Principal’s Report
Tell them from me Survey

This term, Manly West PS will join many other schools in the state and participate in the Department of Education and Communities’ initiative Tell them from Me student survey. The survey is about student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices and is targeted at students in Years 4-6. The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable, quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. This survey will assist us with our new strategic planning 2015-2017.

The survey is totally confidential. The survey will take less than 30 minutes to complete and will be administered from 11th March until the 2nd April using our technology room timetables.

If you do not want your child to participate please return the form at the end of this newsletter. More information about the survey and the research is available on the CESE website: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

P&C Exciting News

Last week the P&C meeting included many items of interest and was run by the new 2015 P&C Executive led by the P&C President Mr Fred Kelly. The next meeting about the MW Carnival will be held on 10 March at 6pm in the library for all class parent representatives and volunteers for the Carnival.

A book was presented to the school by Mrs Anita Tymkiw which included a collection of prize winning creative writing pieces by students from Manly West PS in Years 1-6 in 2013. It has just been published by the Manly West P&C Enrichment Committee and designed by Sophie Weeks. It lists all the prize winners and students’ beautiful artwork throughout the book. It will be displayed in the foyer and library for students to be inspired.

Clean up Australia

Thank you to Mrs Latham, Mrs Gaynor and Stocklands for their sponsorship as well as all the students and teachers who participated in this excellent community event. It was a great success. Currently everyone is taking wonderful pride in our school so this event was a very positive way to continue to strive to improve our beautiful school grounds and playground areas.

Parking and Picking up Students/Installation of Flashing Lights

Recently I have received a number of complaints regarding driving habits, parking and dropping off and picking up of students by parents especially at the Hill St entrance. Mr John Jackson the Road Crossing Supervisor also is very worried about some parents’ total disregard and lack of respect for the road rules and conditions. We ask that all parents please take care around all our entrances. Children of primary school age do not understand all the road rules and they are being put at risk by poor driving behavior.

The Roads & Maritime Services plan to install flashing light signs to alert motorists of the 40km signs in the coming weeks in Griffiths Street.

Student Representative Council (SRC)

Congratulations to all the students who were selected from Years 2-6 by their peers to represent the students at meetings organised each term. This is an important role and the students will be expected to attend meetings and report back to their classes. Student voice is becoming an increasingly important aspect of school life and will certainly be incorporated into the new planning for 2015-2017.

Student News

Congratulations to Jesse Michniewicz, Zane Brown and Jonah Wildash who have been selected to attend the Sydney North Rugby League trials on 16 March.

Mrs Julie Organ
## Student Class Representatives 2015

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<tr>
<td>2H</td>
<td>Jessica Johnston</td>
<td>Daniel Grcev</td>
<td>4W</td>
<td>Ruby Gordon</td>
<td>Harry Wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>2M</td>
<td>Octavia Williams</td>
<td>Jack Kirk</td>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Grace Thompson</td>
<td>Mikey Munro</td>
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<tr>
<td>2J</td>
<td>Alex Johnston</td>
<td>Chase Perrett</td>
<td>4F</td>
<td>Kirsty Rey</td>
<td>Matthew Johnston</td>
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<td>2L</td>
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<td>Henry Pascall</td>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Hannah Mcllwaine</td>
<td>William Faulder</td>
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<tr>
<td>2LA</td>
<td>Hannah Grant</td>
<td>Hugo Jones</td>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Rachel Ainsworth</td>
<td>Steven Vinogradov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3L</td>
<td>Alyssa Aulburn</td>
<td>Augie Elderkin</td>
<td>5T</td>
<td>Soraya Gerritsen</td>
<td>Charlie Adams</td>
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<td>3B</td>
<td>Rory Richards</td>
<td>Sophie Kassel</td>
<td>5S</td>
<td>Giselle Russell</td>
<td>Dexter Craddock</td>
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<tr>
<td>3JL</td>
<td>Amelia Crouch, April Olive</td>
<td>Louis Steltzer</td>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Millie Baker</td>
<td>Xavier Carlile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Ivy Polkinghorne</td>
<td>Tom Ballantyne</td>
<td>6M</td>
<td>Phoenix Gock</td>
<td>Calum Dunleavey</td>
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<td>3/4 R</td>
<td>Bonny Adams</td>
<td>Sam Litchfield</td>
<td>6R</td>
<td>Anna Gordon</td>
<td>Lachlan Coleman</td>
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<td>6C</td>
<td>Asia de Souza</td>
<td>George Thompson</td>
<td>6J</td>
<td>Sophie Grcev</td>
<td>Tana Tufts</td>
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![Group Photo](image-url)
From the Deputy’s Desks……

