Our first week back was a wonderful start to the year. It was delightful to hear the student’s news about their holidays, what Santa brought them and the exciting experiences they had.

We have had two staff changes this year. Due to our drop in numbers from last year we can no longer employ Mrs Wendy Lee each week but hopefully she will work with us on a casual basis. Mrs Jodie Gallagher, who was our Learning and Support Teacher (LAST) and Librarian could not return to us this year but we welcome Mrs Julie Blair in her place.

Attached to this letter is some important information on Bushfire Safety, specifically for Spencer School and new information on Anaphylaxis Procedures. Please take the time to read both sheets and contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

The staff is currently planning some information sessions to help you support your child’s learning. We will also be conducting our interviews for Personal Learning Plans very soon.

Before we decide on dates please fill in the attached information sheet so that we know the best days and times to schedule these events.

Rosslyn Raftery
**Student News**

4th February 2013

**JANUARY**
Ajay 26th  
Kirrilly 25th  
Mrs Raftery  
Catherine 30th

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**Anti Bullying Pledge**
Students discussed the anti-bullying pledge in class today and have been asked to discuss it with you at home. This will be sent home on Friday. Please return it by Friday 15th February if you are happy for your child/children to sign. If you have any concerns please contact Mrs Raftery at school.

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**School Song**

We now have a new school song that was created by Mrs Cairns and the 2012 students. The words are below:

**Spencer Public School Song**

Spencer Public is our school down on the Hawkesbury  
We are caring and friendly treating all with respect  
We all work in Harmony with our whole community  
Spencer Public is our school learning and having fun  
Proud of our past, confident of our future.

(Tune to Ode to Joy)

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**Facebook for Spencer PS**

Spencer PS has recently joined Facebook thanks to Mrs Cairns. This will be used to keep you up to date with events and will have direct links to Spencer PS website for notes, newsletter and important information. The students and families are encouraged to post pictures on the wall of special events, items, days etc.

Please find us at [https://www.facebook.com/#!/SpencerPublicSchool](https://www.facebook.com/#!/SpencerPublicSchool) and click **Like**
Grooming, Deportment, Self-confidence

1 day Junior Course (6-11 years)

Taught by Donna international fashion model

Learn:

- Manners
- Speech & Drama
- Hair care and styling
- Dance for fun
- Catwalk
- And much more!!

Plus your own photo shoot & graduation show!!!!
Give your child a head start!!

Sunday 10th March, Gosford Golf Club

Contact us for any further information!
(02) 4304 5735
www.polishedbydonna.com

Return Slip

Student Personal Learning Plans

Name of student(s):
__________________________________________________________________________

Preferred Day(s):
Please circle

MONDAY  TUESDAY  WEDNESDAY  THURSDAY  FRIDAY

Preferred Time(s):
Please circle

| 8 – 8.30am | 8.30 – 11am | 11.30am – 1pm | 1pm – 3.30pm | 3.30 – 4.30pm |
---------------------------------------------------------------------

Contact phone number: ____________________________________________

Page 3
PERMISSION TO WATCH PG RATED MOVIES
Library

Dear Parents,

From time to time during the school year students have the opportunity of watching movies as part of reading and listening programs when books they are looking at also have movie versions. The PG movie planned for Term 1 is The ABC production My Place.

This movie will be viewed under the guidance of a classroom teacher. This permission note will allow your child to watch this movie as part of their Library program.

Julie Blair
Librarian

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(Please detach and return to School by Wednesday 6th February 2013)
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PERMISSION TO VIEW PG RATED FILMS as part of the Library program.

I give permission for my child/ren ____________________________
to view PG rated movies.

I understand that this permission note covers my child for the rest of the year.

Signed: ____________________________ Date: __________
(Parent/Guardian)
Spencer Public School

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 2013 BUSH FIRE SEASON

Dear parent or carer

I am writing to let you know about arrangements for our school for the current bush fire season.

Our school has been identified as a school at increased risk if a fire were to break out on a day when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued for our area.

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, the NSW Department of Education and Communities has determined that on days when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued for our area, the school will temporarily cease operations for the day(s) the rating is current and alternative learning arrangements will be put in place. This is based on information obtained by a bush fire assessment of our school arranged by the Department.

