Term 1, Week 2
Tuesday 5th February, 2013

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Welcome Back
I trust everyone has had an enjoyable holiday and new year. Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to the many new families who have joined our school community. We look forward to a successful, rewarding year of learning in 2013.

As you may be aware, our Principal Mr. Wray is currently acting as the Relieving Principal at Narellan Vale Public School. This is a 12-18 month secondment so a new principal will be appointed to Currans Hill for this period. In the interim, I will continue to fulfill the role in a relieving capacity.

I also welcome some new staff to our school. Mr. Kennedy is replacing Mr. Jordan as our School General Assistant. Mrs Heath is returning from Maternity Leave and will share a Stage 3 class with Ms Ryan. Mrs Bu Viet will continue in her role as our ESL teacher for 2 days a week and also teach one day a week on 1/2JB with Mrs Johnson. Mrs Grenfell is also here to start the year on a Stage One Class until an appointment is made. Mrs Fleming will undertake the Support Teacher role whilst I am Relieving Principal. Mrs Kemp and Mrs Budd will share the Relieving Assistant Principal role for Stage One.

Classes for 2013
As has occurred previously, we started the year with the children in their 2012 classes until we were able to finalise our enrolment numbers and class structure. This way, we minimize the amount of disruption across the school. This year we have 504 students enrolled so we will have an extra class with 20 mainstream classes in total. The children will move into their new classes today.

Often, parents become concerned that their child is not with their favourite teacher or friends. Can I assure you, that the staff deliberate carefully over every placement to ensure that your child has a successful and happy year of learning.

Change can be unsettling, but assure your child by remaining positive. Give your child time to settle into their new class and suggest that they make a set meeting point at lunch and recess time to meet with friends who may be in other classes.

Other ways you can ensure a settled start to the school year is to establish regular routines. Just like adults, children cope much better if they can manage their time and their environment wisely. More information about handling morning madness, homework and yesterday’s half-eaten lunch sweating in the schoolbag can be found at:


Congratulations
Welcome Mitchell John Jarvis. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Jarvis gave birth to a baby boy in the school holidays. Mother and baby are both doing well and Mrs Jarvis hopes to visit the school soon.

Swimming Carnival
Our school Swimming Carnival was held on Friday at Camden Pool. It was wonderful to see and hear such great school spirit with all of the children trying their best to earn points for their House Team. The children were extremely well behaved and it was pleasing to see so many parents in attendance. A special thank you to the parents who assisted on the day with time keeping and to Ms. Wear who did a fabulous job organising the carnival and ensuring everything ran smoothly.
**Mobile Phones/Cameras**

A reminder to all children that cameras are not permitted to be used by students in the school. Students bringing mobile phones or other forms of technology that also utilise camera facilities must not use these at school at any time. The Privacy Act restricts use of such items as does our own school policy on mobile phones. Ideally, phones should be handed into the office daily. Phones must not be on or used during school hours. Please contact the office if you need to leave an urgent message for your child.

Mrs Wilson– Relieving Principal

**CALENDAR TERM 1 - 2013**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>13th Feb</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st Feb</td>
<td>MAHS Sport Day 6</td>
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<td>26th Feb</td>
<td>2014 Mt Annan High Information Night</td>
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<td>13th March</td>
<td>Primary Cross Country</td>
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<td>19th March</td>
<td>Regional Swimming</td>
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<td>29th March</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>1st April</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>12th April</td>
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**ANAPHYLAXIS – Severe Allergic Reaction**

Some children in our school have an allergic condition that makes them especially sensitive to certain foods. Anaphylaxis is a severe, potentially life threatening allergic reaction to certain foods. Peanuts, nut products and eggs are the main hazards. Eating or touching these foods can cause lips, eyes and airways to swell which may result in significant difficulties in breathing. We request parents inform the school immediately if your child has such a condition so a Health Plan can be developed. In many cases an EpiPen is required. We also ask the community’s support in caring for all children’s needs. Therefore we ask that NO peanut butter, peanut biscuits, cakes with peanuts, peanut cracker dips, Nutella or eggs be brought to school. Our canteen supports this request and we ask all parents to help us keep all children safe at our school.

