



### DATE CLAIMERS:

JANUARY	
31	WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY 2:30PM HALL
FEBRUARY	
3	SENIORS (YR 3-7) ASSEMBLY 2:30PM
14	JUNIOR (P-2) ASSEMBLY 2:30PM IN HALL  STUDENT LEADER ELECTIONS 2PM COVERED GAMES AREA NEAR TUCKSHOP
18	P&C & AGM 7PM RESOURCE CENTRE  STUDENT LEADERS CONFERENCE
17-21	PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS
24	STUDENT LEADERS INDUCTION 9AM
MARCH	
18	P&C 7PM RESOURCE CENTRE

#### MARIAN STATE SCHOOL

Making a difference  
Achievement focused  
Relationships matter  
Inclusive  
Altogether  
Never give up.

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

**Welcome** to the 2014 school year! A special welcome to students and families who have joined us here at Marian this week. We trust you will have a long and fulfilling relationship with our school. We also welcome Mrs Irena Carlaw (PI), Mrs Delaney (Fridays in PS), Ms Mel Kleinschmidt (1K), Mrs Zane Coultan (4C), Mr Cliff Makemson, Ms June Williamson (STLN) and Mr Kent Lyons (0.5 HOC) to our staff this year.

Children have quickly settled into school routines, however as usual we have had some families unexpectedly transfer over the Christmas vacation and unanticipated enrolments means we are likely to mean that **we will be forming an additional class this week**. Unfortunately this will mean that some children will have a change of class and teacher but everyone will enjoy the long term benefits of smaller classes. Parents of children who will need to make an unavoidable class change will be notified in writing. We appreciate your support as we restructure some classes.

This week is also an excellent opportunity to **review the report card your child received** at the end of the 2013 school year. Reminding children of their academic strengths and learning priorities will help focus them as they commence a new year. Don't miss this important opportunity.

Last week staff collaboratively determined **our school's priorities for 2014**. These are ...

- Improving learning outcomes in **Reading Comprehension, Spelling and Number Facts**.
- Consolidating teachers' **Explicit Instruction** skills.
- Implementing our new **Responsible Behaviour Plan**.



Further information about these priorities will be provided in future newsletters or you can go to our school website for this information ([www.marianss.eq.edu.au](http://www.marianss.eq.edu.au)).

Our school aims to provide **excellent 'student learning'** opportunities for all children. Therefore we have no tolerance of anything that interferes with the achievement of good student learning outcomes. Quality curriculum programs, positive student attitudes, good behaviour and parental support, all contribute to making Marian a "great" school ... one deserving respect by our families and within our community.

Children may report to you a number of initiatives we have implemented this week. Each change in practice aims to maximise student learning or safety. More information about these revised practices will be shared at Parent Information Sessions in Week 4.

Included with this newsletter is a summary of our school's **Responsible Behaviour Plan For Students**, an **Introduction to Responsible Behaviour Cards** and **Classroom Traffic Lights Processes**. Many parents will note that these are new practices and processes. A significant change is that **A GREEN CARD** is an indication of **POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**! Positive student behaviour is the foundation upon which students maximise their learning outcomes. We look forward to partnering with parents in ensuring that all students strive to meet the behaviour expectations of our school community.

The key messages of our school's Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students. are ...

- Children come to school to learn, be safe and be respectful.
- Everyone must accept their responsibilities before they exercise their rights.
- At school, we need "we" (team) behaviours rather than "me" (selfish) behaviours.
- Children only have three choices when something happens that they don't like ...
  1. **Ignore** it as something unimportant and get on with their learning.
  2. Talk with the offender/s & **warn** them that a problem will be reported if it occurs again.
  3. **Report** the problem to an adult who can help solve the problem.**NO PAY BACK.** Fighting, paying back or prolonging an argument only continues and complicates the problem.
- Bystanders are expected to take some positive action to assist resolve difficulties.

Responsible Behaviour Cards of all types should be signed by parents and returned to school so that staff knows parents are aware of the behaviours reported to them.

In this first fortnight of the school year, teachers will clearly outline **student behaviour expectations**. The simple message is that all children should come to school 'to learn, be safe and be respectful'. Positive behaviours will be acknowledged & appreciated while selfish & unproductive behaviours will not be accepted.

Please note that we have **restructured the school day** so that maximise learning time early in the day and have a shorter last session of the day. Teachers report the first sessions of the school day are most productive and therefore we have structured our session times so that students are 'fresh and ready to go' when they are learning our priority subjects of English and Maths. Our new learning session times are ...

8:50 – 10:50am    11:30am – 1:30pm    2:00 – 3:00pm

Children may take a 'Brain Break' approximately half way through the first session. At this time they can have a drink of water and eat a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable at their desks. This is a very short break and therefore processed and packaged foods (eg muesli bars, yoghurt) are not to be consumed.