**Year 6 High School Information**

A reminder to parents of students who have applied to sit the Selective High School exam for Year 7 placement in a selective high school in 2016. Students are required to take the Selective High School Placement Test to be held from 9.00am to 1.15pm on Thursday 12 March 2015 at the Northern Beaches Secondary College Manly Campus.


The Year 6 High School applications have also been sent home to parents. The applications must be signed and returned by **March 20** at the latest. This is applicable to all students, not just those applying for Government High Schools. Please see the Year 6 teachers or myself if you have any queries.

**University of NSW Competitions (ICAS)**

If you would like your child in Years 3-6 to enter in to the statewide testing program conducted by the University of NSW please find the information and permission note under the Notes tab of our website.

Tests are available in Digital Technologies - $8.00, Science - $8.00, Writing - $17.00, Spelling - $11.00, English - $8.00 and Mathematics - $8.00.

Please note these tests are optional and that all tests will be held before school on the below dates to minimise disruption to class programs. The University Competition note was sent home with Term Accounts on Monday and parents can include payment with their term account.

**Dates for the competition are;**
- Digital Technologies – 19 May @ 8.00am
- Science – 3 June @ 8.00am
- Spelling – 16 June @8.00am
- Writing – 17 June @ 8.00am
- English – 28 July @ 8.00am
- Mathematics – 11 August @ 8.00am

Note and monies for ALL tests need to be returned to the office by Wednesday 13th March 2015. **No late entries will be processed.**

**3-6 Sport Programs Up Date**

In Terms 1 and 4 all students will be participating in a skills based sport program every Friday. In addition to the PSSA option, students had the opportunity to select a paid sport option of cricket / basketball run by representatives from Cricket NSW and Brad Dalton Basketball OR a non-paid sport option.

Years 3 and 4 students are participating in Basketball ($20), Cricket ($15), Hockey, Tball and Volley Ball. Due to insufficient interest for the paid sport option, Yrs 5 & 6 non PSSA students will participate in the non paid sport option of Eagle Tag, Netball and Basketball.

**Manly West Snowsports Information**

With summer ending preparation for the Manly West Snowsports Team is beginning. The first round of competition will be during the first week of the July school holidays (1st-3rd July). A parent **information session is being held Wednesday 11th March from 3.45pm in the Year 6 classrooms**. Anyone with a child who loves to ski or snowboard is invited to come and learn more about the competitions and the Term 2 dry-land training sessions.

**SNOWSPORTS INFORMATION**

With summer ending preparation for the Manly West Snowsports Team is beginning. The first round of competition will be during Week 1 of the July school holidays (1st-3rd July) and we will run an **information night Wednesday 11th March from 3.45pm in the Year 6 classrooms**. Anyone with a child who loves to ski or snowboard please come to the information night to learn more about the competitions joining the team and the dry-land training we arrange during Term 2.

Our students compete in Division 5 (Kindy, Years 1, 2, 3 and 4) and Division 4 (Year 5 and 6) so all pupils of Manly West are welcome. Students do not need previous racing experience to join so as long as they can turn and stop. Skiers and Snowboarders are equally welcome. We hope to see you there.

