PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

PERMANENT CLASSES: I can now confirm that our current class structure will not change. I have submitted our actual enrolment numbers to the Department of Education and Communities and our anticipated class structure has worked out perfectly. The only way class structures would change is if we had a significant increase in enrolments (approximately 13 students), which would then entitle our school to an additional class teacher.

The year has started really well due to the fantastic planning and organisation of my staff. We have also had wonderful support from parents and the general community. Our numbers have increased from 700 at the beginning of last year to 757 today. As a school we are working very hard to continue to build strong relationships with the community and making sure that Teacher Quality and improved student outcomes are at the centre of all we do.

In my short time as Principal at St Andrews PS I can clearly see where I believe the school needs to head. I’ve listened to the views of staff, students, parents and the general community over the past three terms and I’ve been encouraged by what I hear and see. I look forward to a great year ahead.

SLIGHT CHANGE TO NEWSLETTER DAY:
As communicated in a recent letter from me, the school newsletter will no longer be sent home in hard copy each fortnight. The newsletter will be uploaded onto our school website each Friday fortnight, emailed to parents on our distribution list and some hard copies available in one of the shelves at our front office counter. We have changed our newsletter to a Friday because the majority of information is regarding the following week and reporting on events that have occurred up until that Friday. I encourage parents to provide the office staff with your email address if you haven’t already done so.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>YEARS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19.2.2013</td>
<td>Parent Body Sausage Sizzle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.2.2013</td>
<td>Assembly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.2.2013</td>
<td>Assembly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.2.2013</td>
<td>Parent Information Sessions</td>
<td>Whole school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.2.2013</td>
<td>Year 6 into Year 7 Information session</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.2.2013</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Heats</td>
<td>Selected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.2.2013</td>
<td>Second Hand Uniform Shop (2pm)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.2.2013</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Finals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.2013</td>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3.2013</td>
<td>Parent Body Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3.2013</td>
<td>Assembly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3.2013</td>
<td>Assembly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.3.2013</td>
<td>Mufti Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.3.2013</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.3.2013</td>
<td>Selective High School Test</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.3.2013</td>
<td>GALA DAY</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.3.2013</td>
<td>Regional Swimming</td>
<td>Selected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.3.2013</td>
<td>Assembly Principal, School &amp; Community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SCHOOL PHOTOS:**
Payment envelopes for this year’s school photos will be sent home with students early next week. The date for school photos this year is Thursday 14th March. Family photos will also be taken on the same day and if families are interested payment envelopes for family photos will be available from the office next week.

All Year 6 students that will be sitting the Selective High School exam on this day will be expected to return to school after the exam has finished so that they can participate in school photos. This is particularly important due to Year 6 photos being used as Graduation Photos.

Please note that we are unable to reschedule our Photo Day.

**PAYMENTS FOR EXCURSIONS, CAMPS AND OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS:** I remind parents that our school policy for payments to special events is that payments must be made at least five school days before the event. We need to have this policy in place due to confirmation of transport, ordering food, venue costs and to make sure our risk assessment procedures are finalised with actual student numbers. If there are special circumstances for an extension of payment this can only be approved by Mrs Barton or Mr Harris (Deputy Principals) or myself as Principal. Teachers or office staff can’t grant extension of payment and will refer you to one of us. Notes for events will clearly indicate the final date for payment.

*Some excursions will have a cut off date for payment greater than 5 school days before the event.*

**LATE TO SCHOOL:** Students are reminded that the school bell goes at 9:10am for the start of the school day.

Students are to be lined up in Class Lines ready for the commencement of the day and to hear any important messages that are read at morning assembly. There has been an increase in the number of children arriving after the school bell that are not accompanied by parents.

**STAFF CARPARK:** It has been brought to my attention that some parents are driving into the staff car park before and after school to drop off or pick up their children. The staff car park is only authorised for staff and special vehicle access or any other vehicle authorised by the Principal. It is completely unsafe for parents, carers or family members to drive into the staff car park and drop off or pick up children, and it breaks our school’s Work, Health and Safety policy. I will report vehicles to Macquarie Fields Police Station if it continues. I ask that all parents, carers and family members take this very seriously as the safety of my students and staff is my number one priority. Please support this request.

**PRINCIPAL’S TOPIC OF THE WEEK:** My Principal’s topic to start off the year is Good Manners. This is a topic that is sometimes overlooked and yet I believe still to be very important in society today.

**GOOD MANNERS:** ‘Good manners cost nothing’ is an old adage, but one that still rings true today. Words such as ‘please’, ‘thank you’ and ‘excuse me’ might be simple but their power and effect on others is immeasurable. We constantly reinforce and teach students to always use their manners. In fact, it is one of the main comments that we receive from visitors to our school; the impeccable manners of our students.

When we stand aside to allow others to pass, give up our seat on the bus to someone who needs it more than we do or just providing a helping hand we are saying, in a symbolic way, that we respect others enough to give them precedence in this situation. If we neglect our manners, we are in fact giving up our respect for others. If we can’t be bothered to show respect for each other in little ways that cost us nothing, what does that show about our commitment to the health and well-being of society?

