

## Fingal Campus Students enjoying Specialist Lessons



# Principal's Report...

Dear parents, students and community members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making the start to the 2010 school year a most positive one – all students have started the term in a focused and engaged manner. Thank you to parents/carers for the great support in having students turn up in uniform.

Welcome to new/returning staff members:

- Miss Lucie Ellis – Upper secondary humanities
- Miss Ros Smith – AST [K – 6]
- Ms Fran Smyth – Grade 4/5
- Miss Jackie Hortle – Teacher Assistant [Kindergarten/Additional Needs]
- Mrs Rebecca Hibberd – Early Years Programmes
- Mrs Sandra Johnson – School Executive Officer

I would also like to extend a sincere welcome to new students and their families – any issues/concerns that require clarification in supporting your child at St Marys District High School may be directed to either me or our Assistant Principals (Barry LeFevre and Melanie Thorne) or in the first instance to the Team Leaders:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| ■ K – 5         | Ros Smith       |
| ■ Grades 7 – 8  | Leighton Jordan |
| ■ Grades 9 – 12 | Sue Hindley     |

The Primary building project is progressing as planned. The front deck and two new classrooms on the eastern end are our first priority. Once the deck is completed access to rooms will move from the back of the building to the northern side through the newly installed double doors into each of the rooms. The second stage of the project will see the completion of two general purpose rooms and administration area on the southern side of the building. Thank you to parents, staff and students for their tolerance with respect to the current access arrangements.

2010 will see the furthering of the educational links with Fingal Primary School – Fingal students are now participating in specialist lessons at St Marys and similarly our staff is providing specialist lessons at Fingal. I believe there are many exciting shared opportunities to further student learning experiences that need to be explored.

The school has a full “agenda” in 2010 – I look forward to continuing the positive and supportive relationship with all members of the school community in order to ensure the full potential of any initiative is realised.

*Brian Shephard*

## Grade 7-8 Student Diaries

This year Grades 7-8 students purchased a diary in their booklist. The diary will serve two purposes....

Firstly as an organiser. Students will be encouraged to write in their diaries for reminders regarding day to day school matters e.g. timetable, homework, notices, calendar events.

With continued use it is hoped that this will aid student's organisational skills.

Secondly, the diary will act as a communication tool for parents, students and staff. Staff and parents are encouraged to check diaries and provide feedback when needed regarding school matters. Parents and staff are asked to check diaries regularly and to sign and counter-sign to show they have viewed them. The onus is on the student to show parents and teachers.

Matters that you regard of a more serious nature will be dealt with via phone or face to face meetings. If you have any concerns regarding your child then contact the relevant staff members.

Leighton Jordan  
AST

Martin Beattie

Ken Stonehouse

Ella Barnes

Heather Prebble

Sandra Cook



## STUDENT BANKING 2010.

Student Banking is every Tuesday morning. Primary students' bank books will be collected from their classrooms.

Secondary Students can leave their bank books at the office before school.

New account packs are available from the office. 

## STUDENT ID CARDS

ID Cards are distributed to grades 9 and 10 students at the beginning of the year to be use for school programs run throughout the year. Replacement cards or new cards for other grade students are available through the school office at a cost of \$2ea.

## 2010 STUDENT INFORMATION VALIDATION FORMS

All students received an Information Validation Form with their stationery at book sales this year. We ask that you make any required changes to your child's details and return the form to school as soon as possible ensuring that you have signed the form in the section titled **verification of enrolment information** at the end of the form. A guide to the Annual Validation Form published by the Education Department is available from the office, if you require further information about the process.

### The annual validation form:

Schools and colleges are required to provide parents, guardians and independent students with this validation form each year or after the student changes school. The forms allow you to check our information and make any corrections or additions. Information about parents, guardians and the student is vital to us. Correct personal, emergency and medical information is needed to make sure that we look after students in a responsible manner. You may be contacted by us to provide additional or missing information.

### Questions you might have:

#### What if my details change after this?

If any information changes, you should notify us. Separate forms are available to change either the student's name, personal details or medical conditions.

#### Why do I need to provide details of my background on the enrolment form?

The Federal Government now requires schools to provide a greater level of information. This form includes the details for national reporting. This information is used to measure the achievements of students from various backgrounds. Individuals are not identified. These new measures have been put in place to ensure that student performance is not unduly influenced by socioeconomic background or other student characteristics and to promote an education system that is fair for all Australian students.

## Other important information we would like you be aware of:

### Head Lice

Checking and treating children's hair for head lice is a parent/guardian responsibility. Schools may arrange head checks **without prior permission from parents. Students found to be infested will be withdrawn from close contact with other children and will need to be collected** quickly from school for treatment.

