

# Newsletter to Parents

## STANFORD MERTHYR INFANTS SCHOOL

Striving for Excellence

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Week 6 Term 1

1st March 2011



Date	Next fortnight's activities
4th March	Clean up Australia Day
8th March	Playgroup SMIS 9.30-11.00am
11th March	P & C Meeting 9.30am
23 March	Understanding Best Start 2.00pm

### **Baker, Baker**

KH Koby Carmody  
K/1P Kayla Akins  
1/2S Jordyn Atkinson

**No peanut products are to be used**

### Dear Families and Friends of Stanford Merthyr Disruption to learning

Yesterday was an unfortunate start to the week when we discovered that we had no water at our school for drinking and flushing the toilets. This was due to vandals in our school over the weekend, removing copper pipe from the demountable toilet block. Thank you to all parents and carers for your support in making sure all our students' health and safety is looked after. We have been informed that as of this morning we are back to normal. Again thank you for your co-operation.

After listening to the news this morning and hearing that some people in New Zealand have only just had their water restored after a week, it really puts our situation back into perspective. Our thoughts go out to the people in New Zealand.

### New Staff

I would like to welcome Cindy Staley to our school. Cindy will be running the Playgroup on a Tuesday morning as well as working on support programs for students. Lisa Williams will be here on a Friday to work with students who need greater assistance. Sarah Wilkinson will be returning this year on a Thursday and Friday, also to support student learning. It is lovely to have these ladies at our

school. Please take the time to introduce yourself. Thank you also to the parents who have given up their time to volunteer in the classrooms. If you are interested just ask your child's teacher how you can help.

### P&C

It was a special week last week, as we farewelled our valuable 2010 P&C parents and welcomed our new, just as wonderful, 2011 parents into various positions. Thank you to the great turn out of parents who supported the meeting. I cannot stress how important the P&C is to our school as a representative of the parent body. I also would like to recognise all the parents and families who support our school in many different ways, in providing a better learning environment for our students. I look forward to seeing you all at the next P&C meeting on the **11th March at 9.30 am.**

### National Partnership

Shannon, Vicki and Nadine have started their professional learning on Talking and Listening with the Pelaw Main staff. To provide minimal disruption and to keep to our routines, Samantha Webb and myself will be taking the classes. I attended a 3 day workshop last week on the Quality Teaching Framework.



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 framework is based on sound research of how teaching and school improvement can promote improved student learning outcomes. It builds, most importantly, on what teachers already know and value, to support quality teaching practices. As a staff we are continually working with and strengthening the Quality Teaching Framework in our class programs and practices. Both of these courses we will be consolidating in our staff development days at the beginning of Term 2.

### Parent Workshop

On the **23rd March at 2.00 pm** we are offering a parent workshop on ***Understanding Best Start***. This is a program that all of our students have been involved in when they entered Kindergarten. It is also the basis of our tracking system in Literacy for all students at Stanford Merthyr Infants. Please let Wendy know if you are coming so we can organise resources and afternoon tea. Look out for another parent workshop ***"Magic Behaviour"***. This will be a couple of evening workshops held at the school.

Please let me know of any workshops or learning you may like to participate in to support you in understanding your child and their learning.

Mr Ping had a death in his family and has been away Monday and Tuesday. K/1P have been enjoying working with the lovely Mrs Vickers.

### Clean Up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia day will be held this **Friday 4th March** at our school. Please send your child to school with their hat, a pair of gloves and covered shoes as we will be cleaning up in our environment.

Thought of the week.

"The mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work unless it's open"

Have a marvellous week.

Kathryn Duncan  
Principal



## Student Leadership at Stanford Merthyr Infants School

Students at our school are lucky enough to experience opportunities for leadership at a young age. We have a strong Kids Council with members from each class. These students are elected by their classmates and hold an important position in the school. Each term new representatives are elected, so that in the time your child attends our school they will have been a member of the Kids Council. Every student will have a turn.

As Kids Councillors, they have a number of responsibilities. At assemblies they are required to choose a student who has exhibited the best manners during the assembly. On the playground, they assist the teachers looking out for other students. They are also aware of behaviour in the playground, and at our regular meetings, they have a chance to bring up any issues they have noticed, as well as any lovely behaviour.

An important part of being a Kids Councillor is the fundraising. Each year we are presented with opportunities to raise money for different causes, such as the Children's Hospital, Canteen and Diabetes. The Kids Councillors decide which organisations we will support in the year and then assist in selling the merchandise. They do an excellent job.

Because of the chance to experience these responsibilities at an early age, our students often go on to achieve positions of leadership in other schools. At present, students who attended our school in 2006 are now in Year 6 at various schools. We have some great results in leadership with three students elected as captains of their school. These are Brayden Bean at Pelaw Main Public School, Caitlyn Job at Maitland Public School and Jaxson Corbett at Cessnock West Public School. A number of students from that year are also vice captains. They are Natasha Winefield at Blackhill Public School, Hannah Dobing at Pelaw Main Public School and Samantha Allen at Holy Spirit School.

Students attending our school develop their skills in leadership and this stands them in good stead for their future education.





The '**Premier's Reading Challenge**' is on again this year for all students!  
Essentially, it is a reading challenge open to students from Kindergarten to Year 9 in NSW, endorsed by the State Government.  
The Challenge aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read more often, and to read more widely!

Students entering and successfully completing the Challenge will receive a **PRC Certificate** and appear on the **PRC Honour Roll** at the end of the year. The Challenge runs until 1st September 2011.

Students must complete a set amount of reading to meet the Challenge. Students in K-2 must experience (read, or be read to) **25 books** from the PRC list, and **5** personal choice books, **30 books in total**. All library books that are on the PRC list will be marked, complete with a PRC id number. Students may read PRC books from the school library, local library, in class or at home.

As each PRC book is read, it is recorded their reading log at home. When they have finished the Challenge, they return the log to school, where the books are entered online for them.

The PRC website at <https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> provides the full reading lists, FAQ's and rules etc.

For students to participate in the PRC, parents/caregivers must complete the following permission note and send back to school in order to receive a PRC 'kit'.

Any questions, please feel free to ask!  
S Webb

### Premier's Reading Challenge 2011

I give the permission for my child/children ..... of class.....  
to participate in the PRC for 2011. I understand that on successful completion of the challenge,  
their name will be printed in the 'Honor Roll', in the Sydney Morning Herald.

Signed..... parent/caregiver ..... date.....



*HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WHO HAVE  
CELEBRATED A BIRTHDAY !*



**Luke Dietrich**  
**Lilly Hoad**

**KH**  
**KH**

**19/02/11**  
**21/02/11**

***STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS;***  
*At the assembly on Friday 25th February 2011  
these children all received awards.*

1/2S	K/1P	KH
<b>Daniel Sherlock</b> Magic effort in using mathematical strategies	<b>Graham Wood</b> Magic effort in reading groups	<b>Angus Guy</b> In writing numbers to 10
<b>Taynaya Conn</b> Fabulous effort in writing	<b>Imogen Atkinson</b> Effort in Reading	<b>Hunter Williams</b> A wonderful effort in writing sentences
<b>Emma Davies</b> Brightening our days	<b>Aura Atkinson</b> Listening skills and following instructions	<b>Luke Dietrich</b> Trying his best to produce quality 5 work
<b>Ashtyn Bean</b> Getting Along	<b>Brodie Hoad</b> Organisation	<b>Jade Roberts</b> Persistence
<p align="center"><b>PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS (Five Awards)</b> Johannes Basedow</p>		

