Welcome to the 2013 school year.

This year Maria Regina is part of the Extending Mathematical Meaning (EMU) program. EMU is a research-based program developed by Dr Ann Gervasoni of Australian Catholic University (ACU), Ballarat. The aim of the program is to improve the quality of assessment, instruction and intervention in Mathematics.

An important component of the program is the Mathematics Assessment Interview (MAI), a diagnostic assessment that involves classroom teachers conducting a one-on-one Mathematics interview with each child. Each classroom teacher then uses the information obtained through the Mathematics Assessment Interview to ensure instruction is targeted to meet student learning needs. Teachers were able to administer the MAI on Wednesday and use the information to ensure point of need learning.

This week the Kindergarten children have been having individual MAI and Best Start assessments. Kindergarten children will commence next Monday.

Swimming Carnival

Our Swimming Carnival will take place next Friday 8th February at the Warringah Aquatic Centre. Please make sure all entry forms are returned as soon as possible. Please note all students will be transported by bus to the Warringah Aquatic Centre but there will be no buses returning. All staff will be attending the carnival so there will be no supervision at school for children not attending.

School Kids Bonus

The Federal Government’s Schoolkids Bonus – worth $410 for each child in primary school and $820 a year for each high school student -- is paid in two instalments in January and July. Families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A, as well as young people in school receiving Youth Allowance, and others receiving certain income support or veterans’ payments are eligible for the Schoolkids Bonus. Some families who claim their Family Tax Benefit at the end of the financial year will receive their payment then. The Bonus can be spent in any way a family thinks will meet the needs of students including on uniforms, clothing, and stationery and school books. Families can also set money aside to pay for future school excursions or other school related expenses like sports registration fees and music lessons. Further information about the Schoolkids Bonus, can be accessed at www.australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus or by ‘liking’ the Australian Families Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FamiliesInAustralia.

School Calendar

An updated calendar will be emailed out with next week’s newsletter.

Kathy Gee

Principal