Welcome Back: Welcome back to another exciting term! We are looking forward to the many educational opportunities this term including Education Week, Stage 3 Bathurst excursion, an author visit as well as the many sporting and cultural events our students attend as representatives of our school.

NAIDOC Day: Our NAIDOC Day celebrations last Friday were a great success with students engaged in learning about Aboriginal culture throughout the day. Swansea High School Didgeridoo Group entertained us and our visiting preschool visitors in the afternoon, with several ex-Marks Point students performing. A big thank you to the organising committee and our parent helpers on the day – we appreciate your hard work in making the day a success. A particular thank you to Dominic and Alison Dates for providing the sample bags to all students a very generous donation, and to Tash Davies for providing the pasta for necklaces. We would also like to thank Mr Terry Jamieson from Family and Community Services for providing the sample bags to the Dates family for our students.

Education Week: We will celebrate Education Week next week with several activities. We have Anna Fienberg, the author of the Tashi books coming to talk to students on Wednesday, the Galgabba Science Fair will be held at Swansea High on Thursday and our champion public speakers will be attending the Galgabba Public Speaking competition on Thursday at Swansea Public. We will be having an Education Week assembly on Thursday at 2pm. All parents are invited to attend.

Retirement: The time has come for Mrs Lowe to enjoy life after school as she officially retires next week after 40 years of teaching students in the NSW. Mrs Lowe will, however continue to teach 6L in a casual capacity until her assistant principal position is filled by the Department.

Enrolments: We are now taking enrolments for 2016. If you know of anyone wishing to enrol in our wonderful school, please ask them to come and visit the office to get an enrolment package. Also, if your child will not be returning to our school next year, please let us know as soon as possible.

Scripture Notes: A reminder to please return scripture notes so we can finalise our scripture classes as soon as possible. For further information please see the office staff.

Sweet Potato Monster: Our gardens have been producing lots of fresh, healthy produce recently, including this massive sweet potato (and one rather small sweet potato)! Mrs Lowe kindly chopped up the monster and made sweet potato chips for everyone in the school.

Notes Sent Home
- Bathurst camp information
- Anna Fienburg – Visiting Author
- Data Collection - information for parents
- Woolworths earn and learn sticker collection sheets (Available in the office )
**Student Success:** Congratulations to Emma who competed in the State Cross Country Carnival last Friday. Emma came 11th in the state! Wow! What a fantastic effort! The Zone Chess Gala Day was held here last Tuesday with our Rookies and Knights teams competing under the guiding eye of Miss McDonell. Both teams did very well on the day. The girls’ netball team are competing today at the Netball NSW Cup at Charlestown Courts and the debating team will have their first debate against Blacksmiths PS today. We wish them the best.

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**Principal’s Awards**

Congratulations to:
Term 2, Week 10:
Abbey, Heidi-Paige, Finn.
Term 3, Week 1:
Tarj.

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**Upcoming Dates**

Wednesday 29th July - Anna Fienberg visit
Thursday 30th - Education Week Assembly 2:00 pm
Thursday 30th - Galgabba Science fair at Swansea High School
Thursday 30th - Public speaking at Swansea Public School
Thursday 30th - P & C Meeting at 5.30 pm

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**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
Letter to Marks Point Community
It is with some apprehension and heartfelt sadness that I submitted my retirement application effective as of Monday 27th July to the Dept. of Education and Communities. I have had the most remarkable journey as an Assistant Principal, teacher, coach, stage manager and colleague to fellow teachers, many parents and teaching over 1200 students. Now in my 40th year of education, I felt it was time to take a step back, to reduce my workload and start to gradually move into what retirement may bring. In doing that, I’d like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the caring staff, wonderful community and dedicated parents that we have here at Marks Point who have so willingly allowed me to be a part of your child’s development and growth as an individual. I will take very special memories into the next part of my life and wanted the whole school community to know that you all hold a very special place in my heart. I hope that our paths in life will cross again and we can stop and have a chat and catch up on events. Thank you for the many years I have been able to work with you here at Marks Point Public School.

Debbie Lowe

Hunter Region Cross Country
Extreme weather conditions and freezing cold winds definitely impacted on this running environment at Eastern Creek in Sydney last Friday 17th July. Our only Marks Point representative, Emma should be congratulated on an excellent run finishing 11th out of a field of 80 competitors. A fantastic effort Emma. It definitely would not have been easy running with two broken wrists and carrying additional weight on your arms over three kilometres. We are very proud of your efforts.

Congratulations Hunter Region Boys Softball Representatives.
Marks Point Public School now has the outstanding record of 5 x Year 6 boys in the 2015 Hunter region Softball side. Congratulations Charlie, Nayt, Brayden, Jack and Hamish. Fantastic effort boys and well deserved recognition. All boys will compete in the NSW PSSA Softball titles in Sydney in week 10 of this term.

Can Collection Day.....
Our can cage has now been emptied—Thanks Lucky’s! Please bring along all your cans for us to recycle. All funds raised in the weight of cans will be divided between Fred Hollows and Diabetes Australia. Keep those cans coming in please.

Woolies Earn and Learn Stickers.....
YES, YES, YES we have registered. Please ask your family and friends to collect the Woolies Earn and Learn stickers. Place the stickers on the sheet and return to our school collection box in the front foyer when your card is full. This promotion is only operating for 6 weeks so the more people who are able to help us the better the outcomes for our children.
AN INVITATION TO CARERS

Do you provide care and support to another person?
You are invited to Carer Connections
Take the Opportunity to Connect with other Carers
and listen to our Guest Speaker!

Carers are usually family members or friends who provide support to children or adults who have a disability, mental illness, chronic condition or who are frail aged.

Guest Speaker: interrelate
Topic: Strengthening Changing Relationships within Caring Roles
WHERE: Kahibah Sportsclub, 63 Kenibea Avenue, Kahibah
TIME: 10.00am – 12.00pm
COST: FREE - includes Morning Tea
WHEN: Tuesday 11 August 2015
RSVP: Wednesday 5 August 2015

For more information or to Register Contact
HNE Carer Education & Support Program – Hunter

on: 4921 4895 or 1300 887 776
or Email: Educare-Admin@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au
(We ask that you RSVP for catering purposes)