### Permission for minor excursions

Activities that are part of our school's curriculum, such as visits to museums and parks, no longer require parent permission. Permission slips for individual excursions or activities are no longer sent home. However, you will still be informed prior to the excursion through our newsletter, student diary or other notice. If you do not want the student to participate, you will need to give written notice and state the reasons for withdrawing from the activity. Overnight excursions and activities that have an inherent risk will require a separate permission form.

### Transporting the student in an emergency

In an emergency, the student will be moved to a safe place for appropriate care. This may be by ambulance or other form of transportation so that the student may be provided with appropriate care or treatment. Transportation costs are the responsibility of the person signing the enrolment form.





protect yourself  
protect others

## H1N1 Influenza 09 (Swine Flu) Vaccine Update

Dear parents and carers

As the school year begins I want to remind you all of the swine flu vaccine and its importance in protecting your child and your family.

The vaccine gives protection against the swine flu virus - which we expect to be the main form of flu again this year.

In 2009 we learned a lot about the virus:

- for most it causes a mild illness, with symptoms similar to other flus. For some it can cause serious illness or even death.
- we can't always predict who will get seriously ill.
- young people and children were found to be at higher risk of illness.
- one third of all people who became seriously ill or died from swine flu were previously healthy.

Adult and child doses of the free swine flu vaccine are available now.

As with the seasonal flu vaccine, children aged less than 10 years of age need two doses of the vaccine given at least 28 days apart. People aged more than 10 years need one dose.

Children aged less than 6 months can not receive any flu vaccine. Vaccinating those around them, including parents and carers, brothers and sisters, is vital for their protection.

### Where your family can be vaccinated

The vaccine is available from GPs and via most local government vaccination clinics. In addition during the next few weeks there will be a range of free community vaccination clinics in most areas. For more information on free clinics please visit [www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/flu](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/flu) or phone 1800 358 362 (1800 FLU DOC).

Yours sincerely



Dr Roscoe Taylor  
Director of Public Health  
9 February 2010



St Marys District High School,  
Fingal Primary School & Building Blocks  
invite parents and children aged 0-5 years to a

# Teddy Bears' Picnic!

To celebrate the commencement of our  
2010 Launching into Learning Programs

**Where: St Marys Town Hall**

**When: Thursday, March 11th  
11:00am - 12.30pm**

**Bring along your favourite teddy  
and a picnic snack to enjoy!**

**We hope to see you and your children there!**

Rebecca Hibberd - Early Years Teacher, St. Marys District High School  
Michelle Menz, Launching into Learning Teacher, Fingal Primary School  
Kandi Thorpe, Building Blocks

Toys!

FUN!



Teddy Bear  
Competition!

Games!



Activities!



## Early Learning Programs

At St Marys District High School

### Stepping Stones

(previously known as parent-child)

This is a pre-kinder program for children turning 4 years of age in 2010.

**Where: Kindergarten - St Marys District High School**

**When: Thursdays, 1:30pm - 3:00pm**

### Launching into Learning

This is a fun program for children aged 0-3 years.

Come along and spend some time with your child while they talk, play and learn.

**Where: Kindergarten - St Marys District High School**

**When: Thursdays, 11:00am - 12.30pm**

Programs commence on Thursday 4th March with an information session,  
guided tour of our school and an opportunity to meet our Principal, Brian Shephard.

Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian for all sessions

For further information contact Rebecca Hibberd at the school on 6372 3900

**Please note: Teddy Bears' Picnic will be held in place of sessions for 11th March**





## St Marys District High School Association News

Over the Christmas break, the School Association organised 2 weeks of learn to swim classes for 39 children aged 2-12yrs. A cost of \$70 applied per student, with a proportion of the money used to reimburse the school for some of the pool running costs. The instructors were both former students of St Marys District High School – Hazel Buchhorn and Hannah Spilsbury.

Children attended lessons every weekday and feedback from the families involved suggested that most were very satisfied with the lessons. There were ideas as to how the lessons could be improved in further years, especially for very young students. We will certainly take that advice on board as we hope to continue the program in 2011.

Children from across Break O'Day attended and a big thanks is due to all the families who committed to the program over a busy summer period.

### *Royal Surf Lifesaving levels achieved by children:*

- |             |              |                     |
|-------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 3 - level 6 | 6 – level 2  | 3 – level D1        |
| 5 – level 4 | 5 – level D2 | 4 – infant aquatics |
| 6 – level 3 | 7- level 1   |                     |

We raised a small amount of money from the program, and will discuss how this should best be directed, at the next School Association meeting in April.

Tanya Greenwood  
SA chairperson





# FUN IN THE SUN AT SCAMANDER BEACH

**SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY  
10 AM TO 2PM**

Join us for a day in the sun - swimming, football, beach volleyball, cricket, a sand sculpting competition and a free barbeque lunch.


