FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Inappropriate Use of Social Media
At school we supervise and have restrictions and filters on accessing inappropriate sites on computers. There have been reports that children outside of school are inappropriately using Instagram, Facebook and other social media apps which legally require the participant to be 13 years of age to open an account. Please be aware of the apps and sites your children are accessing and how they are using technology.

Instagram has strict Terms of Use and Guidelines that make their age requirement clear. http://instagram.com/about/legal/terms/before-january-19-2013/#

It is important to know that photos uploaded on Instagram can, by default, be viewed by anyone, anywhere. There’s also an option to share the photo location, which may be of concern if a parent would rather not have a child broadcast his/her whereabouts. Images are usually cute or artistic, but there are also nude photos and disturbing images to be found. The application requires an account sign-on, which includes entering a birth date, but many parents have already found that tech-savvy kids easily overcome this obstacle. Also, like so many digital gathering places, Instagram has been used for cyber-bullying.

At the end of this newsletter is some information about Social Media Sites, their intended use and the appropriate age. This information was reproduced from the digital edition Keeping Our Kids Safe Online. This digital edition is available for purchase at www.thecybersafetylady.com.au for $7.00.

Mobile Phones and other mobile devices
We follow the Catholic Schools Office policy which acknowledges that mobile phones are common tools for communication and learning in the 21st Century. Mobile Phones are able to store and capture data including text, images, sound and video. Mobile Phones may pose threats to student welfare and management in terms of the capacity to engage in cyber-bullying and other illegal activities.

Students who bring mobile phones to school or on educational excursions do so at their own risk;

- mobile phones brought onto the school premises should be switched off upon entry to the school. They should remain switched on until the student leaves at the end of the day or unless requested by members of the teaching staff to do otherwise.
- Mobile phones may be confiscated from students who are unable to follow the school’s expectations.
- In the event that it is suspected that images or videos of other students /teachers have been recorded or that inappropriate content is stored on the device, the Principal or another staff member nominated by the Principal may inspect the contents of the phone and take appropriate action that may include contacting parents or informing the Police.

Peninsula Catholic Primary Schools Debating Grand Final
We congratulate the Maria Regina debating team for being runners up in the Peninsula Debating Grand Final which was held yesterday afternoon. It was a very close debate with the team only narrowly being defeated by St Mary’s Manly. A big thank you to Mrs Pike who coached the team. Well done girls, a wonderful effort to make it to the Grand Final.
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Effective Strategies to Assist Reading Comprehension

Efficient readers are active as they read, simultaneously using a range of processes to identify unknown words and comprehend text. Efficient readers comprehend text through making strong connections between prior knowledge and the new information presented in the text. Students need to continually make connections as they read. Efficient readers make three different types of connections.

Text – to -Self Connections: involves readers thinking about their life and connecting their own personal experiences to the information in the text.

Text – to -Text Connections: involves readers thinking about other written texts written by the same author or with common themes, style, organisation, structure, characters or content.

Text – to - World Connections: involves readers thinking about what they know about the world outside their own personal experience, their family, or their community.

Do you ever make these connections as you read?

Positive Behaviour for Learning

This week our expectation has been Care For Belongings. It is very important that every child has their school hat every day. Please check that hats are clearly labelled and they are brought to school every day.

Year 2 have made some posters to remind us of the importance of caring for belongings.

SCHOOL CALENDAR
**FROM THE REC**

**Class Mass**
Year 3 will be attending the parish Mass on Thursday 28th November at 9.15 am. Parents and friends are very welcome to attend this Mass.

**2014 Kindergarten**
All children who are starting school in 2014 at Maria Regina Catholic School are warmly invited on to attend Mass on Sunday 1st December at 9am at Maria Regina Church Avalon. At this Mass the children will receive a special blessing to welcome them into the Pittwater Parish community. Please join us for this very special occasion.

**Christmas Eve Mass**
Christmas is just around the corner and what better way to tell the Christmas story than to have it played out by our gorgeous children! As was posted in last week’s newsletter we are looking for participants for this year’s nativity play. It will be performed at the 6pm mass on Christmas Eve which is always hugely attended! We have a brand new play this year which is very cool and even features God!! There are lots of opportunities for all ages to have speaking and non speaking roles. Please contact me, Sam, at sammeebrown@hotmail.com or 0401343569 if you think your child would be eager to participate as we need to start soon with our rehearsals! Many thanks.

