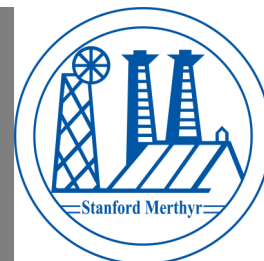


Newsletter to Parents

STANFORD MERTHYR INFANTS SCHOOL

Striving for Excellence



Find us at: Maitland Street, Stanford Merthyr NSW 2327
Phone: (02) 4937 1192 Fax: (02) 4936 1178
www.facebook.com/stanfordmerthyr

email: stanmerthi-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.stanmerthi-p.school.nsw.edu.au

Week 1 Term 4

6th October 2015

BAKER, BAKER

9th Oct KP Eli Gerke
9th Oct K/1H Taylah Harris
9th Oct 1P Harrison Clements
9th Oct 2T Georgia Gamble
16th Oct KP Ella Gaul
16th Oct K/1H Connor Lambert
16th Oct 1P Curtis Conolly
16th Oct 2T Lily-Mae Moore
No peanut products are to be used



CANTEEN ROSTER

Wed 7th Oct Tanya Smith
Fri 9th Oct Kristy McIntyre
Mon 12th Oct Nicole and Barbara
Wed 14th Oct Volunteers needed please
Fri 16th Oct Closed because of Spring Fair

THURSDAY FRUIT BREAK

Thur 8th Oct Emma anderswon
Thur 15th Oct Amy Hallett
Thur 22nd Oct Barbara Wells

Dear families and friends of Stanford Merthyr
Infants: **THOUGHT FOR THE FORTNIGHT**



WELCOME BACK TO TERM 4

I trust you all enjoyed the school holidays and have returned to school happy and healthy and ready for an exciting terms work.

WHOLE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AT STOCK-LAND GREEN HILLS TOMORROW

Our boys will dance and the girls will perform "Count on Me." The performance will take place outside Big W if you would like to come along and be in the audience.

YEAR ONE BUDDY TRAINING DAY

Next Monday Mr Ping and Miss Humbles will spend the day with all the Year One students helping prepare them to be excellent buddies for our new kindergarten students for 2016.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE FOR CANTEEN

Help is urgently needed to keep our canteen open on Wednesdays and Fridays this term please.

Term 4 Assembly Roster

Fri 9th October	Awards only
Fri 16th Oct	Year 2 present work
Fri 23rd Oct	Year 1 present work
Fri 30th Oct	K/1H present work
Fri 6th Nov	KP present work
Fri 13th Nov	Year 2 item
Fri 20th Nov	Year 1P item
Fri 27th Nov	K/1H item
Fri 4th Dec	KP item
Fri 11th Dec	Final assembly - Awards only

2015 KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION PROGRAM

This program begins next Wednesday and will go for six weeks from 12 noon until 2pm each week. I encourage you to have your child here each week as this is the best opportunity for them to make friends, learn about the school and become comfortable with their teachers. I will be running parent information sessions for the first two weeks with guest presenters coming.

CAKE STALL FOR THE SPRING FAIR FRIDAY WEEK

We have a wonderful array of activities planned for our Spring Fair next Friday 16th October. The big request I would appreciate your support with please, is to bake a cake, or a slice, or muffins, pikelets, scones and donate them to be sold at the fair. Please let me know if you could do this please. Thank you.

MG CAR RALLY SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

86 members of the MG Car Club came to our school on Sunday 13th September and we provided them with lunch. I would like to thank all the staff and parents who either provided food or who came and helped prepare food on the day. We raised \$900 which will go towards the new concrete paths outside the school hall.



TERM 3 FUN DAY ACTIVITIES

Students came dressed in their pyjamas and paid a gold coin donation to help the Year 2 class fundraise for their gift to the school. Every one looked fabulous and managed to stay awake all day! I had visitors who came to see me that day and I did get a few strange looks from them.



FUN LEARNING THROUGH SCIENCE

The students had fun learning about chemical reactions, rotating around 6 different science experiments. I would like to thank Mrs Petersen for organising the equipment to conduct these with the children.



Mr Ping was our wonderful DJ and the children enjoyed a disco.

I'm sure we sent them home worn out that day ready for a holiday.

SPRING FAIR FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 4PM-7PM.

We are getting very excited about our fair on Friday week commencing at 4pm. The following activities will be provided.

Barbeque tea- sausage or steak sandwiches, with drinks, chips and cakes available for purchase.

Teacher stalls including face painting, chocolate wheel, making pet rocks, sprayed hair, lucky dips, fairy floss, rugby league target shooting, loom bands.

