A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Last week went very quickly with all our exciting activities happening. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and friends who participated in our Harmony Day and Grandparents Day event last Wednesday. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces enjoying lunch together, sitting in our classrooms and participating in the learning that takes place in the 21st century classroom, supporting our Book Fair and acknowledging our students at the assembly. There was much joy and laughter throughout the day and I was proud once again to be a member of the Metford Public School community.

We had a surprise performance organised on Friday to promote an opportunity for our students to participate in drumming workshops. Col Hatchman, best known as drummer with the Screaming Jets, will be the tutor and he performed for us in our school hall. The excitement on our students’ faces during the performance was brilliant. They were bopping, clapping, dancing and thoroughly enjoying the experience as were the teachers and the parents who could hear what was happening and came in for a look see. We have quite a few very musical students who would love the opportunity to learn how to perform in a drumming group. All drum ‘instruments’ would be recycled containers, so no drum kits; they just need a set of drumsticks and to pay for this learning. An expression of interest form is available at the school office for parent completion. It would be hoped that if we had enough interest, the workshops would begin in Term 2. We are trying to get some corporate sponsorship to assist families with the cost, but at this stage have been unsuccessful. I will keep you posted, if this changes.

School Learning Times:
It has been very noticeable that many students are getting to school after the morning bell and missing out on the beginning of their learning day. It is crucial that all students participate in the setting up of the day’s activities. It is very disruptive for not only the late students but the teachers and the girls and boys who are on time and ready for learning. Please ensure that your child/children are at school by 8:55am each school day. Continual lateness is monitored and can involve the Department and Education and Communities’ Home School Liaison Officer if learning is being compromised by being late regularly. A phone call to the office is welcome if you are going to be late unexpectedly.

Thought for the Week:
Please take responsibility for the energy that you bring into this space.
Dr. Jill Bolte-Taylor
Enrolment Information Update:
Over the coming weeks, you will be requested to complete an update of information form. This is so that we have accurate information for your child/children’s safety and health but also to accurately reflect the necessary school funding that we receive. From 2014, schools are funded differently, reflecting our school community and the needs that we have to ensure that all students have the opportunity to achieve their optimal learning. Your information may have changed since you first completed an enrolment form for your child/children. This information is only used for school purposes and is crucial in obtaining the correct funding for our school and your child’s/children’s learning. Please return the form as soon as possible upon completing. If you are having trouble completing the form there will be someone to assist you in doing so. Please contact the office if you would like some help.
Regards
Cathy
Principal’s Lunch:
The focus for Week 8 was to show Commitment by displaying a willingness to learn. The focus for Week 9 will be to show Commitment by aiming for your personal best.
NEWS FROM 4N CLASSROOM

The students have been working on some scrap writing and maths puzzles. Here is a selection of their work.
CROSS COUNTRY RUN

Metford Public School needs your help to assist with the running of the Cross Country on Friday 28th March 2014.
The entire school will be participating in the event from 9:30am at Schanck Drive Oval.
Students will wear their house colours, which is the sports uniform and they require appropriate footwear for running (no spikes).

If you are able to assist on this day please leave your name at the front office, where there will be a book to enter your name.
There will be an information day on Thursday 27th in the hall at 11.30am – 11.45am to advise parents of their roles and responsibility for the cross-country run.

P & C NEWS

😊 The Easter Raffle will shortly begin, and donations for this are now being requested to make this a wonderful event. Several prizes will be prepared for the drawing of this raffle, which will take place on the last day of this term at the Easter Hat Parade. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the office. You will find raffle tickets attached at the back of this newsletter.

😊 Mothers’ Day is the 2nd weekend of Term 2 (11th May). The Day Support group will be holding a stall for our students to purchase that ‘something special’ for the mum in their life. Donations are now being requested to assist the P and C to provide a wonderful range of choices for our children. Please help if you can. Any donations will be gratefully received at the office up until the second week of next term.

