Term 2 - Week 3

PRINCIPALS REPORT

NAPLAN: Students in Years 3 and 5 have now completed their NAPLAN tests. Congratulations to our students for trying your absolute best. The school and parents will receive the results sometime in September. I look forward to sharing our results with the school community when they arrive.

Zone Cross Country Carnival: Many of our students will represent St Andrews PS at the upcoming Zone Cross Carnival. The event will be held at Eschol Park Oval next Thursday 23rd May. Good luck girls and boys.

School Debating: Our school debating team will compete against other schools next week. We have such talented students who can articulate themselves incredibly well. I have no doubt they will do very well. Good luck!

Principals tip of the week

I thought it timely, that I again include my recent thoughts on bullying, particularly that we had Anti-Bullying Day today. We all know that it is Anti-Bullying Day everyday, however today highlights the importance we place on eliminating bullying in school.

BULLYING- NO WAY! There has been a significant amount of media publicity recently regarding bullying. This is an area in which significant research has been conducted and the common findings of world-wide research indicate:

Today is ANTI BULLYING DAY
• Bullying happens in all schools.
• Approximately half of all pupils report having been bullied at some time.
• The reported incidence of bullying decreases with age.
• Boys are more likely to be involved in physical bullying than girls.
• Bullying takes many forms.

I would love to say that we have no bullying at St Andrews PS but unfortunately bullying is a fact of life. I do know that we are fortunate to have relatively small numbers of bullying incidents and most of this bullying is considered ‘low level’ bullying. ‘Low level’ bullying includes hurtful teasing, pushing or shoving, subtle but nasty body language and exclusion from games/groups. Make no mistake; I am disgusted by bullying behaviour. It is one of the most insidious actions humans can do to each other. My number one role as Principal is to ensure that every child is feeling safe and happy at school. Therefore, at St Andrews PS we take the issue of bullying seriously.

**OUR RESPONSE**

- We have ZERO TOLERANCE to bullying. If we become aware of bullying we immediately deal with the students involved and will contact parents. It is vital that parents and the school work together to assist the victim and the bully.
- In an extremely busy ‘people place’ like a school, we will not be aware of every bullying incident. Therefore it is imperative that if parents become aware of an issue, to immediately contact the school so that we can investigate.
- We have very clear procedures to address bullying incidents as they arise.
- We reinforce with all students the procedure to follow if they feel they are being bullied.
- We focus on primary prevention programs that assist students to develop skills and abilities to respond to bullying. These are also reinforced at school assemblies.

**SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER**

- We will not be able to eliminate bullying completely. We can however, through our concerted effort and the ‘culture’ of the school, ensure that it is kept to a minimum.
- Our experience tells us that in a lot of bullying cases there are always two sides to the story. Rarely do we have incidents of bullying that are unprovoked. So please listen carefully to your child and then give the school time to fully investigate the incident.
- Often children tell parents that they have been ‘bashed’ at school. What they really mean is that either they felt threatened, or were pushed or shoved or maybe hit. In my time as Principal at St Andrews PS we have never had a ‘bashing’ incident. Once again, careful questioning of your child is important and then, please contact the school so that we can fully investigate.

The main message is that we do not tolerate bullying in any shape or form and will act immediately with the support of parents to prevent it.

As adults we too must not be bullies. It is important as parents that we are a positive role model to our children and when disagreements occur at school we deal with each in a respectful, calm and constructive manner. We have such a wonderful school community culture at St Andrews PS and we have to all continue to keep it that way. We should never just take things for granted.

Have a great week!

Mr Batty
Principal

What is Crunch & Sip®?
Crunch & Sip® is a break in class for students to refuel with fruit or vegetables and rehydrate with water
Make sure your son or daughter has fruit or vegetables and a small bottle of water for Crunch & Sip® each day!
LIBRARY NEWS

OVERDUE, DAMAGED AND LOST ITEMS: This year we are implementing a new Library policy which has been approved by our Executive and Parent Body. Part of this document refers to our new policy concerning overdue and damaged books.

Students are frequently reminded during class lessons to return overdue books. Oral reminders are followed up by a written note to parents. At the end of each term all resources are to be returned to the library.

Any user who has had a series of 2 overdue notices for the same text, from the library will have their borrowing rights withdrawn until the item is returned or a replacement cost is paid. Any items that have been lost or deemed “damaged beyond repair” will incur a replacement cost based on the original purchase cost that is accessible through the catalogue. A letter titled “Damaged Book Notice” will be issued requesting payment for the item.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE: The 2013 NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge is well underway and students should be completing their booklists online. The easiest way to access the website is to use this address: www.products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/

You can then click on “Login” on the left hand side and enter your child’s departmental username and password. If you experience any difficulties logging in, please see your child’s classroom teacher.

On the website you will find the rules and other information. To enter your child’s books, please click on ‘Student Reading Records” on the left hand side.

We will validate all completed Challenges on Thursday 15\textsuperscript{th} August, 2013. No late entries will be accepted.

The Library Staff.

PARENT BODY: St Andrews Public School initiative over the next five years is to have air conditioning installed throughout the whole school. The fundraising activities Parent Body hold during 2013 will support this initiative.

So please join us at our next big event

Movie Night - “Monster University” PG

Date: Monday 24th June 2013
Time: 6.30
Where: Dumaresq St Cinema, Campbelltown
Cost: $6 per ticket
Due by: Friday 14th June 2013

Tickets will be given to children in class on Friday 21st June.
Children must be supervised by an adult.
TEACHERS WILL NOT BE SUPERVISING.
Please return your notes as soon as possible as there are only 300 tickets.

EARN AND LEARN: Keep collecting your earn and learn stickers.

For every $10 spent at Woolworths you will receive a Woolworths Earn & Learn Point. Pop them onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet and once it’s completed, just bring it back to school and drop into the collection box located inside the front office or drop it into the Collection Box at Woolworths, Eaglevale. The more we collect, the more we can redeem.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program

THANK YOU: To all the Mums and Dads who helped out at Grandparents day Tuesday 9\textsuperscript{th} April. It was a great success, because of your help.

To the following Dads who came and served and smiled at our Mothers Day breakfast on Friday 10\textsuperscript{th} May.

Thank you to Brian Hood, Chris Speechley, Gavin Davis, Robbie Pereira, Rennie Pereira and Daragh Lane. These dads served over 230 mums and kids and were happy to do so. Thanks Dads you are all champs. Also to the mums who helped clean up, Mandy Speechley, Sharon Hood and Roselle Reyes.

Richard Batty
Principal

Donna Barton
Deputy Principal

Chad Harris
Deputy Principal
Regular exercise like walking with your child helps them (and you!) beat chronic problems like obesity, heart disease, behavioural and mental health issues and diabetes. It also gives you a great opportunity to teach your child safe ways to behave around roads and traffic.

Remember, Active Kids are Healthy Kids so get planning your own Walk Safely to School Day journey for Friday 24 May 2013!

For more information, visit www.walk.com.au