

# Newsletter to Parents

## STANFORD MERTHYR INFANTS SCHOOL

Striving for Excellence

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Week 3 Term 3

3rd Aug 2011



Date	Next fortnight's activities
3rd Aug	Educ Week Award Ceremony 4.00pm Mt View HS
4th Aug	Edfest Performance 5.30pm KKHS
9th Aug	Playgroup SMIS 9.30-11.00am

**Baker, Baker**

KH Izabel Wynne  
K/1P Tyler Hartley  
1/2S Tenesha Cullen

**No peanut products are to be used**

### Dear Families and Friends of Stanford Merthyr

This week is Education Week and public schools across NSW are celebrating their many achievements. This year the theme is NSW Public Schools - *creating the future*. This is the message that we aim to deliver through our school on a daily basis. We have Education Awards on Wednesday afternoon at Mount View High school, where parents, students and programs are being recognised for the wonderful contribution they make to our schools. Our school was proud to nominate Daniel Sherlock, Tracy Osland, Miss Wilkinson and the Boys' Dance Group. Congratulations and thank you for the difference you make to our school and the students.

Leadership is an important part in making a difference and being able to create the future for our students. Mrs Sellens has accepted the Relieving Principal position at Nillo infants school until the end of the year. This was a very hard decision for her to make, and she accepted it with much reservation as it meant being away from the school she loves. Her decision was made a little easier when she thought about the great opportunity this was for her professional growth and knowing Miss Samantha Webb would be teaching 1/2S class and Mrs Keryn Vickers will take

on the position of library teacher. We are not saying goodbye to Mrs Sellens, we are merely lending her to another school. We will be having an afternoon tea in a few weeks to give students and parents the opportunity to catch up with Mrs Sellens. She has already started planning Video Conference sessions between Nillo and Stanford Merthyr Infants. She will be with us for our Education Week awards and our Edfest Presentation on Thursday night at Kurri Kurri High school. Mrs Sellens will be at our combined Infants carnival with Nillo at Stanford School on 9th Sept. I personally think Nillo has a plan so that with Mrs Sellens they will learn all our secrets.

Our vegetable garden is going fantastic. We use produce from it every week in cooking. Our compost is growing as well. We are hoping that we may have some dads or granddads that maybe able to turn our compost over occasionally. It is too hard for the students, even though they love the challenge. Please let us know if you can help.

We would like to wish Tiah and her family our deepest sympathy and support at this time.

**Thought of the week** - Change does not change tradition. It strengthens it. Change is a challenge and an opportunity; not a threat.



Education  
& Training

### **Woolworths Earn & Learn**

Please continue to send in your Woolworths dockets as the more points we earn the more literacy resources we can obtain for the students.



### **Coles Sports for Schools if back!**

We are now collecting Coles sports vouchers. For every \$10 you spend at Coles and Bi-Lo stores you receive a voucher which you then bring into the office. We have had lots come in already so keep them coming!



### **P & C News**

#### **Fundraising**

The fundraising committee would like to thank everyone that participated in the Thompsons pie drive. We made approx \$700. Thank you to all the families for your support. Thanks also to the parents that helped pack the orders.

#### **Photos**

Please don't forget that photo's are this Sunday 7th August. If you have forgotten your times please go to the office. There are still more appointments available if you want to still make a booking. Could your \$15 please be paid to the office by this Thursday.

Thank you.

On behalf of the past and present P & C committee we would like to take the opportunity to wish Mrs Sellens all the best in her new promotion at Nillo Infants School (Only for the rest of the year).

She is a great asset to our school and it is going to be very hard to fill her shoes. The children who have been lucky enough to have had her as a teacher would simply say she is "SPECIAL".

The parents who have been lucky enough to have her as a friend and mentor to their children would simply say "THANKS".

*"Our loss is Nillo's gain"*

### **Kurri Kurri & District Pre-School**

Kurri Kurri & District Pre-school will be holding an open Day on **Friday 26th August 2011** between **10.30 and 1.00pm**. We are currently taking names for our waiting list for 2012 for children 3-5 years. We are also preparing a waiting list for children requiring pre-school education from 9am to 3pm for children eligible to attend pre-school up to 2014 ie: born before 31/7/10. For any enquiries, please contact the pre-school on 4937 2110.



#### DOUBLE EARN & LEARN POINTS THIS WEEK!

From now until Sunday 7th August 2011, we'll give customers TWO Earn & Learn points for every \$10 they spend at Woolworths (excluding the purchase of cigarettes, alcohol and gift cards).

This is a great opportunity to remind parents and kids to keep collecting and bringing in their Woolworths shopping dockets and to make the most of earning DOUBLE Earn & Learn points when they shop this week!

Parents, kids and the local community can check online at [woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn](http://woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn) to see how well the school is doing.

While you are on the [www.teaching.com.au](http://www.teaching.com.au) site, browse through the huge Modern Teaching Aids (MTA) catalogue that has more than 7,000 educational resources including library books, mathematics, science & robotics, classroom equipment, art & craft materials and much, much more.

Start putting your wish list together and let everyone in the school know what you are aiming to use your Earn & Learn points for, the more Earn & Learn points you have the more resources you can earn.

Collect DOUBLE Woolworths Earn & Learn points today!