For more information please feel welcome to contact Tom Rundle on tumbletom@hotmail.com or call/text 0488 791974

PBEL : RESPONSIBILITY—Be responsible for all of your things including your school uniform and lunch containers.
Non-Scripture and Ethics

K-2 Non-Scripture usually takes place in our school hall. Due to the large number of K-2 students attending Non-Scripture, Kindergarten Non-Scripture will now take place in K Orange, Year 1 and 2 Non-Scripture will still gather in the hall. Please note Non-Scripture is a supervised period, Manly West staff are not permitted to teach during this time. Students participate in a quiet activity such as reading or drawing. We are pleased to report that a few parents have volunteered to be trained as Ethics teachers. We hope to add additional Ethics classes starting in Term 2 and 3. Students waiting for a place in an Ethics class attend Non-Scripture. If parents prefer that their child attends a Scripture group such as Bahai, Catholic or Protestant for 2015 this needs to be communicated through a written note. Please note, once this decision is made, students will not be able to swap back to Ethics this year. Any notes regarding Scripture or Ethics now go directly to classroom teachers.

We still need more volunteer Ethics teachers. Should you be interested, please contact our Ethics Coordinator, Louise Fletcher through email. our_oyster@hotmail.com

Kindergarten Introduction to the Canteen

Today K Blue and K Purple visited the canteen to learn about canteen procedures. K Yellow and K Green will experience their canteen introduction on Monday 9th March and K Orange and K Red will visit on Wednesday 11th March. After Wednesday 11th March, all Kindergarten children will be allowed to use the canteen. We encourage parents to use Flexischools for lunch orders to avoid money handling using the traditional paper bag. Please remind your child in the morning should you place a lunch order. A reminder note in their morning tea container also works well. Lunch orders are preferable to buying morning tea from the canteen for Kindergarten students. Once they have lined up so beautifully, remembered their manners and what they wanted to order, there is often little time for students to eat.

Expectation Cards and Certificates

Congratulations to all students for their efforts this year. Each week teachers issue 3 Expectation Cards to students in their class for showing respect, responsibility or aspiring to do their best. Once a student has collected 4 Expectation cards they will be presented with an Expectation Certificate at either the K-2 or 3-6 assembly. This system requires students to store certificates safely at home and bring them to school once they have collected 4 certificates.

Mrs Wendy Mwanga

LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to those who ordered books through Scholastic to encourage reading and to help fill your school library with new books for everyone! The company does not give a certain date of delivery but the books will be given to your children as soon as possible. Often with new systems problems arise. Apologies for the problems with the new LOOP payment app - the kinks should be worked out well before the next order in Term 2.

Thank you to the students in Years 5 & 6 who are learning the ropes to become Library Monitors! It will be a few more weeks before they become official and earn their badges, but we are proud of their commitment and helpfulness thus far. Keep up the great work!

The Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) is a reading initiative to encourage reading of a number of different books set by the Premier of NSW. All students can take part by following the rules, doing the reading, completing a Personal Reading Log & handing it into the library before or by Friday, August 21st, 2015. Students in K-2 will automatically receive a certificate since all the teachers read well over the minimum amount of 30 books required. But if your child would like to do it individually, that is absolutely fine. Please come ask for a form. Primary students must do their own reading of 20 books (15 with a PRC # & 5 free choice). The rules will be explained to students in years 2-6 during their library lesson. The prizes include an ASPIRE card, a bookmark or sticker, the child’s name published in the newsletter and a certificate from the premier at the end of the year. If you’d like more information, please go to https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html for more information or come in and speak with me about it. Lots of books have been read since the summer holidays, so I suspect you will see names of students who have finished it in the next Manly West Matters!

Happy reading!
Ellen Swick
Teacher Librarian
Canteen.... Two of our lovely kindy classes have had their first official class visit to the canteen today for a special kindy only morning tea. By this time next week, we hope to have served all kindy classes with their special introductory morning tea.

Kindy parents if you missed an opportunity to help be a part of this today then please get in touch so you can join in the fun next Monday and Wednesday mornings! Canteen is just another way that your kids can learn to use their emerging maths skills and build their confidence for dealing with new situations and people, besides we sell very tasty things!

