



# Norths' News



## A Community with Expectations of Achievement and Success IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Monday</b>	<b>17 December, 2018</b>	<b>Year 6 Cruise Party Day K-5</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>19 December, 2018</b>	<b>Mix-n-Mingle Morning Tea Year 6 Graduation Assembly Last Day of School</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>30 January, 2019</b>	<b>First Day of Term 1 Year 1-6</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>31 January, 2019</b>	<b>First Day for Kindy</b>

School Phone Number 9623 1443 Fax Number 9833 1283 Office Hours 8:30am – 3:30pm  
Email: [stmarysnth-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:stmarysnth-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) Website: [www.stmarysnorth-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stmarysnorth-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

**14 December 2018**

### THANKYOU

The end of the school year is a time to reflect on the hard work of individuals that combine to make learning possible for our students. This year we have a lot to be proud of. We have continued to set high expectations that all our students will achieve their personal best and successfully start lifelong learning journeys that will enable each child to develop to their full potential. Personalised student learning has been the focus of our daily business. By teaching to the strengths and needs of each individual, students are better able to reach and exceed their potential.

Our students have continued to excel in extra-curricular activities. We have shared in the success of our chess team, public speaking and spelling bee finalists, regional sport representatives and our dance groups who have again achieved great success at the Synergy and Blue Mountain Festivals. Many of our students are involved in our choirs, drama and drumming groups. Our students have represented our school at sporting gala days across the year.

Building on the success of our cultural programs, we created our first Aboriginal dance group – Marayong Dreaming. Our students have delighted in being invited to dance at other schools during their own cultural celebrations.

Our Year 4 and 5 Strings students have continued to shine in their endeavours with music. We commenced our highly successful pilot project with the Australian Chamber Orchestra that saw an entire class of Year 1 students have daily music practice with the violin and cello. The Gumnuts and Strings students had the once in a lifetime experience of playing on stage with Richard Tognetti's ACO. All students across the school have delighted in the many visits by ACO musicians. Our teaching staff have engaged in high quality professional learning with award winning researcher and educator Dr Anita Collins. Research clearly shows the impact of a quality music program on a child's cognitive, emotional and behavioural development. We look forward to growing this program in 2019.

I would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our amazing staff who consistently, without pause, work incredibly hard to ensure our students are provided with the best possible educational outcomes. I feel truly blessed to work with such an amazing team. The staff at St Marys North are very proud of your children and their learning achievements. They believe in your children, they encourage them to achieve and try to instil the values of hard work, effort and commitment as the foundations for success.



We are an incredibly proud public school with highly skilled and dedicated teachers; wonderful, caring and supportive office staff and SLSOs; fantastic students who constantly strive to do their best, and highly supportive parents and community members who are justifiably proud of their children and their learning successes. I wish to acknowledge the work of our dedicated P&C members, our canteen volunteers and parent helpers who have given many hours to support our students. I also wish to thank our entire community for the outstanding response we have had across 2018 towards our special events and fundraising opportunities. We have seen a definite increase in the number of people attending school events. The Colour Run proved to be an outstanding fundraiser with close to \$10,000 being raised. Again, we say thank you!

## RETIREMENTS

It is always with mixed emotions that we say farewell to a treasured staff member upon their retirement. This year we are saying farewell to four of our highly valued teaching staff. Mrs Robertson, Mrs Hunter, Mr Noble and Mrs Umback will all sail off into the retirement sunset next week.

Mrs Robertson and Mrs Hunter have worked with us here at Norths for many years. Mrs Robertson has been instrumental in setting up our strong Learning and Support Team that is now the model of exceptional practice. Mrs Hunter has worked in the area of learning and support for many years as well and together both ladies have positively impacted on countless students and their families. Both have been mentors that we will continue to look up to and we will forever strive to reach the heights of their success. Mr Noble and Mrs Umback have worked with us for the past few years and have also made an incredible difference in the lives of our students.

We thank each of you for dedicating your lives to the students of NSW. Together you have shaped the minds of thousands of students, believed in them and given them wings. The walls of our school will forever feel a little emptier. Remember the past with fondness; look forward to the future with eagerness; live each moment to the fullest. Enjoy retirement, we will miss you!

