February 2015

**Mon 16th** THRASS Information evening 4–5.30pm for parents & carers. Parents & Friends AGM @9.10am in the dining room

**Wed 18th** Swimming Carnival

**Wed 25th** HDSSA Swim Sports

**Fri 27th** Clean up Australia Day

**March**

**Mon 9th** Labour Day Holiday

**Fri 13th** Grd 6 Young Leaders—Melb

**Mon 16th** Barry Peters—singer/songwriter returns Gr 4&5. School council meeting @6.30pm

**REMINDERS**

* School council election notices sent home.
* Volunteers note sent home
* Assembly will be on Friday mornings for the rest of the term due to swimming. Please enter through the normal school gate & into the gallery from the sliding doors.
* Term 1 requisites are now due.
* School Banking Day - Tuesday
* Please notify the school promptly if you change your address or phone number.

You can also change your details through the app.

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**STRATCHAT**

**Acceptance**

**Respect**

**Commitment**

**Honesty**

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**Principal’s Report**

Dear Families,

Another busy and productive week for our students and staff. Many more to come.

Thank you to the people who have been able to come and help with the kitchen program. The feedback from people has been great to hear and we must say thank you to Julie for all the time and effort she has put into planning menus, organizing rosters, setting up the dining room and generally getting the cooking program off to a good start. Thanks to Dave for working with the students to get the gardens back under control and for helping to provide many of the vegies and herbs that are being used in the program. If you have any fruits or vegies that you would like to share with the program please feel free to drop them at the office or catch up with Julie.

Our swimming program has continued this week in a lead up to the school swimming carnival next Wednesday 18 February. Everyone will have received a notice about the plans for the day and further info is available on the school app. Sports uniform is required and please send along plenty to drink and sunscreen for the afternoon of splashing fun.

Our Parents and Friends AGM is to be held next Monday at 9.10am. This group is a valuable asset to the school and does a lot of hard work to raise precious funds to support school programs and to provide equipment. Don’t be worried if you can’t commit to every project – all efforts will make the job easier for everyone. Office bearers elections and a bit of planning for the year will take place at Monday’s meeting.

On Monday we have a special visit from a THRASS trainer. She will be working in classes throughout the day providing further training and planning time for teachers and advising us on the most effective way to implement THRASS across all areas of the curriculum. We have an information session for families from 4.00-5.30. The THRASS specialist will be able to answer all your questions and provide an insight to the benefit other schools have gained having been part of the program in a long term basis.

It was great to see that we had some of our students earn Stratybucks to spend today at the first cash in. That means we have people who are going above and beyond the normal expectations. Thank you to Amanda and Michelle for making the program run so smoothly.

“A friend is one of the nicest things you can have and one of the best things you can be.”

Douglas Pagels

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**Stratford Primary School Family & Friends Committee**

The family & friends committee is a sub-committee of the school council and is made up of family & friends of the Stratford Primary School community. The committee is involved in a range of activities that benefit the students & families at the school.

On Monday the 16th February at 9.10am in the dining room, we are holding our AGM and are asking all parents to come along if you are able. We will be looking to fill the following roles:

President, Vice President, Financial Officer, Tuckshop Co-ordinator & general committee members.

During 2014 family & friends raised funds by holding various fundraising events including; a stall at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, a bingo night, a stall at the School Fete, Mother & Father day stalls, a pie drive, tuckshop & a disco plus raffles. These events helped to pay for;

- Sensory Tables
- Interior blinds
- Readers
- Completion of the bike shed & water tank.

So please come along and support your school!
What is THRASS?
THRASS is a teaching tool for use with learners, of any age, about the building blocks of reading and spelling, that is, the 44 phonemes (speech sounds) of spoken English and the graphemes (spelling choices) of written English.
Free Autism Course Opens

Swinburne University will launch a free six-week course designed to give parents, families and carers practical advice they can use in the day-to-day care of people with autism.

The online course uses scenario-based learning to support, guide and share stories from parents and experts in the field.

The course aims to educate people that there is no one correct way to approach different situations with people on the autism spectrum.

Instead participants will be provided a range of solutions for better social, emotional and educational outcomes.

Registrations are currently open. The course begins on World Autism Day, Thursday 2 April 2015.

Form more information, see http://www.swinburne.edu.au/media-centre/news/2015/02/swinburne-offers-free-course-on-autism.html

Mrs Schultz Music

Just a reminder!

If you wish your child to have piano or other instrumental lessons, please return the enrolment forms to the school office as soon as possible. There is a few vacancies at present.

Library

We are looking for a couple of enthusiastic people to help out in our school library, Deb will show you everything you need to know! We need help in shelving & covering at the moment. Please call in and see Deb in the office for further information. Thank you

“...the more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

Dr. Seuss
State Schools’ Relief

Providing tangible support to your school community

State Schools’ Relief has provided school uniform and footwear to students of families experiencing financial difficulties in Victorian State Schools since 1930. This tradition continues today, with requests for support nearly doubling in 2015. As such, the Department of Education and Training has now provided additional funding to ensure the most vulnerable students receive their essential school items.

Who can apply?
School principals and their welfare teams are best placed to assess and establish the level of student’s needs. All principals are encouraged to access SSR to support vulnerable families.

What is provided?
SSR provides school uniform items and footwear for children from their own supplies. Items are provided FREE OF CHARGE to families and are discreetly delivered to the school by courier within three working days, at no additional cost.

Should a uniform item be unavailable, SSR will pay a partial subsidy. SSR will also provide an email authorisation to the uniform supplier.

How do I apply?
Principals and delegates should visit the SSR website (www.ssrnet.net.au/schools), create a login for the school and apply online. For more information contact the SSR team on 9775 7900.

School fundraising
As a not-for-profit charity that relies on the generosity of others, SSR appreciates and encourages all fundraising efforts by schools to benefit this essential program for Victorian families.

SWIMMING

Our school Swimming Carnival will be held next Wednesday at the Stratford Pool starting at approx. 1.00pm. Students will travel by bus to and from the pool, whilst at the pool students shall sit with their class or house as directed by the teacher. There will be competitive events for those students who are aiming for selection into the HDSSA Carnival as well as fun events and relays. All students will be required to bring their own sunscreen and water bottle, as well as their bathers, towel & goggles if needed. School sports uniform with house colours is encouraged. Parents are encouraged to come along and support their children. If they wish to take them home after the carnival then the sign out book needs to be completed.