Cake stall run by the P&C

Farm animals and chook raffle: Pat a pony, piglets

Show rides- Cup and Saucer ride, Giant slide, Jumping castle and Clowns Faces.

Market stalls including the following:

Plants, Jewellery, Candles, Nappy cakes, Head and shoulder massages, Clothes and Games, CD's, Tupperware, Hair Accessories, Air Brush tattoos, Aboriginal art and beautiful Glass jars.

An art show in our new hall. All the students have painted a canvas for you to purchase for \$5.

Entertainment: Our boys dance group will perform at 4pm followed by the Kurri teenage gymnastic group, then the Kurri Karate group and a local dance group.

The Partners in Learning parent feedback survey concludes on Friday 16th October

Our school is participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement. Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

If you have not completed this survey and would like to express your opinion, I will have computers set up in the staff room for you. It would take no more than 10 minutes. I value as much input, as it helps a lot in planning for next year. Anne Carr Principal

Calendar of Events for Term Four 2015

Thursdays all year	P&C provide fruit & vegetable platters for the children
Every Tuesday from 28th April	Playgroup for all children birth to 5 years 9:30am-11:00 here at school
Tuesdays all term	Boys Dance and Girls choir practices during lunch times
Wednesday 7th October	School Performance at Stocklands Greenhills at 1pm
Tuesday 13th October	P&C meeting 6pm
Friday 9th and 23rd October	Visits from Kurri Fire Brigade -Fire Safety Sessions
Wednesdays 14th, 21st, 28th October 4th, 11th, 18th November	Kindergarten Transition Program for those students starting here in 2016 12:00 noon-2pm each Wednesday
Thursday 15th October	Year 2 Boys Dance Performance at Cessnock Performing Arts Venue
Friday 16th October	Our Spring Fair here 4pm-7pm
Mondays 26th Oct, 2nd and 9th Nov	Special Interest Groups at 2pm
Friday 23rd October	Year 2 First transition to Pelaw Main School 2:15-3:15pm
Friday 30th October	Day for Daniel Morcombe- wear red shirt
Friday 6th November	Year 2 Second transition to Pelaw Main School 1:40pm-3:15pm
Friday 6th November	Grandparents Day
Tuesday 10th November	P&C meeting 6pm
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Day ceremony 11am
Friday 13th November	Rainbow Day- wear your tie dyed tee shirts to school
Wednesday 18th November	Movie and Pizza night here 5pm-7pm
Friday 20th November	Car Wash day here from 1pm as a P&C fundraiser
Friday 20th November	Year 2 Third transition to Pelaw Main School 11:15pm -3:15pm
Monday 23rd Nov -Friday 4th Dec	10 days School Swimming at Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre
Tuesday 8th December	P&C meeting 6pm
Wednesday 9th December	Year 2 Parent Assembly
Thursday 10th December	Parent Helpers Luncheon here 11:15am
Monday 14th December	School Presentation Evening 5:30pm
Tuesday 15th December	School Party Day at Speers Point Park
Wednesday 16th December	Final day of term for students -Water Fun Day
Thursday, Friday 17th, 18th Dec	Teacher Professional Learning Days

Visiting the library

Visiting the library can be an exciting experience for children and also allows them access to different books that aren't available at the school library. Local libraries offer free memberships and allow children to borrow multiple books at the one time. This is a fun and inexpensive way to engage your child in reading and allows children to explore topics that interest them. Reading is a great way to teach your child new language and expand their vocabulary. Next time you visit the library, why not borrow a book that you and your child can read together? Every Wednesday at 10am, Kurri Kurri Library hosts a Rhyme time/Story time activity for children aged 2 - 6 years old. Once a month, the library also hosts a creative writing group for young children. These are great activities to engage the children in language.

HANNAH MCDONALD DONATES HER HAIR FOR CANCER SUFFERERS.

On the final day of term 3 Hannah had her beautiful long hair cut off while we all watched on. Her hair is being made into a wig for a child who has cancer. She raised \$816. This is an amazing gesture on Hannah's part. Well done.

—EDUCATION—

Embracing Aboriginal culture and building confidence through dance

By Sage Swinton

If you have been to a school NAIDOC ceremony in the Cessnock area, chances are you would have seen the Stanford Merthyr Infants School boys' dance group perform.

Led by kindergarten teacher and proud Worimi man Shannon Ping, the group has been performing for the last six-and-a-half years at various events in the area.

The idea was established when the school realised that the Aboriginal students who were enrolled were disconnected from their heritage, and decided a boys' dance group would be a good way to engage the students in their culture.

