A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Sensational Swimmers:
Our swimming carnival was a fantastic success last Wednesday, with all the students who attended, participating in novelty events and/or competitive races throughout the day. Our swimming lesson program last year must have been effective as so many more students raced their way to the end of the pool and did not give up. This was noticed by parents, students and teachers. CONGRATULATIONS to everyone who assisted in making this day such a success. We appreciate your time and efforts in ensuring that everyone who participated enjoyed themselves and came away from the pool feeling more confident and happy with their own accomplishments. We were given many compliments for the way our students behaved, their sportsmanship, participation and the care they took for the pool environment.

Sports Assembly:  
Our first Sports Assembly will be held this Wednesday and will focus on our swimming carnival. Please join us at 1:30pm and celebrate with our students.

PARKING:  
Our car parks are for staff vehicles and staff only. The top car park is used by Hunter River Community School staff to ensure that there is the maximum number of car parks on the street available for student drop offs.

As some adults are not taking any notice of the signage in place and not complying with this safety rule, I will be closing the car park gates at 8:35am and they won’t be opened until 3:00pm. This is to prevent an accident involving vehicles, adults and children. There is an extremely high risk of this happening and I am not prepared to take this risk.

Please use the pedestrian exits on Melaleuca Drive and Schanck Drive via the concrete paths to exit our school. Our students know the out of bound areas in our school and adults asking them to use these areas to exit are asking them to break the school rules. This puts our students in a very compromising position. I thank you for your cooperation in this very important safety issue in our school.

High School Transition:  
This week our transition program with Maitland High School begins with the Principal, Mr Weston and some MHS student representatives visiting our school to introduce themselves and inform our year 6 students of the program that will help them be supported in their time at high school. This is the first of many activities that are planned for them. A timetable of information will be distributed soon so that families can put dates on their calendars and be informed of this program.

We welcome, Mrs Cheree O’Nielle to our school. She is the transition teacher for Maitland High School and one of her roles is to assist our Maitland Learning Community primary students make the best transition to high school learning as possible. Mrs O’Neill will be working at MPS on Tuesdays. I am sure that she has had a big influence on the positive transition that last year’s Year 6 students have made to high school this year.

Regards
Cathy Watt
Principal

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

General Contribution:  
This year the school purchased all the stationary goods that students needed to start their schooling for 2014. At this time of year it was a great saving for all our families. The School General Contribution for 2014 has been set as: $25 for the first child and $20 for the second child a maximum of $45 per family will be charged.
General Contribution is a voluntary fee, however it is greatly appreciated and it is used for resources to benefit your child’s schooling. The General Contribution can be paid at the school office by cash, cheque or EFTPOS.

Office Closed: The school office will be closed every Friday morning until 8.45 am due to staff meetings.

Updating details: If you have had any changes to your phone number, address, student medical conditions or emergency contacts please contact the office so we can update your child’s details. We would also like you to provide us with your email address if you wish to have the newsletter emailed to you.

CLASS 5/6 NEWS
Class 5/6S have been enjoying getting to know one another. We have discovered lots of interesting things, for example: what sports students play outside of school, how many brothers and sisters we each have, some boys are learning to play the didgeridoo and most importantly the variety of countries that our families originated from. We have 18 different countries that our families travelled from to eventually settle in Australia. This is amazing; we are a truly multicultural class. Our novel text, “Hatchet” by Gary Paulsen is proving to be very interesting as are our Human Body science lessons. Students have enjoyed learning about how many bones are contained in our bodies (206, over 300 when babies are first born). We are looking closely at the backbone and head bones this week.

We have also celebrated the Setsubun Festival on the 3rd of February. It is a Japanese ceremony that is supposed to bring good fortune to our classroom. From the enthusiasm shown by our class members we are in for a lot of good fortune this year. Some of our masks are on display in the front foyer.

Our writing has been focussed on Australia Day and our play, which we are eager to show off at assembly in week 5. All parents are welcome to come along and see a play written, produced, performed and directed by the students of our class. We have some wonderful comedians in our class and they provide plenty of laughs. The students have been committed to their homework and I am sure that most families have enjoyed the necessary “home service” of extra jobs being done.

MESSAGE STICK
Last Thursday marked the fifth anniversary of ex-prime minister Kevin Rudd’s Apology to the Aboriginal people of Australia. The apology was specifically aimed at the many thousands of children who were forcibly removed from their families – known as ‘The Stolen Generation’. We commemorated the occasion with an assembly run by our Aboriginal Student Representatives Marlie Hunt and Emma Merritt. They were joined by other senior Aboriginal students who shared what the Stolen Generation and subsequent Apology meant to them and their families. I was extremely proud of the students involved.

Don’t forget this Thursday is our PLP afternoon. Parents and caregivers will have the opportunity to meet with their children’s teacher to set achievable goals for the year. With approximately 35 Aboriginal families now attending Metford it should shape up to be a big gathering. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.
MINDARIBBA ART COMPETITION
1st Place  Hazel Miller Metford Public School
2nd Place  Keara Ball Kurri Kurri Public School
3rd Place  Jada Ball Kurri Kurri Public School
4th Place  Neville Widders Francis Greenway High School
All 4 entries will be combined and used as the banner for the Mindaribba Elders at the Elders Olympics held in April at Kempsey

COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER'S NEWS
Hi Everyone. A reminder to families of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students that the PLP (Personalised Learning Plan) Afternoon Tea is on this Thursday 20th February in our Library at 3pm. Please advise the office if you can attend otherwise another suitable meeting time can be arranged.

TAFE OUTREACH – This FREE computer course will run in our computer lab possibly on Fridays but is yet to be confirmed, providing we have the numbers. If you are interested in building on your computer skills, making some new friends, having the confidence to help your child at home please leave your contact details at the office as soon as possible. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school and community and will run from around 9.30am to roughly 11.30am. Please note that this course is offered to everyone not just families whose children attend Metford Public. We hope to start this course in the next 1-2 weeks.

BREAKFAST CLUB – Starts back this week on Monday and Tuesday at this stage. We are desperately seeking more hands to help please. We greatly appreciate the help we are receiving from two of our Mum’s, and even if any of our Dad’s or Grandparents have a spare 45 minutes (8.15 to 9am) on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday we would sincerely appreciate it. All that’s required is preparing some fruit, cooking toast and serving cereal. Our students love Breakfast Club – please consider supporting this program and helping out. Thank you.
Have a great week. Katherine Barr.

_______________________________________________________________________________

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – TAFE OUTREACH COURSE
YES. I am interested in attending a FREE TAFE OUTREACH Course on Computer Applications in 2014.
NAME: ………………………………………………………………………
CONTACT NUMBER: …………………………………………………………. ……………………………
________________________________________________________________________________

BREAKFAST CLUB HELP NEEDED                      (Please Circle)
YES, I am able to help with Breakfast Club.            Monday 8.15-9.00
NAME:………………………………………………………………………
CONTACT NUMBER:…………………………………………………………
________________________________________________________________________________

Tuesday 8.15-9.00
Wednesday 8.15-9.00
### Canteen Roster Term Week 4 & 5

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk 4</th>
<th>17-2</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.30-12.00</td>
<td>Kathy, Melissa, Katrina</td>
<td>Kathy, Grant, Tamika</td>
<td>Kathy, Lynette, Mel, Manda</td>
<td>Kathy, Manda, Katrina, Tamika, <em>Principals Lunch</em></td>
<td>Kathy, April, Paul, Melanie</td>
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<td>1.00-2.30</td>
<td>Kathy, Hazel</td>
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<td>Wk 5</td>
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<td>Kathy, Manda, Katrina, Tamika, <em>Principal’s Lunch</em></td>
<td>Kathy, April, Paul, Angie</td>
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<td>Grant, Tamika</td>
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### TERM 1 - WEEK by WEEK CALENDAR

