



UPCOMING EVENTS:

*** Fri 5 Mar:**
Clean Up Schools Day

*** Tue 9 - 16 March:**
Heart links Program
for 1/2P & 2Y

*** Wed 10 March**
5-6pm:
P&F Meeting

*** Mon 22 March:**
KB Best Start Parent
Interviews

*** Wed 24 March:**
KG Best Start Parent
Interviews

*** Thu 1 April:**
Harmony Day and
Easter celebrations

Last day of Term 1



Sefton Infants School Newsletter

Wednesday 3 March 2021

Principal's Report

Dear Parents/Carers,

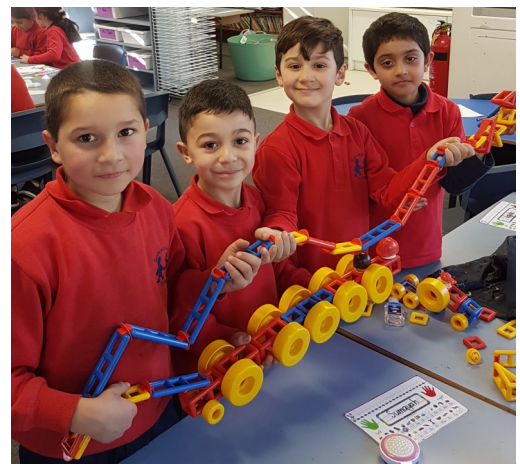
Last Friday our students commenced their Inquiry Learning Groups with much excitement. Inquiry learning takes place each Friday afternoon at Sefton Infants School with our students actively engaged in small groups with project-based learning aligned with the syllabuses of Science and Technology, STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics), Geography and History. During Inquiry Learning one teacher facilitates each group of students, encouraging practical, hands-on learning experiences where each child is actively involved in posing questions to discover more about an area of learning. These groups are very child-centred and child-driven with their ideas explored at a deeper level. The students stay with the same teacher for five weeks and then the group rotates to a different teacher and learning area. With such small learning groups, individual students play an active role in discussing and sharing their understandings. This diagram shows the inquiry learning process followed by our students:



We encourage our families to ask their children about their inquiry learning group experiences, along with questions about their learning in other school subject areas. Family conversations and discussions about experiences at school help children to reinforce and extend their learning through the descriptions and explanations they provide. Family members can also share their understandings of the topics and skills treated at school to further their child's learning and curiosity for more learning.



Kind regards,
Sharna Labbe



Voluntary contribution invoices will be sent soon. \$50 per year



**P&F Meeting
Wed 10 March
5-6pm
All parents welcome**



1/2 Purple and 2 Yellow are participating in the Heartlinks Program this term.

Please alert the school as soon as possible if any of your child's contact details change.

Voluntary Contributions

Each year government schools request that their families make a voluntary contribution to the school. Our school relies on these contributions to purchase resource materials to support and enrich the learning experiences of each student. These resource materials include pencils, exercise books, paper, scissors, glue and other art materials.

The contribution amount for 2021 is \$50 per student (Kindergarten to Year 2) or \$90 for two siblings at the school. This equates to just over **\$1 per week** to help us provide the resources needed for your child's quality education. If you prefer, you can spread your contribution payment across the school terms to help with your family's budget.

Invoices for this voluntary contribution are in the process of being posted out. We offer cash, EFTPOS and credit card facilities for payment, as well as a secure 'Online' payment system linked to our school's website (see school website under MAKE A PAYMENT and instruction brochure under NOTES).

Thank you for your support. Prompt payment of these contributions by all families is greatly appreciated.

Parents and Friends Association Meeting (P&F)

All parents and friends of Sefton Infants School and Preschool are warmly invited to our first P&F Meeting for 2021. The P & F meeting is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 10 March** from **5pm - 6pm** in the school library. This is a great opportunity to find out about school happenings and programs, as well as participate in decision making and planning for future school events. Furthermore, the P&F meeting is a wonderful chance to meet and network with other parents in a friendly, informal environment. Join us for a relaxed afternoon tea. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions set by the NSW Department of Education, this meeting must take place after school hours and only adults are invited to the meeting. We hope to see you there.