**Choir**

Congratulations to the 2013 school choir who were successful in auditioning to perform at the Festival of Choral Music at the Sydney Opera House in October. More details will follow in a separate note.

Mrs Miller

**Lost Property**

Please remember to label items of clothing such as hats and jumpers along with drink bottles and lunch boxes. If an item is lost but has a name or label it is easy to return the item to the owner.

All lost property is located in the bins outside the Library.

**P&C Meeting**

The first P&C Meeting for the year will be held on Wednesday 13th February at 7pm in the staff room. The P&C Committee welcomes any parents that would like to come along to the evening. We would love to see you there!

P&C Committee

**Late Arrivals/Early Leavers**

Any child arriving late to school must first report to the school office to collect a late note to take to their class teacher. Parents who wish to collect a child from school early are required to call into the office first, sign them out and collect an early leavers pass to take to the class teacher.

**Uniform Shop**

The P&C uniform shop will be open at the following times:
- Mondays and Wednesday from 8.45am – 9.15am
- Fridays from 2.45pm – 3.15pm

Payment methods: Cash or EFTPOS, $20 minimum, $1 surcharge for credit cards.

Order forms/price lists are available from the school office if you are unable to attend during opening hours and wish to place an order.

**Payments**

All student payments should be forwarded to school in a sealed envelope marked clearly with your child’s name, class and what the payment is for. This can be ‘posted’ in the secure payment box located in the school office. Change is not available over the counter. If change is needed, payments will be processed throughout the day and change and receipt forwarded via your child’s class. Alternatively, changed can be held for collection upon request.
School Contribution and Book Packs
As for previous years, we have made the contribution on a sliding scale depending on the number of children you have at school. One child - $40, two children - $70 and three or more children - $100. These contributions cover the students’ books and many items required for your child during the year. The teachers will inform everyone what stationery is required in terms of pencils, pens, scissors, textas and rulers etc….. Hopefully your child still has these and many can be used from last year. Kindergarten children will have their stationery needs supplied.

Student Absences
A child’s absence from school must be explained by a note from a parent/guardian. The note must contain the child’s name, date of absence and the reason for the absence. It should be forward to the class teacher upon the child’s return to school.

Library News
Borrowing
Welcome to the library for 2013. All classes start library lessons from Week 3 (next week). Please make sure you have a good strong soft library bag (made from fabric with drawstring is preferred). Mrs Martin has been busy making library bags and these are now available to purchase for $3 from either the library or the office. Please have another look around the house for library books and home readers from last year as a large number still have not been returned.

Attention Year 4 Students
Do you love books? Are you great with younger kids? Are you a whiz at alphabetical order? Can you spare at least ONE lunchtime per week to help in the library? If you answered yes to most of these questions then why don’t you try out for Library Monitor 2013? Please see Ms Formica in the library any time this week to express your interest. If applicant numbers are high, a test on shelving fiction and non-fiction books will be given. Please note that Year 4 students only are invited to apply.

Premiers Reading Challenge
Parents, you will be receiving information over the next few weeks regarding the above challenge with some exciting news about a new feature of the PRC this year. I encourage ALL students at our school to undertake the challenge and discover the joy of reading. All books read from the beginning of the year can be included in the PRC so start taking note of what you have read recently.

Happy reading
Ms Formica

Swimming Carnival
It would be appreciated if outstanding payments could be finalised this week for students who attended but did not pay for the swimming carnival. The cost of $7 covers the hire of buses and pool admission.

Thank you

Elizabeth Macarthur High Selective Entrance Exam Preparation Program
Elizabeth Macarthur High School will be running a 2 ½ hour preparation program one week prior to the test for students who are sitting the Selective High Schools entrance exam.
When: 9:30am – 12pm Friday 8th March 2013
Students should arrive by 9:20am and is limited to 125 students.
To reserve your child’s place either call the school on 4646 1899 or email Elizabeth-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au by Friday 1st March 2013.

Included with today’s newsletter
- Book Pack Note
- Staff list and school map