A WORD FROM THE RELIEVING PRINCIPAL

“Persistence and patience have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish”.  
John Quincy Adams

Our classrooms are continually being energized into vibrant places of learning.

School routines, rather than holiday ones, are set in our classrooms and our students are settling into these well, now. I have noticed that we have some great carers, mums and dads who are assisting their children’s learning by helping in the classroom. When you are able to do this, you are showing your children that you value education and that their learning is important. If you would

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<td>Red day at the canteen.</td>
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like to offer your assistance at any time during the
day please contact the teacher to discuss how to
best meet the classroom's needs. I understand, of
course, that not everyone can help out in the day
or at a regular timeslot due to family and/or work
commitments. Any offer at any time will be
gratefully received by our teachers, I'm sure.

Road Safety around Metford PS:
It has come to our notice that there have been
some risky behaviours in crossing the roads to
come into our school. Please ensure that your
children use the manned crossing on Chelmsford
Drive and the marked crossing out in front of the
school at Melaleuca Drive. A family reminder of
where, when and how to cross roads, would be
very much appreciated. We would hate to have
something terrible happen on the way to school.

Raising 21st Century Kids:
I have decided to attach to our newsletters some
parenting information which you may find useful.
This information is from the well-respected
parenting educator, Michael Grosse. Michael has
been helping people raise, teach and work with
younger generations for over 20 years. Parenting
is not easy and many people struggle to balance
work and family and wish they could do a better
job. Hopefully, these attachments will help you
and give you more confidence. The first is on
teaching children to persist, a very necessary skill
in our world today.

Swimming Success:
Congratulations to all our students who
participated in our carnival last week. You
represented our school, your sports house, your
family and yourself very well indeed. Please read
the report in our newsletter for more detailed
information.

P and C Meeting news:
It was very good to meet some new faces at this
important meeting last Wednesday evening.
Metford PS Parents and Citizens Association is a
very important link in the chain to assist our
students to be the best they can be. This
important fundraising arm has some good ideas to
support our school to be better resourced. Please
look out for more information on their activities
and support them when and where you can. It will
be greatly appreciated.

Regards
Cathy Watt
Principal

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL SPORT
AFL is unfortunately unable to commence this
week, but hopefully will commence next
Wednesday 27th February. However Cross Fit
will commence on schedule this Friday 22nd
February.

SCHOOL FEES
School Fees are now due to be paid. The cost of
General Contribution is $26 for the first child $19
for second. If you have 3 or more children, $45
total for family. There is also a paper levy of $10
per student due and payable. Please note that if
you have purchased a book pack from the P & C,
the paper levy is waived. We would appreciate
your promptness in attending to payment of these
fees.

CHANGED DETAILS
Do you have a new phone number or
moved over the holidays? If so, please
let the office know of these details ASAP so that
we can update your child’s details in case we
need to contact you in the case of an emergency.

P & C NEWS
P & C AGM will be held on Wednesday 13 March,
2013 at 6pm. All positions are open for election. All
new members welcome.

Donations are needed for Mother’s Day stall and
Easter raffle. Please bring any donations to the
office.

Crazy Hair Day will be held on 15 March. Please
provide a gold coin donation. All monies raised will
be donated to the Leukaemia Foundation. This will
also be a red day in the canteen.

Day Support meeting will be held on Monday 25
February at 9am in Mrs Zoneff’s room.

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER
The next newsletter will be 4th March 2013.
Newsletters will now be sent home on Tuesday. If
you would prefer to have the newsletter emailed to
you, please return the slip below. We can’t, however
send them to Hotmail or Live email addresses.

Student’s name: ........................................................
Email address: ....................................................
Raising 21st Century Kids

Teach children to persist
Michael Grose

The ability to persist at a task and see it through to the end is one of the most important success skills that you can teach a child.

There are numerous times every day when children must persist rather than give in. A toddler learning to tie shoelaces must persist. A primary aged student must show determination to finish tasks and a secondary student needs to work through difficulties, particularly those he doesn’t understand or complete right away.

They need to be able to persist when work gets hard or life gets tough. They need the “stickability” to work through difficulties and hang in there when things don’t go their way.

Some children are more naturally predisposed to persist than others. They have a determined, even competitive streak in their temperament that doesn’t allow them to give in. These children and young people can drive themselves very hard to succeed.

Parents and teachers can develop persistence in children. Research suggests that persistence is a temperament factor that can be improved over time.

Just as adults can promote persistence they can also impede its development by making life too easy for children so that they don’t have opportunities to persist or hang in there.

Parents who allow children to stop work when it gets too hard, stay home from school for a minor reason or give up on a sport because they are not succeeding straight away are not doing their children any favours. They are depriving children of opportunities to develop persistence.

Parents can promote persistence by encouraging their children to keep going and not give in at the slightest hurdle or difficulty.