As well as a fun dance activity, the students learn about the stories behind the songs and about other parts of their culture.

Originally the group was just made up of Aboriginal students, but non-indigenous children soon wanted to get involved, so the group opened up to any boy who was interested.

Now, most of the boys at the school are involved and the ones who are not interested are not forced to participate, but are welcome to.

The group started out just performing at in-school events and at Pelaw Main Public School, but have since performed as far away as Muswellbrook, at Cessnock and Kurri TAFE and even opened the Kullaburra Awards in August.

"It has just kept growing every year," Mr. Ping said.

At the start of each year, year one and two students who have previous experience start out with revision lessons during lunchtimes once a week.

In the second term, kindergarten students become involved and the third term is when it really ramps up for the group, with NAIDOC Week creating a lot of opportunities for performances.



■ PROUD: Stanford Merthyr Infants School's boys' dance group and teacher Shannon Ping.

In the first week of term three this year, the boys performed at six different events and in the second week they completed another two performances.

Dressed in black and armed with spears, the students all get well and truly involved in the performances.

Mr. Ping said people are surprised when people find out the students are only between five and eight years old.

"You wouldn't know they're the age that they are," he said.

"They love getting out and doing it."

Mr. Ping also loves being involved as well, and always finds new things that the boys have improved on or done particularly well.

"Every time they get out and perform I'm a proud man," he said.

Mr. Ping believes it is important to teach the students about Aboriginal culture, and for them to be able to represent where they came from, as it wasn't as accepted when he was growing up.

Having paler skin and blond hair, Mr. Ping said he didn't feel he really fitted in growing up and wasn't all that connected to his culture until he went to university.

"I grew up a bit disconnected," he said.

"I knew I was Aboriginal but there wasn't a lot out there for me.

"I want them to grow up knowing that it's okay to be proud of your culture.

"It doesn't matter who you are or what you do. My main objective is to show that Aboriginal culture is still alive and not something that we should be ashamed of."

Mr. Ping said being involved in the group helps build the children's confidence and gives them a sense of inclusiveness.

The year two boys who are more experienced tend to take on an elder role, teaching and guiding the younger boys.

"I enjoy watching the boys develop those leadership skills," Mr. Ping said.

The program also has a knock-on effect, with Mr. Ping saying the students go home and show their families and friends what they have learnt, and embrace the culture with them.