We have also begun a trial of **"Play First, Eat Second"** during our breaks. After a sustained period of learning,

students will enjoy the opportunity to be physically active at the start of a break period. After playing, children should be hungry and ready to eat. Having the eating time at the end of a break also allows children to settle and be ready to recommence learning from the start of the next session. Please note ice blocks etc can only be purchased during second break. We will appreciate student and parent feedback about this initiative which has been successfully implemented in other schools.

As our school continues to grow it has become apparent that 'whole school' assemblies are more difficult to sustain. Using the correct language with students aging in range from 5 – 13 years old is an obvious challenge. Acknowledging the many great things our student do and achieve is also taking considerable time at a whole school assembly. Therefore we will be moving to a revised assembly arrangement. **We will come together for whole school assemblies first and last week of each term and in other school weeks we will have a Senior (Yrs 3-7) Assembly at 2:30pm Mondays and a Junior (Prep-Yr2) Assembly at 2:30pm Fridays.** All assemblies will be in our school Hall. This week we are having a whole school assembly at 2:30pm on Friday.

With student safety in mind, **we have closed off the Kenny Street school access and car park to parents' motor vehicles**. This area has been unsafely used as a 'drop off/ pick up area' and was never designed for this purpose. Parents are asked to note that this area can no longer be used as a 'drop off/ pick up area' and will be reserved for staff parking only. As a consequence there should be more car parks available for parents out the front of our school. Limited pedestrian access through this area will still be possible.

**I would like to acknowledge the special efforts of staff in getting our school ready for students on Tuesday.** Our cleaners, groundsman, teaching, office and support staff have combined to ensure our school was safe, clean and welcoming for students. A sincere thanks for the extraordinary efforts of these people.

**Thanks are also extended to P&C Volunteers** who have already opened the Uniform Shop on a number of occasions to ensure all children could look neat and smart in school uniform to commence the school year. Another example of the wonderful work of P&C volunteers in our school.

**Parent involvement** is welcomed in our school community. Parents are urged to work with staff and our P&C Association in promoting our school's focus on learning. Our collective efforts must always promote student welfare and support

children with their learning. I encourage you all to acknowledge, share and celebrate our successes. I urge you to give full support to our staff's professional efforts and achievements.

Parents are also encouraged to contribute to the combined efforts of the P&C by becoming involved in P&C activities this year. Please remember the P&C is not just about fundraising. Our P&C plays a vital decision making role within our school and your involvement can directly benefit your children while also providing a community service to others. Don't let 'being new' stop you from expressing an interest in P&C activities. Current P&C members are willing to assist and support parents who wish to become involved for the first time. We would welcome your interest and contribution to our school.

First opportunity to do so presents itself next week when our **P&C holds its first monthly meeting and Annual General Meeting** in the Library commencing at **7pm Tuesday February 18**. We look forward to seeing our more experienced P&C members joined by some new faces around the table. Advance notice is also given for the P&C's March General Meeting to be held at 7pm on **Tuesday March 18**.

Should there ever be issues of concern, we ask that parents **make an appointment & discuss issues directly with the staff** best able to help you. Staff should be afforded the opportunity to gather data and relevant information for any requested interview. Additionally, teachers appreciate parents discussing issues of concern with them before you approach a member of the school administration.

We look forward to another productive year and trust parents will do all they can to support their children maximise their learning outcomes.

Best wishes, Peter Mandryk (Principal)

**ROAD SAFETY ALERT:** Both staff and parents have expressed concern about the unsafe use of the Kenny St school entrance and carpark area as a 'drop off' and 'pick up' area. Therefore it has been decided to make this area a Staff Carpark Only. Staff have been asked to park inside our school grounds so as to free up more car park spaces out the front of our school. **Please assist us to maximise student safety by no longer using the Kenny St entrance when dropping off or collecting students.** Limited pedestrian access will still be possible.

**STUDENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS:** Parents of children with significant medical conditions that may require emergency action by school staff, are asked to make an urgent contact with the school so that we can co-operatively plan for the management of any possible

**HEALTHY LUNCHES:** Parents are asked to be aware of the nutritional value of some foods children bring to school for their lunch. Parents are urged to consider the health value of the food provided to children to help get them through a busy school day. Fresh is best! Sweets and highly processed packaged foods should be avoided. Soft drinks are not permitted.

**2014 STUDENT LEADERS:** This week 'short-listed' Yr 6 and Yr 7 students will prepare speeches that they will present to Yr 5, 6 & 7 students and staff at 2pm Friday Feb 14 in the Covered games Area near the Tuckshop. Staff and students in these year levels will then complete ballots to elect our 2014 Student Leaders. Leadership badges are scheduled to be presented to our student leaders on Monday Feb 24.

**PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS:** Once classes have been finalised, teachers will invite parents to information sessions during February. Don't miss this important opportunity to show an interest in your child's education and learn about our school priorities and their 2014 classroom program.

**CHANGE OF FAMILY CONTACT DETAILS:** Parents are asked to consider if any of your contact details have changed since you last informed office staff. **Please provide us with current home & work phone numbers emergency contacts, etc.** This is essential information required by the school - particularly in times of emergency, illness or accident.

### ***Marian SS 2014 Priorities***

- \* Reading Comprehension*
- \* Spelling*
- \* Number Facts*
- \* Explicit Instruction*
- \* Responsible Behaviour*

### **P&C NOTICES**

***Please come and get involved in your child's school !  
Everyone Welcome !!!***

**P&C February & Annual General Meeting:  
Tuesday Feb 18 - 7pm in our school Resource Centre**

**P&C March General Meeting:  
Tuesday March 18 - 7pm in our school Resource Centre**

**CAN YOU MAKE A VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION?** Some families are genuinely unable to contribute to P&C activities. If this is true for your family, you may wish to **show your support for the school by making a voluntary donation to our P&C Association.** Any donation is welcome ... \$10 per child would be a welcome boost to P&C funds and allow us to progress a number of proposed improvements within our school (eg school signage, classroom resources, on-line computer programs, top dress oval, etc) Please forward all donations to the school office in a sealed envelope marked "P&C Donation".

**Tuckshop: Please lookout for a new menu for Term 1 2014.** Parents are encouraged to place correct money into ordering envelopes and have students place orders before school each day.

**Tuckshop volunteers are again being sought for this school year.** Any time you can help out will be appreciated. See Bernie in the Tuckshop to register your availability or to find out more about what is involved.

**Uniform Shop:** Our **Uniform Shop** will be open Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri mornings from 8:30am to 9:00am. Toni is looking for volunteers to help on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Please let us know in the office or contact Toni Wales if you can help.

**PARENT VOLUNTEERS:** Parents with a little time on their hands are encouraged to talk with teachers, P&C Executive or Tuckshop Convenor and discuss how they can help out at school. Parent volunteers are welcome to help out with reading programs, preparation of classroom resources, art & craft activities, P&C activities, Tuckshop, Library duties, etc. Please don't sit back - we won't know how you can help until you offer your time and talents!

**ALUMINIUM CANS RECYCLING:** Families are reminded that our School Chaplain is beginning a program of aluminium cans recycling in our school. Empty cans are welcome to be dropped off at school. Please encourage friends and neighbours to support this fund raising effort.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### MACKAY JUNIOR GOLF SIGN ON/TRIAL DAY

Where: Mackay Driving Range, Beaconsfield

When: 8-10am Sunday 2nd February

For Who: New members, old members and anyone just wanting to have a go!!!

FREE RANGE BALLS AND FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE

For more information, call Leagh 0413288058



Midgets Basketball Sign On 2014  
Walkerston State School undercover  
area 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014  
3.00pm – 4.30pm

Season bounces off on 19<sup>th</sup> February and at  
Mackay Basketball Stadium

8<sup>th</sup> February 2014

9.00am – 12.00 noon

Midget Fees are for the whole 2014 season are

1 player \$35.00

2 players \$65.00

3 players \$90.00

4 players \$110.00

This year we will have club shorts for the first time cost for shorts are \$30 a pair.

Club fees and fees for short must be paid on sign on day. For those who cannot make sign on day either at Walkerston or Mackay Basketball Stadium please contact Liza Kay so we have your details.

Liza Kay (president) –mobile 0409790066

Kylie Robinson (Vice President) - mobile 0402348152

Kym Galea (Treasurer) -mobile 0411292272

## COUNTRY UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Junior and Seniors Welcome! 5yrs - 80yrs!

Country united is now taking registrations for new and returning player for the 2014 Season.

please register at [www.myfootballclub.com.au](http://www.myfootballclub.com.au)

Our Information days are held on Sunday the 2nd Feb from 10am-12 and Wednesday 5th Feb from 3.30pm-5.30 both are being held at West leagues club Walkerston.

\*If you are a new player you will need a copy of your birth certificate\*

\*your child must be 5 or turning 5 in 2014 to be able to play\*

For further information please contact

Juniors - Tanya Farnham on [cuscereg@gmail.com](mailto:cuscereg@gmail.com) 0448262891

Seniors - Kaitlyn Walz on [cuscereg@gmail.com](mailto:cuscereg@gmail.com) 0448720654

## Western Districts Junior Rugby League Football Club

### SIGN ON

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> 2014

10am-12 noon

U/6 to U/16

Function Room

Western Suburbs Leagues Club

Branscombe Road, Walkerston

For further information contact;

President-Jon 0428 987 898

OR [secretary.wdjrflc@hotmail.com](mailto:secretary.wdjrflc@hotmail.com)

