Week 4 Term 1
17th February 2015

CANTEEN ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Canteen Roster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Kristy and Tanya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Kathleen R and Tanya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Jennifer and Kristy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Kathleen A and Odette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Jennifer and Kristy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Odette and Di</td>
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THURSDAY FRUIT BREAK

Thur 19th Feb: Barbara Wells
Thur 26th Feb: Julie Waugh

Dear families and friends of Stanford Merthyr Infants: THOUGHT FOR THE FORTNIGHT

I can’t change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.

Jimmy Dean

EXTRA CLASS BEING FORMED NEXT WEEK

I am very thrilled to be able to announce that we have had another family move into the area and they are enrolling their two daughters at our school next Monday. This means we will have 78 students, which entitles us to have another class teacher. Staff have worked together to formulate the new classes. I have written to all parents who have a child in Kindergarten or Year One to inform you of your class teacher. New classes will begin this Friday. Please come and see me if you have concerns about your child’s new class.

The new teaching position will go to advertisement. It will take several weeks for the process to be completed. Therefore for the remainder of Term 1, Miss Wood will be teaching the Year 1 class. She will teach in the room we now call our Hall. Assemblies will now be outside while the weather is warm enough.

NEW CLASS SIZES

Mr Ping will teach Kindergarten with 18 students.
Miss Humbles will teach Kindergarten/Year One with 18 students.
Miss Wood will teach Year 1 with 19 students.
Mrs Sellens will teach Year 2 with 23 students.

STUDENT BOOK PACKS FOR $40.

Teachers would appreciate payments for book packs being finalised at the office by this Friday please. These packs contain all the books, folders and stationary requirements for the entire school year. EFTPOS facilities are available.

HOME READING PROGRAM.

Students receive a special home reading award each time they read for 25 nights at home. Thank you parents and grandparents for coming into school each morning, listening to your child read and helping them change their reader.
SCHOOL PHOTOS
Photo day is tomorrow here at school. Children are to wear full school uniform please. Please ensure you bring the photo envelope with exact money enclosed, to the office by tomorrow morning, if you haven’t already done so.

P&C ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
I would like to invite all parents and grandparents to our AGM for the P&C which will be held in the library tonight starting at 6:00pm. It would be fabulous to have some new faces as well as the parents who have been willing to assist the school in 2014. P&C meetings will then be monthly on a Tuesday night.

CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE
We would appreciate parents or grandparents who would be able to volunteer 2 and a half hours to help in the canteen. Lunch is at 11:15am. If you would be prepared to help once a month on either a Monday, Wednesday or Friday that would ensure we could keep the canteen open for our students. Please add your name to the roster in the cabinet under the covered walkway, or tell me. We have a playpen available if you need to bring your infant child.

MEET AND GREET INFORMATION NIGHT
I would like to thank Mr Les Bingham and Mr Bob Apthorpe very much for being our cooks last week. It was a fabulous night and I hope you feel well informed about the programs we are running at the school this year.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, Stanford Merthyr Infants is here to help you.

Poor Attendance Patterns
May result in children:
* not achieving potential
* being social isolated, (bullying and harassment)
* increased incidence of socially unacceptable and/or illegal activities
* having gaps in knowledge and understanding of basic concepts

Poor Attendance Patterns
Result in students who:
* are more likely to leave school at younger age
* are over-represented in the juvenile justice system
* may be at risk due to wellbeing and possible child protection issues.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS BEGUN
We are very fortunate to have committed women who come each year to teach fortnightly scripture. There is a Catholic class, and Anglican class and a combined inter denomination class. We also cater for students who parents would prefer them not to be taught scripture.

BEST START ASSESSMENT PARENT FEEDBACK
Mr Ping will be off class this Thursday 19th February to provide you with results from the Literacy and Numeracy assessments that were conducted with your child at the end of January. Your interview times have been handed out and I appreciate you being able to keep those times.

ANN MORRICE LITERACY PROGRAM
All the staff are delighted to have Ann Morrice here on 23rd and 27th February to help train the teachers in her way of exacting quality writing from young children. Ann will model lessons in each class and then work with our staff to help with programming ideas. She will then team teach in the classrooms with staff. Examples of the children’s writing will be printed in this newsletter during the year.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY FEBRUARY 27TH
Year 2 are going to Stanford Park in Wallsend Street at 12:30pm on Friday to clean up any rubbish there. If you would like your child to wear gloves, please send them in on Friday. If you have not handed in your permission note, please do so by Friday morning. Unfortunately, I cannot take any child out of the school if you have not signed the note at the office. Kindergarten and Year 1 students will stay within our school grounds and clean up the playground.

