many cases it is the only meal they will have that day. Parents who think their child might be interested in a safe and enjoyable, exchange with Welham are encouraged to contact Mr. Berry at the Scone Grammar School.
Book Launch
The Reluctant Jillaroo
by Kaz Delaney

When: Saturday 13 February 2016
10am-12 noon
Where: Scone Public Library

This weekend Kaz Delaney will be launching her new teen novel, The Reluctant Jillaroo, at the Scone Public Library. She has chosen to launch it here because the novel is set in the Scone area. City girl and keen surfer Heidi Gage masquerades as her twin sister Harper, a keen horse rider, at a jillaroo camp in the Upper Hunter in order to keep her injured sister’s dream alive of being accepted to an agricultural college. The author would be delighted for you to attend this event and will be available to sign a copies of her book.

Creative Writing Workshop

In the afternoon of the same day, Murrurundi Public Library will be hosting a Creative Writing workshop presented by Kaz Delaney. It is called ‘Hook the Reader and You’ll Hook the Sale’ and is intended for adults and high school students interested in writing engaging stories.
When: Saturday 13 February 2016
2 – 4 pm
Where: Murrurundi Public Library

Carnival Book Fair

Monday 21 March – Wednesday 30 March 2016
This year the Library will be hosting a Carnival Book Fair in Term 1. A range of different book titles will be displayed in the Library and will be available to purchase. It is a great way to support and encourage your child’s reading and has the added bonus of helping the Library to acquire much-needed resources. So please come and support this Book Fair.

Louise Broomfield
Teacher Librarian

Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday, 6 March
The Upper Hunter Shire Council is again supporting Australia’s biggest community participation event and invites all to come along and make a difference to the Shire and the local environment. For Scone registration be at Elizabeth Park from 9am to 10.15am on the Sunday. The Clean Up will be followed by a BBQ for all volunteers starting at approximately 10.45am. For further information go to the Council’s website, www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au or contact the Council Administration Office on 65401100; Merriwa Office 65217000 or Murrurundi Branch on 65401350.
Secondary Swimming Carnival 2016

It has been another great start to the sporting year with our Secondary Swimming Carnival kicking things off. It was fantastic to see our senior students really encouraging the younger students to participate in events and lift their House points. Participation rates increased from last year so well done to all those students who worked hard on the day.

We have an outstanding number of records broken this year. Congratulations to the following students:

Joseph Hamson 13 years boys
- 100m Freestyle: 1.04.00
- 50m Freestyle: 28.06
- 50m Butterfly: 31.66
- 50m Breaststroke: 43.13
- 50m Backstroke: 35.37

Alexander Bates 14 years boys
- 50m Freestyle: 29.65
- 50m Butterfly: 34.06
- 50m Backstroke: 34.46

Isobel Bates 14 years girls
- 50m Backstroke: 38.31

Maddy Hamson 18 years girls
- 100m Freestyle: 1.12.38
- 50m Freestyle: 30.09
- 50m Butterfly: 34.05
- 50m Backstroke: 39.88

King Boys Ledger Medley: 2.51.47

Secondary Age Champions

12 years
- Caitlyn Jones 52
- Hannah Gatwood 12
- Callum Goodwin 16

13 years
- Charlotte Heaton 40
- Willa Mitchell 25
- Joseph Hamson 56
- Charlie Brooks 27

14 years
- Isobel Bates 56
- Noah McDonald 26
- Alexander Bates 52
- Laura Sadler 16

15 years
- Katrina Gorman 33
- Olivia Hamson 28
- Sam Heaton 56
- Matt Smart 30

16 years
- Hannah Smith 24
- Alexandra Cottle 23
- Nathan Clerke 35
- Luke Edwards 19

17 years
- Lauryn Crackett 46
- Abby McDonald 15
- Lachlan Holz 40
- Tristan Crowley-Dawe 24

18 years
- Maddy Hamson 56
- Vienna Dowell 24
- Jasper Heaton 52
- Ethan Hansia 19

Secondary House results:

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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Jones</td>
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Dear Parents/Carers/Godparents,

**RE: 2016 Sacramental Programme**

There will be an enrolment meeting for families who have a child who could be ready to take the next steps on the journey of Sacramental initiation into the Catholic Church. This would include some or all of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

These Sacraments are available to children who have been baptised and who are in Year 3 or above.

The meeting will take place in St Mary’s Church on Tuesday 23rd February at 5.30pm. During the meeting, the planned programme - including dates, expectations and resources - will be explained and candidates can be enrolled.

A Sacramental Team, which is to include parents/carers/Godparents will be formed during the meeting. That Team will then oversee the programme in support of all families who enrol in it.

If you know of any family for whom this information is relevant, please alert them to this information.

Yours sincerely,
Jim FitzGerald
Acting Sacramental Team Coordinator
Ph.6545 2058

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### For Your Diary

**Week 3 (A)**

**Thurs 11 Feb**
- Foundation meeting 5.30 Library
- Year 12 Geography Fieldwork
- overnight in Sydney

**Fri 12 Feb**
- Year 12 Geography students return
- New Parents Dinner

**Week 4 (B)**

**Mon 15 Feb**
- Day Of Hope Years 10 -12

**Tues 16 Feb**
- Year 7 Information Evening
- 6.30pm in MPR

**Wed 17 Feb**
- K -2 Swim Fun Day

**Thurs 18 Feb**
- K -2 Swim Fun Day

**Fri 19 Feb**
- K -2 Swim Fun Day

### Canteen Roster

**Week 3 (A)**

**Thursday 11 February**
- Fiona Bailey, Trish O’Brien

**Friday 12 February**
- Fiona Bailey, Erryn Day, Meegan O’Neill

**Week 4 (B)**

**Monday 15 February**
- Kelly Malone, Tracey Stewart

**Tuesday 16 February**
- Fiona Bailey, Belinda Sowter

**Wednesday 17 February**
- Katie McCann,

**Thursday 18 February**
- Jenny Crackett, Sally Devenish

**Friday 19 February**
- Jenny Crackett, Keren Manning, Rachel Nugent