## SCHOOL REPORTS

On Monday your child will bring home their report for Semester 2. If you have any questions, please feel free to organise a time to talk to your child's teacher.

## HOLIDAY SECURITY

Please report any security issues during the holiday break to School Security on 1300 880 021.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

On behalf of the Norths staff, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday break. I hope you have time to enjoy each other's company and make wonderful memories together for your children to remember in the future. Thank you for your continued support of our wonderful school. It truly feels like the heart of our community and is a place for all to be extremely proud of. School resumes in 2019 for students in Years 1-6 on Wednesday 30 January. Kindergarten students will commence on Thursday 31 January.

*'Look for something positive in each day, even if some days you have to look a little harder.'*

*Mrs Parrello*

Principal

Across this year we have received many special sentiments and gifts from our community, acknowledging the level of care and commitment that is shown to our students and families. At St Marys North we continually strive to know, value and care for every student in our care. We truly value the way in which our community shows us that we are appreciated. Thank you to everyone who has taken even just the smallest moment in time to pass on their thanks to our staff.



## NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

The last day to purchase school uniforms for this year is next Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> December.

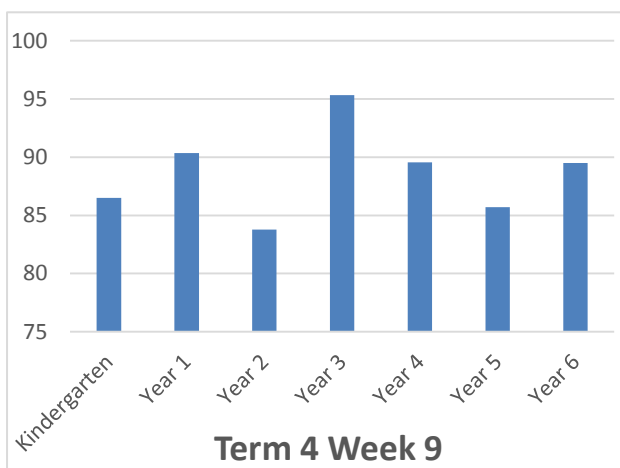
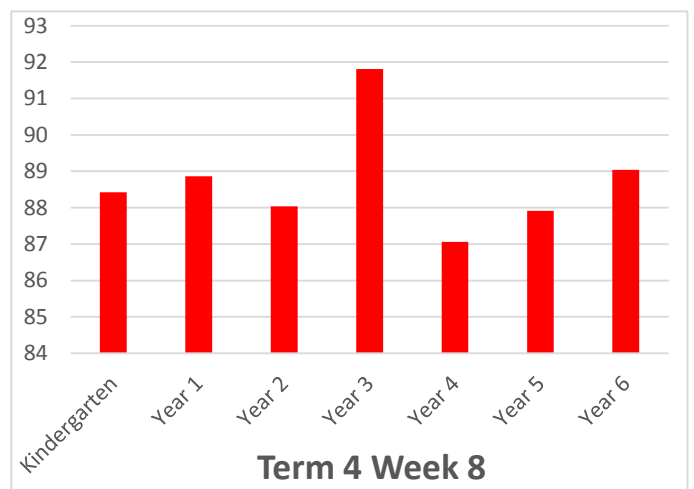
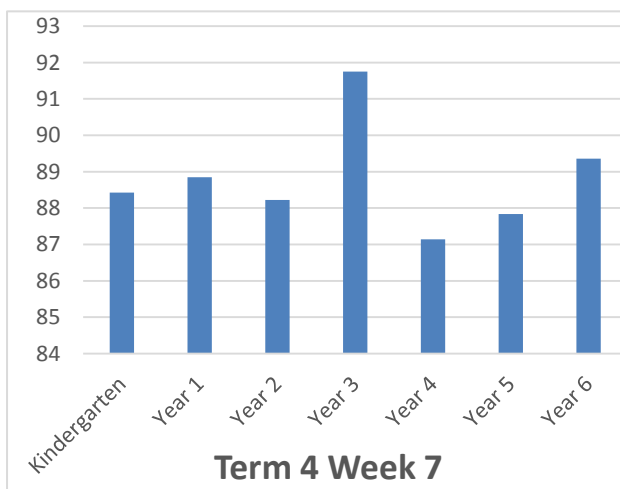
We would like to take the time to say thank you to the students, families and the community that have always treated us with kindness and respect across the year. Here at St Marys North they are values that we follow and also like to receive.

