



St Marys Public School

The small friendly school in the heart of St Marys

NEWSLETTER

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TERM 1 | WEEK 9

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Aboriginal Garden

I would like to thank the Yarn Up group who have been planning and working on our Aboriginal garden. Aboriginal students in Year 6 created designs which have been used in this process. Parents, community members, students and Mr Mitchell have been putting in a huge effort and have been out there with shovels and rakes getting the area ready for the garden. Thank you to all our helpers. We will be having a special garden working party on Tuesday 11th April from 9 am at the school. Everyone is welcome and if you are able to offer any time during that day it would be most appreciated. Come along and bring your gloves, shovels and gardening gear.

Tell Them From Me Survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at:
<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au>

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey has been sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **Monday 27 March**.

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how different

engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school. Students from Year 4 to Year 6 will have the opportunity to complete the survey.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 28 March and 7 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

Copies of the form and FAQs are available from:
<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

Creating Cultures of Excellence

Mark and Elizabeth from 4/5C had the opportunity to attend the "Creating Cultures of Excellence" conference last week. They travelled to the Epping Club with Mrs Reilly and Mrs Donnelly and discovered ways to plan learning pathways for themselves and others. They learned about creating interesting maths questions and how to plan experiences to develop literacy skills. They were involved with innovative learning experiences using technology and open ended questions. One thing they loved was the lunch that was provided which included dessert. I am looking forward to seeing the learning projects they will develop. These projects will be shared with other schools and officers from the Department of Education in Term 3.

Have a wonderful weekend

Robert Linas
Relieving Principal

COMMUNITY NEWS

CALENDAR TERM 1

WEEK 10

Wednesday, 29 March
1.30pm End of Term Assembly

Thursday, 30 March
Stage 1 Excursion to Manly

WEEK 11

Tuesday, 4 April
Preschool photos

Wednesday, 5 April
K - 6 photos
P&C Meeting

Thursday, 6 April
11.30am End of Term Assembly

Friday, 7 April
Preschool Cleaning Day (No Students)

Friday, 7 April
K - 6 Easter Hat Parade

STUDENTS RETURN TERM 2 WEDNESDAY, 26 APRIL



Dawn service at St Mary's RSL.
Tuesday, 25 April,
5am.

YARN UP NEWS

A key project for the group this year has been to establish an Aboriginal garden in the school grounds. Students, parents and members of the school community recently began working on the garden. The aim is to establish a garden with native plants and bush tucker during term 2 of this year. There is plenty of work to be done and we are looking for willing helpers! We are holding a working bee with a BBQ lunch for the garden during the school holidays on the 11 April from 9am. As well as work on the garden, there are many other opportunities for families to be involved with our Yarn Up group. We have discussed starting a cultural dance group and for parent helpers to assist students with creating cultural artefacts such as totem poles to decorate the garden. If you would like to be involved in establishing our community garden, any experience with landscaping and gardening would be very much appreciated. The Yarn Up group meets at 2pm every Thursday in the school library building. Parents and caregivers, especially those families with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, are encouraged to attend our weekly Yarn Up meetings.

EASTER ACTIVITIES



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On **Friday, 7 April**, will be holding our Annual Easter Hat / Basket Parade from **11.45am**. Morning tea will be available for our visitors from the canteen. We do hope you will be able to come along and join in our fun for this special occasion. Happy hat making!

Mrs Maton & Mrs McLister
Easter Organisers

COMMUNITY NEWS

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Our preschool photo days are:-

Tuesday, 4 April and Thursday, 6 April
Preschool photo days

Wednesday, 5 April - K – 6 photo day

Girls –School dress, brown shorts, skirts or skirt and school shirt.

Boys - Brown shorts and school shirt

All pre – paid envelopes need to be returned to the school office by **Tuesday, 4 April**

STAGE 1 EXCURSION

Stage 1 is going on our excursion to **Manly Sea Life Sanctuary** next **Thursday, 30 March 2017**.

Students are required to be at school by **8:40am** and will be returning by **2.45pm**.

Students need to wear **full school uniform, enclosed shoes** and bring a school hat and jacket, recess, lunch and drinks in a plastic bag.



Canteen

Just a reminder our canteen is currently open **Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays**. Crunch & Sip, recess and lunch orders need to be placed before 9am. They may purchase additional items for the first half of lunch only.

Tuesday will be our **new \$5 Meal Deals**. On Tuesday and Wednesday it is only open in the mornings for Breakfast Club only.

Helpers are welcome to join our canteen roster. If you are able to assist in the canteen for any time at all it would be greatly appreciated.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Helping Hands

Tuesday in the Library

Homework Club

Wednesday, 8.30am in the Library

Playgroup

Wednesday, 9am-11am

E Block

Banking

Friday, 8.30 - 9am

Library annexe

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to make packing lunches easy.

School is back in session after an extended holiday and packing lunches is again on the household to-do list.

Make the task easy with *Eat It To Beat It*'s inspiration and ideas for healthy lunch boxes.

Why not try this combination:

- *Lebanese bread with beef kofta and tabbouleh;
- *Tzatziki;
- *Cheese sticks;
- *Chopped watermelon and blueberries;
- *Water.



For more ideas and recipes check out the eatittobeatit.com.au "for parents" section.

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Live Life Well @ School Program.

Health
Nepean Blue Mountains
Local Health District

