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Principal's Report...

Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

I would like to thank everyone for supporting our **student free day** on Friday 13th August. Staff worked in like grade groupings and also in cross sector groupings examining a wide range of school data and the implications for improved student learning outcomes. We also worked on best practice indicators and our ongoing “journey” to ensure St Marys District High School provides appropriate, personalised and authentic learning experiences within a supportive environment. Once again thank you for your confidence in the school.

Despite the term rapidly drawing to a close it is timely to advise the community of **staff changes** that were required for all or part of Term 2:

- Ms Fran Smyth/ Mr Nic Wardlaw for Mr Stonehouse
- Mr Colin Church for Mr Green
- Mr Stan Oleszkiewicz for Miss Coleman

Thank you to the above staff who have stepped in, and in some cases at extremely short notice, to ensure continuity of programmes. Miss Coleman will continue on extended leave and both Mr Stonehouse and Mr Green will resume normal duties in Term 3.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) reports for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 who sat the national tests in literacy and numeracy in May this year will be sent home during the first week of Term 3, 2010. Students in all government, Catholic and independent schools were tested and all parents across Australia will receive results in a common reporting format. Your child's report will show national information including how your child performed in relation to other students in their particular year group, and in comparison to the national average score for each of the Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy tests. For students in Years 5, 7 and 9, the 2010 tests will provide parents and schools with important information on progress made since the 2008 NAPLAN testing. A parent information brochure will also be distributed with the report. Teachers will be provided with a complete analysis of their students' results and parents are invited to contact their child's teacher in order to discuss any aspect of the tests.

Participation rates and in particular absenteeism continues to be a school priority given the impact on student learning. I am pleased to report to our community that the participation rate in Term 1 was over 91% compared to the overall figure in 2009 of 87% - this is a really marked improvement! When advising that your son/daughter will be absent may I ask that parents/carers utilise the **SMS phone 0457 482 265** leaving the landline clear for other purposes?

Student participation in Science may well be the key to unlocking the issues that society will face in the future! I applaud our staff for the excellent programs they provide and for students taking up the challenge. As a relatively small school we continue to achieve outstanding Science results at local and state level:

- Equal second in the Tasmanian Brain Bee competition
- Sixth in the state Engineering Challenge
- Successful in gaining a Science grant to host a Science Fair for primary students.

With the September holiday break rapidly approaching and an uptake in outdoor activities I would like to remind all students to take care albeit on the streets or in aquatic activities. Have a great break and a well deserved rest.

Regards,

Brian Shepherd

Changes to Canteen Operating Guidelines Term 3

Prep – 2 Canteen Access

The School Association, with the support of Canteen Manager, Cate Deak will be introducing changes to the ordering process for Grade Prep-2 students in Term 3. The changes will be introduced in an effort to promote healthy eating in the junior primary area and to reduce the incidence of money related problems in the playground. Children will now not be required to purchase items themselves at the canteen, a space that has traditionally been used as a senior student area. The changes are as follows:

- Physical access to the canteen for Prep- Grade 2 students will be restricted, students will order all their food on the canteen order form, to be delivered to the classroom;
- A small number of treats will now be on the morning order form. These will be all ice-creams, yoghurt frogs, eucalyptus balls and liquorice, in 20c, 50c and \$1 bags.
- Children who order ice-creams will have a token that will enable them to collect their ice-cream at lunch – all other treats will be delivered with lunch orders.

Secondary students

In 2010 all students have been asked to order their lunch in the morning, and in an attempt to further support this, and improve canteen efficiency the lunchtime opening times will be amended.

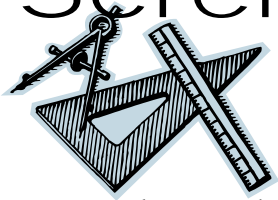
- The canteen will be open to those students who have pre ordered lunch from 12.30 – 12.40 p.m. to collect their order.
- Students who have not pre-ordered their lunch will be required to wait until 12.40 pm to purchase lunch from any available items left for sale.