So grab your bathers, towel, sunscreen and anything else you may need for a day at the beach and be there!

Free transport can be arranged, for more information or to book a bus phone the Healthy House on 63765242 by Thursday 25th February

Children under 11 must be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times





## Parents Wanted!

To complete a survey about speech pathology availability

The survey will help speech pathologists plan services for children around Australia

To find out more you can go to the survey website

[http://www2.fhs.usyd.edu.au/csd/research\\_participants\\_required.htm](http://www2.fhs.usyd.edu.au/csd/research_participants_required.htm)

Please contact Dr Tricia McCabe at [tricia.mccabe@sydney.edu.au](mailto:tricia.mccabe@sydney.edu.au) if you would like more information.

This survey has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of Sydney (ref 12280)

Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of a research study can contact the Deputy Manager, Human Research Ethics Administration, University of Sydney on (02) 8627 8176 (Telephone); (02) 8627 8177 (Facsimile) or [human.ethics@usyd.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics@usyd.edu.au) (Email).

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ABN 15 211 513  
454  
CRICOS 00026A

## TENNIS

Get an advantage with a Tennis Australia Coach Junior tennis will be on a Friday after school in St Marys commencing 26 February 2010.

This Saturday is the Hot Shots Tennis Challenge at the St Marys Tennis Club for children aged between 5 and 8 years old.

Register on the day at 9am  
Trophy presentations at 11.30am  
Cost \$10 with a free Hot Shots t-shirt  
Play for a trophy  
Bring a drink and a hat


enquiries and enrolments  
please phone Harry 0409036245



## Guitar Lessons

Beginners to Advanced

Contact Paul Byard  
6372 2238





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For more information please call Eduss Learning on **1800 334 633** or simply complete and fax this form to 07 5569 2877 within 3 days and someone from our office will contact you.

Name of School:			
Suburb:			
Name/s of Children:			
Grade/s:			
Parent/s Name:			
Mobile Number:			Home Number:
Address:			

The St Marys Dental Van is open every week on Wednesdays and Thursdays. You can organise appointments for your children by calling the staff at the dental van on Wednesdays and Thursdays on 63722488. On other days you can call the Northern Dental Centre on 63364100 as they have access to the appointment book.

If your child is unable to attend an appointment it would be appreciated if you could call the staff at the dental van before the appointment so that it can be rescheduled. This will enable the staff to use this time to see another child.

Parents and guardians should note that dental staff can not arrange for children to be called from class for appointments.

There are some days coming up when the van will not be open. These days are listed below:

Closed	Alternative opening days
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	

For any Dental Emergencies when the dental van is closed please call the St Helens Dental Clinic, St Helens on 63765208 or the Northern Dental Centre, Launceston on 63364100.

## Invitation to all students

Have fun and get your entries in now

Grades 1 to 3  
Grades 4 to 6  
Grades 7 to 8  
Grades 9 to 10



### How to enter:

Write in 50 words or less

***"How can I improve my community?"***

All entries will be picked up from the schools on the closing date so put pen to paper.

### Closing date:

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010 2.30pm.

The entries will be displayed at the combined Online access centre 10<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and the Health and Wellbeing day held at the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010 between 9am & 4pm.

**Fingal Valley Neighbourhood house**

## NOTICES

We will be endeavouring to have the school website kept up to date with all relevant information. Parents will also be able to access notices should any become lost or damaged on their way home.

**[www.schools.education.tas.gov.au/stmarys](http://www.schools.education.tas.gov.au/stmarys)**

## FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				<b>19 FEB</b> ☞
<b>22 FEB</b> ☞ Primary Assembly 2.10 in Hall (Assemblies will be held on the last Monday of each Month @ 2.10) ☞ 4-8 Active After School Activities begins	<b>23 FEB</b> ☞	<b>24 FEB</b> ☞	<b>25 FEB</b> ☞ Grade 7 sleepover	<b>26 FEB</b> ☞ Grade 7 beach excursion
<b>1 MAR</b> ☞	<b>2 MAR</b> ☞	<b>3 MAR</b> ☞ Prep-3 Active After School Activities begins	<b>4 MAR</b> ☞ Early Years program begins	<b>5 MAR</b> ☞
<b>8 MAR</b> <b>Long weekend NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>9 MAR</b> ☞	<b>10 MAR</b> ☞ Grade 7 Camp	<b>11 MAR</b> ☞ Grade 7 Camp ☞ Bicheno PS Swim Carnival ☞ Next Newsletter to be sent out ☞ Teddy Bear's Picnic	<b>12 MAR</b> ☞ Grade 7 Camp