A catastrophic fire danger rating is likely to occur on a very small number of days during the bush fire season, if at all. To ensure that we continue to support student learning on these days, I have put the following arrangements in place:

Contact all parents by phone on the day before the closure where possible. Students are to continue assigned homework and if possible extra work will be sent home the day before the closure or posted on-line.

The school will only receive notification of a catastrophic fire danger rating after school hours the day before the forecast is issued. To assist me in contacting all parents please ensure that you have provided the school with up-to-date home or after hours contact details.

A copy of a information for parents provided by the Department about these arrangements is attached.

Please contact the school on telephone 43771142 if you would like any further information about this matter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Rosslyn Raftery
Principal
Arrangements for the bush fire season

THIS INFORMATION IS ONLY FOR SCHOOLS THAT ARE ON THE BUSH FIRE REGISTER

Information for parents and carers

This brochure provides information for parents and carers about arrangements for the bush fire season. This information is only relevant for schools that are on the bush fire register.

Introduction

The NSW Department of Education and Communities has conducted bush fire assessments for NSW government schools in bush fire prone areas. These results have been validated by an independent external expert and have been reviewed in consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service.

A small number of schools have been identified as a school at increased risk if a fire were to break out on a day when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued for the area that the school is located in. This includes the school your child attends.

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, the NSW Department of Education and Communities has determined that on days when a catastrophic fire danger rating is issued for the area the school is in, the school will temporarily cease operations for the day(s) the rating is current and alternative learning arrangements will be put in place.

What is a Fire Danger Rating?

A fire danger rating is the expected fire danger on a particular day and is determined by considering a combination of factors including air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and drought. The ratings range from Low – Moderate through High, Very High, Severe, Extreme and Catastrophic.

What is a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating?

A catastrophic rating means that if fires broke out they would be uncontrollable, unpredictable and very fast moving with very aggressive flames extending high above tree tops and buildings.

When will I know if my child’s school won’t be operating the next day?

Your school will notify you as soon as possible. You will be notified by telephone or other communication, depending on when the school is advised that the catastrophic fire danger rating has been issued. The school will not receive this information until after school has finished on the day before the rating takes effect. The school will contact all parents and carers and, where appropriate, issue advice through local media.

Please provide your current home or after hours contact to your school. Parents and carers should also watch or listen for local media as information may be provided through these outlets.

What educational arrangements will be in place if the school isn’t operating?

Talk to your school about the arrangements that will be put in place in the event of the school temporarily ceasing operations due to a catastrophic fire danger rating being issued. Schools will be undertaking advanced planning to ensure that, if schools do need to cease operations on some days, they will have alternative educational arrangements in place such as re-locating to another school, where practicable, or providing take home work for students.

Will my child’s school be affected by severe or extreme fire danger ratings?

During the bush fire season, including days of severe or extreme fire danger rating, schools will continue to operate as normal unless advised otherwise by emergency services. During the bush fire season schools will be vigilant and monitor local conditions, particularly on days when severe or extreme fire danger ratings are issued.

Further information

We appreciate your cooperation during the bush fire season. For further information about fire danger ratings and the bush fire season, please refer to the NSW Rural Fire Service website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

The Department is developing a website on bush fire safety including providing up to date information. This will be available from the start of Term 4. The address is:

Spencer Public School

Emergency response for anaphylaxis

SAFETY ALERT

Schools have been asked to review their current emergency response arrangements to ensure that they have the appropriate procedures in place to respond to emergency situations, such as where an individual student with or without a diagnosis of anaphylaxis is having or suspected of having an anaphylactic reaction.

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sometimes sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen. Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires an emergency response.

As this condition is life threatening, the Department is changing its first aid guidelines to require schools to have a general use autoinjector for use in an emergency as part of the first aid kit.

Spencer School staff have had training in anaphylaxis procedures where they practiced with an autoinjector so that they are confident and feel well prepared in the event that they are required to administer the device in an emergency.

Currently we have no students with a medical diagnosis of anaphylaxis. Please contact the school immediately if our records are incorrect.

Expert advice from the medical profession states that there are no published reports of death or serious injury resulting from the use of autoinjectors.