It is expected that these changes will be beneficial in reducing canteen waste, ensuring that all orders are met, and reducing the wait time for students to collect their lunch. This change will also take effect at the commencement of Term 3.

We expect the transition to be smooth and the changes will improve canteen operation and have minimal disruption to staff and students.

Finally, Canteen Manager, Cate Deak reminds that parent assistance within the Canteen is always required. Cate may be contacted directly on 03 6372 3915 should you be in a position to offer your assistance.

Science and Engineering Challenge



Very early on Thursday the 15th of July, twenty nine nervous but brainy kids set off for the Science and Engineering Challenge. It was a freezing morning but when we walked in the centre we realised it was even colder inside. After sitting for 15 minutes listening to a spiel that no one paid any attention to, we split up into our groups and started the first challenge. Some students went to two challenges which took half of the day each whilst others had all day challenges. The challenges included: 'The Dish' where you had to make a dish which picked up radio signals; 'Puff Puff Golf' where the students made a balloon powered car; 'The Great Tea Race' where you made boats and raced them; and 'Eco Habitech' where students built eco friendly houses which underwent a series of tests such as rain, wind and heat.

At half time it was announced that St Marys was in the lead against all the other schools competing. We were very shocked: little old St Marys was winning!

Our Great Tea Race competitors wowed them all with their amazing boat building skills. In the war machine, Emily, Tarquinne and Billy were building catapults and after changing their design several times they came out on top with a fabulous contraption. Both teams cleaned up by far in the 'Crypto Cracking Cronies'. The Bridge team won the finale: theirs was the only bridge that survived all the weights that were put on to it sealing St Marys' victory.

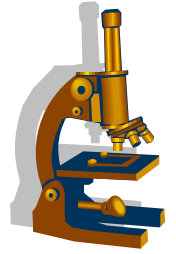
Overall it was an enjoyable day with many funny (and freezing) moments. We are now attending the state final against big scary schools like Riverside on the 13th of August. Wish us luck!

Thanks to Mr Brad Ennis, Mrs Mel Morgan and Ms Linda Brown.





Neuroscience Challenge 2010



On the 20th of July; after much study, Josh Male, Stacey-Ann Binns and Elizabeth Carin travelled down to Hobart to compete in the state final of the Neuroscience Challenge. The trip there was very quiet due to being at a ridiculous hour in the morning. We arrived nearly an hour early, so we walked around the shops for a while. Josh was nearly convinced to buy a pair of hot pink jeans, but chickened out at the last minute. At 10am we entered the New Menzies institute very nervously and met with the coordinator and other competitors for the day.

We had the first round of tests, and the second, then had a tour of the institute with clear instructions to stay on the gray linoleum and DO NOT go on the yellow. We did go on the yellow: how naughty. It was an interesting tour and we saw a lot of expensive microscopes and stuff.

We then had a few lectures about various things related to neuroscience which I'm sure were intriguing if you listened and tried not to fall asleep. This was followed by our final round of questions that were a lot harder than the first two rounds. The questions were oral and I found it harder to grasp what the question actually was as those devils twisted their words just to make us suffer. Next we posed awkwardly holding a plastic brain for the television and newspaper and tried to have an intelligent conversation. We were too tired for the intelligent part.

The results were then announced. A girl from Kingston came first and Stacey-Ann and I tied for second. Overall the day made me realise how much I really don't want to be a scientist.

Thank you to Mrs Morgan for her lenience with our class time and extensions in assignments as well as Ms Brown for tutoring and helping us through our blonde moments.

-Elizabeth Carin



The Menzies Institute.



Work Experience



Throughout the week of the 26th - 30th of July our Year 10 students went out on work experience. Students were given the opportunity to spend the whole week in one or two placements of their choice to experience the work place and obtain a closer insight into occupations they may be interested in.