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<tr>
<th>2014 Term 1</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 17-21</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.30 Sports Assembly</td>
<td>PLP afternoontea in library 3-6pm</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2015 Yr 7 Info evening at MHS</td>
<td>Student banking each week</td>
<td>Cleanup Australia Day</td>
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<td>Feb 24-28</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
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<td>10-2.30 MLC Y6 Leadership Day</td>
<td>2015 Yr 7 Disco at MHS</td>
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<td>Mar 3-7</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 6 Gymnastics at MHS</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM 6pm</td>
<td>PSSA Soccer Zone Trials</td>
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<td>Mar 10-14</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
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<td>Yr 6 Gymnastics at MHS</td>
<td>K – 6 Cross Country</td>
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<td>Mar 17-21</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>Parent teacher interviews K-2</td>
<td>Yr 6 Gymnastics at MHS</td>
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<td>Mar 24-28</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>Zone Cross Country</td>
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<td>Mar 31- Apr 4</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
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<td>P &amp; C 6pm</td>
<td>P &amp; C Disco</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade Last day Term 1</td>
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<td>Apr 7-11</td>
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**We Want YOU!**

Volunteering at our school canteen is not a chore, it’s easy!
Your duties for the day will be:
* Making simple healthy canteen lunches for our fabulous students and staff.
* Meeting students at recess and lunch.
* Having a good laugh, lots of fun and a chat.
* Make the day even more fun and bring a friend or two.

Please contact Kathy on 0403 266 199 or fill in the slip below and send it back to school.
Thank you

I would love to volunteer to help in the school canteen.
Name ___________________ Phone ___________________
Days I am available ____________________________
SAFETY FOR OUR CHILDREN

Safety that we provide for our children needs to be taught and learned several ways:

**Travelling to school**
- Children 4 – 7yrs must be secured in forward facing restraint or booster seat
- Children 4 - 7yrs cannot travel in the front seat unless all other back seats are occupied by younger children
- NEVER leave a child of any age in a vehicle without adult supervision
- 0 – 6mths old children must be in approved rearward facing restraint
- 6mths – 4yrs children must be in approved rearward or forward facing restraint or booster seat.

**Walking to school**
- Children up to at least 8 yrs should hold an adult’s hand in the car park, on the footpath and when crossing the road. Between 8 and at least 10 yrs old should be supervised by an adult in the traffic environment and hold an adults hand when crossing the road
- Talk your children through the ‘STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK! routine every time you cross the road.  STOP – one step back from the kerb.  LOOK – for traffic to your right, left and right again.  LISTEN – for the sounds of approaching traffic.  THINK – whether it is safe to cross
- Talk to your children about safe behaviour on the footpath – it is not a safe place to play

**Parking safely near the school and avoid traffic congestion**
- Always obey parking signs as these signs help save children’s lives
- Always drop-off and pick-up your children in the designated area with care and courtesy
- Children should always get in and out of the car through the rear kerb side door or ‘safety door’
- If you cannot drop your children on the school side of the road, walk them safely across the road
- NEVER call to your children from across the road - they must wait for you to come to them
- Fines apply for parking or stopping on or near a pedestrian crossing, bus zone, driveways and double parking

**40km/hr in school zones – zones operate on all school days including pupil free days – 8-9.30am, 2.30-4pm**
- Always slow to 40km/hr when travelling in an operating school zone
- Dragon’s teeth road markings are near many school zones to indicate you are entering a school zone

**Safety around school buses**
- 40km/hr speed limit applies for all traffic travelling in both directions when passing a school bus that is picking up or setting down school children.  This applies whether the bus is stationary or moving
- 40km/hr must be obeyed when the rear ‘wig-wag’ lights flash on the bus
- Hold your child’s hand and walk to the bus stop in the morning, and remember to stand back from the kerb away from the passing traffic, signal the driver and wait till the bus has stopped for you
- Meet your child at the bus stop after school, do not wait across the road
- When getting off the bus, stand away from the kerb, wait on the footpath until the bus has driven away, then STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK!
- Until at least 10 yrs old, children have not developed the maturity required to cross the road safely without holding an adult’s hand

**Riding to school - wear a helmet**
- Check that your child wears a firmly buckled bicycle helmet when playing or riding bikes, foot scooters, roller skates, skateboards or rollerblades
- Although children learn quickly to pedal, steer and brake, they are not ready to ride with traffic on the road.  Children under twelve and those adults accompanying them may ride on the footpath, unless there are signs prohibiting cycling.  They must keep to the left of the footpath and give way to pedestrians, and take special care at driveways.  At intersections, they should dismount and walk the bicycle across the road as a pedestrian, following the ‘STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK!’ procedure
- Children must wear a helmet when riding a bike in any public place – it’s the law

