This is a large newsletter, so sit back and grab a refreshment before you read on!

Welcome to our new and returning families and students for 2013 and I trust your holidays were a wonderful experience for your children and your families.

Welcome to our Year 3 students and families from Stanford Merthyr IS and our new Kindergarten students and families. We have had a very smooth transition for the majority of our children.

The school has undertaken several changes throughout the holiday break and I will endeavour to share those with you now, bearing in mind you may already have identified many of those changes in the first week of school.

I would like to welcome Emily Hurst to the Pelaw Main School community. Emily will be teaching our Year 2 class throughout 2013. Emily has come from Western Sydney and Central Coast schools previously and has been highly recommended and brings a wealth of knowledge of education with her.

Mr Lindsell has taken work in another school throughout 2013 and will be replaced at Pelaw Main Public School by Mr Ryan Burley on a Monday and Tuesday. Mr Burley has worked in schools across the Hunter and also comes highly recommended.

Mrs Melissa McGowan and Mrs Marnie Benic have joined our staff this year as School Learning Support Officers, undertaking individual interventions for students across the school.

Megan McCann will also be supporting our office staff several days a week.

All of our other staff returning should be familiar to you.

A list of our new class format is listed below:

- **Kindergarten** – Mrs Harris
- **K/1** – Miss Perry
- **Year 1** – Mrs Lantry
- **Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Miss Williams** – Monday, Tuesday.
- **Year 2** – Miss Hurst
- **Year 3** – Mrs Wendt
- **Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Mrs Scheinecker** – Monday, Tuesday.
- **3/4** – Mrs Grant
- **4/5** – Mrs Corke
- **5/6L** – Miss Latter
- **5/6M** – Mrs Moore
- **Librarian** – Mrs McLellan

New Demountable

As our student numbers increased, it became necessary to establish an extra class and a new classroom building. Basic completion of our new demountable occurred last Friday, with some minor adjustments still necessary for full completion. Mrs Grant and the 3/4 class will be housed in the new demountable. They will be receiving an interactive whiteboard very soon and a small bank of laptop computers to support technology in the classroom.
New Programs

Songroom
This program will be running in the school on Wednesdays for the whole year. An explanation of this program is as follows:
The Song Room is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to ensuring that all children have opportunities to participate in long-term, high quality music and arts experiences. The Song Room focuses on children and communities disadvantaged through a range of circumstances, such as economic and geographical circumstances, disability and recent immigration. Rather than focusing on the outcomes of the music or arts experience, we use the arts as a medium to achieve broader outcomes such as improved educational, social and personal development. Our key focal points are access, opportunity, creativity and sustainability. An appreciation of the joys of the arts is a wonderful benefit of the program and we sincerely hope that this experience inspires enjoyment and greater participation in the arts for students and teachers alike.
Teaching Artist, Lyn Bowtell, will be conducting the lessons for The Songroom.

SPinS
This program is called Speech Pathology in Schools and is organised through the University of Newcastle and will be conducted at Pelaw Main PS every second Thursday during Term 1 and Term 2. The SPinS program will screen all Kindergarten children and assess language delays and articulation issues with these children. They will then take students from other grades that have been referred by the school’s Learning and Support Team. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you believe your child would benefit from this program.

Classroom Organisation
Your child’s classroom teacher will be sending home an information note very shortly in regards to routines and expectations of your child’s class in 2013. You will be required to purchase exercise books and other stationery to support your child’s learning. Please contact the school if you have any enquiries in this matter.

Mr Masterman
It is with sad news that I inform you of the passing away of Allan Masterman, a long time resident of Pelaw Main and a very valuable member of our school community. I only knew Allan for about 6 months through his regular visits to the school to pick up his newsletter and meet with the Principal. He was very passionate about the school and had a wealth of knowledge of its history. I would like to pass on my condolences to his lovely wife, Beth, who continues to be a valued member of our school community.

Swimming Carnival
Our annual swimming carnival will be held on Monday, 11th February (Week 3) at East Maitland Swimming Pool. Students from Years 3-6 will attend the carnival.

Information and permission notes were sent home with students yesterday. The cost of the carnival for students is $5.50 which covers bus fare and pool entry and is not refundable. Parents and spectators will need to pay an admission fee at the pool in line with the pool policy and pricing.

Students will depart school at approximately 9.30am and return to school by 3.00pm. Students should wear full sports uniform and bring a packed lunch and drink. Swimmers, towel, hat, sunscreen and a jumper will also be needed. The canteen will be open on the day, however students will only have a limited time to purchase from the canteen. Please ensure you read the swimming carnival information note for further details about the carnival.

All permission notes and money should be returned to the school office by Wednesday, 6th February.
**General Information**

**Roll Marking**
As of Week 3, all classes will be marking rolls electronically in the classroom. If your child is late or is going to leave early, your first point of call is the office. The office will have a dedicated computer to record your late arrival or early leave. It is important that you do go to the office for this information to be tracked.

**School Assembly**
The first school assembly for the year will be held on Friday, 8th February from 2:30pm.

**P&C News**
The first P&C meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday 12th of February in the Hall at 1.45pm. Everyone welcome.

**Breakfast Club**
Breakfast club will be starting on Tuesday 5th February from 8:30am

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**Triple P** is a parenting program for all families that provides practical answers to everyday parenting concerns.

Families NSW is offering Triple P to all families with children aged 3-8 years.

Please note that bookings ARE ESSENTIAL so that we can keep course sizes manageable.

To find out more or to book into a course please contact Shaun Graham on 4937 1314

**Course:** Triple P parent seminars:
- The Power of positive parenting
- Raising confident, competent children
- Raising resilient children

**Time:** 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
**Where:** Pelaw Main Public School

For more information visit www.families.nsw.gov.au