

Newsletter to Parents

STANFORD MERTHYR INFANTS SCHOOL

Striving for Excellence

Find us at: Maitland Street, Stanford Merthyr NSW 2327
Phone: (02) 4937 1192 Fax: (02) 4936 1178

email: stanmerthi-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.stanfordmerthyr.is.education.nsw.gov.au



Week 2 Term 1

1st February 2011



Date	Next fortnight's activities
8th Feb	Playgroup SMIS 9.30-11.00am
14th Feb	P & C Meeting (AGM) 9.30am
16th Feb	Kinder/whole school Photos Parent Information Evening 6.30-7.30pm

Dear Families and Friends of Stanford Merthyr

Welcome back parents and students and a special welcome to our new Kindergarten students and parents.

I am very impressed by the positive attitude and enthusiasm the students have returned to school with and how spectacular they are looking in their uniforms. We have enjoyed listening to the many adventures families have had over the holidays, especially seeing the Year 3 students looking so grown up and ready to start their new school.

Thank you for watching the school over the holidays and it is pleasing to say we didn't have any damage done to our school. We had air conditioners installed into the new classrooms, which are greatly appreciated, since we are experiencing such hot weather.

So far, students showed their persistence and getting along skills, as they have worked together in the vegetable garden. At recess, students were able to taste fresh picked corn, lettuce and tomatoes. Thank you to Mrs Capstick, who worked with the students to harvest the crops in such incredible heat.

All students have settled in well to their new classes and are eagerly attempting work at their new stage of learning. Thank you to the teachers who came in through the holidays to set up their classes as well as sort out furniture. All parents

are invited to an Information evening on the 16th February at 6.30 pm. Staff will talk to you about what will be happening in their classes and the exciting opportunities that will be happening at our school in 2011. Keep watching the newsletters for all the updated information and looking on our school website.

Low SES National Partnership

Last year, Stanford Merthyr Infants had been working closely with the other Kurri Kurri Local Community Schools, Kurri Kurri High School, Kurri Kurri Primary, Pelaw Main and Weston Public school, as part of the Low SES National Partnership Program. This partnership is targeting improving the education and life opportunities of all students. Through this funding support we have the opportunity to be involved and have access to programs and professional development that would not have been possible without the additional funding. All staff will be involved in professional development which is important to meet the needs of our students, to achieve maximum growth. This term we have been accepted into the Language, Learning and Literacy Program targeting reading and writing in the early years of schooling and the First Steps Program addressing talking and listening. This also has meant we have had to restructure our weekly timetable. Our morning, Monday to Friday will be dedicated to literacy, and we have moved our whole school assembly to Friday Afternoon at 2.00 pm. Thank you to the parents who completed the



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.

assembly survey as it has given us valuable feedback.

With National Partnership funding I have been given the opportunity to be able to work and support in all classrooms as well as employ additional staff. Miss Humbles will have Kindergarten, Mr Ping will have K/1 and Mrs Sellens will have 1/2. I would like to welcome Samantha Webb, who you may already know from last year. Samantha will be our Librarian this year and she has already been in through the holidays to give our well used library a makeover.

Lisa Williams will be working with us in the role of School Learning Support Officer and she will be overseeing Playgroup and supporting student's learning in the school. Both ladies are very excited about being a part of a wonderful, supportive small school community. Through the P&C and weekly newsletters I will keep parents updated on further National Partnership initiatives and what it means for our school and students.

P & C

Our first P & C meeting (AGM) and morning tea will be held on Monday 14th February at 9.30am. I would encourage you to attend, as P & C is an important part of a school's organisation.

Matters of importance, that directly effect the students and families of SMIS are addressed at these meetings. It is also an opportunity to have an input in your child's education. Many of the great initiatives around our school are due to the commitment and efforts of this parent body. The parents have worked hard to make these an informal but effective meeting as well as a way to meet other parents with a common interest-children. Please make the effort to come along.

School contribution fees are now due and will be \$35 per student for 2011. EFTPOS facilities are available at the office, but if you have any difficulties in making payments please see me as the school has funds to help.

