Dear Parents and Friends of SGS,

The Term continues to move along rapidly following the very exciting weeks of the Scone and Upper Hunter Horse Festival. There is still a great deal happening right across the school. This week, The Yellow Cottage are hosting families for Families’ Week, classes are in full swing with learning occurring everywhere. Staff are engaged in Professional Development on site and externally and the new building is progressing fabulously.

Elevate
This week all Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 students have had study skills sessions to assist them to be able to prepare for study and examinations. Elevate education run these specialised sessions that are a positive addition to the encouragement and support staff give to students on a more regular basis. It is always good for the students to hear the message from an outside group as well as our own teaching staff.

Balance
What is the right balance? The balance between academic learning, extra curricula activity, a healthy lifestyle and social engagement. This is a very real challenge for all of us and for all the students and staff of our school. To be healthy people we need a balance and to keep things in perspective. This is not easy as we always have competing pressures. This means a need to develop skills to prioritise, manage time effectively and give the required effort. These things are part of a developing education as we seek to guide and help students develop ways to manage the balance. Screen time adds further complexity to this balance in our technological age. We need to seek to make time away from screens to engage with others and be active. We need to know it is OK to turn off the screen leave the phone behind and not let them consume our day. We all need to work with this, especially for the young people growing up with so much access to technology!

Ongoing Sporting Achievements
This week we have news that Noah McGrath from Year 6 has been called into the Primary CIS AFL Team to play at the NSW PSSA Championships at Warners Bay on 24 May until 26 May, 2016. Congratulations Noah.

Thank you for the privilege of working with your child/children. We greatly value the partnership we are in with you and with them.

Paul Smart
Principal
Primary News from Mr Feeney

It has been wonderful to hear reports from the Year 6 students, staff and parents, after their very exciting Year 6 Canberra Trip last week, where they participated in many valuable learning opportunities, as well as experiencing some very memorable "I'll share this with my grandchildren" highlight moments. I would especially like to thank Mr Saunders, Miss Thomas and Rev Nate for their work in facilitating the excursion during the week; the supervising parents (Mr Adkins, Mr Burnett, Mr Guiana, Mrs Devenish, Mrs Porch and Mrs Wilson) for their assistance and also Mr Ralph Alley for driving the bus.

Students participated in a busy programme of learning opportunities about government, democracy, history, economics, sport, art and culture, law, geography, science, botany, international relations and politics and were wonderful representatives of their families and their School throughout the excursion. The students also shared in a special Last Post closing ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, where our Primary Captains, Chester Hall and Bridget Burnett, laid a wreath on behalf of the School.

Australian Government Assistance for National Capital Excursion

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist the parents in meeting the costs of this excursion, the Australian Government is contributing $30 per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution is paid directly to the School upon completion of the excursion. We would like to acknowledge and thank the Australian Government for their support of this PACER programme. The excursion certainly was a most rewarding experience for all the students who participated.

Primary Boys’ CIS Hockey was run for the first time in 2016, on Monday, 16 May, at Bankstown Hockey Fields. As this was the first time boys’ hockey has been run, there was no CIS team selected, as CIS is not entered in any boys’ hockey competitions. The day was about identifying talent and accessing interest with a view to CIS competing in Primary Boys’ Hockey in the future.

Some 40 boys arrived for an hour of coaching and drills before being divided into teams for games. SGS was represented by Nick Gallagher who played well against older and more experienced players and managed to be selected into the Possibles v Probables game. This was a high quality game in which Nick acquitted himself well, enjoying the experience of playing on turf. After this game, the CIS hockey representatives handed out certificates and acknowledged the quality of play, indicating they thought if they could take a team further, it would be very competitive and they will look to select a team next year. Nick is looking forward to this already. Congratulations Nick on your excellent efforts.

Next week, on Wednesday, 25 May, as part of the celebrations of ‘National Simultaneous Storytime’, Year One have been invited to listen to three stories being read at the Upper Hunter Shire Council offices in Scone. Also on Wednesday, Kindergarten students will be enjoying a walking excursion around town. This is to tie in with their History, Literacy and Science units this term. It will be a valuable learning experience, which really consolidates the theory part of their curriculum in a way that cannot be taught in the classroom.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 Primary da Vinci Decathlon Teams will be in action next week on Thursday, 26 May, at Knox Grammar School. We wish them well and look forward to hearing news of their participation in this interesting and challenging event. Thank you to Miss Felicity Dowdell who has been working with the students as they have been preparing. The teams include:

Year 5 - Bailey Park, Angus Davidson, Emmerson Mitchell, Daniel O’Regan, Louisa Wilkinson, Alexis Walsh, Sarah Gatwood, Destiny Wilton
Year 6 – Zoe Gallagher, Liam Wilson, Hamish Guiana, Adam Chesworth, Tadhg Magner, Bridget Burnett, Sam Murdoch, Prunella Hayes

Good Humour for the Week

“Waiter, waiter, what is this?” “It’s bean salad, Sir!” “I know what it’s been, but what is it now?”

Why would Snow White make a great judge? Because she’s the fairest of them all!