THANK YOU TO THE KURRI BREAD BASKET
We would like to thank Stewart and Sharon Lattar, who own the Kurri Bread Basket, for generously supporting our breakfast program by donating four loaves of bread each fortnight. Their donation allows our school to offer toast and juice each week.

RAFFLE TICKETS FOR BEING AT SCHOOL IN LINES BY 9.
All children receive a raffle ticket each morning if they are at school in class lines by 9am. During assembly each Friday we draw one girls name and one boys name and they receive a prize from me.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS FOR 2016
If your child will be enrolling here for Kindergarten in 2016, I would appreciate you letting the office know
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fridays 6th Feb, 13th Feb, 20th Feb, 27th Feb, 6th March</td>
<td>Drum beat for 5 Year 2 children and Rock and Water program for Year 1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursdays all term</td>
<td>Speech in School Program here at school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursdays all year</td>
<td>P&amp;C provide fruit &amp; vegetable platters for the children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Every Tuesday from 10th February</td>
<td>Playgroup for all children birth to 5 years 9:30am-11:00 here at school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th February</td>
<td>P &amp; C AGM 6.00pm. All welcome to attend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th February</td>
<td>School professional photos being taken at school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursdays : 26th Feb, 5th March, 17th March,</td>
<td>Special Interest Groups at 2pm each week. Parents, Grandparents and carers are welcome to assist teachers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th Feb</td>
<td>Parent Interviews for Kindergarten about Best Start Results</td>
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<td>Friday 27th February</td>
<td>Clean Up Australia day—clean up our school playground</td>
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<td>Wednesday 4th March</td>
<td>Domino's Pizza Fundraiser - 4pm to 8pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th March</td>
<td>Back to Stanford Day for last years Year 2 students to visit us. Kinder Health Screening for Aboriginal Students here at school.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th March 12:30-1:30pm</td>
<td>Teddy Bear Picnic at School for Kinder students beginning in 2016</td>
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<td>Wednesday 25th March</td>
<td>Bike Day Excursion at Peace Park Cessnock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th March</td>
<td>3 way conferences with teacher, Child and parents for 1/2S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 28th March</td>
<td>State Election: Polling booth at our school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 31st March</td>
<td>3 way conferences with teacher, child and parents for KP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1st April</td>
<td>3 way conferences with teacher, child and parents for K/1H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 2nd April</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade Easter fun activities and games. Final day of term.</td>
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**HEAD LICE**

Head lice can be a problem with young children sitting in close proximity to each other at school. I would very much appreciate you all being vigilant and checking your child’s hair every week. There are a variety of products available to purchase at the chemist to treat hair if you should discover eggs or live lice. The product below, Nitstuff, has been recommended to me as a preventative treatment which can be sprayed on children’s hair each morning and is available at pharmacies. It costs approximately $12.95 a bottle.

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS STARTING**

Children will begin Special Interest Groups Thursday week, 26th February at 2pm. Parents are most welcome to come and help. Miss Humbles is teaching tie dying, Mr Ping is teaching music, Mrs Sellens is teaching drama, Mrs Ceccato is teaching paper craft and I am teaching art. Families are asked to pay a one off payment of $10 per student for the year’s activities please to cover costs. We ask for these payments to be finalised by the end of June.

**LETTER FROM THE CANCER COUNCIL**

Congratulations to Kristy McIntyre and Tanya Smith, our canteen co-ordinators. I received a letter last week from the cancer council congratulating us on having a healthy menu for the children. We are now one of top 22% of canteens in NSW, as most of our food choices as green foods. These are the ones the heart foundation encourages. Thank you too to the new mums who have begun volunteering to work in the canteen.
PLAYGROUP HAS BEGUN FOR 2015
We are very fortunate to have Fiona Pickard-Ling, who has been trained as an art teacher, run our playgroup for us this year. If you were not aware of this program that began last week for 0-5 year old children, please come and talk to us.

HOME READING BOOK STALL
Because we have bought so many new home readers, the staff decided to hold a book stall. The old home readers, which are still in very good condition, have been levelled and are going to be on sale to families. They are bundled in lots of 5 readers for $2 a bundle. There are bundles of:
A. Levels 1-5
B. Levels 6-10
C. Levels 11-15
D. Levels 16-20
They will be on sale each morning before and after school every day next week, from the 23rd to the 27th February.

CANTEEN NEWS
Canteen is unable to do the homemade popcorn. We will be returning to the bagged popcorn we sold last year for $1 a bag. Thank you.

