



St Marys Public School

The small friendly school in the heart of St Marys

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Principal's Message – Special Edition

Friday 2nd June, 2017

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my absolute joy and thanks for the work that led to the opening of the “Wianamatta” Community Garden and Yarning Circle on Wednesday this week. The event was a true celebration that reflected the ideals of Reconciliation Week which builds on the respectful relationships shared by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

Students and staff from Penrith Valley School provided a delicious morning tea with a bush tucker theme. I overheard parents and staff talking about the high quality of both the food and service delivered by the students.

We all watched as students performed dances, retold dreamtime stories and presented speeches about the Wianamatta Garden and about Reconciliation Week. I would like to thank parents, family members and community members who contributed so much to the day. I watched parents who worked with the boy dancers in the hall and the girl dancers in the library as they rehearsed their steps and prepared for the performance. It was wonderful to see our parent community involved in this way.

We were most fortunate to have Aboriginal elders come and share their knowledge and wisdom with the whole school community. Uncle Greg delivered the Welcome to Country and Uncle Wes led us through a Smoking Ceremony. Their talks reminded us of the importance of being respectful to each other and sharing our culture, our lives and our experiences with each other in a positive way.

I would like to thank every student, staff member, parent/carers, family member and community member who was involved with; the dreaming of, the building of and the celebrating of our new, “Wianamatta” community garden.

Expected Behaviour When Entering School Grounds

While we have had wonderful community participation in school events, it has been brought to my attention that some parents/carers have spoken and acted inappropriately when dealing with other community members in our school. It is an expectation of our school community that people speak in a positive manner when dealing with others. If you speak aggressively or confront others in an intimidating manner on school grounds, you will be asked to leave the school and your future access to the St Marys Public School site may be affected.

There is a school community expectation that when using Social Media, parents/carers and other community members do not make negative comments about the work being done in the school, but use it as a positive forum to help celebrate the great work being done with and by our students. If you have any concerns or issues you wish to raise, please make an appointment through the school office to speak with me. There is also an expectation that people do not post photos of other people's children at school events on any Social Media pages or sites.

In order to ensure a safe environment for students, staff and visitors, please drop your child off and leave the school site by 9:15am. The back gate near the playground will be locked as normal and now the gate near the preschool will also be locked through the day. The gates will be opened by 2:45pm to allow you to come in and pick up your children. If you are coming to the school at other times, it will be to conduct official school business or to attend an appointment you have made through the office. The gate near the driveway will be open for these purposes. For Work Health and Safety reasons, all visitors who attend the school during the day will need to sign in at the office, pick up a visitor's badge, then return the badge and sign out when leaving.

Your co-operation and understanding in these matters is appreciated.

Let's continue to work together to ensure St Marys Public School is a safe and positive school environment for all students, staff, parents/carers and community members.

Robert Linas
Relieving Principal
St Marys Public School