Congratulations to Belle Gough (Year 4 Blue), Harrison O’Neill (Year 5 Gold), Dakota Farrell (Year 6 Gold), Angus Johnson (Year 1 Gold), Oliver Scott (Kindergarten Blue) and Oliver Grabham (Kindergarten 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.
This last weekend Scone was buzzing with excitement as the Horse Festival came to a climatic end. The Festival culminated in the Scone Cup Carnival weekend. This event reminds me of the life giving words of Hebrews 12:1-6; a significant sweep of Scripture for Christians and our school community.

The horses at the Scone Cup Carnival have been through rigorous training and are ready to run. With a disquieting bang the barrier disappears, the crowd roars and the horse explodes from the starting gate. The race has begun! It is easy for the first thousand or so meters. The horse finds its stride and is running ‘the race’ well. The crowd cheers on. The noise is an insupportable distraction that can easily hinder its race but the horse hears its master’s voice; ‘The Jockey’. The Jockey knows what it will take to win. He encourages and sets the horse into position. Discipline is the order now. A guiding prod, a correcting thrust or whip spurs him on and focus is regained. The race horse sees the prized line and is spurred on by the Jockey and the holler of the crowd.

Are we not running a race? The race of life that Hebrews 12:1-6 speaks of! Will we be in the race or be in the crowd on the sidelines? At the end of the day, will you know the jubilation and joy of having run in the greatest race of all... the race into all eternity! It is never too late to jump off the sidelines, begin your training and run a magnificent race... let me introduce you to your Jockey! Jesus Christ, who lived, died in our place and was raised to life again for us. He lives to guide us in our race.

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

In Prayer this week:
Reflect on: Hebrews 12:1-6
Give thanks for: Rain!; God’s goodness in sending us Jesus, the resurrection and the life, so we can have a way to be friends with God; The valuable experience that Year 6 had on camp in Canberra; Parents, teachers and supporters who truly care for us
Pray for: Our Government and the next season of politics in Australia, that equitable outcomes abound for all Australians; For the school building project; For families and students who are ill or struggling at the moment; Kindergarten and Year 7 students; For your son or daughter’s teacher/s! (specific prayer requests can be sent to prayers@sgsnsw.edu.au to be prayed for by our weekly prayer group- not published in newsletter)

Rev’d Nate
natkinson@sgs.nsw.edu.au
We continue to motor through this term with great speed and lots of activities. This week at The Yellow Cottage we are proud to be part of National Families Week celebrations. Every day this week we have invited our family and friends to visit us and bring a picnic afternoon tea and stay and play in the autumn sunshine. During these visits we have shared some of our favourite songs and dances and enjoyed lots of fun. Our families are such an important part of our preschool and we have loved having the opportunity to invite them in for the afternoon to share life in our beautiful preschool.

This week I received an email from the judging panel for the Hunter Training Awards and I was very excited to learn that Nikki Cook has been named Trainee of the Year 2016 in the Vocation of Early Childhood and Education. This is an outstanding achievement and Nikki should be extremely proud of all her efforts. We are all thrilled about the achievement and feel privileged to have all of Nikki’s passion and dedication as part of our amazing team at The Yellow Cottage.

Please don’t forget to pack your child a change of clothes everyday. If you have some of our spare clothes at home could you please return them to us, we are running very short of spare items.

**Important Dates for this term and next term:**
- May 16 – 20 – Families Week at The Yellow Cottage and Preschool Photographs
- May 31 - Science on the Move Incursion
GRIP NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CAMP 2016
Would you like to develop valuable leadership skills whilst having enormous fun during the July school holidays? Students in Yrs 10-12 are invited to participate in a national leadership camp being held in Sydney, hosted by the GRIP Leadership Team. Teenagers from around Australia will be gathering for this 4-day camp from July 3-6. GRIP Leadership is well known for organising Australia's largest student leadership events and helping students reach their potential as a leader.

Applications for School Bus Passes - Changes
We have been advised by Osborn's Bus Company there are changes to the Application for School Bus Passes, effective immediately. This is the same for all bus companies in our region. Applications now are to be completed on line via www.transportnsw.info/school-students When selecting the forms please take note to select "Travelling outside the Opal Network System" as Opal is not available in our area. Once the form has been completed online, print, sign and date the form and send it to Admin as we will need to verify it and then forwarded on to Transport NSW. Forms can also be downloaded at: apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts

Missing Laptop
Late last term a Microsoft Surface Pro Laptop in a folio case went missing from school. This computer was almost certainly stolen.

If anyone knows anything about the whereabouts of the computer please make contact with Mrs Casey in Admin.

Grammar Grind together with the SGS Duke of Edinburgh students invite you to participate in Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea

When: Monday 23 May, 2016
Time: 8.00am to 9.30am
Cost: Coffee/Tea $3.00, with cake $5.00
Email Order: thumbley@sgs.nsw.edu.au
Phone Order: 0418 866 657

All Funds raised goes to the Cancer Council and also helps our Duke of Ed kids with their community hours
Year 6 Excursion to Canberra - 2016
Impetigo (School Sores)

We have been advised there has been a case of Impetigo (School Sores) reported in the Primary School.

As these are contagious if your child becomes infected please keep them at home and see your local doctor immediately. Please advise the School once diagnosis has been confirmed.