Anne Carr
Principal
The Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) commenced on 1 January 2014 and will provide access to benefits for basic dental services to children aged 2-17 years. It replaced the existing Medicare Teen Dental Plan (MTDP) which was a prevention only scheme. The total benefit entitlement will be capped at $1,000 per child over a two calendar year period. A Child's eligibility for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule is assessed at the beginning of each year and requires receipt of Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB-A) or a relevant Australian Government payment.

The CDBS will provide individual benefits for a range of services including examinations, x-rays, cleaning, fissure sealing, fillings, root canals and extractions. Benefits will not be available for orthodontic or cosmetic dental work and will not be paid for any services provided in a hospital.

Please check your local dentists. Some will fully bulk bill to Medicare which means as long funds are available there will be no out of pocket expenses.
By Riley Bridge
Leaping happily I went through the gate. I went to Miss Humbles room and I was anxiously walking. My buddy was a bit annoying.

By Zali Bobo
Skipping happily I came in the school gate. I went to Miss Humbles room to put my bag up. I got my fruit break out and put it in the fruit box. I felt happy when I went in the room I had to go into. Next I went out to lunch. Then I went back into class, I had a little fun.

By Angelo Plumbe
Skipping happily I bounced through the school gates. I went to the office and met the teachers and I was scared. I met Mr Ping and he showed me magic tricks.

By Hannah McDonald
Skipping joyfully, I went through the school gates. I was going to the playground but my mum said, “You need to go to class.” So I had to go to class. One hour later we lined up for assembly.
Speech Pathology in Schools

Speech pathologists from The University of Newcastle will be visiting Stanford Methyr every Thursday during Term 1 and Term 2 this year. The team includes:
Megan Barr - Megan is a speech pathologist and special education teacher with 20 years of experience working with children. Megan supervises three enthusiastic speech pathology students: Prudence, Melanie and Rebecca.

Watch out for regular information about speech and language in the school newsletter. Please feel free to say hello and touch base with us any time on a Thursday!

What sounds should my child have for their age?

It is well known that as children age, their ability to use a wide range of sounds improves. However, it is hard to know exactly when your child should be starting to use each sound, and what is typical.

Below we have provided a chart of the ages 75% of children are able to consistently pronounce speech sounds correctly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of child</th>
<th>Sounds now mastered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>h, y, w, m, n, p, k, t, b, g, d, ng, zh (as in measure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>f, l, sh, ch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years 6 months</td>
<td>j, s, z</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>r (as in red)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 years</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 years</td>
<td>th</td>
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It is not unusual for children to take a little longer to consistently use sounds correctly, however, continuing difficulties should be checked, particularly if difficulty with sounds is causing distress or impacting the children’s ability to be understood.

Speech pathologists are able to assess and treat any communication difficulties.

Stanford Merthyr is currently taking part in the Speech Pathology in Schools program, and has a team at the school each Thursday during Terms 1 and 2. Feel free to talk to us, or your child’s teacher if you have any concerns.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WHO HAVE CELEBRATED A BIRTHDAY!

Ella Gaul  K/P  05/02/15
William Aspinall  K/P  08/02/15
Denika Hallett  K/P  15/02/15

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS;
At the assembly on Friday 6th & 13th of February these children all received awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1/2S</th>
<th>K/1H</th>
<th>K/1P</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Troy Thomas</td>
<td>Savannah Hutchings</td>
<td>Naomi McDonald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beautiful application to all he does.</td>
<td>Confidence in working with 2 digit numbers.</td>
<td>Settling into school and following the 5 “L”s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talon Lovett</td>
<td>Andrew Anderson</td>
<td>Riley Zammit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independently working to a very high standard.</td>
<td>Outstanding Creative Writing.</td>
<td>For a beautiful smile and positive attitude.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Getting Along</td>
<td>Getting Along</td>
<td>Getting Along</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilly Winchester</td>
<td>Taylor Wells</td>
<td>Denika Hallett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality 5 Bookwork</td>
<td>Quality 5 Bookwork</td>
<td>Quality 5 Bookwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley Bridge</td>
<td>Charlotte Lloyd</td>
<td>Wyatt Lovett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Jones</td>
<td>Hunter Bodo</td>
<td>Kailie Walker</td>
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READING AWARDS

BRONZE AWARD
SILVER AWARD
GOLD AWARD
DOUBLE BRONZE AWARD
DOUBLE SILVER AWARD
DOUBLE GOLD AWARD
ROYAL
DOUBLE ROYAL
PRINCIPAL’S AWARD
Hannah McDonald
STAR STUDENT AWARD
Lilly Winchester