Mrs Coleman, Mrs Lapin, Mrs Greenow and I would like to wish you all a wonderful and safe school holiday break and we look forward to seeing you all in 2019.

Mrs Homfray

## WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – TERM 4

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	88.43	89.49	87.51	87.86	90.60	88.22	84.37	86.32	88.77	



Congratulations to the following classes for having the highest attendance rates over the last 3 weeks and for meeting our school target.

Week 7 – 3/4 Gum Blossom 93.9%

Week 8 – 3 Orchid 95.4%

Week 9 - 1 Blue Gum 95.8%

WEEK 7	Assembly Safe	Safe Stay in bounds	WEEK 8	Assembly Learner	Learner Ask for help
 K BLUEBELL	Sharnie Douglass	Eliye Lawson	 K BLUEBELL	Riley Irving	Mia Paul
 K DAISY	Kaelie Spier	Hayden Elphick	 K DAISY	Seon Singh	Charlotte Habib
 K COOLABAH	Wallace Cox	Olivejune Pologa	 K COOLABAH	Leihana Reuelu	Braithyn King
 1 GUMNUT	Shaelani Donovan	Xavier Tootoo	 1 GUMNUT	Ryan Croft	Annalise Nash
 1 PROTEA	Max Watters	Brendon Taylor	 1 PROTEA	Olivia Ritchie	Calay Blanchard
 1 BLUE GUM	Hemi Bonser	Ally Thompson	 1 BLUE GUM	Samuel Ankuma	Bailey Blewitt
 2 FRANGIPANI	Nevaeh Valasis-Ika	Jayden Watson	 2 FRANGIPANI	Ruby Beck	Logan Hayes
 2 WARATAH	Omar Abdul-Rehman	Lydia Allanson	 2 WARATAH	Isabella Brown	Britney Jones
 2 GREVILLEA	Caleb Temenczko	Alicia Soltani	 2 GREVILLEA	Cayden Duffy	Sanvi Sahdev
 3 LILLY PILLY	Miley Alderton	Saimone Taufa	 3 LILLY PILLY	Lucas Foxely	Gordon Vaa
 3 ORCHID	Oceana Kemara	Kye Davis	 3 ORCHID	Natasha King	Jeremy Weidig
 3-4 GUM BLOSSOM	Aveai Pologa	Lucas McAlister	 3-4 GUM BLOSSOM	Connor Knibbs	Abubakar Abdul
 4 JACARANDA	Marina Holden	Elijah Eagleton	 4 JACARANDA	Yvonne Haumani	Riley Duffy
 4 BANKSIA	Reupena Reuela	Imogen Page	 4 BANKSIA	Chloe Rewi	Saige Spaulding
 5 ACACIA	Natarlia Young	Kamil Knibbs	 5 ACACIA	Kiah Mathieson	Kurt Alderton
 5 KANGAROO PAW	Isabelle Mills	Dakota Kemara	 5 KANGAROO PAW	Senila Kalolo	Brooke Jackson
 6 JARRAH	Trump Thornton-Finn	Tyson Mack	 6 JARRAH	Emillia Cartwright	Shaylee Blanchard
 6 EUCALYPTUS	Kaylah Robertson	Kyesha Hutchinson	 6 EUCALYPTUS	Harly Tobin	Jordyn Duffy