I am looking forward to catching up with you all and please, if you have any questions, no matter how big or small, please do not hesitate to come and talk with me. My door is always open.

Thought for the week.

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

Kathryn Duncan
Principal



Canteen

The canteen will be open from this Friday. Lunches can be ordered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and placed in the blue box on the end of the verandah outside the canteen.

The canteen roster is in the noticeboard under the cola for anyone to put their name down to help with canteen. Any help would be very much appreciated.

Fruit Break roster

Each week the P&C supply a fruit break for all classes. This has proven to be a wonderful way to expose students to many varieties of fruits and vegetables. For this to run effectively each class is on a roster and we are asking for parents of that class to come on a Thursday morning and cut up fruit and vegetables for students to try. It takes about 30 minutes to prepare. Classes then collect the platters from the canteen.

If you are available to help with the platters please put your name down at the office. 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.

1/2S	weeks 3,4,and 5
K/1P	weeks 6,7 and 8
KH	weeks 9,10 and 11

School Banking

Once again this year, school banking will be on Monday morning. Send in your bank book to the office to have your deposit processed and collect your token. Kinder children will receive their banking pack with the newsletter.

Education Tax Refund

Buying new school-related equipment? Don't forget to keep your receipts; you might be eligible for an Education Tax Refund. More information at www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

Encouraging literacy skills at home

Let your child help you write shopping lists

This is a great way to get them reading words that don't always come from a storybook. Children can help you read recipes and then write out lists of items you need and link names to products that you point out in the refrigerator or the pantry cupboard.

More ideas at

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/ezine/yr2009/issue01/shopping/index.php>

Don't forget to label your child's belongings

You can:

- use a permanent laundry marker to label clothes, hats and shoes, or sew or iron on personalised labels
- go through your child's bag with them each night
- check that labels haven't faded with washing
- if something doesn't come home, ask at the office where your school's lost property area is.

You are welcome at school

Children love to see their parents and carers at their school, whether helping out in the classroom, canteen or being involved in other ways. Research shows that students perform better at school when their parents or carers take an active interest in their school work. Your contribution to the school is needed and valued.

Ways you might get involved:

- help in the classroom
- listen to children read
- help children on computers
- prepare food and serve children at the canteen

Tips for packing their lunch boxes

- Pack food that is easy to open, easy to eat and not messy.
- Write their name on their lunch box, water bottle and any other containers.
- Include a frozen drink bottle to keep food cold. Wrap it in a tea towel in case it leaks.
- Use insulated lunch boxes or cooler bags.
- Avoid using plastic wrap because children find it hard to pull apart, paper bags are better for the environment too.
- Remind your child to wash their hands before eating and use the toilet at recess and lunch.
- Pack a water bottle for your child each day and remind them that they can also get water from the taps or bubblers throughout the day.



K A S E Y C A R R

DANCE HEADQUARTERS

'The Hunter Valleys leading Dance and
Performing Arts Studio'

Now Enrolling for 2010!

-Jazz/Funk/Hip Hop -Tap -
Ballet -Drama -Cheerleading -
Contemporary & ZUMBA

Lessons held @ Weston Civic Centre

Come and Join the Fun!

0404 043 405

danceheadquarters@gmail.com
www.kcdancehq.com.au

Relationships Australia

Aboriginal Men's Gathering

A **FREE** Seminar for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Men

Continuing a yarn around a cuppa and BBQ lunch

We could talk about:

- ❖ Aboriginal Art & Culture
- ❖ Finding your place as an Aboriginal man in society/community
- ❖ Family influences

Or any other topic you choose about being a man in today's world

Venue: Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre
"A place of identity and belonging to our community"
76 Lang Street,
Kurri Kurri

Date: Wednesday 9th February 2011
Time: 11.45am for 12.00 start to finish at 2.30pm

BBQ LUNCH PROVIDED

For more Information Contact:

Barkuma Phone: 4936 4999

Stephanie Phone: 4936 3337

Allan Phone: 0404 097 630

Relationships Australia Phone 4940 1500

Email: hunterrep@randsw.org.au

www.relationships.com.au