

Newsletter to Parents

STANFORD MERTHYR INFANTS SCHOOL

Striving for Excellence

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www.stanfordmerthyr.is.education.nsw.gov.au



Week 4 Term 1

15th February 2011



Date	Next fortnight's activities
16th Feb	Kinder/whole school Photos Parent Information Evening 6.30-7.30pm
18th Feb	P & C Meeting (AGM) 9.30am
22nd Dec	Playgroup SMIS 9.30-11.00am

Baker, Baker

KH Brock Allaway
K/1P Liam Bailey
1/2S Ashton Bean

No peanut products are to be used

Dear Families and Friends of Stanford Merthyr

We are now in Week 4 of our term and the students have been back for 3 weeks. During that time they have established routines, experienced extreme weather conditioners and started their exciting journey in learning. Congratulations to all of our students and parents! Many have had to step out of their comfort zone in some way or another. The buzz in the classrooms and the laughs in the playground are all a good sign.

Annual School Photos

Student will have their photos taken at school tomorrow, Wednesday 16th Feb. This year the photographic company is able to offer whole school, class and year group photos within their products. Envelopes must be in by Wednesday morning or you will have to order directly with the photographer.

Parent Information Evening

I encourage parents along to our Information session where staff will explain the routine and systems that are operating this year at our school, and in their classrooms. It begins at 6.30 pm and a light supper will be provided.

P&C Meeting

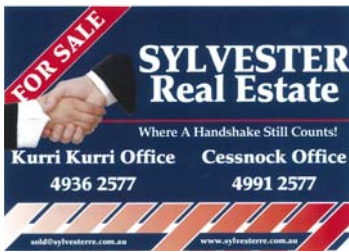
Due to unforeseen circumstances our P&C meeting has been moved to this **Friday 18th Feb at 9.30am**. It is the AGM and we would encourage as many parents as possible to be involved to meet other parents who are a part of the great things that happen at our school. It is also a way to support the school community and our children's learning. The P&C are providing morning tea and it is a great opportunity to catch up over a cuppa. Looking forward to seeing you there.

National Partnership Update

Over the last 3 weeks Jenni Capstick, Samantha Webb and myself have been attending the first of our National Partnership funded professional development at Pelaw Main Public School. We are focussing this term on talking and listening, which is a very important component of the literacy for the early years of learning. Becoming a confident and articulate speaker and an active and purposeful listener are essential skills for children in both learning and social situations. As an adult you will probably have been in situations where you felt able to join in conversation or discussion confidently and other situations where you felt less confident and therefore less likely to join in. Given the importance of speaking and listening for learning, it is vital that we provide children with



Education
& Training



Thinking of selling or leasing your property? Don't forget to contact Renee at Sylvester Real Estate in Kurri Kurri. For every house Renee sells she will donate money to our school.

the most supportive environment for speaking and listening that we can. All staff will be participating in this training over the term and we are working hard to have minimum disruption to our normal routines.

Watch out for the Chatter Box program that we will be running next term. We will need adult helpers to support the program.

Here are some easy tips that you might like to try to support your child's talking and listening development.

- begin talking, singing, and reading frequently to your children when they are babies.
- When giving directions to your younger children, use short sentences and explain clearly what you want them to do. As they grow older, increase the length of the directions using words that describe (for example, instead of saying, "Get the book," you can say, "Please bring me your favourite storybook. It is on the desk in your room.>").
- Ask your children questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer. Some questions that help them to talk more openly are "Why do you think that happened?" "What do we do next?" "What would happen if we did it this way?" "What can we do about that?" "How can we make this better?"
- Listen carefully as your children talk to you. Answer their questions and take time to explain things to them.
- Teach your children songs and poems that are fun to sing and say (for example, songs like "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and poems like "Wee Willie Winkie" or "Little Miss Muffet").
- Set aside a special time each day to read aloud to your children.
- Read stories and informational books aloud for as long as you can read and your children can listen. If your children become restless, lay the book aside and come back to it at another time.

