PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Kindergarten classes were formed last week and they are settling into school routines quickly. A special thank you to Mrs Embury, Miss Downes and Miss Gallagher for helping with their smooth transition to ‘big school’.

During these first weeks at school and with our lovely new fence, we have been doing our best to encourage students and parents to use the correct entry gates when coming into the school. If you could also encourage and role model this, it would be greatly appreciated. Please remember parking on school grounds is restricted to Staff and Canteen supervisor parking only.

At last week’s assembly, we acknowledged our newly appointed House Captains and SRC Representatives. I would like to congratulate these leaders, for being selected by their peers into these most important positions.

Our whole school Assembly will now be held at 2pm on Wednesday afternoon once a fortnight. Our next Assembly will be Wednesday, 26 February. At this Assembly we will be recognising our 2014 Library Monitors. All are welcome to attend.

There is one other change for this year. Scripture time has returned to Thursdays from 12.45 – 1pm. Kindergarten students will start Scripture in term 2.

Onsite screening came into our school and was attended by many of our students. We now have the results from this screening and if your child requires any follow up you will be informed shortly.

Our P&C do a wonderful job running our school canteen on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Without our volunteers we would not be able to do this. If you are able to assist in any way, please have a chat with our canteen ladies.

Glen Leaf
Principal
Photos
Our annual school photo day is to be held on **Monday, 10 March, 2014**. All children will need to wear full school summer uniform as set out below.

**Girls** – School dress, brown shorts, skorts or skirt and school shirt.

**Boys** - Brown shorts and school shirt.

Please find attached **pre-paid envelopes** for ordering class photos, which need to be returned to the school office by **Friday, 6 March, 2014**.

No change can be given. **Sealed envelopes** are required to have the correct money. No envelopes will be accepted after this day. If you would like your children to have a family photo, these **pre-paid envelopes are available from the office** and need to be returned by this day also.

**On Monday, 31 March** the photographers will be returning for preschool photos for the Corellas and the whole school photo will also be taken at this time.

**On Thursday, 3 April** the photographers will return for the final time for preschool photos for the Lorikeets.

Cake Day

Each term we hold a cake stall to raise funds to purchase resources for our school for all students, Preschool to Year 6.

Our next cake stall will be held on **Wednesday, 26 March**, and we would like students in 3/4M and 3/4S to kindly donate cakes or slices.

Little cakes or slices of cake will be sold to all children from Preschool to Year 6 for 50c for recess. Please remember to give your children a few coins, to buy themselves something from the stall.

Important Information for Parents

It would be greatly appreciated, if there are any changes to student and / or family details, could they be updated at the office please. These details could include any changes to addresses, phone numbers, emergency contacts or medical information.

Basketball Clinic

Stages 2 and 3 have the opportunity this term to attend a 5 week basketball clinic. The clinics will be coached by staff from Penrith Basketball. The weekly clinic begins on Tuesday, 4th March. The cost for this 5 week program is $5.

Head Lice

This is head lice season and as there have been a number of cases reported, we are asking parents to regularly check their child’s hair. The lice can be hard to find, so looking for the eggs or nits is easier. These appear as tiny silvery white specks attached to the hair near the scalp. Dandruff and hairspray may look similar, but these are easily brushed away; the eggs are not. Other signs of infestation may be your child constantly scratching their head.

Although the condition is unpleasant, it can be treated. Advice for treatment is available from your local chemist. As head lice are highly contagious, you need to treat **all members of the family, as well as wash all bed linen, towels and clothing**. Parents will need to check their children’s hair regularly to overcome this problem. Tying long hair up and using hairspray can help.

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation in attending to this important community health issue.
NEW KINDERS

SWIMMING CARNIVAL
ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Week

KD - Merit - Lyka, Jahrome, Dakota
PBL- Caleb

KE - Merit - Cody, Isabelle, Dario
PBL- Lola

KG – Merit - Farawa, Anastasia, Matthew
PBL- Christopher

1/2C - Merit - Ashleigh, Matthew, Nydis
PBL- Emma

1/2L- Merit - Demi, Cameron, Renee
PBL- Irfamn

1/2R- Merit - Jahfreez, Milad, Shaniqua
PBL- Mark

3/4M- Merit - Avishek, Shreya, Chanzes
PBL- Kennard

3/4S- Merit - Jake, Renna, Shay
PBL- Jacob

5/6G- Merit - Eman, Shauna, Jarrel
PBL- Fahid

5/6T- Merit - Kyza, Jack, Leavi
PBL- Carmen
P&C

Our Parents & Citizens AGM Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 5 March in the school library at 9.15am.

The P&C plays a vital role in our school, by raising funds and purchasing much needed equipment for the benefit of all children in our school.

All P&C members are urged to attend this important meeting. It only costs 50c to become a member. Please be aware that only financial members can vote at meetings.

We always look forward to seeing new faces at the beginning of every school year. All welcome.

UNIFORM SHOP/CLOTHING POOL

Uniform shop open times are now:

- Monday afternoons 2.00pm to 3.15pm
- Thursday afternoons 2.00pm to 3.15pm

Appointments can be made through the canteen for other times.

CANTEEN

Our canteen is operated by our P&C and is open on Monday, Thursday and Friday. Students must place orders before 9.00am. The NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy is promoted by our school and a variety of nutritious food is available on canteen days. Students need to order any items they require for recess and lunch. They may purchase additional items for the first half of lunch only.

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking is every Friday morning in the Library from 8.30am. If anyone would like to open a new account for their child you will be able to do this tomorrow, Friday, 21 February.

DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The District Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday, 7 March. Those students selected to participate in this Carnival will need to return notes by Wednesday, 5 March and parents will need to provide transport. Mrs Maton will be attending the carnival with the children.

PLAYGROUP

Playgroup starts at 9.15am and goes through to 11.00am.

Young children 0 – 5 have a great opportunity to participate in a variety of activities and mix with other children. Parents and caregivers also have the opportunity to chat and share a cuppa.

If you would like to come along we would love to see you or if you know anyone with a 0 – 5 year old, please let them know. Our playgroup is for everyone.
**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

**Playgroup**
Wednesday, 9am-11am
School Hall

**Breakfast Club**
Tuesday, 8.30am - 8.50am
Canteen

**Banking**
Friday, 8.30am - 9am
Library

**P&C Meetings**
As advised

Find us on Facebook –
www.facebook.com/stmaryspublic

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**CALENDAR TERM 1**

**WEEK 5**

Wednesday, February 26
Stage 2 Cake Day
Whole School

Wednesday, February 26
Assembly 2pm
Whole School

**WEEK 6**

Tuesday, March 4
Basketball Clinic
Stage 2 & 3

Wednesday, March 5
P&C Meeting
Community

Friday, March 7
District Swimming Carnival
Selected students

**WEEK 7**

Monday, March 10
School Photos
Years K-6

Tuesday, March 11
Basketball Clinic
Stage 2 & 3

Tuesday, March 11
Stage 3 Parent Meeting EOI Yr7
Year 6 Parents

Wednesday, March 12
Assembly 2pm
Whole School

Thursday, March 13
Selective HS Testing
Applied

Friday, March 14
Graffiti Education
Stage 3

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Like us to keep up to date with news and upcoming events.
We value your feedback!