Not sure how your canteen operates or what it serves? Why not pop in when you've got a couple of hours to spare, lend a hand and satisfy your curiosity at the same time. We have coffee, we have cake.......so email us at mwcaanteen@gmail.com or call 9948 2257 or just drop by and let us know when to expect you!

Thanks, Isobel

Canteen Roster for week 7, Group 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 9th March</th>
<th>Tuesday 10th March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Warner AM</td>
<td>Tina Dermody AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Ducat AM</td>
<td>VACANCY AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sally Stevenson AM</td>
<td>Kristie Kha PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lara Bullman PM</td>
<td>Lesley Sargeant PM</td>
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VACANCY PM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 11th March</th>
<th>Thursday 12th March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca McLeod AM</td>
<td>Sarah Anderson AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VACANCY AM</td>
<td>Anastasias Young AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genie Graham-Smith PM</td>
<td>VACANCY PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Newton PM</td>
<td>VACANCY PM</td>
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Friday 13th March

| Kylie Wright AM | Joanne Holley AM | Sacha Berwick AM | Naomi Coleman PM | Kimberley Howe PM |

UNIFORM SHOP

Thursday 12th March 8.45-10.00 am
Monday 16th March 2.45-4.00pm

Orders can be made through Flexischools and delivered to your child's classroom.

www.flexischools.com.au

DIARY DATES

Friday 6th March
PSSA Rd 3

Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th March
Year 6 Leadership Camp

Tuesday 10th March
6.00pm School Library P&C Carnival meeting

Wednesday 11th March
9.45 Prospective Parents School Tour
3.45pm Ski Team Information Year 6 classrooms

Thursday 12th March
Selective High School Testing

Friday 13th March
District Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the following students for receiving an Expectation Certificate:

Sophie Stacker 1BV
Otis Mistry 1P
Chase Murray 1S
Aly Rounsley 1BV
Zach Rowland 2LA

BASC

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1st and 2nd INSTALMENT? LATE PAYMENT FEES WILL BE CHARGED THIS WEEK FOR UNPAID ACCOUNTS.

ALL ACCOUNTS MUST BE FINALISED BY FRIDAY 13 MARCH.

Session Vacancies

After years with a Waiting List for every session, we now have Permanent or Casual Vacancies Thursday and Friday mornings and Friday afternoon! Contact the BASC on 9948 8113, write in our ‘Parent Message Books’ or email admin@mwbasc.com.au

Registering With Us

To register your child with us, please visit our centre’s site https://manlywestbasc.hubworks.com.au and click on ‘ENROL’. Enter your child’s details and then click ‘SUBMIT’.

We will contact you to request the sessions you need and we will inform you of availability.

Notification of Absence

To ensure the safety and welfare of the children in our care, BASC MUST BE NOTIFIED if a child will be absent from a booked session. Non Notification delays our awareness of any legitimate concern for a child’s safety. Also, whilst looking for children and contacting parents, our Educators are having less time with the children in their care. Messages can be written ahead of time in each room’s ‘Parent Message Book’ or by email admin@mwbasc.com.au (with at least 24 hrs notice). We can be contacted at late notice by phone on 9948 8113. There is a Non-Notification of Absence Charge of $11 (incl GST).
**BAND NEWS**

**A chance to watch our youngest musicians (and Penny!) in action**

Last year we successfully trialled a couple of “open” rehearsals for our Training and Intermediate Bands. These are not concerts but rather a chance for parents and carers of our less-seasoned players to sit in on half a rehearsal to understand better what happens in band and to support their children’s early musical endeavours. We hope to have two such open rehearsals for this year, the first of which is for the second half of the Training Band afternoon rehearsal on Monday, 16 March. Intermediate Band has its turn on Wednesday, 18 March 2015. Hope some of you can come along to these rehearsals. Just wander into the Hall after 4pm on those days.

**Band Camp**

Don’t forget to put the Band Camp dates in your diaries (see below). And also an important “heads up” – the venue (Narrabeen Sport and Rec Camp) has advised that all the mandatory medical information it collects about its student guests (including the Training Band members who are not staying overnight) must be provided by parents or guardians **online by 4 May 2015**. There are no paper forms to fill in this year. We will directly email everyone soon the booking details you will need to be able to do this online task. Please also start thinking about any medication and official asthma/anaphylaxis plans that will need to be sent along to camp with your child, including appropriate storage requirements, now so to minimise the last minute rush.

