Dear parents and caregivers,

Welcome back to all our students and a special welcome to those students who are joining us at Marks Point Public School for the first time. We look forward to a productive and enjoyable year as we work with you in your child's education. We also look forward to welcoming our new Kindergarten students who commence on Monday 4th February.

Back to School Hotline
Parents and caregivers can get information and advice about how best to prepare for the new school year through the back to school hotline.

The hotline – 1300 738 338 – will be staffed between 8:30am and 4:30pm on weekdays and will operate until Wednesday 16th February. Back to school information is also available on the education department's NSW Public Schools website (www.schools.nsw.edu.au), including: Tips for parents and students on starting pre-school, primary school and making the transition to high school; answers to frequently asked questions about uniforms, school fees and homework plus school term and holiday dates

2013 School Leaders
Congratulations to our 2013 school leaders; Captain – Billy Huggins; Vice Captain - Ben Watts and our Student Executive – Georgia Wright, Darcy Heaney, Chelsea Clarke and Hunter Callaghan on their election.

We look forward to their service and the development of their individual leadership characteristics.
Thank you
A big THANK YOU to the Wright and Porter families, who kindly volunteered their time in caring for the school gardens and grounds over the holidays.
We’d also like to thank our neighbours who keep a close eye on the school and report any concerns to local authorities in an effort to protect our school and keep it safe. Thank you also to the Davies family and their helper Mel Graff for giving our canteen a much needed new coat of paint over the holidays.

Your service is greatly appreciated!

Upcoming Important Dates:
Notes with further information regarding the following events will be coming home soon. Please keep an eye out for them:
Monday 11th February (Week 3) Swimming Carnival at Wallsend Pool.
Thursday 14th February (Week 3) School Photos by Master School Portraits
Tuesday 19th Feb & Thursday 21st Feb AASC starts.

Medical Notice
If your child has an allergy, medical condition, takes medication or has any special needs, please inform the school office as early as possible. All medication must be handed in at the front office with instructions for administration.

Anaphylaxis
The Department of Education and Communities has recently announced that all government schools will receive a general use adrenaline autoinjector (an EpiPen) for their first aid kit. This does not replace the need for parents to continue to provide the school with an adrenaline autoinjector and ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis signed and dated by their doctor when their child has been diagnosed with a naphylaxis. Instead the general use adrenaline autoinjector is intended to be used if:
- An undiagnosed student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
- There is a misfire of the adrenaline autoinjector that has been prescribed for a student
- A student requires further adrenaline autoinjector to be administered after his or her own adrenaline autoinjector has been administered.

Please contact the school if you would like further information in relation to this matter.

Mrs Honi Faasisila
Marks Point Public School
Relieving Principal

Assistant Principal Primary Report
Welcome back to all families and to the new kindergarten and enrolling students who have chosen our great school a special welcome. I hope you all had a restful Christmas holiday and are well prepared for the coming education year. This term promises to have lots happening and it is very important that all students are well equipped (see equipment list) and have paid all book levies (K – 2 = $35 3 – 6 = $40) early so that book packs may be distributed early. Please pay this to your child’s class teacher where a receipt and books will then be given to your child.

Our information afternoons for parents will also be happening early in this term so watch for this event as it is most beneficial and strengthens our educational directions for teachers, parents and students to have an open understanding of classroom procedures and directions. Scheduled excursions will also be discussed so that parents are able to budget for such events.

Active After School Program.
This semester our program will operate on a Tuesday and Thursday and will have sports such as sailing, lawn bowls, golf and AFL. All consent notes were distributed on Wednesday and will need to be returned to me by the end of next week please. Any senior student participating in the sailing program will require a completed Learn to Sail Enrolment Form which will be distributed to them when I have completed AASC numbers.

Swimming Carnival
Our scheduled annual swimming carnival is set down for Monday 11th February. Mrs Banks will be co-ordinating the day. Mrs Jones will look after our Infants (new Kinders do not attend) and will have lots of novelty events ready for everyone but both will require parental assistance, so if you are able to help in any way please let them know. A note regarding the carnival will come home soon.

Badge Ceremony
On Friday 8th February at 2.00pm parents are invited to attend our first Combined Assembly for 2013 where incoming Sports House Captains, Library Monitors and 2013 Parliamentarians will receive their badge of office. Please feel free to join us.

Debra Lowe—Assistant Principal
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS