PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week we held a tremendous ceremony to induct our student leaders for the 2014 school year. It was terrific to see the pride in their parents’ eyes as they pinned on their badges and to talk with everyone about the hopes we have for our leadership group. One point I made during proceedings was that, whilst our students had elected this group to represent them as school leaders through the year, there are some outstanding leaders amongst our whole student group and they are in evidence every day. We can boast some outstanding speakers, organisers and innovators amongst our senior students, skills they develop through watching other outstanding leaders and also being a part of some of the great things that happen around the school. We look to our leaders to represent our school on formal occasions but I am sure they will receive great support from their peers in the day-to-day activities of the student body. It is not just those with a badge who are our leaders and, at any time, anyone might step up to take on a leadership opportunity. It is one of the factors that makes our school a really strong one.

Congratulations to Will Lloyd-Jones and Lauren Ridgway (captains), Daniel Williams and Laura Mackay (vice-captains), Bru MacCann, Daniel Angel, Malaika Grant and Libby Cross (councillors) and our sports leaders Murray Wood, Emily Baker, Lachlan Henderson, Charli Phillips-Mercer, Jack Gilbey, Eve Kelly, Brock Portsmouth, Jessica Holbrook, Mitchell Casey, Olivia Job, Ryan Lewis, Haylee Willis, Jack Cameron, Lindy Ward-Williams, Aiden Hoffman and Hannah Chapman.

We are fortunate too to have an extremely experienced and professional staff who have achieved some great things this year with respect to ensuring a smooth start to the year in classes that offer great learning environments for our students. It has been inspiring for me as a principal to have been able to see first-hand over the past two years the enthusiasm, effort and knowledge that goes into developing a rounded curriculum at this school. One of the structures we have implemented to support this collaboration is in teaching groups. Each day, the teachers from one of our Stages are released from class together to collaboratively plan and assess, to provide consistency of instruction across all classes and to best allow for innovation and professional improvement. On Mondays Stage 3 have time, on Tuesdays Early Stage 1, Wednesdays Stage 2 and Thursdays Stage 1. It is two hours for one morning a week that our assistant principals have to work with their Stage team in deciding where we are currently at, where we can get to and the best pathway to lead our students there. This structure is aided by our school size so it is important that, in this time of structural and curriculum change, we be able to take advantage of that. As well as providing good learning conditions for students, we also seek to provide good learning conditions for teachers too. If our teachers aren’t continually developing, then our school stagnates. It is a great structure for us to have in place.

This structure also supports the implementation of our literacy structures. Our teachers are undertaking some fairly intensive training in L3 (Kinder) and Focus On Reading across the other grades to strengthen skills, structures and learning opportunities. This training continues on almost a weekly basis but the conversations are constant. It is a rich learning environment for all within the fences of our school.

Good luck to our Zone swimming representatives this week and, for the rest of us left behind, look after each other.

Regards,

Kevin Greaves (Principal)
Maitland Public School
3/4S POPCORN POEMS

Popcorn
Solid rocks, the colour of gold
Heating up like a fever
Bouncing like handballs all around
The water forms into steamy bubbles
Starts to push out like a jack in the box...can’t come out
BOOM sounds like a volcano erupting
Fluffy cloud, bright yellow
Time for a movie!
By Elizabeth Hall

Popcorn
Unbreakable golden solid rocks
Battling tiny soldiers
Water inside starts to bubble like a warm spa
Steam starts to fight like crazy
Desperately wants to get out.....POP!
Puffy light and fluffy and ready to eat!
By Emmerson Hewitt

Popcorn
Hard like concrete and metal
Heating, battling like popcorn soldiers
Water inside starts bubbling like a hot tub
Steam starts to fight like boxing in real life
Wants to get out...POP!
Soft and fluffy and really white
Yum!
By Isaiah Johnston

DOILIES WANTED PLEASE – 5/6C
5/6C are looking for any old doilies(lace) people may have that they do not want. We are more than willing to accept them in any condition or size. If you have some sitting unused in your linen cupboard, pop them in a bag and send to the front office please. 5/6C will be very appreciative and put them to good use.
THANK YOU!

SPORTS NEWS
Basket Ball Zone Trials – Thursday 20th
Trying out for basketball was another first of many experiences for me and I will never forget it. There were 11 girls that tried out and only 8 got in. I tried my hardest and I ran my fastest but sadly I didn’t get in. At least I gave it a go and I had fun.
Congratulations to Mitchell Casey for making it into the top 8 boys team and great job to Trey Nelson and Lachlan Henderson who also did their school proud.
By Laura Mackay

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY!
We will be cleaning up Maitland Public School between 10.30 and 11am on Friday 28th February.
Join us to help clean up, fix up and conserve the environment of Maitland Public School. All students and family members who will be coming along to help us clean our school grounds and surrounding area should bring gloves and a plastic bag. We will meet in the school hall at 10.30am. Hope to see you there!
Malaika Grant
Minister for the Environment
**Looking after instruments**

Caring for instruments is an important part of our School Band program. Looking after an instrument will ensure that, firstly, the instrument has a long life; secondly, practice time is not wasted if it has to be repaired and thirdly, money is not wasted on repairs that could have been prevented through proper handling.

Instrument maintenance sessions will be held this week for flute and clarinet players and their parents/carers.

All clarinet and flute players must attend their session, unless they own their own instrument. Parents/carers of beginning students should attend if at all possible.

**Caring for Flutes**

**Tomorrow, Tuesday, 25th February**

**Time:** 2.00 – 2.45pm

**Where:** Art and Cooking Room (Club 6) next to After School Care

**Who:** Flute players and their parents/carers

**What to Bring:** Instrument, Band Information Booklet (handed out on Band Information Night), a soft cloth for cleaning the instrument.

**Caring for Clarinets**

**Thursday, 27th February**

**Time:** 2.00 – 2.50pm

**Where:** Art and Cooking Room (Club 6) next to After School Care

**Who:** Clarinet players and their parents/carers

**What to Bring:** Instrument, Band Information Booklet (handed out on Band Information Night), a soft cloth for cleaning the instrument.

**Band Practice Times**

**Senior Band**

Monday, 24th February, 3.15 – 4.30 pm (today)

Wednesday, 26th February, 8.05 am

**Intermediate Band:**

Tuesday, 25th February, 8.05 am

**Junior Band:**

Tuesday, 25th February, 12.30 – 1.35 pm (come straight after Maths groups)

**Clarification of Fee Structure for Band**

The table below applies to each band: Senior, Intermediate and Junior. It has been added to to help clarify the fees to be paid by Junior Band members. There are no changes to the fee structure. This table is intended to make the Junior Band fees clearer to understand.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Senior Band each term</th>
<th>Intermediate Band each term</th>
<th>Junior Band Term 1</th>
<th>Junior Band Term 2</th>
<th>Junior Band Term 3</th>
<th>Junior Band Term 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If hiring instrument</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$198</td>
<td>$225</td>
<td>$225</td>
<td>$225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If own instrument</td>
<td>$260</td>
<td>$260</td>
<td>$162</td>
<td>$185</td>
<td>$185</td>
<td>$185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If using instrument but not taken home</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>$170</td>
<td>$195</td>
<td>$195</td>
<td>$195</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Return of Yamaha Advantage band books**

Could any Senior or Intermediate Band members who still have a Yamaha Advantage book please return it to Mr Gray, Mrs Thomsen or the School Office so that each of our beginners this year will be able to start on the music they need?

**Diary dates**

- Caring for Flutes Workshop  
  Tuesday, 25th February, 2.00 pm
- Caring for Clarinets Workshop  
  Thursday, 27th February, 2.00 pm

**Kersten Thomsen (Band Co-ordinator)  
John Gray (Band Director)**
STEAMFEST 2014 – <<<< SAVE THE DATE>>>

It is still a few weeks away but our annual Steamfest BBQ is coming up. **Saturday the 12th and Sunday the 13th of April** are the 2 days Maitland Public School will be getting out the utensils and cook up a storm!

Please put the date on your calendars.