**Department of Education and Communities “Arts in Action” Music Camp – is your child interested?**

Now that “regional” structures are apparently gone from public schools arts administration, the Band Committee has been advised that the Music Camp previously run by the Sydney West Region is now also open to public school students from what was the Northern Region and some Central Coast schools. A copy of the application form will be attached to the email version of this news that will be sent to Band families. The final date for applications is 27 March 2015.

**Performance Band – first “gig” for 2015**

This will be an evening concert with the Northern Beaches Symphonic Wind Ensemble at Pittwater High School at Mona Vale on Thursday 26 March, 2015. We will let you know meeting time as soon as possible.

**Performance Band – ANZAC commemoration 2015 – Friday 24 April (ie. the day before ANZAC Day)**

In this Gallipoli 100th anniversary year, Manly West Performance Band has been invited to participate in an ANZAC commemoration involving Surf Life Saving NSW at The Corso, Manly on Friday April 24th 2015. Please put 445pm to 600pm in your diaries. This is a great honour for the band and the school. Further details will be made available soon.

**Performance Band – NSW State Wind Band 2015 nominations for Years 5 to 8**

The Band Committee and Penny have been advised that nominations for the NSW Junior State Wind Band for 2015 are now open. Information and the nomination form is available of the Department of Education and Communities Arts Unit website and nominations are only being accepted online. Closing Date for Applications is 1 April 2015 – No late applications will be accepted. All the necessary information is available on the links below. It is worth noting that a playing standard for the Junior Wind Band (Years 5 to 8) of AMEB Grade 4 level is expected. Link to the main information page (which has a link to the nomination form) [https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/music/music-ensembles/state-wind-bands](https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/music/music-ensembles/state-wind-bands). Direct link to nomination form: [https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/state-wind-bands-2015-nominations](https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/state-wind-bands-2015-nominations)

**Band Term Timetable**

Please see following page for Band Timetable for Terms 1-3.

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**CHICKEN ROSTER WEEKEND 7-8 MARCH**

Saturday 7th March  
Anita Tymkiw

Sunday 8th March  
Nicole Bruce
## Band Diary Dates Terms 1—3

### Term One

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training Band</td>
<td>Open second half afternoon rehearsal for parents/carers</td>
<td>Monday 16 March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Band</td>
<td>Open second half afternoon rehearsal for parents/carers</td>
<td>Wednesday 18 March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance Band</td>
<td>Evening concert with Northern Beaches Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Pittwater High School, Mona Vale</td>
<td>Thursday 26 March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance Band</td>
<td>ANZAC commemoration, The Corso, Manly, 445pm to 600pm</td>
<td>Friday 24 April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Band</td>
<td>First public performance, Stage 2 and 3 Assembly</td>
<td>TBC</td>
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### Term Two

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance Band</td>
<td>Audition for NSW Arts Unit Music Festival concerts (Town Hall and Opera House) – video audition</td>
<td>From Monday 4 May 2015 (TBC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Band</td>
<td>Band Camp, Sydney Academy of Sport, Narrabeen Lake</td>
<td>Monday 25 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate, Concert and Performance Bands</td>
<td>Band Camp, Sydney Academy of Sport, Narrabeen Lake</td>
<td>Monday 25 May to Tuesday 26 May 2015 (overnight)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Bands</td>
<td>Northern Beaches Instrumental Festival, Pittwater High School, Mona Vale</td>
<td>Likely Sunday 14 June 2015 or Sunday 21 June 2015</td>
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### Term Three

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<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Band</td>
<td>Open (first half morning) rehearsal for parents/carers</td>
<td>Tuesday 21 July 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Band</td>
<td>Open first half morning rehearsal for parents/carers</td>
<td>Wednesday 22 July 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concert and Performance Bands</td>
<td>NSW Schools Band Festival, Clancy Auditorium, UNSW, Kensington</td>
<td>Sunday 2 August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and Intermediate Band</td>
<td>NSW Schools Band Festival, Clancy Auditorium, UNSW, Kensington</td>
<td>Sunday, 16 August 2015</td>
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YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU

COURTESY & CO-OPERATION
& CARNIVAL!

