

The Polish School of Sydney

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Newsletter No. 18 – August 2007

Dear Parents and friends of our school,

The school's management committee has been very busy and many things have been happening since the last newsletter.

City to Surf

Our school participated in the 2007 City to Surf as volunteers to man a drinks station. This is the 3rd year our school has participated in this event which provides the school with a valuable source of income. This year we had 30 volunteers, which included many of our students and friends of the school. Some volunteers don't have children in our school but they came to support your school. Some students even came from the Polish High School. We would like to thank the following families for their support, time and hard work: Stempien, Wypych, Sobota, Kalbarczyk, Jarkowski, Melzacki, Vella, Kwiatkowski, Szpilczak, and Barasic.

Minister's Awards

Every year The Polish School of Sydney nominates students for the Minister's Awards for Excellence in Student Achievement for Community Language Schools. This year we were allowed to nominate two students one in the junior and one in the senior category. The junior category is for students less than 12 and the senior is 12 and above. It has become a tradition that we always nominate a student from Year 6.

The criteria is based upon the student's achievements and proficiency in their second language; the improvement they made; the time they have been studying Polish; contribution to the school community; leadership; attendance and involvement in school and community activities. The previous Year 6 teacher Ms. Jaros in consultation with the management committee nominated two students – Oliwia Jarkowski for the junior category and Thomas Vella for the senior category. Nomination to the Dept. of Education and Training does not guarantee receiving an award. We are very pleased to announce that our nominees were approved and will receive the award on 26 Sept '07.

New Class

A new class is being formed to cater for the needs of our students. The evaluation of the semester one results concluded that there was a need of forming another class to assist some students in consolidating the basics of the Polish language. *The formation of this class and the employment of another teacher is possible due to the extra funds raised from the Half Marathon and City to Surf.*

Annual Dinner

The NSW Federation of Community Language Schools, of which we are members, held its annual dinner on the 18 August 07 at the Croatian Club attended by 380 people (there are 325 school locations belonging to the Federation). At the dinner our school was one of six schools that were given the honour to present a display of their school's work, e.g. text books, assessment tasks, reporting systems, policies and administrative procedures. Our display was truly impressive and was well received and admired. Many schools have expressed an interest in our operation and wanted to have further contact to learn from us.

Library Books

The school library is missing a number of books and CD's. Could you please check at home if you have any of our school library books? It is quite expensive to set up and maintain the school library and the books are there to be enjoyed by everyone. Please return them as soon as possible so a stock take can be carried out.

Attendance

Part of obtaining registration and funding from the Dept. of Education and Training is the regular attendance of the students to the community language school. A class roll is marked every Saturday for every class and has to be made available for inspection for officers of the Dept. of Education. Our teachers are seriously concerned about the irregular attendance of some students. The school has developed a comprehensive teaching program to ensure that your child has every opportunity to develop all language skills. Therefore regular attendance is absolutely essential for the proper functioning of the school and for your child to achieve a high level of Polish language skills. ***So please, ensure that your child comes to school every Saturday and on time.***

International Children Day

Last term the school organised a successful International Children's Day by providing two jumping castles, food, drinks and small gifts for the children. We would like to thank Iza Stempien and Albert Vella for organising the event.

School in Poland

Our school collected 58 kg of clothing, toys and stationary for the school

Albert and Gosia Vella