So why bother with ‘please’ ‘thank you’ and ‘excuse me’? Manners are like the ‘check and balance’ of our moral health; they are the little signals that reveal the strength of our commitment to respecting others.
Acknowledging that other peoples’ rights, needs and well-being must be taken into account is the beginning of our understanding of what is required of us as members of any community. They show that we respect people, all people, people we know and don’t know, people who don’t like us or are utterly different from us. We are simply acknowledging that they, like us, are part of a community that depends on our mutual respect for its peaceful and harmonious survival. Thank you for reading this article and remember let’s all work on our manners daily.

Have a great week!

Mr Richard Batty
PRINCIPAL

INTERNET SAFETY PRESENTATION – WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH, 2103: Young people today are immersed in digital technologies. They use the internet and mobile phones to socialise, study, exchange ideas and play. While online activity has many benefits, there are also risks.

To help your children stay safe online, St Andrews Public School is hosting a Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation. Designed for parents, teachers and students, this presentation is provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) as part of a national program of cybersmart initiatives.

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation is thorough and non-technical. It covers a range of issues including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content
- tips to help children stay safe online.

The presentation is conducted by an ACMA Cybersmart trainer and is free of charge.

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness Parent presentation will be held on: Wednesday 27th March at 6.30pm (Week 9 of term 1).

Further information and registration details will be provided later in the term.

WE NEED WOOL! We are lucky enough to have Mrs Bass donate time to run a french knitting club. The children love participating in this activity. To assist with this we are asking for donations of 8ply wool - any colour. If you have any spare 8ply wool, please put it in a plastic bag and send to the office.

ST ANDREWS PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENT BODY (SAPS PB): Welcome back to school for 2013.

SAPS PB for 2013 consists of

President – Jodie Travers
Vice President – Tania Kane
Secretary – Natalie Davis
Treasurer – Donna Eccles
Vice Treasurer – Fiona Smith

This year SAPS PB will be working extra hard to help the school strive towards its goal of providing air conditioning to every classroom over the next 5 years. It would be great if we could beat this target. With your help we could make St Andrews PS an even ‘COOLER’ school.

There are several ways to help:

A note has been sent home with details about the SAPS PB meetings and how you can help. The most important issue is that we need your help. Please complete the form and send it back to school so that we can have many helpers during the 2013 school year.

The next SAPS PB Fundraiser is on Tuesday 19th February with a Student BBQ. If you can help out please indicate this on your note so that we can contact you ASAP, to let you know what is required.

Regards  Jodie Travers on behalf of SAPS PB
HOME READING: Thank you to the many parents who have made enquiries as to when our Home Reading Program will be starting for 2013. We appreciate that so many families embrace this very important program. At this point we are reviewing the Home Reading Program and its processes. We hope to start Home Reading very soon. Please be patient as we want to ensure that we have everything in place for the program to run smoothly, efficiently and most importantly, effectively!

We appreciate your support in this.

SCRIPTURE: Scripture classes will begin next Wednesday. If your child has been placed in a non-scripture group and you would like them to attend Protestant, Catholic or Muslim scripture, please write this in a note and send it in to Ms Lawrie. Thank you.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY: St Andrews will be celebrating Clean Up Australia Day on Friday, 1st March. It would be greatly appreciated if you could supply your child with a plastic bag for rubbish collection and a pair of gloves for the day. The children may also bring in small gardening forks to clean and weed our school gardens. If you would like to volunteer some of your time on the day, please see Ms Lawrie. Thank you for your continuing support in helping to keep our school grounds looking great!

FREE- GIVE AWAY: On Monday (18.2.13) at 3pm in the quiet area (out side the office) there will be excess school furniture eg: tables and chairs, FREE to good homes........ first in best dressed......

LIST OF CLASSES FOR 2013:

Principal: Mr Richard Batty
Deputy Principal: Mr Chad Harris (Special Ed) Mrs Donna Barton (Year 3 & 5)
Ass. Principals: Mrs Julie Sivell Mr Susan Shennan (Year 6) Mrs Amy Murray (Year 1 & 2) Mr Nathan Neilson (Kindy) Mrs Marilyn Friedrich (Year 4)

KH Mrs Emma Harris
KK Miss Marion Kindinger
KL Mrs Meredith Lawrie
KM Mrs Melissa Lewis
KN Mr Nathan Neilson
KS Mrs Jess Seeney
1C Miss Laura Cullen
1M Mrs Mandy McCormack /Mr R Cameron
1Q Miss Christine Quensell
1R Mrs Carrol Boyles/Miss Nicole Whalen
1/2B Ms Jeanette Boots
2M Mrs Amy Murray
2P Mrs Fiona Pereira
2S Mrs Suzanne Binny/Miss Kellie McEwan
3R Miss Rosann Tyler
3T Mrs Connie Tunstall
3W Miss Karlie Wendt
3/4B Mrs Natasha Beecher
4F Mrs Marilyn Friedrich
4M Mr Robert McGlinn
4P Mrs Jan Peacock /Mrs Denise Faith
5B Mr Michael Byrnes
5R Miss Lyndsey Ray
5W Miss Megan Walsh
5/6C Ms Robyn Conway
5/6F Miss Samantha Finnie
6A Mrs Amanda Coen
6S Mrs Susan Shennan

SUPPORT CLASSES
1/4T Mrs Judy Farrugia
2/4C Mrs Gail Clisdell/Mrs Kay Hudson
4/6JB Miss Joe Bond
4/6M Mrs Marcelle Baker
K/2J Miss Jennifer Poynton