Grandparents Day: What a fantastic day we had last Friday celebrating Grandparents Day with our community. The students did an amazing job performing for the audience and the kite flying was a sight to behold. From all accounts it was a wonderful day and we appreciate the grandparents in our community coming to celebrate with us. More photos can be found on our Facebook page.

Softball: Our boys’ softball team are now Hunter region champions after defeating Largs 32 – 0 last week. The boys played an amazing game with strong teamwork. They will now go on to play Lake Munmorah to qualify for the state championships. What a fantastic result!

Retirement: At the end of this year, Mrs Moore will be taking Long Service Leave for Semester One of next year before she heads into retirement from Semester Two. Mrs Moore has been a dedicated, enthusiastic teacher at Marks Point for 19 years of her 36 years of teaching and we wish her all the best as she moves into the next part of her life. She will be greatly missed.

New Assistant Principal: Raquel Davis has been appointed as our new assistant principal. She comes with a wealth of knowledge around curriculum and a strong background in sport and performing arts. She is a dedicated professional who is looking forward to being with us here at Marks Point. Raquel will begin with us at the beginning of 2016.

State Athletics: We recently had five students represent us at the State Athletics Carnival in Sydney, all who achieved excellent results. Congratulations to:
- Daisy-20th in High Jump at 1.25 metres
- Emma-17th in 800 metres
- Amanda-18th in Discus
- Sophie-1st in her heat, 4th in her semi-final, and 12th overall in 100 metres
- 12th in 200 metres
- 12th in Long Jump
- Jack-15th in Discus

Swim Scheme: A reminder to return swim scheme notes as soon as possible. Both the Yr. 3 – 6 and K – Yr. 2 programs are being offered at a very affordable price so we can have as many non-swimmers and beginning swimmers attend as possible. Notes and money should be returned to the school office.

School Medal: Our school Presentation Day will be held on Thursday 10th December. On this day, any student who has received 15 Principal’s Awards will
be presented with a School Medal. If your child has 15 Principal’s Awards, please send them into the school office so a School Medal can be organised for Presentation Day.

**Kites:** We have some kites that are left over from our Grandparents Day last week. At $3.50, they are a bargain price. If you would like to purchase a kite, please visit the office.

**Executive Speeches:** Students applying to be on the 2016 Student Executive will give their speeches to the assembly next Thursday at 11.15am. We wish all of the students best of luck.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance at school is a requirement of the NSW government. Students should arrive at school by 9am each day, and if absent, parents should provide an explanation of the absence within 7 days. If students are going to be absent for longer than 3 days, please contact the office to advise.

**Miss Deborah Hall**
*Principal*

---

**Notes Sent Home**
- Boys Softball Competition
- BBQ Lunch order
- Primary swimming scheme
- K-2 Swimming scheme
- National Bandana Day

**Weekly Program**
- Classes Begin: 9:00 am and finish 3:00 pm
- Tuesday - Scripture
- Thursday - School Banking & Assembly
- Friday - Breakfast Club & Sport
- Canteen - Mon, Wed, Fri
- Uniform Shop - Thurs 2:30-3:00 pm & Fri 8:30-9:00 am

**Community Advertising**

---

**Respect, Responsibility and Excellence**
Whooping cough information for schools

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children. Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies. Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.

Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age. A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for information for childcare and schools about whooping cough.
6L have been learning about space and making alien artworks this week. Here is some of their work.