The school carnival will be on Saturday October 24th 2015. This is our BIG fundraiser. The carnival rides are booked – now we just need YOUR help.

All money raised goes to purchase school equipment, both in classrooms and in the playground or sports field, to giving teachers extra training opportunities and to provide enrichment activities for all students, amongst many, many other things.

The initial Carnival meeting is Tuesday, March 10th at 6pm in the school library. All class parents must attend to hear how their roles will be vital during carnival year and EVERYONE who thinks they can help in any way, big or small, should come. Kindergarten and new parents are particularly welcome (it’s a great way to meet people). Refreshments will be served.

We will be outlining what areas need organising, such as Food, Sponsorship, Advertising, Stalls etc etc. Co-ordinator roles will need to be filled and a Carnival Committee put together.

There is plenty of time until ‘C’ Day; together we can make it the best carnival ever.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday March 10th at 6pm.
**Kitchen Garden News**

There has been a lot of activity in the garden over the last two weeks. The eggplants are fruiting beautifully and some of Year 3 cooked some up to taste last week. They will all get to try it as they harvest. The rockmelons are now full size and we hope they will sweeten over the next week. Today Year 3 started painting signs. They did some weeding and watering and made posies of herbs to take home. If you would like to pick a posy of herbs with your child we will be there next Tuesday from 3.20pm with Secateurs handy.

There has been a lot of seed planting and we are waiting and watching for germination then when they are strong the children will plant them into the garden, (although some have already been direct sown). Hopefully we will have peas, broadband, radish, lettuce, beetroot, rocket, cauliflower, red onion, brussels sprouts, kale and more strawberries over the next few months. Come down for a visit.

Holly Matthews

**FOUND**

Black school shoes if yours please see office.

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**ManlyTennis**

**Academy**

Raglan St/Belgrave St, Manly. Nr Manly Oval

**April 2015 Tennis Camps**

For ages 5 – 13

Camp 1: 7th - 10th April

Camp 2: 13th - 17th April

Full Day: $45. Half Day: $40

**WACKY WEDNESDAYS - $25**

8th & 15th April

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**DOES YOUR CHILD LOVE TO SING UP A STORM?**

The SYDNEY VOCAL ARTS CENTRE is now taking enrolments for the

**MANLY CHILDREN’S CHOIR**

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP ages 6-12 yrs

With Director Margi Coen

With several performance opportunities throughout the year this is a great opportunity for your child to build their confidence, gain musical knowledge and make new like-minded friends in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Margi Coen’s students include Jack Vidgen (winner of Australia’s Got Talent), Mitchell Thompson (The Voice) Will Singe & The Collective (X Factor) and children who have appeared in The Voice Kids, Young Talent Time, The Schools Spectacular, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Mary Poppins, Belvoir Street and The Children’s Chorus of Opera Australia.

Call us on 9976 5552 or Mob: 0401 182 510 or email: info@vac.com.au
Dear Parents and Carers of Years 4-6 students,

This term, our school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes less than 35 minutes to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education and Communities, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), will have access to data from across the State and will run a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research will look at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will not be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students’ personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school by Tuesday 10 March 2015.


Mrs Julie Organ  
Principal  
Manly West PS  School

Dr Jenny Donovan  
General Manager  
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

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**CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS AND EVALUATION**  
E cese@det.nsw.edu.au  www.cese.nsw.gov.au
Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey

If you do not want your child in Years 4-6 only to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by Tuesday 10 March 2015.

I (print name) ............................................................................................................ DO NOT give consent for my child/children (print name/s) ........................................................................................................................
of class/es ..................................................................to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Signed.................................................................................. Date...............................