Term 2 - Week 3

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<td>14.6.2013</td>
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**Message from the Principal**

**Year 6 Excursion to Canberra:** Last Friday morning, eighty six students and nine staff ventured down to Canberra for a full day of educational activities. We visited a number of important places, including the War Memorial and Parliament House. It was a busy fourteen hour day. Well done to all of our girls and boys for representing their school so brilliantly. A huge thank you to staff for their commitment to our students and wanting them to have a wonderful experience. A special thank you to Mrs Shennan for all the hard work behind the scenes as the coordinator of the excursion.

Check out some of the photos on our school website early next week.

**School Debating Teams:** Congratulations to both of our debating teams who had to go up against each other this week. Mrs Boyles and Miss Finnie’s Yellow team were the victors over Mrs Conway's Blue team, however it was very close. Both teams will debate against other opposing schools shortly. We know they will do us proud.

**Regional Dance:** The Annual South Western Sydney Regional Dance Festival will be held next Thursday at Sydney Olympic Park in Homebush.

St Andrews will have two separate dance groups representing our school. It is really unusual to have two groups representing a school. A school, if selected, would normally only have one dance group. A huge congratulations must go to Mr McGlinn and his band of merry helpers behind the scenes. We are very fortunate to have Mr McGlinn and his incredibly gifted creative talents. I’m really looking forward to attending the evening and seeing our wonderful girls and boys perform two fantastic pieces. Go St Andrews!
Swim School: We have now completed our first week of swim school and I’m hearing of some fantastic student improvements. This is such an important program and we are very pleased that close to two hundred students are accessing the program.

We ask that parents are patient when our final group is returning to school. The bus is returning almost on bell time. Parents are NOT to get on the bus and collect their child when they return to school. This is completely against Departmental Policy and breaches many child safety regulations. As I mentioned, parents need to be patient and leave dismissing students at the correct time to their child’s teacher.

Collecting Children After School: We are having a few issues with some parents, teenagers and toddlers waiting outside classrooms before the home time bell. Our school policy is that Kindergarten parents are to wait on the grassed area until the 3.00pm Kinder bell rings and then go and collect their children from classrooms. Many parents are waiting near classrooms, which is disruptive to learning. Our Year 1 and 2 parents are supposed to also wait on the front grassed area or in front of the hall until the 3.10 bell sounds. In the meantime teachers will be walking Year 1 and 2 classes out to the grassed area so that parents can collect their children. There is no need to be waiting outside classrooms or walking around the school. Again, many parents are waiting outside classrooms. This is also occurring with some primary classrooms. Next week, I will send home a flyer with explicit instructions for families at the end of the school day. The front grassed area, in front of the school hall, next to the admin office or the primary cola are the only places people are to wait until their children are dismissed. Mrs Barton, Mrs Sivell and I will be reminding parents as we walk around the school when students are dismissed. I ask that all parents adhere to this request in the interest of student safety. It might be inconvenient, however we have a duty of care to your children and these are our expectations. We are a school community that needs to work together and I thank you in anticipation.

Principals Tip of the Week

BACK TO BASICS

Many parents are worried about what is commonly referred to as a lack of ‘basics’. I am sure that parents don’t want a return to old-fashioned methods or to recreate schooling of yesteryear; rather, parents want to be sure that certain areas are given appropriate emphasis. If you ask any parent, this is what they will most likely want for their children:

- To read fluently.
- To write with correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- To express themselves clearly.
- To be competent in numeracy skills.
- To have a sound understanding and appreciation of the world in which we live.

What could be more reasonable? I cannot imagine any teacher or other educational professional who would not share these objectives. The only problem is this list is not complete! For students living and working in the 21st century, schools need to provide a lot more, and they do!

Schools and society owe each child the following, which go far beyond the traditional basics as defined by the 3 ‘R’s’. The ‘new basics’ include:

- Learning to understand oneself as a ‘learner’.
- Communicating effectively in speech and writing.
- Logical reasoning and clarification of issues.
- Thinking critically about local, national and international issues.
- Understanding of our own and other cultures.
- Cooperating with others in work and social life.
- Investigating and solving a wide range of problems.
- Appreciating and modelling approaches to healthy living.
- Expressing ourselves through the arts.
- Valuing those qualities which make a civilised and compassionate society.
- Applying information in everyday life situations.
- Being actively involved in their own communities.
- Learning via a range of multi-media applications.

Meeting these ‘new basics’ is an exciting challenge for schools and school communities.