Parents can be a sounding board for children’s gripes but they should show confidence in their ability to cope and get through their difficulties. “You can do it!” is far more powerful in terms of promoting an attitude of persistence than “If it is a little too hard then try something else.”

Let children know that there is a correlation between effort and success. In fact, they need to learn that by giving effort they will more likely experience more success.

The ability to persist in the face of difficulties maybe an old-fashioned quality but it is one of the best success attributes that children will ever develop.

Try This . . .
PERSISTING IT INTO PRACTICE
To promote persistence in your children try the following four strategies:

1. Develop a vocabulary for persistence. Terms like Hang Tough, Work Hard and Hang In There need to be part of their every day vocabulary.

2. Point out to children when they stick at a task. Let them see when they have been persistent and that persistence generally pays off.

3. Help children to remember times when they experienced success by HANGING IN when they were younger.

4. Talk about HARD WORK with your children. They need to understand that to be successful they need to do things that are NOT fun or easy. While it would be good if all work and learning was fun, in reality, this is not always the case.

What’s your child like?

How persistent is your child?

DOES HE
1. Stick at a task until it is completed, no matter what? Yes 2 No 0
2. Become easily distracted by others when he has a task to complete? Yes 0 No 2
3. Complete lengthy assignments on time? Yes 2 No 0
4. Make excuses for difficult situations rather than face challenges? Yes 0 No 2
5. Never give in when playing a game or sport? Yes 0 No 2

SCORE:
10: A tough type. You have a terrier on your hands. Can be hard on himself.
6-8: Hangs in there. Maybe he has a balanced attitude.
0-4: Gives in easily. Needs to be reminded to hang in there.

Action Plan

First Step . . .

Next Step . . .

For more ideas about promoting persistence in children visit www.parentingideas.com.au

Quote

‘Persistence and patience have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.’
John Quincy Adams

parentingideas.com.au

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TEACHING AND LEARNING TEAM
We are fortunate to be able to establish a Teaching and Learning Team – T&L Team in 2013. Our team consists of 4 teachers; Christine Attard (Assistant Principal T&L), Natalie Davis (Learning and Support Teacher – LaST), Kerry Spohr (Teacher – literacy support) and Teagan Pilgram (Teacher – literacy support).

Over the past two weeks the T&L Team have been busy supporting all Stage One – Stage Three teachers by assisting them to assess all students to identify individual reading ages in years 2 -6. This information is gathered at the beginning of every school year as well as throughout the year to measure and monitor student progress.

During the term the T&L Team will continue to support teachers in implementing literacy programs during morning learning sessions, and deliver Individual Education Programs (IEPs developed in conjunction with class teachers) to students who have been identified as requiring additional support via the school Learning and Support Team process, during the middle session of the school day.

We are pleased to support our colleagues to ensure that our students receive the best possible teaching and learning opportunities and outcomes.

AP T&L
Mrs Christine Attard

ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES DURING LUNCH AND RECESS

BREAKS

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<td>Recess</td>
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During lunch and recess breaks we offer a few alternate venues for students to enjoy structured activities, such as supervised games in the library or a chance to create a beautiful colouring page or a special piece of craft work to take home. As well, there is always the opportunity to concentrate on reading your favourite novel or find an interesting book in the library.

The Colouring Club is newly established this year and we are very thankful to Mrs Schulla for offering her time to supervise the CC Club and to Mrs Van DerVoort for managing the resources and also offering her time to supervise, and to Mrs Donaldson and Mrs Watt for donating resources.

CC Club Co-ordinator
Mrs Christine Attard
COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER’S NEWS
Hello everyone! It has been a busy start to the year but it appears everyone has settled nicely into their routines. TAFE Outreach courses are still available in Computers, Café Operation and Animal Care. These courses are FREE and you are welcome to contact me for further information or phone TAFE directly on 49 360382. In the next edition of the newsletter we are hoping to distribute a survey which will help us to understand what needs our parents and carers require we can plan workshops, or information sessions to build on the skills you already have. Look out for this in Week 6.

Our PLP (Personalised Learning Plan) invitations are going out for our meeting with students and families on Tuesday 5th March (Week 6) in the Library. Please advise us as soon as possible of your attendance.

In each newsletter we will include a “snipit” of what each class is currently working on. This gives parents and carers and idea of what their child is doing and gives you the opportunity to talk to them about it.

Have a great week.
Kind Regards
Katherine Barr CLO

CLASSROOM BLURB
KO –Ms Owen
KO will be very busy doing L3 with Ms Owen on Mon-Wed. The students will be working at the “Engine Room” and doing guided reading, guided writing, interactive writing and reading lots of rich and interesting books. On Thursday’s and Friday’s KO will be looking at number concepts with Miss Pitkin, as well as technology and PE.

KP-Mrs Power
We are reading stories about dogs. Reading and writing groups are progressing well with fantastic results. We are also talking about our best friend and what makes a good friend. Every day we are practising our counting.