**Safety around school crossings**
- At the crossing observe the directions of the school crossing supervisor
- These crossings are there for our children’s safety – use them
- When a crossing is unsupervised and the CHILDREN CROSSING flags are displayed, drivers must stop at the white line till he crossing is clear of pedestrians.  STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK! – and remember the drivers may not see you clearly, so don’t step onto the crossing until they have stopped
What to do if you are not there on time after school

✓ Talk with your children about what they should do if you are delayed and cannot meet them as usual

✓ Call the school in advance to pass on the new arrangements
✓ Discuss what they should do if they accidentally get the wrong bus or miss their regular bus stop

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10th February 2014
Dear Local Schools,

Below is an introduction to the Child Dental Benefits Schedule which started on 1st January 2014.

**Child Dental Benefits Schedule 2014 Introduction**

The Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) commenced on 1 January 2014 and will provide access to benefits for basic dental services to children aged 2-17 years. It will replace the existing Medicare Teen Dental Plan (MTDP) which was a prevention only scheme.

The total benefit entitlement will be capped at **$1,000 per child** over a two calendar year period. A Child’s eligibility for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule is assessed at the beginning of each year and requires receipt of Family Tax Benefit Part A (FTB-A) or a relevant Australian Government payment.

The CDBS will provide individual benefits for a range of services including examinations, x-rays, cleaning, fissure sealing, fillings, root canals and extractions. Benefits will not be available for orthodontic or cosmetic dental work and will not be paid for any services provided in a hospital.

All Hunter Dental Group practices will be accepting these vouchers and **Will FULLY BULK BILL to Medicare.**

This means as long as funds are available there will be **NO OUT OF POCKET EXPENSE.**

To make a booking please contact your local practice on:

**CESSNOCK 4990 1279**  **GREENHILLS 4934 7877**  **DUNGOG 4992 3366**

We hope that you could pass this information on to your parents and students.

Yours sincerely

Dr George Patience & Hunter Dental Group team.

www.hunterdentalgroup.com
TENDER FOR PRINTER

Tenders Close 3pm Friday 21ST February 2014
Please place tender in a sealed envelope.
Metford Public School
Melaleuca Drive, Metford NSW 2323
Ph: 49332655  Fax: 49332164
Email: metford-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

TYPE: Richoh Aficio GX3300N- colour printer
CONDITION: Still in box, never been used.

INSPECTION: School Hours: Contact Karen: 49332655

I /We................................. wish to offer $......................
Being the total amount for tender for the above item and declare that
I/We accept the item with all faults.
Monies shall be payable to Metford Public School within 7 days of
accepted tender.
Acceptance of tendered price is at the discretion of the Principal.

Tender’s Signature .................................

Principal’s Acceptance Signature .................................

Date .............................
SWIMMING CARNIVAL
First place goes to Metford Public School
Metford Public community comes together for a successful swimming carnival.
The talk on the playground has been positive about the recent swimming carnival held by Metford Public. Students should all be congratulated on their excellent behaviour at the pool, which was noticed by parents, teachers and pool staff.

First of all I would like to say a big thank you to all the parent helpers who came to the swimming carnival and also all the parents/caretakers for coming and supporting their sons/daughters. Secondly, I would like to thank all staff members (teachers/SLSOs) for all their positive work at the swimming carnival. Without positive school community commitment these days cannot happen.

It was great to see the huge number of students enjoying the day in races and novelty events. This year saw the return of novelty events and teachers, students and parents couldn’t have had more fun in the water if they tried. Big thanks to Mrs Kelleher and Ms Crouch for running the novelties all day.

Teachers and parents both noticed a huge improvement in swimming skills in students. In previous years a large amount of students weren’t even making it half way. This year saw most students swim the whole length of the pool. This amazing improvement is a reflection of the swimming scheme program that runs in term 4.

Mr Bruce