Have a great week!

Mr Batty
Principal
MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE PUBLIC SPEAKING:
The Multicultural Perspective Public Speaking Competition was held this week. I was very impressed with the student’s speeches and the amount of students that were chosen to participate. The 4 students who will be representing St Andrews at the local finals are Rachel Foong, Anton Truong, Varshini Rajashekar and Shequima Pereira. Well done everyone.

LIBRARY NEWS: The Library will be holding a Book Fair on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th June. The books are supplied by Ashton Scholastic, the same company that runs Book Club. The school receives a percentage of the sales to purchase books for our school. The children will have a chance to view the books in Week 7 with their teacher. You can purchase books by dropping into the Library during our selling times or by filling in the order form on the back of the brochure your child will bring home soon.

Selling times:
Monday 17th June and Tuesday 18th June
8.30am-9.30am
11.30am-11.50am
3.10pm- 4.00pm

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.

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

ONLY 240 TICKETS LEFT
Tickets will be given to children in class on Friday 21st June.
Children must be supervised by an adult.

TEACHERS WILL NOT BE SUPERVISING.

COFFEE CHAT: It has been great to see so many parents coming to join us on Tuesday mornings from 8:40- 9:20am near the Kindergarten silver seats for a free coffee/tea. On Tuesday 4th June, we will have two Regional Community Information Officers attending coffee chat. Ha Nguyen and Bashar Hanna are looking forward to having a chat and coffee with you. Their role is to assist in facilitating communication and interaction between schools and communities from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Mr Hanna is new to the role and has extensive experience working with refugees and migrants from Arabic speaking backgrounds. Come and join us every Tuesday!!

CANBERRA EXCURSION - YEAR 6: Congratulations to the students and teachers who attended the Year 6 Canberra excursion. We had a wonderful day! We all learned a lot about government and our Nation’s capital. Thank you to all the parents who, despite a very early start, had their children at school on time and in uniform. The students have been writing recounts about the excursion. You will find more writing on the school website. Mrs Shennan

I woke up at 5:15am so I only had 30 minutes to prepare. I got out of bed, and got dressed. I had one pancake for breakfast and went to school. At 6:15am the bus departed for Canberra.

We finally arrived at the War Memorial. It was awesome there! We looked at cool real guns and real portraits of people in the war. At the end we saw two videos. My favourite video was the second one. It was about World War One. After a while we went on the bus and we left the War Memorial.

After a short bus trip, we arrived at the National Capital Exhibition Centre and we did a few activities there. We saw a little video on how Canberra was built. We only spent one hour there. After that we got on the bus and left.

Richard Batty
Principal

Donna Barton
Deputy Principal

Chad Harris
Deputy Principal
We went to Parliament house. We had to get scanned at security and Mrs Shennan had to remove her boots, her belt and her bag. We also looked at the Senate and the House of Representatives. We also did a roleplay of what it’s like in the House of Representatives. Then we left the Parliament house.

We arrived at McDonalds to eat dinner. It was very noisy and I waited in a huge line, but it was worth waiting. Then we went on the bus and arrived back at school at about 8:00pm.

It was really awesome that day! But I was happy it was time for bed.

By Nicholas Smith 6S

SCHOOL PAYMENTS: Organising school excursions and activities is very complex for a school our size.

It is very important to note the final date for payments to avoid disappointment. Buses, staffing and school organisation for these events require final numbers to be in before the day of the event so that staff and transport details can be finalised. You can imagine the difficulty of 40 students paying for a Gala Day on the morning of Sport. Team Coaches do not know who is attending until the last minute, not enough buses booked, not enough staff attending etc. Please help support our school and its programs to run smoothly by paying for events one time.

LOST PROPERTY: With winter now upon us, the amount of jumpers and school jackets placed in the lost property crate located in the hall has greatly increased.

The crate is cleaned out once a week and any items with a child’s name is given to the office to be returned to the child. Items with no names are washed and sold via the second hand uniform stall. Unfortunately there are more items without names than there is with names. Please ensure that all items have your child’s name clearly stated on it. Class details are not needed.

UNIFORM SALES

Just a reminder that Uniforms are on sale from the school office on the following days only.

Monday
8.30am - 10.30am
2.30pm - 3.30pm

Wednesday
8.30am - 10.30am
2.30pm - 3.30pm

Friday
8.30am - 10.30am
2.30pm - 3.30pm

Please note that this also includes school hats.

Cash or cheque ONLY