PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Thank you to all of the families who contributed to last week’s cake stall. There was a delicious array of goodies on offer and plenty of parents willing to help serve the students. It was also nice to hear, from those parents serving, how well-mannered our students were by saying please and thank you. Well done everyone! $238 was raised.

Our PBL focus this fortnight is Safe and Sensible – Moving around the school. This means that all staff are reinforcing in their classrooms and monitoring outside the correct way to move around the school. I encourage you to discuss this with your children at home so that they know that their parents are aware of school expectations. You can discuss things like; always walking on the hard surfaces, being quiet so that we don’t disturb other classes, walking on the paths and not in the gardens or on the garden edging, stop look and listen when crossing the driveway and staying in the inbounds areas of the school. We would also like parents to convey these expectations to their toddlers and preschool aged children so that they can be ready for when they start kindergarten here at St Marys PS.

Following the tragic accident that occurred recently at a local public school in which a large tree branch fell causing the death of a year 4 student and injuring others, I have had a number of parents enquire about our trees. It is true that we have a number of large trees on our school site, but I want all families to know that the safety of our trees are checked regularly and we also put provisions in place whereby on very windy days, students stay indoors during recess and lunch. In addition, we will be getting a qualified arborist to do an up to date tree inspection in the coming weeks. This inspection will include a risk rating of low to high on all trees. Following this assessment, action will be taken to eliminate any immediate risk to our school community.

Yesterday the P&C held its AGM. We would like to thank all members for their ongoing support through the 2013 calendar year as well as to the executive team for their leadership throughout the year. Positions on the 2014 executive team were voted upon at this meeting and we congratulate the following parents who will lead our P&C for this year:

President – Crystal Barnes
Vice Presidents – Barry Connor & Jerry Andrews
Secretary – Renee Sigsworth
Treasurer – Jenny Connor

In addition, the following parents will lead these sub committees:

Canteen – Linda Terry
Canteen Treasurer – Tanya Allen
Uniform Shop – Tamara Moss & Tanya Allen
Fundraising – Jenny Connor, Linda Terry & Kylie Fogerty
The P&C is a great way to become involved in your school and we always encourage new members to attend. Meetings are held at school, from 9.15am on the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 2 April.

Another way you can be involved in your child’s education is by becoming a parent helper at school. There are so many ways you contribute to our school and really all you need to do is offer your services. We have parents who help out in the classroom by listening to reading or running the students through some sight words or number recognition cards. Some parents come to support the children during homework club each Wednesday morning. Parents are also welcome to come and help during sport time on a Friday. You can help in the canteen and the library always needs people to cover new books and resources. During performances there is make up to apply and costumes to be made. I am also looking for parents who want to turn their hand to gardening to help beautify some of the garden beds around the school. Basically, if you have an interest or a particular skill or if you just want to be a part of the school, come and talk to me and I am sure we can find something for you to do at St Marys PS. Remember, this school is part of our community and everything we do is for the benefit of the children.

Tomorrow 6 students will accompany Mrs Maton to the District Swimming Carnival. Caitlin S, Dayne T, Pyper W, Jake W, Makayla T and Melanie T will be giving it their all during their events and we wish them all the best.

Also tomorrow I will be taking Kevin and Kyza to Werrington County PS for a morning tea run by the St Marys RSL Sub Branch. Every year this local group donates $500 to each school in the old St Marys Council Area for the purchase of books for our library. Our Captain and Vice-Captain will accept this donation on behalf of the school. I would like to thank the St Marys RSL Sub Branch, in advance, for their generosity.

Glen Leaf
Principal

UPDATED INFORMATION

Our school will receive money through a RAM funding model. The money we receive will enable us to run our learning programs and buy resources and will be dependent on a number of factors. One of these factors is the information that families give to us on their student enrolment forms.

We would love all families that have received this paperwork to complete the forms and return them to school as soon as possible.

Please contact the school if you need support in updating your information or if you have any questions. Thank You.
BOOK CLUB

Book Club has started again for all students. Book Club is a worthwhile resource for you as a parent and caregiver. It enables you to purchase quality reading resources for your child at a reasonable price. Can I also emphasise how important it is for a child to have reading materials to read every day at home. Book Club also enables the school to obtain extra resources for our school library.

Photos
Our annual school photo day for K-6 students 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

Pre-paid envelopes are available in the office and need to be submitted by Friday, 7 March.

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.

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE (PRC)

Students can now register online for the Premiers Reading Challenge. Mrs Maton has already started some student records as we have been sharing books during our library lessons.

All children who successfully complete the challenge will receive a certificate from the Premier and a special treat from Mrs Maton. Reading Log cards are available from the library so children can record books read or shared at home.

K – 2 children need to read 20 books and 3 – 6 need to read 30 books. If you have any further queries please see Mrs Maton.

For further information the PRC website address is :- www.schools.nsw.edu.au/premier’sreadingchallenge

STAGE 3 INFORMATION NIGHT

On Tuesday, March 11, from 5:30pm Mr Jones and Ms Judd will hold a parent information evening for all Stage 3 parents in the Library. It is important that you attend this session as we will be discussing many crucial aspects of the year including the implementation of the new syllabus for English, homework, camps and excursions, technology and cyber safety. **Applications for high school will be discussed and completed on this night.** Please make yourself available for this meeting.
ASSEMBLY AWARDS

Week

KD- Merit- Eden, Braydon, Chloe K
PBL- Zechariah

KE- Merit- Zion, Matthew, Asher
PBL- Isabelle

KG – Merit- Bayli, Chelsea, Sean
PBL-Kobey

1/2C- Merit-Laga, Brianna, Bailey
PBL- Mollie

1/2L- Merit- Chantelle, Dasia, Maverick
PBL- Dylan

1 /2R- Merit- Eijaz, Alexandra
PBL- Isabella

3/4M- Merit- Cooper, Zenric, Amelia
PBL- Teagan

3/4S- Merit- Felicity, Amelia, Liam
PBL-Kritish

5/6G- Merit- Pujya, Adam, Leilani,
PBL- Jaycob

5/6T- Merit- Caitlin, Tarsha, Hawraa
PBL- Hannah

Principals award
Joshua Lozano
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.

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

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