Dear families and friends of Stanford Merthyr Infants:

THOUGHT FOR THE FORTNIGHT

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

---John F. Kennedy---

P&C COMMITTEE FOR 2015

Our AGM was held on 17th February and it was wonderful to have such interest from parents wanting to support our school. Thank you to each of you for your willingness to help.

The people voted in for the positions for 2015:

President: Les Bingham
Secretary: David Moore
Treasurer: Odette Anderson
Canteen Co-ordinators: Kristy McIntrye and Tanya Smith.
Fundraising Committee: All the ladies on the P&C.

P&C Meetings will now be the third Tuesday of each month at 6pm. The next meeting is Tuesday 17th March.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

The Year 2 students walked to Stanford Park and did an excellent job of tidying the park. They picked up rubbish they found on the roadside walking there.

ANN MORRICE’S WRITING PROGRAM

Ann has worked for 90 minutes in each class, modelling and providing programming suggestions to help improve the quality of students' writing. Ask your children about what they learnt. You will see examples of quality sentences as the year progresses. Ann will help improve children's vocabulary, spelling and sentence structure. Ann will be with us one day each term this year.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS FOR 2016

If your child will be enrolling here for Kindergarten in 2016, I would appreciate you letting the office know now please, as I will begin transition programs for them soon, beginning with a Teddy Bears Picnic in March.
## Calendar of Events for Term One 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursdays all term</td>
<td>Speech in School Program here at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursdays all year</td>
<td>P&amp;C provide fruit &amp; vegetable platters for the children</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4th March</td>
<td>Domino’s Pizza Fundraiser - 4pm to 8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th March</td>
<td>Year 1 Transport excursion to Newcastle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13th March</td>
<td>Bandage Bear fundraiser. Come out of uniform and bring favourite teddy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1st April</td>
<td>Back to Stanford Day for last years Year 2 students to visit us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th March 12:30-1:30pm</td>
<td>Teddy Bear Picnic at School for Kinder students beginning in 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25th March</td>
<td>Bike Day Excursion at Peace Park Cessnock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th March</td>
<td>3 way conferences with teacher. Child and parents for Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 28th March</td>
<td>State Election: Polling booth at our school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 30th March</td>
<td>3 way conferences for teacher, child and parent for 1W</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 2nd April</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade Easter fun activities and games.. Final day of term.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### YEAR ONE EXCURSION TO NEWCASTLE

Miss Humbles is organising a Year 1 excursion for all of the students in 1W and her Year 1 students. This is to consolidate the work on “Transport” that the children are studying in class.

**Date:** Thursday 31st March  
**Time:** Leave school 9:15am. Return: 4:15pm.  
**Cost:** $13 per child.

Students will catch the Rovers Coach that comes past our school at 9:15., to go to Maitland Station. We catch the train into Civic Station and then walk to the Maritime Museum, where the students have an hour session looking at the transport exhibition. The permission note will be at the office for parents to sign next week. It would be appreciated if these notes are completed by 27 March please.

### YEAR 2 CLASS EXCURSION TO KURRI KURRI PUBLIC HOSPITAL

Year 2 are studying the Human Body as part of the science curriculum this term. As part of the unit, they are having an excursion to Kurri Kurri Public Hospital. There is no cost for this excursion. However we will require parent assistance to provide transport to and from Kurri Kurri Public Hospital.

**Date of excursion:** Monday 23rd March  
**Time leaving SMIS:** 11:45am  
**Time due back at school:** 2:15pm  
**No cost.**  
If you are able to assist with transport, please let either myself or Mrs Sellens know. Thank you.

### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS HAVE BEGUN

Parents and Grandparents are invited to assist us during Special Interest Groups on Thursdays at 2pm. Miss Humbles and I would especially appreciate help with the tie dying and art workshops.

### BANDAGE BEAR FUNDRAISER 13TH MARCH

To support Westmead Children’s Hospital, we are asking the children to come out of uniform and pay a gold coin donation on Friday 13th March. They still can wear their school shorts and joggers as it is sports day. Please bring your favourite teddy to have a picnic lunch with. Kid’s Councillors will collect the money. Thank you.
NEW BABY.
Congratulations to Krystle and Scott on the safe arrival of their daughter, Taylor. She will have her big brother Jayden very eager to show her off to all of us.