**Christmas Hamper Appeal**
Thank you to everyone who has already returned their gifts and food items for the Christmas Hamper Appeal. We would be grateful if you could send in the nominated food items/gift that has been allocated to your family as soon as possible. The list is not exhaustive, so if there are any other food items that you would like to donate, please feel free to send those in also. Hampers will need to be ready and wrapped by Friday 6th December and we would ask that the class parents prepare the hampers for collection. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**FROM THE OFFICE**

**Canteen Volunteers for Term 4 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 8 25th November</th>
<th>Week 9 2nd December</th>
<th>Week 10 9th December</th>
<th>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Melissa Thompson</td>
<td>Imelda Flynn</td>
<td>Sarah Van Reyswood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sidnee Mullis</td>
<td>Sarah Van Reyswood</td>
<td>Sue Fisk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tania Mullis</td>
<td>Melissa Thompson</td>
<td>Imelda Flynn</td>
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<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
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**SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS**
A reminder was sent out yesterday to return the any Registration Forms to the office asap please. This form is an audit requirement. Thank you to the families who have already returned their form. The students who are moving onto High School also need to complete the form as we have to know their destination as well.

**SCHOOL FEE ACCOUNTS**
We still have quite a lot of outstanding accounts. Families who have a time payment agreement in place please be aware that the final due date for payments was November 15, 2013. If you know that you will not be able to finalise your payment please contact Mrs Sprakel in the office so the CSO can be informed.

**FROM THE LIBRARY**
Thank you to those of you who found readers and sent them back to school. I really appreciate you doing that. There are still quite a few missing. It would be wonderful to get lots of them back too, so please have a search under the beds, the lounge cushions and the bookcase because the books have a way of ending up in most unexpected places.

Good hunting.
Liz Daly
In Year 4 we have been learning about mass in maths. One of the problems we worked on was to find out who had the heaviest school bag. See the task below:

**Find out who has the heaviest school bag.**

**Problem:** The bag completely covers the scales – you can’t read the weight!

**How are you going to weigh it?**

**In groups find an answer to this problem.**

How would you have worked this out?

The children investigated this problem in groups and we eventually came up with the following answer. Read their explanations below:

“You weigh yourself and find out your weight. Then hold your bag when you weigh yourself again. See how much weight you have gained. The weight you have gained is the bag’s weight.” Josh Seargent

“I weigh 36.0kg and with my bag I weigh 39.0kg. So my bag weighs 3.0kg.” Sam Vitagliano

“When I stood on the scales I weighed 37kg. I got off and got my bag and went back on and I weighed me and my bag and I weighed 41kg. So I put 4kg on so that gives me my answer which is 4kg.” Isabella Pearce

Can you work out the weight of your school bag?

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**Octopus Workshops**

*After a request put forward by the SRC, we will be offering Octopus Workshops on Friday afternoon 13th December from 1:45 until 2:50pm.*

Teachers and parents are invited to share their talents so we can offer a variety of different activities for the children to experience. Some of the workshops on offer last time we ran this program included: cooking, collage, chess, gardening, card making, origami, knitting, woodwork, photography, dance, drawing, ball games, painting, drama, Italian, meditation, and yoga.

We know there are a lot of talented parents out there just dying to share their talents. If you are able to run a workshop please fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to the office next week.

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**Octopus Workshops**

Friday 13th December

Please return to the school office

Name (Please print) _____________________________

Phone number ______________________________

I would love to run a workshop in ___________________
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Parents often ask our teachers for advice on ways that would help improve their children’s understanding of Maths, English and the Sciences.

I recently had the opportunity to view a program produced by Kinetic Education, an Australian company based in NSW. They provide a Personal Tutor Program, which supports the NSW Curriculum. We will be making use of this program in the school in several different ways. In addition this program would prove useful to students who have a need for revision or for students who can extend themselves and forge ahead.

Whilst I’m not in a position to recommend or promote any materials, I believe that parents may like to know that this program is available, and for them to decide if it may be beneficial to their children.

Clicking on the word ‘CONTINUE’ below will give you more information about Kinetic Education and their tutoring program


Yours Sincerely,

KE

Position: Principal
Social Networks


YouTube: Not for under 13yrs. Watching and sharing videos, uploading videos. Potential for bullying through comments and emails, uploading video, inappropriate viewing. Privacy settings & blocking available.


Online Games: Playing games online with friends. Potential for approaches by adults, strangers and inappropriately behaved kids. Most have Single Player options (offline) and blocking. Moderation and reporting available on some. Be aware of age limits. M15 can be as bad as R rated!


More Apps

Kik 17yrs+: Free. An instant messaging app. Dangers: Linked to social media. No parental controls, can be approached by strangers.

Snapchat 12yrs+: Free. A photo sharing app for sending SMS photos. Users set the pictures to delete after a few minutes. Dangers: Snapchat is being used for sexting. But because it’s so simple to do a screen capture on phones, photos can be copied. No parental controls.

Instagram: 13yrs+: Free. A public photo sharing app using your mobile devices camera. Stranger follows, if privacy setting not set. Location Services, porn and drugs.


KEEK: 13yrs+ and then with parental permission up till 17+: A public video sharing app. Adults can subscribe to your child’s updates, and find out where they live through Geo Location. Comments. No privacy settings or restrictions to adult content. NOT for kids. No parental controls.