WEEK 9	Respectful	Putting Rubbish in the bin	WEEK 10	Respectful	Safe Wearing a school hat
 K BLUEBELL	Jayden Denner	Levi Shield	 K BLUEBELL	Sam Enriquez	Ruby Collins
 K DAISY	Mia Sheild	Wyatt Vaughn	 K DAISY	Brooklynn McLean	Ace Sivanila
 K COOLABAH	Reed Gadd	Ainslee Grisedale	 K COOLABAH	Jacinta Whyte	James Weterings
 1 GUMNUT	Sandar Tun	Noah Armodoros	 1 GUMNUT	Leah Hyde	Lachlan Martin
 1 PROTEA	Faith Stacy	Charnelle Miller	 1 PROTEA	Malakie Pampling	Caleb Bater
 1 BLUE GUM	Blair Grisedale	Emily Kutasi	 1 BLUE GUM	Meliya Ford	Wyatt Fry
 2 FRANGIPANI	Jayleese Sivanila	Ryder Hanslow	 2 FRANGIPANI	Owen Monares	Teloha Toloa
 2 WARATAH	Lote Makasini	Tyler Shields	 2 WARATAH	Kevin O'Neill	Lucas Hepenstall
 2 GREVILLEA	Belinda Taylor	Jakin Reuelu	 2 GREVILLEA	Allyse Mallitt MacDougall	Taylor Shuttleworth
 3 LILLY PILLY	Teeara Russell	Angelika Howes	 3 LILLY PILLY	Bryanna Walsh	Elijah Molloy
 3 ORCHID	Oceana Kemara	Akuila Namoli	 3 ORCHID	Leo Bonser	Casey Kay
 3-4 GUM BLOSSOM	Olivia Koprovic	Talisha Basiuk	 3-4 GUM BLOSSOM	Manamo'ui Ikamanu	Jack Gullo
 4 JACARANDA	Ethan Brown	Janaali Skinner	 4 JACARANDA	Lianna Haynes	Isaiah O'Brien
 4 BANKSIA	Tyler Price	Lachlain Moore	 4 BANKSIA	Azaria Siafolau	Tyler Bater
 5 ACACIA	Aleisha Hammond	Joey Nader	 5 ACACIA	Mickaylah Holden	Poppi Sharpe
 5 KANGAROO PAW	Bailey Hepenstall	Michaela Armodoros	 5 KANGAROO PAW	Isabella Tabone	Jermaine Marshall-Taylor
 6 JARRAH	Alana Elphick	Monique Rose-Saunders	 6 JARRAH	Tahlia Miller	Kayleigh Collins
 6 EUCALYPTUS	Jasmine Borg	Jack Alderton	 6 EUCALYPTUS	Trike Thornton-Finn	Tatiana Rewi



# *Principal's Awards*



Angelique Watters

Tiahna Ritchie

Kiera Dunn

Tyson Mack

Aaliyah Siafolau

Bellah Cook

Azaria Siafolau

Chloe Rewi

# *Congratulations*

***Banner of Excellence***

Kiera Dunn

Bellah Cook



# We're Kicking Our Goals!

Well done to the following amazing students who have been kicking their learning goals. We continue to be so impressed by the drive and grit shown by our students as they persevere with their learning.



Congratulations to:

K Daisy – Arizona and Charlotte.

2 Frangipani – EJ, Sione, Cooper, Neveah, Jayleese and Malakii.

2 Waratah – Britney and Omar

3 Lilly Pilly – Lincoln, Simone and Annabella.

3 Orchid – Jason, Taylan, Leo, Elizabeth, Elijah, Kye, Kayla, Janitta, Aiden, Koby, Cailin, Amelia, Casey, Oceana, Natasha, Kevin, Akuila, Lochlan, Jai, Ajay, Matilda and Jeremy.

5 Kangaroo Paw – Lucy, Zoe-Jane, Isabelle and Daniella.





# Learning with the Kindergarten Bluebells

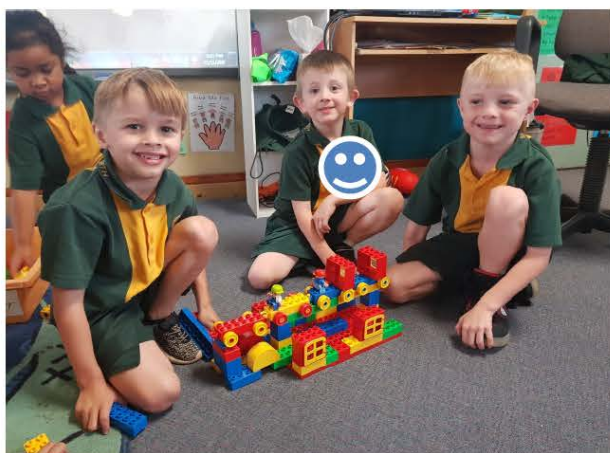
KB have been working hard in science, investigating a range of different materials that are best suited for 'A Bush Adventure'.