Throughout the week Margaret Forsyth and I contacted the workplaces to discover how our students were getting on. It was fantastic to hear that students were engaging and participating in their chosen workplace and to hear positive feedback from employers about our students and their positive and optimistic attitudes.



The students had a diary to complete during their placement which involved prior planning for Work Experience during pathway planning, students researching and asking questions in relation to the area of employment they were in whilst on work experience. The diary also involved employer feedback on the students, with very pleasing results!

I hope the students all gained a positive experience from this worthwhile programme. Even those who didn't enjoy their choices, at least they know what choices are not for them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, staff and businesses involved for their support in ensuring the success of this programme.

Laura Gowans
Work Experience Co-ordinator
Home School Liaison Officer



KINDER JUNGLE DAY



Kinders held a jungle safari in the Kinder playground to celebrate the completion of a unit of work on wild animals.

Animals were spotted and photographed with pretend binoculars and cameras.

Our jungle day came to an end with the children eating jungle jellies.





Grade 9 Camp

On Tuesday the 27th of July, the grade 9s set off for Hobart. On the way down we stopped at the Richmond Mazes. They were extremely confusing for us to get through. One strategy was to sit on the top of a way and direct others to the middle.

Once we arrived in Hobart, we stopped in Salamanca for a walk around. Mr Ennis pointed out a few interesting spots, however most of us were more interested in having a conversation with one of the boat owners. We then travelled to where we were staying and had some free time.

The next day we travelled to Port Arthur. The tour guide took us through some of the houses and prisons there. We all got the opportunity to place ourselves in the shoes of a convict when we went through a building that had a court room setup for the public.

To save some cooking and cleaning we had takeaway for tea.

On Thursday, we drove into the centre of Hobart. We split up to either do an indoor rock climbing activity or laser shooting. We also did some shopping at Eastlands and swimming at the Aquatics Centre. That night we all went to the cinema to watch 'Marmaduke'.

Friday it was time to travel home. It was a much quieter trip than the one on the way down. Maybe we were worn out from all the knowledge we had gained on the trip ?? It certainly couldn't have been from talking all night!

A huge thankyou to Mr Ennis, Mrs Hindley, Miss Ellis and Mr Lynch for putting up with us and for organising an enjoyable camp.

Annalyse Brooks.





The year nines left St Marys to go on an amazing camp to Hobart on the 27th of July. The students went to see things like The Tessellated Pavement, Tasman's Arch and the Devils Kitchen as well as the historical site of Port Arthur including a beautiful cruise around the harbour, which took in all the beauty of the lovely area.

On the first day the students stopped in Richmond for lunch near the Richmond Bridge, the oldest bridge in Tasmania, before heading to the Richmond maze. The large majority of students found their way through the two joined mazes, found the centre of both and got out on time without any lost friends. From Richmond, the crew headed straight for Hobart with lollies in their pockets from the candy shop and Richmond maze cafe. Before they headed to the camp site a detour was taken to go to Salamanca, a nice spot on the harbour. After an over sized game of chess and a walk, everyone piled on to the bus to head for the camp site just outside of Hobart; 7 Mile Beach.

When everyone had their gear sorted and cabins arranged people had dinner then mingled in each other's cabins before bed.

The second day came alive early in the morning with teachers and students up and around the camp with excitement over the day's activities. The bus left the camp to start a scenic drive to Port Arthur, the first stop however was at Eagle Hawk Neck. With a quick stop at the look out over Pirates Cove the bus headed down the hill to the Tessellated Pavement; an amazing natural formation in the rocks due to pressure and ever changing salty waves. After everyone was finished exploring they hopped back on the bus once more and headed to Tasman's Arch: A very large rock arch that towered over a deep chasm that most couldn't even see the bottom. From there they moved to the Devils Kitchen a sister rock formation to the Tasman's Arch. The Devils Kitchen was a large crack that travelled about 500 metres inland. Soon the bus was heading for Port Arthur once more. At Port Arthur everyone joined in the guided tour and went around the magical site with apprehension of the stories of old convicts that once were imprisoned in the buildings they now freely walked around. The students now had time to walk around freely. Soon the harbour cruise arrived and every one walked aboard (except Mr Ennis who chose to simply watch). On the way back people chatted excitedly until Sorell, where we had dinner, and then drove back to camp.