S10-Mrs O’Neile
We are looking at Mini Beasts and are investigating the life cycle of moths and butterflies. We are planning a playground exploration to see what we can find. We are making basic graphs using information we have collected. Our Reading Groups are going well.

S1P- Mr Peterson
S1P are also looking at Mini Beast and investigating characteristics of Australian Spiders!!! We are also working on our addition and subtraction.

S1F – Ms Freund
This week our theme is “The Jungle” looking at the animals that live there. Children are involved in morning literacy groups, and we are collecting data and making graphs.

S1/2K - Ms Crouch
S1/2B – Mr Bruce
We are reading the story “Are We There Yet?” and learning about landmarks and Australian States & Territories as well as the Great Barrier Reef. We continue developing our strategies for addition and have a focus on persuasive writing which helps us be prepared for NAPLAN in Term 2.

S2/3N- Mrs Newell
S2/3K – Mrs Kelleher
We are reading “The Kitdrider” by Geraldine McCaughrean which is set in China in the 1800’s. We will look at the culture and traditions of the Chinese people in this era. Our project will be making a kite!

S3S – Mrs Schulha
S3M – Mrs Morrissey
We are currently studying the novel “The Cay” by Theodore Taylor. This novel is about survival on a deserted island. Phillip becomes blind after his boat is torpedoed during WW2. We are also looking at “identity” as COGS unit, looking at Multiculturalism and where our ancestors came from. S3M are studying graphs and are graphing for the next 2 weeks. S3S Reading Groups run Mon-Fri from 9-9.30am and Mrs Schulha has RFF time is Monday’s 12.30- 2.45pm and Library is Tuesday’s 12.30 – 1.30pm. S3M – Mrs Morrissey has RFF time on Tues 12.30-1.30pm and Wed 10- 11am.

RFF with Mrs Zoneff
We are doing some very exciting Art and would appreciate donations of used wrapping paper, empty and clean baby food jars or jam jars with LIDS please. Thank you!
Changes to Parenting Payments from January 2013

From 1 January 2013, you will no longer be eligible for Parenting Payments if your youngest child is over:

- Six years of age (for Parenting Payment - Partnered)
- Eight years of age (for Parenting Payment - Single).

To continue receiving income support, you will be required to complete 30 hours per fortnight of paid work, training or study.

Jobfind is here to help ease the transition with our range of no-cost employment and training services, access to day care, and more.

Find out more at our information session: 15th March
Tenambit Public School - 9.30a.m

1300 360 562
Cessnock, Dungog, Kurri Kurri, Maitland
www.jobfindcentre.com.au
Annual Swimming Carnival

Our Annual Swimming Carnival was held on a fine sunny day at Maitland Pool last Wednesday 13th February, with great success. This was an outstanding day of participation and competitive house spirit.

This year the four houses competing against each other in earnest for prestigious house glory and the fierce, but friendly rivalry, was evident. This was borne out by the amazing contribution of house points scored by the children of each house just by entering and completing races!

The all important point score and Champion House for the day went to Phillip House scoring a humbling 183 points to defeat the other three houses on the day. The other three houses were simply outclassed, but not from the lack of trying, to record 162 (Tasman), 138 (Cook) and 137 (Flinders).

Champion Swimmers for the day were as follows :-

Junior Girl Mia Tompsett and Karisma Robinson
Junior Boy Benjamin Creber
11 Yrs Girl Tara Vanzanden
11 Yrs Boy Dylan Tompsett and Cody Baxter
Senior Girl Shanice Saulo
Senior Boys Thomas Glover

Congratulations to these children on their wonderful achievements. However, I would also like to congratulate all of those children who competed in races and made the abovementioned people earn their points and places and ultimately their major awards.

A sincere thank you goes to teachers and parents (Danielle Peterson, Carleen Corrie, Kylie Saxby, Carolyn Owen, Joe and Dale Gregory, Jodie Webb, Hazel and Paul Young, Teresa Carlson, Mellissa Mullaly, Jodette Clark and Andrew Newell) for their invaluable assistance and supervision throughout the day. Without you volunteering these days cannot held and would not have been such a big success.

The Zone Swimming Carnival will be staged at Maitland Swimming Pool on Wednesday 27th February 2013. It will be only for children who meet the Zone qualifying times. Details and permission notes will be sent out this week.

Mrs S. Newell
Sports Coordinator
**METFORD MUNCHIES NEWSLETTER**

**Canteen Rosters Term 1 Weeks 4 and 5**

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<th>Week 4</th>
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**P & C SAUSAGE & STEAKETTE SANDWICH SIZZLE**

On Friday 1st March the P & C are holding a sausage & steakette sandwich for our students at lunch. Please complete the early order form and hand in to the canteen by Thursday 28th.

**P & C SAUSAGE & STEAKETTE SANDWICH**

Friday 1st March 2013

Name: .................................................. Class: .....................

__________ Sausage sandwiches @ $2 each $..........................

__________ Steakette sandwiches @ $3 each $.........................

Total $______________