Which bag will keep our food fresh on our bush adventure? A plastic zip lock bag or a paper bag?



Uh oh! There is a river. How are we going to get across?



First we discussed what materials we would need to build a bridge. Then we drew a picture of our design and labelled it. Next we built our designs and decided whether or not they would work.



## PARKLAWN PLACEMAKERS

This term, a group of Year 5 students have been working with Penrith City Council and local community members on a project that will provide a much-needed upgrade to the Parklawn Place shops.

Aleisha, Vanessa, Brooke, Archie, Marcus, Naomi, Bellah and Bryce have been developing new skills in communication, teamwork, decision-making and leadership, and are excited to be involved in the contributions they are making to this initiative.

Early next year in 2019, these students will continue their work and we can all look forward to seeing the changes that will be made to our local shops.





## GUMNUTS RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION:

### SHOULD ALL CHILDREN LEARN TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT AT SCHOOL?



All children should play an instrument. My first reason is that it makes beautiful music and it makes me feel good. My second reason is that when you are little you like it and when are doing it every day you will love it and you learn how to practice. My third reason is you learn to learn by playing. Everyone should play an instrument.

**Annalise**

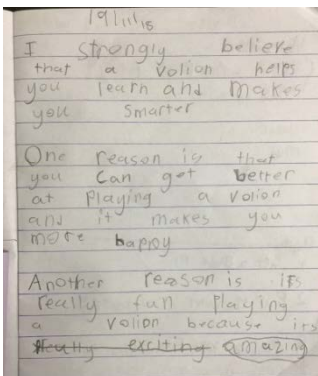
All children should play an instrument at school. Children can impress their teachers so they get better at music. The children should get really good because it happens every day. They will become really good players.

**Ryan**



All children should play an instrument at school. My first reason is you learn how to practise an instrument and it makes beautiful music. When children play beautiful music it makes them feel happy.

**Nara**



I strongly believe that a violin helps you learn and makes you smarter.

One reason is that you can get better at playing a violin and it makes you more happy.

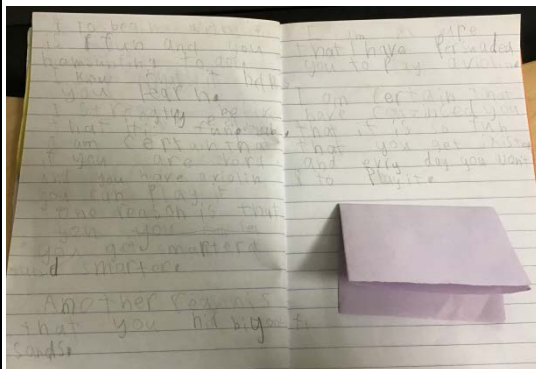
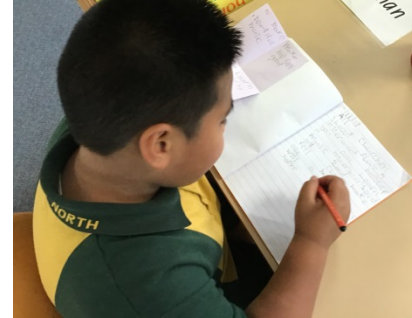
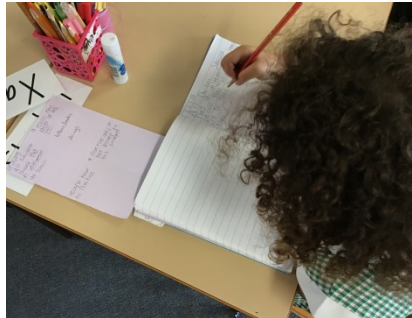
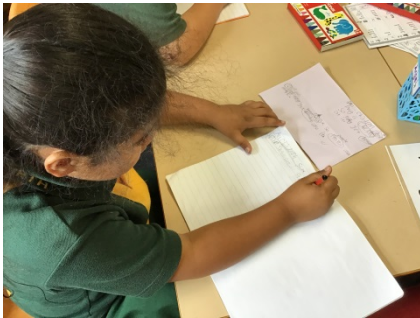
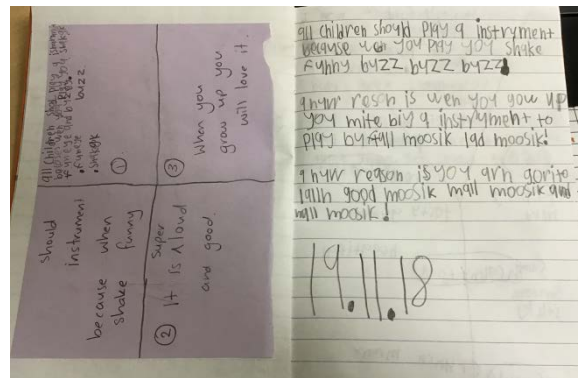
Another reason is it is really fun playing a violin because it's ~~really exciting~~ amazing.