- Read stories to your children and have them tell the stories back to you.
- Record yourself reading a book and give the tape to your children. Let them play the tape and read along in the book on their own.
- Have your children "read" to you from a picture book by making up their own stories about the pictures.
- Take nature walks in the neighbourhood or at local parks. Spend time talking in detail with your children about things you can see, hear, or touch such as leaves, rain, and caterpillars.
- Draw pictures with your children and take turns telling stories about the pictures.
- Pick a topic of interest to your children and have them learn new things about it. Ask them to tell you and other family members what they have learned.
- Watch educational television programs with your children and talk with them about those programs.

Parent Workshops

With National Partnership funding we are able to offer parent work shops that will support and inform parents about programs running at our school. It will also help parents to understand about the learning their children are experiencing and ways they can support their children in their learning. Some of the topics that we would like to offer would be : understanding The Best Start Program, helping my child with reading, maths etc, technology used at school, what happens in the school canteen. For these to be accessible I would like to have an idea of times and days parents are able to be involved.

Please fill in the attached sheet and return to the office as soon as possible .

Fruit Break

We are still looking for parents who would be able to cut up fruit on a Thursday morning for our Fruit Break platters. Thank you to the parents that helped last week. It takes about 30 minutes to prepare. Classes then collect the platters from the canteen. This is a wonderful way to expose students to many varieties of fruits and vegetables. The more people who can help us then it isn't left to one person to do all the time. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. This week and next week we are looking for parents in 1/2S to help. If you are available to help with the platters please put your name down at the office. K/1P parents will be asked to help in weeks 6, 7 & 8 and KH parents in weeks 9, 10 & 11.

School Assembly

Thank you to the parents who were able to come to our first assembly last Friday. In this newsletter you will read the students who have achieved recognition for their work or attitudes to learning and school. Looking at the timing we will start the whole school assembly at **2.15 pm of a Friday afternoon**.

Thought for the week.

"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it you will land among the stars."

Kathryn Duncan
Principal



We have a special fundraising event planned for this Thursday, 17th February. Let's be "Maroon for a Day" is to raise money for Queensland public schools affected by the recent floods.

Our efforts will be part of a national fund raising activity being coordinated by SchoolAid on the same day.

We ask that our students come dressed in something maroon and bring a gold coin as a donation for the Queensland Flood Appeal. Our Kid's Councillors will be collecting donations on Thursday.

OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

Don't forget to have a look at our school's website! On it you will find relevant information about SMIS and your child's class.

The **CALENDAR** page lists any upcoming events, activities or special days happening at our school. It also highlights events relating to all schools in NSW. Excursion notes etc may also be attached to the events as well.

The **LATEST NEWS** page lists articles written by the Department, and also a link to our current school newsletter.

The **PHOTO ALBUM** page has albums of photos taken of our students at various special days, excursions etc.

The top of the website has lots of useful links for parents about our school and curriculum. There is also the **CLASS PAGES** link, where during the year we update our page with exciting things we have been doing in class.

Keep the website bookmarked, and keep checking it during the year!

www.stanfordmerthyr.is.education.nsw.gov.au/

Stanford Merthyr Infants School
Striving for excellence in learning and caring

Maitland St, Stanford Merthyr
Phone: 4937 1192

Home Our school Curriculum & activities Caring for students Class Pages Parent information

Choose school year Kindergarten 1 2

Stanford Merthyr Infants School

Stanford Merthyr Infants school is a unique family school, providing quality and stimulating programs for the important formative years of Kindergarten to Year 2. We offer a small school environment where students are engaged in quality learning.

2010

Calendar

School Photos
16 February 2011

Parent Information Night 6:30
16 February 2011

Cleanup Australia Day
6 March 2011

more events

Latest news

Term 1, Week 3 (PDF 337 KB)

Lunch box safety

Students are returning to school in one of the hottest months of the year and summer temperatures...

Education tax refund

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to keep their receipts from education related expenses to take...

Whooping cough alert

NSW Health is warning parents to be on the alert for whooping cough following an increase in the...

