From the Principal

**Kids Matter**

This is the second year of our implementation of the Kids Matter framework which is a whole school approach in providing a healthy and positive environment for students, families and staff. There are 4 core components of the framework: positive school community, social and emotional learning for students, working with parents and caregivers and helping children with mental health difficulties.

In 2012 we explored the Positive School Community aspect which saw the establishment of our Circle of Friends initiative, the reviewing of anti-bullying, cybersafety and attendance policies and inspired the Pillars of Culture art project and exploring ways we can engage with our community in positive ways.

We have engaged Madhavi as a consultant for 2013 and she will be running a series of staff and parents workshops. Madhavi’s first workshop will be focussed around Positive Discipline on the evening of Tuesday April 2nd. Future workshop topics will be determined by the group. Registration details will be sent out shortly along with expressions of interest to join the planning group.

**Circle of Friends**

The first Circle of friends’ morning tea will be held on Friday 15th of March at 10:00 am following the assembly. We would love to see as many parents as we can at the morning tea.

**Annual General Meeting**

A reminder that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 4th March from 6.30 - 7.30pm. Our guest speaker, Gyllian Godfrey, will talk about the Australian Curriculum and its implementation at Gilles Street. You don’t have to nominate for council to come to the meeting so please feel free to attend, meet your school council and find out about what is happening across the school.

Deb O’Neill
Gabriella and Angel interview famous artist Andy

We were excited to meet the famous Artist Andy Petruzevics. We didn’t realise that Andy was a really cool artist. He won the Fringe poster competition.

He told us the meaning of the egg man and the bird on the poster. It is abstract art.

Andy has been making art for 30 years.

He did 20 other drawings before he decided on the bird and the egg man. We think he is persistent and he is always thinking of new ideas.

His 3 main influences are: Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso and David Bowie.

Reported by Gabriella and Angel

Edited by Jachimo

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We’re beginning to assemble our Future Garden in preparation for the 2013 Come Out Festival. Our plants are finding homes in recycled containers and rubber boots. We need lots of hardy and colourful plants. You’ll see colourful rubber boots appearing on our school fence. If you have any cuttings or rubber boots please send them to Angela or Val.
Collaboration and creative problem solving are the order of the day as Room 11 students continue their programming sessions with ALICE. In each session students are shown different aspects of the program and then are able to work on their own projects. We should be able to share some finished projects by the end of Term 1 or very early in Term 2.

Room 19 Live on Wix

Mr Tucker’s Grade 3/4 class are sharing their learning via their Wix Website. Take the time to have a look. Share with your family and friends as they are tracking where the views are coming from and welcoming comments about their learning. http://marktucker238.wix.com/2013

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.
Community Notices

To celebrate Harmony Day and this year’s theme: **Many stories—One Australia**, SBS are giving all Australians the opportunity to share their story.

Create a video, take a photo or share your written personal journey. Everyone has a story to tell, so share yours today!

There are two fantastic prize packs up for grabs:

**First prize**: A Canon EOS 110D SLR Camera Twin Lens Kit complete with memory card, tripod and case plus SBS’ A Day in the Life photographic book.

**Second prize**: An Apple iPad 4 with Retina Display 32GB WiFi + Cellular plus SBS’ A Day in the Life photographic book.


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**Australian Girls Choir (AGC) – Free Open Classes**

All girls are invited to attend a free class of fun singing, dancing and drama activities with the AGC in Term 1. The AGC is the perfect place to build confidence and develop music and presentation skills.

For more information and to come along to a free class: Ph 08 8271 1622 or visit [www.aspagroup.com.au](http://www.aspagroup.com.au)

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**Developing Resilience Workshop**

Resilience has been described as the ability to bungee jump through life. This session identifies family strengths—a combination of both yours and your child’s. Participants look at the characteristics that resilient people use to cope with life’s stresses and challenges.

The session identifies a ten point plan to encourage resilience in families. Presented by Centacare.

**DATE**: Tuesday, 12th March

**TIME**: 7-9pm

**COST**: $5

**LOCATION**: Christian Family Centre Seaton, 185 Frederick Road, Seaton

TO BOOK: life-care@familycentre.org.au OR 8356 6999

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**You can help refugees rebuild their lives**

Celebrate World Refugee Day this year by joining the United Nation’s Refugee Agency’s Art Contest and support UNHCR to rebuild the lives of refugees who have lost everything.

By being a part of this contest you can help UNHCR raise awareness and support refugees and displaced people to re-establish their places in the world in safety and dignity.

Winning entries will be selected and used by UNHCR in its World Refugee Day promotional materials and posters, as well as being printed in UNHCR’s 2014 desk calendar.

For more information on the contest, resource materials and entry forms please check with your school or visit [www.unhcr.org.au](http://www.unhcr.org.au)

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[www.unhcr.org.au](http://www.unhcr.org.au) for entry details