We are also looking for drink donations again. These drinks will be sold at the BBQ. Please look at the list below to see what you can bring. Drink donations (cans please) can be left at the office. Thank you!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KC Cocktail</th>
<th>1/2T Sprite</th>
<th>3/4H Diet Coke</th>
<th>5/6H Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KR Diet Coke</td>
<td>1/2K Solo</td>
<td>2/3H Coke</td>
<td>3/4S Coke Zero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KD Coke Zero</td>
<td>1/2R Cr.Soda</td>
<td>3/4M Sprite</td>
<td>3/6C Solo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EASTER CHOCOLATES

Another event coming up is Easter. Before we break up for the holidays we will have our Easter Hat parade and Easter Chocolate raffle. We are hoping for donations for this. Chocolate bunnies or bilbies, chocolate eggs, anything Easter! These can also be left at the office.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held April 1st, in the library at 7:00pm.

Get involved and become an active member. The positions available are President, Treasurer or Secretary. The current P&C committee is available to answer any questions you might have about the positions.

Carolien Powell
(P&C President)

UNIFORM SHOP INFORMATION

The Uniform Shop will be opened again this week on 26th February, Wednesday in our new location – THE OLD CLUB 6 (Back Room), now our P&C Club House/Uniform shop.

Orders can still be left at the office for processing. However, we are now out of size 8’s, 10’s, 14’s & XS’s until the next shipment due in May/June.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

Please check for your name in the newsletter for uniforms still to be collected at the office.

Kate Mackay & Jane Lloyd-Jones
Uniform Shop Co-ordinator

Uniforms to be collected – A Proctor, Ingles, Eve Kelly, Aiden Argyle, Ryan Lewis, Ms Mcleod, Kaitlyn Williams, Presland, Alexandria Hancock, Melody Rees, Joseph Goodwin, Cannon.

Katherine Mackay and Jane Lloyd-Jones
Uniform Shop Co-ordinators

PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT AND THE IMMUNISATION HISTORY STATEMENT

When enrolling a child, parents/caregivers will be asked to provide an Immunisation History Statement. Parents can request an Immunisation History Statement by contacting the [Australian Childhood Immunisation Register](http://1800 653 809). Primary schools record the immunisation status of students on enrolment. They keep the statement (or photocopy of the original statement) for three years after the student has left the primary school. If a student changes primary schools the Immunisation History Statement (or a copy) is forwarded to the new primary school. Primary schools are not required to transfer history statements to high schools as high schools are not required to keep immunisation records.

A child without an Immunisation History Statement will not be prevented from enrolling in primary school. Under the NSW Public Health Act 2010, however, children without proof of immunisation may be asked by Public Health Officials to stay at home during an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease.

Further information about the requirements for primary schools is available here.

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**Email:** ericloimusic@bigpond.com
GARDEN CLUB NEWS
The Garden Club meets every Wednesday at lunchtime. Any student can be a part of the club and attendance is entirely up to them.
To-date we have planned and planted an ornamental garden near the primary toilets (the one with the timber seat around it), a frog pond/habitat garden next to the veggie garden, and have harvested a few crops from the veggie gardens. While we grow things we are learning all about how things grow, the seasons, how to plant and care for things, as well as having fun digging, watering and chatting about what we will plant, what we veggies we like to eat and what some of the kids are growing at home.
The ornamentals are growing well and only need to be weeded and watered now. The frog pond is looking better now that the plants are starting to grow and we are going to be researching habitat gardens in the library during the hot February weather so that we can create a great home for frogs, lizards and bugs etc. The veggie garden is undergoing major changes. The existing garden beds will be removed and replaced with more, smaller, beds which will be easier for the kids to work with. All the surrounding area will be mulched and the whole area enclosed by a white picket fence. The chickens are on holidays until the chook shed is removed and replaced with a mobile chook shed. Shovelling is one of the most popular jobs so we are going to have a great time filling the new veggie beds. When the beds are ready for planting we will decide what we want to plant for the winter crop.
At the moment we buy seedlings but we hope to get a shade house soon so that we can grow our own plants from seeds and cuttings. We have an open compost bin which is not very efficient and we hope to get a tumbler compost bin in the near future. We are going to install a noticeboard and a sink in the veggie garden. If anyone has a spare kitchen or laundry sink they don't need we would be very grateful.
We really need some volunteers to help on Wednesdays between 1 and 2pm. If you are interested give me a call or just show up. Everyone is welcome.
As always we are on the lookout for donations such as:
plants, potting mix, pots, hardwood pallets, old things that can be upcycled by the kids to use in the garden like old gumboots, workboots, pots, kettles, tea cups etc to plant in. If you have something you think we can use give me a call or catch me in the playground.
NB.
• Make sure your kids are wearing their 'old' school clothes on Garden Club days.