**Sandar**



All children should play an instrument because when you play your body shakes funny and buzz, buzz, buzz. Another reason is when you grow up you might buy an instrument to play beautiful music, loud music! Another reason is you are going to learn good music and make more and more music!

**Jayce**



To begin with it is fun and you have something to do. I know that it helps you learn. I strongly believe that is enjoyable. I am certain that if you are bored and you have a violin and you can play it. One reason is that you get smarter and smarter. Another reason is that you hear beautiful sounds. I am sure that I have persuaded you to play a violin.

I am certain that I have convinced you that it is so fun that you get excited and every day you will want to play it.

**Noah**

**Gumnuts sharing with their parents 'why they like playing an instrument' and explaining how to play the violin.**





## ACO FUNDRAISER EVENT

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of November, Year One Gumnuts set off straight after school with their families to Carriageworks to rehearse and perform with the inspiring Richard Tognetti and the other remarkable ACO musicians, at an ACO Fundraiser event. The anticipation of playing on stage and the actual performance of 'The Hall for the Mountain King' was just mesmerizing. Our patient parents sat upstairs in a special designated viewing area waiting to see the performance. Mrs Parrello, Mrs Du-Ross Smith, Mrs Firth, Miss Dingwall, Ms Strasser and myself scattered from the sideline watching eagerly.

...And then the magic happened, our performing Gumnuts joined in and played with the ACO musicians with enthusiasm. I just didn't want it to end. My heart raced quietly like the massorati waiting for its new owner - overwhelmed with joy! An explosion of applause, hearty 'thank yous', impressive flowers received and good cheer that echoed not only backstage but all the way back to school. It was an amazing way to bring closure to a year of hard work, where students demonstrated stillness and embraced challenges that come with learning with wonder. Thank you Gumnuts, parents and Mrs Parrello for embracing the joy of learning through music. It has been an amazing adventure for us all.





## MUSIC AT ST MARYS NORTH PS

We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to pilot the ACO music program. Watching our students perform on stage with the finest musicians in Australia was a very proud moment for our school community.



Mrs Tara Smith from the ACO foundation said she was absolutely AMAZED at how well the students did. They were well prepared – they nailed the music – and the focus they showed on stage once the music started was incredible. She had never seen it, especially in students so young, and is testament to all the teachers' hard work on stillness, and to the strengths of this program. The ACO Musicians were also incredibly impressed.



Mrs Liz Strasser said that she has been involved with performances with children for well over thirty years and has experienced the full gamut of how children respond in performance. The Gumnuts and the Yr 4/5 students excelled in their performance in the way they became fully immersed 'in the zone' of their music. As a performer herself, she knows how hard it is to enter the zone and stay in it. When she thinks of what the children achieved, she says 'bravi!' and feels privileged to have witnessed their development.