Clothes Needed.
If anyone has any clothes boys or girls in any size they are wanting to give away please bring them to the office it would be much appreciated.

The Body Shop @ Home
Hi to all of the beautiful mums out there, I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Julie Waugh & I am your Bodyshop @home consultant. The latest catalogue is now available and if you would like one or would like to book “A pamper party” for yourself and friends just give me a call on 0428017000. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Julie

FUNDRAISER
DOMINO’S PIZZA KURRI KURRI IS PROUD TO SUPPORT STANFORD MERTHTR INFANTS SCHOOL THROUGH A FUNDRAISER.

When: Wednesday 4th of March 2015
Time: 4pm to 8pm

Donation of: $1 from every pizza sold between 4pm and 8pm will be given to the school.

How to order: Call 1300 366 466 or order on line at www.dominos.com.au

Vouchers can be used during the fundraiser time period or you can join Domino’s Eclub @ www.dominos.com.au or join Dominos Offers App on Itunes.

BIKE DAY EXCURSION WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH
I have included the permission note for our whole school bike day at Peace Park on Wednesday 25th March. There is no cost for this excursion. We would appreciate you completing this note as soon as possible please and returning it to the office. Once we know whether your child will bring a trike, a 2 wheeler with training wheels, a 2 wheeler or a scooter, we will be able to put the children into groups. Thank you.

EASTER RAFFLE
As part of our Easter celebrations we would like to have an Easter Raffle. It would be very much appreciated if each family would please be prepared to donate one easter egg for the hamper. If you are able to do this, please hand your donation into the school office. Thanks very much.

Anne Carr    Principal.
Crouching slowly through the long grass the tigress sees a deer. By Natalia Roberts

A tiger quietly hunting in the long grass. By Kayde MacDonald

A tiger is crawling slowly in the long grass. By Thomas Self

A tiger is creeping quietly in the long grass. By Taylah Harris

A tiger is prowling softly in the long grass. By Kadence Carr

A tiger is prowling softly in the long grass. By Taylor Wells
A MESSAGE FROM OUR SPEECH IN SCHOOLS THERAPISTS

**DOES YOUR CHILD HEAR AND UNDERSTAND FOR THEIR AGE?**

**DID YOU KNOW!?** Hearing is critical to speech and language development as well as communication and learning.

*There are some major ways in which hearing loss can affect children:*

1. It causes delay in the development of the child’s receptive (understanding) and expressive (speech produced) communication language
2. The language deficit causes learning problems that may result in poor academic achievements
3. Communication difficulties can often lead to social isolation

The table below provides some general information about the age appropriate skills for hearing and understanding:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Hearing &amp; Understanding</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Hearing &amp; Understanding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1-2 years | - Points to a few body parts when asked  
- Follows simple commands and understands simple questions (E.g. “roll the ball”)  
- Listens to simple stories, songs and rhymes  
- Points to pictures in a book when named | 4-5 years | - Understands words for order (E.g. first, next and last)  
- Understands words for time (E.g. yesterday, tomorrow and today)  
- Follows longer directions (E.g. “Put your pyjamas on, brush your teeth and then pick a book”)  
- Follows classroom directions (E.g. “Draw a circle on your paper”)  
Hears and understands most of what is said at home and in school |
| 2-3 years | - Understand the differences in meaning (E.g. “go-stop”, “big-little”, “in-on”)  
- Follows two requests (E.g. “get the book and put it on the table”)  
- Listens to and enjoys hearing stories for longer periods of time | 5-6 years | - Be able to listen to stories and recite or sing rhymes and songs |
| 3-4 years | - Understands words for some colours (E.g. red, blue and green)  
- Understands words for family (E.g. brother, grandmother) | 6-9 years | - Understand left and right  
- Be able to read to themselves |

Reference:
http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/23/
http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/child_development (6-9) cyh.html#developing

Hopefully this information has helped with your knowledge about your child’s hearing and understanding abilities and has allowed you to see if your child is within the age appropriate skills. Please remember that hearing and understanding does play a major role in your child's development with not only speech and language but also socially and emotionally.