GARDEN CLUB FOR GROWN UPS
This year we are trying to organise a garden club for grownups. The aim is to meet once a month on a Saturday or Sunday, or maybe after school, to do some gardening and socialising and help make the school playgrounds a beautiful place for our kids. We will be pruning and fertilising, planting and planning so that the kids are not the only ones having the fun. Give me a call or catch me in the playground and if we get enough interested people we will do it.
Thanks
Tanya Martin
0431 389 187

KNITTING/CRAFT CLUB
The Knitting Club meets at lunchtime on Fridays and we are desperately in need of volunteers. We will be focussing on needlework and hand sewing this year and I need more adults to help the kids thread needles, tie knots and untangle thread. At the moment I just don't have enough hands to keep up as the Knitting Club is very popular.
We are still doing the knitting for Knit with Love and have lots of squares thanks to our wonderful volunteers knitting at home. If you would like to make some squares at home (either knitted or crocheted) call me or contact the school for the instructions.
We have a lovely group of students in the Knitting Club and it is a lot of fun for everyone.
As always we need donations of:
embroidery needles, hoops, embroidery thread, fabric for embroidery eg. linen, gingham etc., wool, knitting needles and crochet hooks.
This year we are going to store each student's work-in-progress in shoe boxes, so please send in your empty shoe boxes, we will put them to good use.
Thanks
Tanya Martin
0431 389 187
**Calender Of Events  2014**

**February**
26  Uniform Shop Re-opened in new location (Back room of Club 6)
28  Clean up Australia Day 10:30am

**March**
6   Cross Country
19  Harmony Day
20  Band Disco 5:30 to 7:30pm
28  Gifty Fundraiser Pj day & bacon & egg breakfast
29  Earth Hour

**April**
1   P & C AGM at 7:00pm in the library
3   Zone Cross Country
11  Students last day for Term 1
12, 13, 14 P&C Steamfest
29  Students first day for Term 2

**May**
20  ICAS Uni computer test

**September**
10  School Photos
16 to 19  Canberra Excursion Stage 3

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**ICAS Uni Test dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Computer Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>English Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Science Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Spelling Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Math Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Math Test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Quality Work Award**

Piper Kirkwood, Seven Kostrin, Samantha Scott, Mason Jones, Connie Mackay, Charlie Houghton, Jessica Holbrook, Zia Sundstrom, Crystal Burchell.

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**Merit Awards**


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**SCHOOL TIMES**

School commences at 9.10am each day and ends at 3.10pm.

- Recess is from:
  - 11.10am to 11.30am.
- Lunch is from:
  - 1.00pm to 1.10pm eating time
  - 1.10pm to 2.00pm playing time.

Recess and lunch times may be seasonally adjusted to cater for hot summer weather.

Students are encouraged to arrive at school between 8.40am and 9.10am when there is playground supervision. Students are also encouraged to travel directly to and from school. If your child arrives at school late, you must sign them in through the school office.
Malaika Grant, Minister of the Environment, and her portfolio will be decorating a 3D star in an environmental theme. The star will then be displayed above the Customer Care Centre at Stockland Green Hills from Monday 3rd March until Sunday 6th April 2014 for family, friends and shoppers to vote for their favourite and help your school win the cash prize.

Customers must register their details at the Customer Care Centre to be eligible to vote.

For every $1 a customer spends (when making a minimum purchase of $10) they will be able to allocate 1 star vote to their favourite Stockland Star. There will also be bonus point periods allocated throughout the program.

First, second and third prizes will be allocated to those schools with the first, second and third highest vote average respectively.

**When can you start earning votes for our star?** Voting for the Stars will commence on Monday 3rd March and will conclude on Sunday 30th March, 2014. Winners will be announced at the official Closing Ceremony on Thursday 3rd April 2014 at Stockland Green Hills.

Kate Hughes
Environment Committee