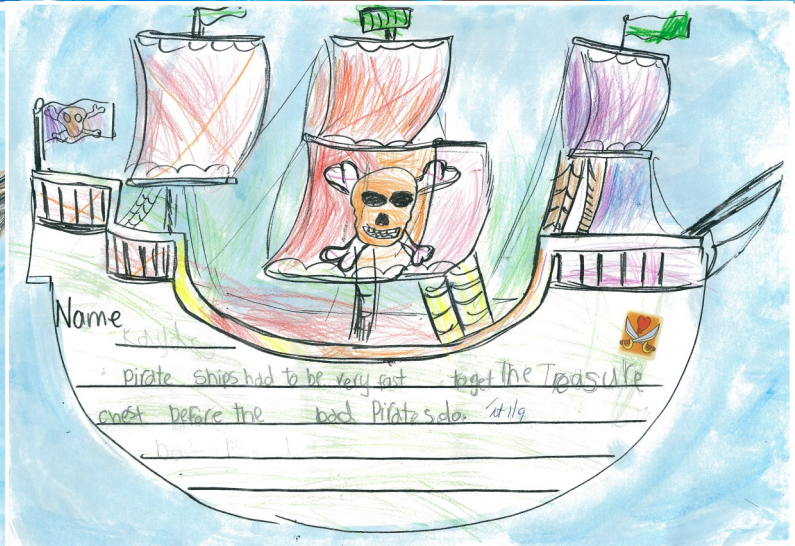
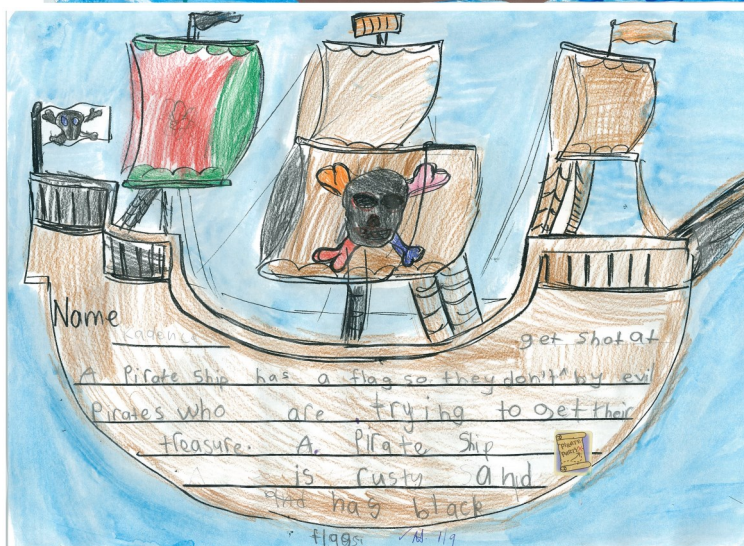
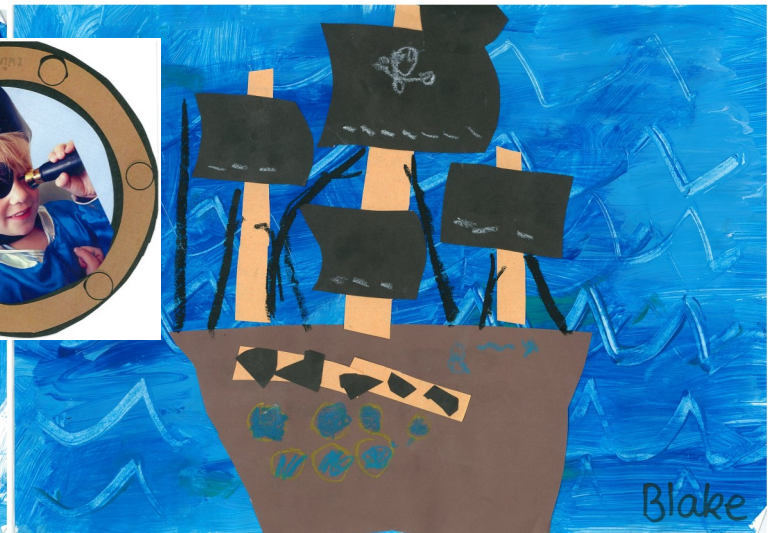
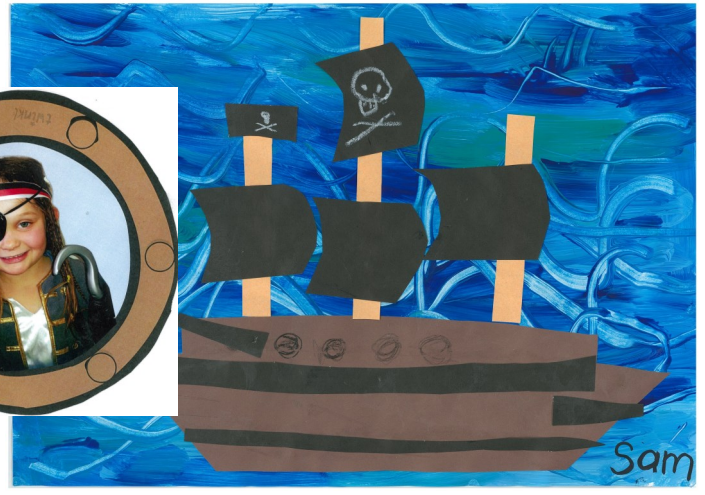
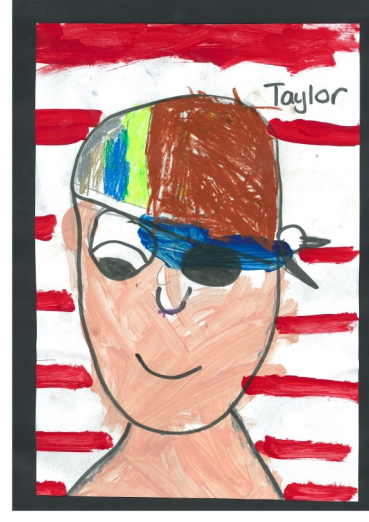
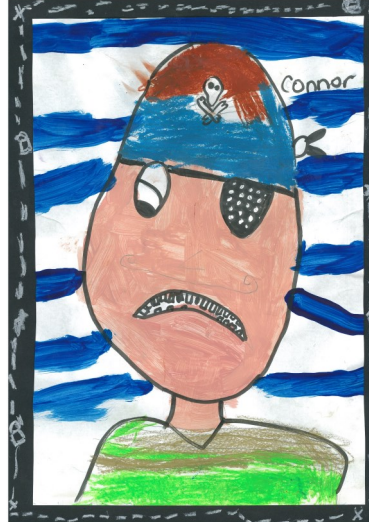
ROAD SAFETY TIPS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS.