The third day was a more tired one, with many students and all the teachers yawning constantly. Everyone got up and prepared to head off to the city centre for a bit of shopping at Eastlands. Students had been given a choice of either rock climbing or laser tag, the numbers in each were quite even and everyone from both activities enjoyed them-selves and told others from the opposite group all about there experiences on the way to the Aquatic centre for a nice swim. Again everyone enjoyed them selves very much; especially so when the diving blocks were opened and the students could watch their friends plummet to the water about 5 metres below. Soon everyone was dressed and back on the bus heading back to Eastlands for a bit more shopping before going to the movies to watch Marmaduke; a good family movie about an inquisitive but shy Great Dane, not-surprisingly named Marmaduke.

On the 4th and final day the tired students and teachers packed their things and cleaned their cabins before jumping on the bus for another bus ride home. When the Bicheno people were dropped off the teachers shouted everyone hot chips before heading back to school. All the students would like to extend a special thanks to all the staff who organised and attended the trip and to Arthur, the bus driver, who put up with all of us for the whole camp and to parents for letting everyone attend.

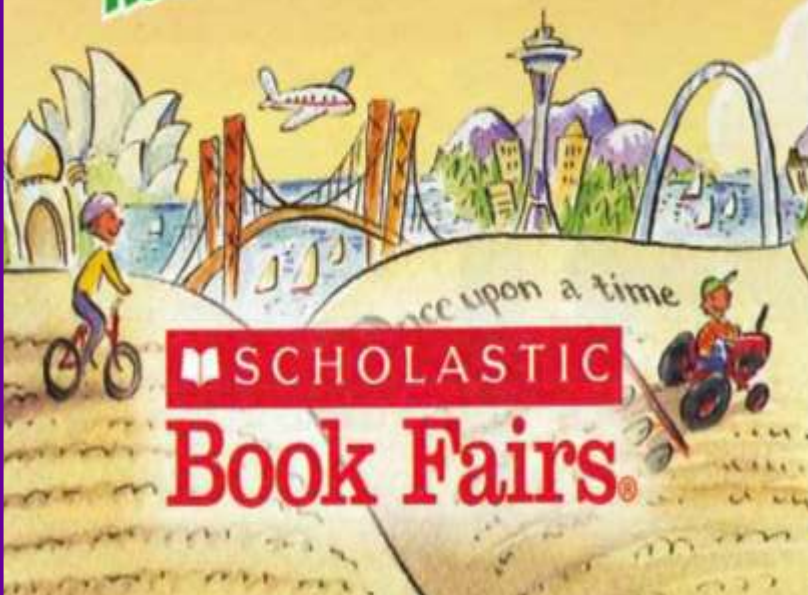
By Sherelle Bowron



You are invited to our

Destination BOOK FAIR

Read Around the World!



DATE: 23rd - 27th August

TIME: 9am - 3pm each day

VENUE: Room 41 (Café)

Home Ec building

If you would like to
volunteer to help,
please contact Ros Smith
on 6372 3900.

"FED UP WITH CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR"

Playgroup Tasmania proudly presents an informative evening with

Sue Dengate

Sue Dengate is a former teacher and psychology graduate, author of the famous Fed Up series, and Australian of the Year finalist in 2009. Sue became interested in food intolerance after recognising the effect of foods on her own children. In the past 19 years, Sue has spoken to tens of thousands of parents in Australia, the USA and the UK. Further information on Sue's work at www.fedup.com.au.

When: 25th August 2010

Where: 35 Holbrook St Invermay (Playgroup Tasmania)

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Cost: \$15 per ticket available by calling Playgroup Tasmania 63316599 or 63310121 (includes a light supper at the conclusion of the talk)

Limited ticket sales.