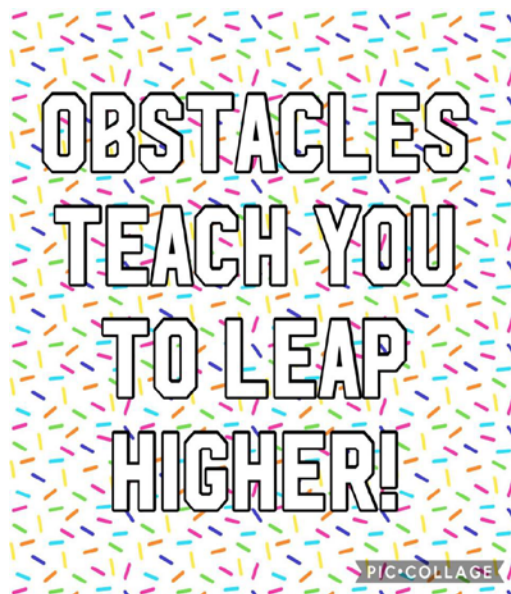
Mrs Fran Firth said the students were awesome in their performance by anyone's standards! Well behaved, joyful, masterful and in control of their often emotions and behaviour. She said it has been an amazing year working with the school community, and watching the Gumnuts blossom! She is very proud of all of the strings students.



This week we said thank you to Mrs Liz Strasser for teaching our students and overseeing the music program. We also said a very big thank you to Mrs Fran Firth for developing the program and teaching our students with Miss Carina Dingwall. Watching the development of our little musicians over the year has been truly amazing. From the staff, students and parents at St Marys North, we would like to say THANK YOU!



Our growth mindset quote this fortnight is...



Please talk with your children about how they can use this mindset in their learning every day at school.



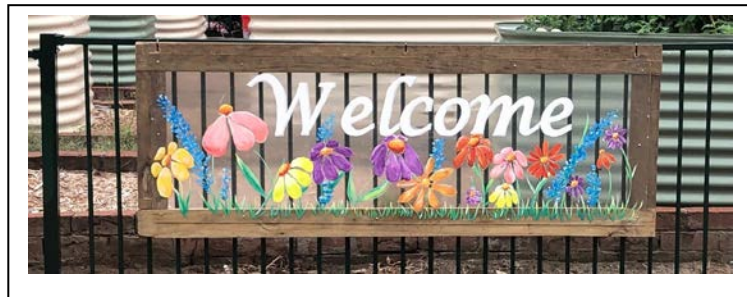
## GARDEN UPDATE

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December we were very fortunate to have United Way and a number of volunteers from Wilson Asset Management come and give up their time to work in our school's vegetable garden. Wonderful things happened on the day. Vertical gardens went up and seats for an outdoor learning area in the garden were put in. You may also notice we have a 'Welcome' sign up now. Mrs Nolan painted the sign and our volunteers framed it and hung in on the garden fence.

Late last term we also received from Penrith City Council two **wicking beds** that were at North St Marys shops and our hard working volunteers set them up opposite our garden and planted them out with herbs, marigolds and lavender.

It is wonderful to have community members come and give of their time and resources to help with school projects that in turn helps our students. Thank you so much, our garden looks great!

2019 is looking very bright for the school's vegetable garden.



## CAPTAIN AND COUNCILLOR ELECTION ASSEMBLY

On Monday, our Year 5 students proudly stood in front of the entire school to declare why they deserved to be St Marys Norths next Captain or Councillor in 2019. All students K-5 voted and results have been tallied. We are now all waiting with growing anticipation for the big announcement on Presentation Day. Good luck to all our nominees!

It is important to note that this year, like in previous years, due to the disproportionate number of boys to girls in this grade, the final number of students elected as Captains or Councillors in 2019, will not be an equal boy / girl split.



## NORTHS SUPERSTARS

Check out these superstars. Chloe, who cheers for Liberty Allstars, recently competed in the AASCF National Cheerleading Championships at the Gold Coast. Her team 'Glitter' competed against 9 teams and came first, making them National Champions. Just recently, Jordyn was selected for the U13 Penrith Panther Cub Squad. Over the year, selectors have been watching Jordyn play and were clearly impressed with what they saw. He is attending training sessions and final selections will be made early next year. We wish to congratulate Jordyn and Chloe on their fabulous achievements. We are so proud of you both.