Pedestrian safety



- Help your child to **STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, THINK** anytime they must cross a road - **STOP** one step away from the kerb, **LOOK** both ways, **LISTEN** for any cars, and **THINK** about the safest time to cross.
- Children need to be closely supervised when travelling on or near roads until they are 10 years old.
- Children need an adult to hold their hand when crossing the road until they are at least 8 years old.
- John Renshaw Drive is a busy thoroughfare. There is no safe place to cross this busy street. Please supervise your child closely and always **STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, THINK** before crossing the road.
- Help your child to use traffic lights safely at the corner of Lang St and Victoria Street – only ever cross when the green '**WALK**' signal is showing.
- The flagged pedestrian refuge in Maitland Street is the safest place for your child to cross when walking to and from school. When the flags are out, cars must stop for pedestrians.
- Parked cars and carparks, found around the school perimeter, can be dangerous places for young children. Always hold your child's hand when walking through a carpark or between parked cars.
- Never call to your children from across a road – teach them to wait until you cross and come to them.

ENJOY WORK BY K/1H FROM THEIR WORK ON PIRATES COMPLETED LAST TERM



STANFORD MERTHYR INFANTS SCHOOL SPRING FAIR FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2015 4pm -7pm

I invite any adult who would like to run their own stall here at our Spring Fair to contact our office. I am asking if you pay \$15 to the school and then you keep all the profits from the sale of your goods. We will only have one type of each produce on sale. The first in to contact the office and pay their \$15 will be the ones given that space on the night.



\$15 to hold a stall

phone 49371192 to reserve your spot

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS;
*At the assembly on Friday 14th & 21st Aug & 11th September 2015
 these children all received awards.*

2T	1P	K/1H	KP
Lily Dobing Great progress in reading and comprehension skills. Amber Offen Great improvements shown in writing.	Charlie Jones Amazing writing. Lauchlan Reynolds Improvement in all areas.	Rani Oirbans Using skip counting to solve groups of. Kayde McDonald Improvement in reading and writing sight words.	Zahlia Wetzler Ella Gaul Working hard to improve her reading and writing.
Organisation Talon Lovett Persistence Georgia Gamble	Organisation Monique Harris Persistence Jayla Cameron	Organisation Taylah Harris Persistence Thomas Self	Organisation Emilia Bianchi Persistence Shianne Ferry
Quality 5 Bookwork Jackson McEwan Nate Sneddon	Quality 5 Bookwork Zalii Bodo Hannah Bianchi	Quality 5 Bookwork Hunter Bodo Isaac Ferry	Quality 5 Bookwork Joshua Nasr Emilia Bianchi

READING AWARDS

BRONZE AWARD

Jackson Rampling

SILVER AWARD

Kailie Walker, Lily Dobing, Sean Thomas, Rani Oirbans, Georgia Gamble.

GOLD AWARD

Tammy Thomas, Charlie Jones, Rylan Johnstone, Kadence Carr, Isaac Ferry, Naomi McDonald, Hannah McDonald.

DOUBLE BRONZE AWARD

Chayse Cook, Jayla Cameron, Jason Dobing, Angelo Plumbe, Connor Lambert, Madeline Nasr, Joshua Nasr, Harrison Clements, Ella Gaul, Hunter Bodo, Zalii Bodo.

DOUBLE SILVER AWARD

Blayde Hoy, Denika Hallett, Beau Morrow, Lilly Winchester, Chayse Cook, Blake Haddock.

DOUBLE GOLD AWARD

Andrew Anderson, Denika Hallett.

ROYAL

Lacey Smith, Taylor Wells, Tayah McIntyre.

DOUBLE ROYAL

MINI LIT

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Zahlia Wetzler, Hunter Bodo, Zalii Bodo, Jayla Cameron, Charlie Jones.

STAR STUDENT AWARD





HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WHO HAVE
CELEBRATED A BIRTHDAY !

Samuel King	K/1H	04/09/15	Jackson Rampling	KP	14/09/15
Charlotte Lloyd	1P	08/09/15	Andrew Anderson	1P	19/09/15
Jason Dobing	KP	10/09/15	Alannah Winchester	1P	21/09/15
Isaiah Sulendro	KP	10/09/15	Natty Roberts	1P	29/09/15
Emma MacDonald	K/1H	11/09/15	Lauchlan Reynolds	1P	01/10/15
Kayde MacDonald	K/1H	11/09/15	Cru Borkowski	K/1H	06/10/15

Weston Community Preschool Family Fun Day

Weston Civic Centre
Saturday 10th October
11am till 2pm
\$10 per family



Face Painting, Fancy Dress Competition, Balloon Artist,
Disco and local stalls