August Calendar

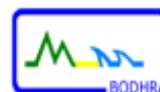
Tuesday 3rd	- Play & Learn	- St Marys Town Hall
Wednesday 11th	- Play & Learn	- Fingal Masonic Lodge
Tuesday 17th	- Play & Learn	- St Marys Town Hall
Wednesday 25th	- Play & Learn	- Fingal Masonic Lodge
Friday 27th	- Play & Learn	- Pyengana Community Hall
Tuesday 31st	- Play & Learn	- St Marys Town Hall

All sessions are from
10.30-12.30

For more information and to share ideas/suggestions please call Rachel at the Healthy House on 6376 5242

or email Rachel.Woods@healthyhouse.org.au

All Building Blocks sessions are free of charge.



Book Now ! for September 2010

Vacation Care at Bicheno (for 5 to 12 year olds)

Our fun filled program will operate during September on
**Thurs 9th, Fri 10th,
Mon 13th, Tues 14th & Wed 15th**
from 8am - 5.30pm at the
Bicheno War Memorial Hall.

All information is available
on-line at www.ncn.org.au
under 'Latest News'
or phone Little Penguins on
6375 1800 / 0427 677 487 or
NCN on 6341 1555

Proudly Supported By



CHESS CLUB IS BACK!!!

WHEN: Tuesdays and Thursday lunch time. Approximately 12:30.

WHERE: Senior maths room (next to art room).

Come up and have a game.

Beginners are welcome we are glad to help.

Grade one plus.

SEE YOU THERE

For information or enquires see the office, Bonnie Panoff or Lance Walsh.

August/September

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			19 Aug ☛ Country Gold Carnivals	20 Aug ☛ Country Gold Carnivals ☛ Primary 'Little Red Hen' performance
23 Aug ☛ Rock Challenge ☛ Book Fair in rm 41	24 Aug ☛ Arts on Tour ☛ Book Fair in rm 41	25 Aug ☛ Arts on Tour ☛ Book Fair in rm 41	26 Aug ☛ Book Fair in rm 41 ☛ Arts on Tour	27 Aug ☛ Book Fair in rm 41
30 Aug ☛ Primary Assembly lead by Prep	31 Aug	1 Sept	2 Sept ☛ ENE Dance Day ☛ ENE Cricket Selection	3 Sept ☛ TERM 2 concludes ☛ Footy Colours Day
School Holidays 6th - 17th September				
20 Sept ☛ TERM 3 BEGINS	21 Sept	22 Sept	23 Sept ☛ Performance Gr 7-10	24 Sept
27 Sept ☛ Australian Business Week	28 Sept ☛ Australian Business Week	29 Sept ☛ Australian Business Week	30 Sept ☛ Australian Business Week ☛ Next Newsletter	1 Oct ☛ Australian Business Week

ST JOHN AMBULANCE CPR COURSE
St John Ambulance CPR courses with Roxy Cowie will

Monday 4th October
At St Marys District H^y

People who have not attended previous CPR course, while regular participants only pay for the 2.5 hour session, while regular participants only pay for the 2.5 hour session.

Cost for the course and certificate is \$11.00 for 3 months.

Booking must be made in advance. Bookings must be made in advance. Bookings must be made in advance.

St John Ambulance on 300 360 455. St John Ambulance on 300 360 455. St John Ambulance on 300 360 455.

Pay for your preferred session. Pay for your preferred session. Pay for your preferred session.

Session Time 11.00am - 1.00pm. Session Time 11.00am - 1.00pm. Session Time 11.00am - 1.00pm.

Postponed till Early 2011



ORAL HEALTH SERVICES TASMANIA

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.

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.

TEMPORARY CHANGE TO SERVICE

The Van will be open for the first week of September (1st and 2nd), and then closed until Wednesday 6th of October. The provision of services will then return to normal. The changes are due to Mackenzie undertaking the role of Acting Senior Dental Therapist for a period of time.