We hope you have found this information useful. Please feel free to talk to the SPiNs team at Stanford Merthyr on a Thursday if you have any concerns.

**SPiNs team (Newcastle University- Megan, Melanie, Prudence and Rebecca)**
TRIPLE P SELECT PROGRAM
Triple P Parenting Seminars

Week 1  Tuesday, 10th March 2015
Week 2  Tuesday, 17th March 2015

The two seminars will cover the following topics:
- The Power of Positive Parenting
- Raising Confident, Competent Children &
- Raising Resilient Children

This program is free

Time: 9.30 am - 12.00 pm
at
Samaritans Neighbourhood Centre
198-202 Vincent Street, Cessnock

THERE WILL BE NO CHILD CARE AVAILABLE.

To book a place or for more information please phone
CESSNOCK FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE
on
4990 4507

Seminars are presented by accredited Triple P practitioners
Financial assistance for this service is provided by Community Services, Department of Family and
Community Services NSW
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CANTEEN CO-ORDINATORS

I would like to thank Kristy McIntrye and Tanya Smith for their dedication in preparing a new healthy menu for our staff and students. The staff at "Good for Kids, Good for Life," were so impressed with the improvements to our canteen menu, they sent the school the following letter and information.

Please support the canteen. We still need people to fill spots on the roster so we can keep it open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

5 February 2015

Anne Carr
Principal
Stanford Merthyr Infants School
Maitland Street
STANFORD MERTHYR NSW 2327

Dear Anne,

I am writing to congratulate your school on the great efforts it has made in moving towards a healthy canteen menu consistent with the Fresh Tastes @ School NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy. I have been working with your school over recent months and am thrilled to report that based on the current menu for Term 1 2015 your school canteen has not only removed all RED items but has produced a menu which is predominantly GREEN.

I understand the difficulties schools face when trying to make any change to their menu so please pass my thanks onto your canteen manager, Kristy and the other canteen volunteers and parents who have helped make this happen, it is a great achievement. We are looking forward to continuing to work with your school this year.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Robertson
Project Officer
Good for Kids. Good for Life.

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Stanford Merthyr Infants School Canteen Menu Feedback

Dear Anne and Kristy,

Good for Kids is available to support your school in working towards a Fresh Tastes @ School Healthy Canteen.

School canteen menus should aim to have >50% GREEN, <50% AMBER, 0% RED and 0% BANNED items.

Table 1. Canteen menu progress

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Term 4 2014</th>
<th>Term 1 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMBER</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BANDED</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RED</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations! Based on your current canteen menu, you are meeting the Fresh Tastes @ School NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy!

It is fantastic to see schools that are committed to providing healthy nutritious food and drink choices to students. Well done!

Further Information

If you have any questions regarding this Canteen Menu Feedback please contact:

Katie Robertson
Project Officer
Good for Kids. Good for Life
(02) 4924 6385
katie.robertson@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE WHO HAVE CELEBRATED A BIRTHDAY!

There were no birthdays to celebrate this week, but to any family members we wish them many happy returns.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS;
At the assembly on Friday 20th of February these children all received awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1/2S</th>
<th>K/1H</th>
<th>K/1P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lily-Mae Moore</td>
<td>Sam King</td>
<td>Ella Gaul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incredible work in writing and handwriting.</td>
<td>Outstanding improvement and independence in all areas.</td>
<td>For Beautiful handwriting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting Along</td>
<td>Getting Along</td>
<td>Getting Along</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Aspinall</td>
<td>Rani Oirbans</td>
<td>William Aspinall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality 5 Bookwork</td>
<td>Quality 5 Bookwork</td>
<td>Quality 5 Bookwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelo Plumbe</td>
<td>Meara Bartley-Shaw</td>
<td>Annalyse Beagley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

READING AWARDS

BRONZE AWARD
Lacey Smith  Tayah McIntyre

SILVER AWARD

GOLD AWARD

DOUBLE BRONZE AWARD

DOUBLE SILVER AWARD

DOUBLE GOLD AWARD

ROYAL

DOUBLE ROYAL

PRINCIPAL’S AWARD
Talon Lovett

STAR STUDENT AWARD