Digital citizenship checklist

Kids today seem to be born knowing how to use technology, but they don't automatically understand...

more news

Photo albums

Grandparent and Careers day 22/9

10 photos

Fabulous Fathers' Fun Friday 3/9

5 photos

Nillo Sports Carnival 1/9

8 photos

more albums

BABY & ME!
For dads, mums and grandparents with children under 18 months.
Meet other parents, learn about your baby's development and info on parenting issues.
Koe-nara
every Wednesday at School Term
1.00 pm to 2.30 pm

Children's Clothing Exchange
Clothing for children up to size 6 are available for parents at no cost.
There is clothing, bibs, socks, shoes and hats available.
Anyone can borrow from the exchange and later return those clothes for the next size. Families help themselves to the clothing, which is stored in a set of baskets.

Naae-Wianni
Aboriginal Maternal Infant Health Service
Antenatal Clinic to be held fortnightly starting from Feb 14, 28
March 14, 28 From 1—4
This service is for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women or women who have an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander partner



Koe-nara is an
Aboriginal word meaning
families

Koe-nara is a school based community centre for families with children from birth to 8 years of age.
At Koe-nara there is a range of activities available to support families and strengthen the community.



familiesNSW
supporting families to raise children



SCHOOLS AS
COMMUNITY CENTRE

Term 1 2011
Feb 7 to April 8

Cnr Rawson & Quambiulong Sts
Cessnock NSW 2220
Ph: 08 933 4993
Mobile: 08 263 854
Email: koe-nara@bigpond.net.au

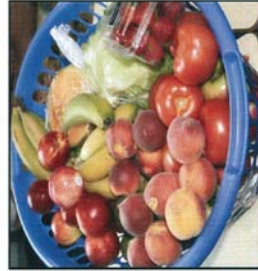
Playworks!
At Koe-Nara on Mondays
10 am to 12 midday
At Cessnock East Public School on
Thursdays 9.30—11.30.
Families with children under school age are welcome. Bring along hats for your child and you. Morning Tea provided.

Let's Play
18 months—3 year olds only
Tuesdays @ Koe-nara
10—11:30
Morning Tea provided
Using Cheap And Cheerful resources that you can play with at home with your child



Fruit & Veg Co-op
Available fortnightly, call the centre for details of payment & delivery dates.
Cost is \$30 per F & V basket.
Free Range Eggs \$3.20 a dozen

Payment Date	Delivery date
Feb 18	Feb 21
March 4	March 7
March 18	March 21
April 1	April 4



Triple P
Be the best parent you can be
Topics include:
Power of Positive Parenting
March 2
Raising Confident Competent Children
March 9
Raising Resilient Children
March 16
Sessions to be held at
Koe-nara
10—12
Bookings essential
Limited child care

Rhyme Time @ Kurri Library

251 Lang Street, Kurri Ph 4937 1638



Wednesday mornings
10.00 am to 11am

Songs, rhymes, musical instruments,
puppets, craft and Fun!

This is a free session for babies and
toddlers with a parent or carer
No booking required

Cessnock Library (65 Vincent Street) Ph 4993 4399 hosts

Rhyme Time for children aged 0-2 years on Mondays, 10am to 10.30am
AND
Storytime for 2-5 years on Tuesdays, 10am to 11am





HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WHO HAVE CELEBRATED A BIRTHDAY !

Liam Smith	K/1P	18/01/11
Rani Dowdell-Reddy	K/1P	19/01/11
Makayla Patterson	1/2S	21/01/11
Max Stauffer	K/1P	26/01/11
Riley Chapple	K/1P	31/01/11
Zoe Unicom	1/2S	08/02/11
Jackson Ferry	KH	09/02/11

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS;
At the assembly on Friday 11th February 2011
these children all received awards.

1/2S	K/1P	KH
Aiden Blishen Cuneo Using a ruler to make a grid	Noah Sternbeck Magic effort in number work	Jai Langman Brilliant number work
Callen Ingham Great writing skills	Brodie Hoad Fantastic writing	Halle Saunders Participation and enjoyment in reading
Emma Ellis Great leadership skills	Max Stauffer Showing resilience and confidence in class	Olivia Falko For settling into kinder with a confident attitude
Lilly Hoad Getting Along	Madison Todhunter Resilience	Bella Hilton Persistence



Parent Information Workshops

Parent Name.....

Contact No.....

Child's name.....

Class.....

Please indicate below what day and time you would prefer and what topics you would like to see discussed at the workshops.

	Morning	A/noon	Evening
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

My topic/s that I would like discussed at the workshops are;