HeARTlinks Program

You may have heard your child talking about Heartlinks and wondered what it was all about. Heartlinks is a wonderful program organised by Creating Links. The program aims to promote understanding of, and respect for, Australia's diversity through culturally relevant art, song and dance activities. Every K-2 class at Sefton Infants school has the opportunity to participate in the five week program at some point throughout the year. Each week performers from different countries and cultural backgrounds visit the school, using their artform to help our students actively learn about creative arts and cultures. The class teacher and support staff also participate in the Heartlinks program with the students. There is no cost for this very worthwhile program. Sefton Infants School would like to thank Creating Links Bankstown for enabling our students to gain so much learning and enjoyment from their Heartlinks lessons.

Emergency Contacts

It is vital that the school office has records of our families' current contact details. Please ensure that our school office has your current address and contact details for essential correspondence or if an emergency takes place. Please ensure that you visit or call the school office (9644 4079) if any of your contact details (e.g. address, mobile number, emergency contact people) change and need updating. Similarly, please contact the school office as soon as possible to alert us of any new health conditions such as allergies that might be affecting your child. We thank you in anticipation for keeping your information up-to-date.

Importance of School Attendance and Punctuality

Why must I send my child to school every day?

In NSW, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for instruction. Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular school attendance makes learning easier for your child and helps build and maintain friendships with other children. If your child misses learning the basic skills in the early years of school, they may develop learning problems in the later years of schooling.

Class teachers are required to keep daily records of students' attendance and punctuality to school. Class attendance rolls are monitored regularly by the principal and district home school liaison officer. Parents/carers may be prosecuted if children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unjustified absences from school.

What if my child has to be away from school?

A small number of absences from school may be just justified if your child:

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

It is important to let the school know when your child is away from school and the reason for the absence. All absences **must** be explained to the school. You can notify the school of your child's absence with a note, email or telephone call. Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when absences explained as being due to illness are frequent or prolonged.

What should I do if our family is going on holiday or overseas in school time?

We strongly urge that families try to arrange holidays and overseas trips during the school holidays. When children travel overseas for extended periods, they miss a significant amount of their school studies and it is very difficult for them to catch up. If the family trip is in school time, parents must inform the school office in advance so that an application for exemption can be submitted.

What if my child won't go to school?

You should contact your child's class teacher or principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and seek help. The principal may enlist the support of a home school liaison officer.

Why is it important to be at school on time?

If your child is late to school, he/she is missing the valuable learning that takes place at the start of the school day from 9am sharp. In addition, students who are late to school miss the important messages given at morning assembly and they also find it difficult to settle into the morning learning routines. Furthermore, students who arrive late to school disrupt the learning of others. Please ensure your child is punctual to school. Every minute of schooling counts!

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just... they miss weeks per year and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight
 = **4** weeks  = Over **1** year missed

1 day per week
 = **8** weeks  = Over **2.5** years missed

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.**

School Rules

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 aim to reinforce positive student behaviour. The students earn Super Sefton Awards for being safe, respectful learners in the classroom or playground, and demonstrating our school rules. The students place any awards earned in a special award box with a weekly award draw from the box giving a student an opportunity to gain a prize. At the end of the week these awards are redistributed. The students then 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:

NUMBER OF SUPER SEFTON AWARDS	AWARD LEVEL
First 10 Super Sefton Awards	Principal's Award
20 Super Sefton Awards (2nd lot of 10)	Bronze Award
30 Super Sefton Awards	Silver Award
40 Super Sefton Awards	Gold Award
50 Super Sefton Awards	Platinum Award
60 Super Sefton Award	Medal Awarded



Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

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- lessons & activities
- uniforms & shoes
- books & supplies
- sports fees & gear
- camps & excursions

Contact
your local Saver Plus Coordinator
Phone
1300 610 355
Email
InnerwestSydneySP@thesmithfamily.com.au
Online
saverplus.org.au
Find us on Facebook

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or starting next year, attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner)*, have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*



*Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information!
*Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with The Smith Family, Berry Street and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to www.dss.gov.au for more information.