[Find out more](#) ►



Cessnock Family Support Presents



## Three Choices Parent Program



This three session program explores how parents can help children manage their behaviour. Parents will be presented with the **Three Choices Model** which includes **123 Magic** and **Emotion Coaching**.

The program is designed for parents of children aged 2-12 years

Dates: August 22, 29 & Sept 5 2011  
Times: 9.30am - 12 noon  
Where: Cessnock (venue to be advised)  
Phone: 4990 4507

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**  
*Numbers will be limited*

Newcastle Family Support Services' Family Relationship Skills Program and Cessnock Family Support Service would like to invite parents/care-givers of young children (in their care) to a FREE 6 week group program...



## Growing kids!

Conversations may include:

- Getting them off to a good start - what do kids need?
- Understanding how kids think and feel
- Trying not to 'lose the plot' - suggestions for parents and kids
- Ideas to help you and your kids manage strong emotions
- What do you need as parent or carer to help you care for kids?

When: Tuesdays (6 weeks)  
9<sup>th</sup> August - 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2011

Time: 10.00am - 12.00 pm

Where: Cessnock Family Support Service  
5 Hall Street  
Cessnock



Free children's group and morning tea available on the premises

To make a booking or for further information please call  
Cessnock Family Support on 4990 4507

The Family Relationship Skills Project is funded by the Australian Government and auspiced by Newcastle Family Support Services.







## About the Education Tax Refund

### Who is eligible?

- A person who has received Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A for a child undertaking primary or secondary school studies.
- Independent students in primary or secondary school.
- People on other allowances may be eligible too.

### How much can be claimed?

Those eligible can claim 50% of eligible education expenses up to the maximum amounts.

For the 2010–11 financial year the maximum amounts that can be claimed are:

- \$794 for each primary school child — that is, a **refund** of up to \$397, and
- \$1,588 for each secondary school child — that is a **refund** of up to \$794.

### What can be claimed in 2010-11?

Eligible expenses include the cost of buying, establishing, repairing and maintaining any of the following items:

- home computers and laptops
- computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives, and disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- computer repairs
- home internet connections
- computer software for educational use
- school textbooks and other printed learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery, and
- prescribed trade tools for secondary school trade courses.

### How do people claim?

- The ETR is claimed in an individual's tax return, or
- For those who don't lodge a tax return, it is claimed on the *Education Tax Refund for individuals claim form*, available from the Tax Office.

For more information go to [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au).

For more information and an electronic copy of this fact sheet visit  
[www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)



Australian Government



Winter Uniforms

## Education Tax Refund

### Update



Associated Learning Materials



Computer Repairs



Stationery



Exercise Books

### School uniforms

The Government is changing the Education Tax Refund (ETR) so that people can claim their kid's school uniforms. This means people will be able to claim school-approved uniform items from 1 July 2012.

### What do I need to do and when?

From 1 July 2011 start keeping receipts for school uniform items so you can claim them next year.

### What school uniform items will I be eligible to claim?

Items need to be distinctive and recognised by the school — but are not limited to items bearing a school crest. For example:

- A public school has a policy which states that students should wear yellow shirts, blue hats, grey shorts or skirts and black leather shoes to identify the students as attending the school. However, while wearing these colours is strongly encouraged, it is not compulsory. An eligible individual whose child attends the school buys items which fit within this policy from a store unaffiliated with the school. None of the clothing items contain the name of the school or school crest. As the items, including shoes, are approved or recognised as part of a distinctive school outfit and fall under the policy, they would be eligible expenses. This applies irrespective of where the clothing was purchased or the fact the uniform was not mandatory.
- A school has a dress code where students are required to be dressed in a neat and presentable fashion, but which does not indicate a more specific colour or style that the clothing should take. An eligible individual whose child attends the school buys clothes which they intend to wear to school. The items would not be eligible expenses. While the clothing meets the school's dress code, they lack the sufficiently distinctive quality of a uniform, and could not identify the child as a student at the school.



School Shirts



School Shoes



Summer Uniforms



**Education Tax Refund**  
claim everything you are entitled to

For more information and an electronic copy of this fact sheet visit  
[www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)

Sports Uniforms



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



<b>Brodie Hoad</b>	<b>K/1P</b>	<b>14/07/11</b>
<b>Kayla Akins</b>	<b>K/1P</b>	<b>18/07/11</b>
<b>Aiden Blishen Cuneo</b>	<b>1/2S</b>	<b>23/07/11</b>
<b>Johannes Basedow</b>	<b>1/2S</b>	<b>28/07/11</b>
<b>Reegan Summerville</b>	<b>K/1P</b>	<b>28/07/11</b>

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS;**  
*At the assembly on Friday 29th July 2011  
these children all received awards.*

#### READING AWARDS

##### **BRONZE**

Madison Todhunter

##### **SILVER**

Kayla Akins  
Noah Sternbeck  
Emma Caulson  
Jack Caulson

##### **GOLD**

Luke Dietrich  
Brayden Ling  
Jay Osland

##### **DOUBLE BRONZE**

Brock Allaway

##### **DOUBLE SILVER**

Jai Langman

##### **DOUBLE GOLD**

Tenesha Cullen  
Johannes Basedow

#### PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Jay Osland

#### STAR STUDENT AWARD

Daniel Sherlock