😊 Disco night is on again this term on Thursday 10th April (Week 11). Parent volunteers to help out on the night are vital to the disco going ahead. Please respond if you can help. Insufficient parent volunteers will unfortunately mean no disco. The disco note is included in this newsletter.

😊 P & C and canteen staff would like to acknowledge and thank the wonderful assistance of Alex Keen and Bill Hackney who installed the new stove and modified canteen cupboards recently under heat wave conditions. What amazing men, thankyou so much.

😊 Parents who may be interested in joining discussions about school uniforms are invited to leave their name and contact details with the school office. A committee will be formed for these discussions.

STOCKLAND STAR

A reminder for those who haven’t registered for Stockland Star to do so as soon as possible. A form was sent home recently for your family to participate. You can also register at the service desk at Stockland Mall, to enter our school’s point raising efforts. Thank you, Wendy Zoneff.
Hi everyone and thank you to the families who were able to join us in celebrating Harmony Day and Grandparents Day last week. I’m sure you’ll agree it was an enjoyable day with everyone relaxing with a picnic lunch and then moving to classrooms to do some activities and games together. Special thanks go to Kathy and her team of wonderful volunteers in our canteen who provided picnic lunch boxes and more. Thanks also to our fantastic teachers and support staff that made sure parents, grandparents and students had fun activities to participate in. Many families were found in the hall soaking up the attention and great service provided by our 5/6S and 6M students who ran the Coffee Shop. Congratulations on a magnificent team effort by all.

A reminder to send in your RSVP for our Parent Workshop starting next week (Weeks 10 & 11) on Thursday 3rd & 10th April. Topics that will be covered by Gabby Mead are how to build resilience in your child; working in partnership with the school; setting firm boundaries and understanding children’s behaviour and how it relates to child development. If you need more information please call into our office. The workshops will run from 9.15am to 11am in our Library with morning tea being provided.

Enjoy your week. Katherine Barr.

Parenting help makes perfect sense

14 March Submitted by: Michael Grose

Here’s a surprise..........

Many parents, including those at their wit’s end, don’t seek help.

That’s remarkable given the level of discomfort and uncertainty they feel.

Discomfort and uncertainty is avoided by seeking help.

Here are eight reasons to get help instead of waiting:

1. The quicker you act, the easier it is to change things.
2. Many problems, even serious ones, have remarkably simple solutions.
3. Getting parenting advice is not therapy – it’s healthy. It doesn’t mean that there’s anything wrong with you.
4. No matter how capable and in control other parents look, most struggle at some stage.
5. Times of transition almost always cause struggle. Knowledge about your child’s next stage averts struggle and angst.
6. Your children wants relief as much as you.
7. You’re not alone and that’s a wonderful feeling.
8. Everyone is capable of learning to manage, to better lead, and to improve their situation.
HARMONY DAY – GRANDPARENTS DAY
Picnic Day
Metford Public School

K – 6 TERM 1 DISCO

When: Thursday, 10th April, 2014
At: Metford School Hall
Time: 5.00pm – 7.00pm
Cost: $3.00 per child

The disco is run by the P&C Association. The disco is for students of Metford Public School only (no High School or pre school siblings allowed).
Both male and female parent volunteers are needed to supervise and assist with the canteen during the disco. (Please complete volunteer note at the bottom of page and return it to school prior to the disco).
If we DO NOT have enough volunteers the disco may be cancelled.

Snack foods and drinks will be available for purchase.

Parents are reminded that they must bring and collect their children from the hall. Children are to be picked up by 7.00pm.

Children must bring the completed permission note below to the hall on the night of the disco. A contact number must be supplied in the space provided on the permission note.

Thank you
Metford Public School P&C

Rules for Attending the Disco:
- Children will not engage in any activity that endangers either themselves or others. (No sliding, running or jumping in the hall)
- Children will not interfere with the property of others.
- Children will obey instructions given by the adults supervising the disco.

Children who choose to ignore these rules will be withdrawn from the disco and parents will be contacted to collect their children.

Disco Permission Note (to be brought to the hall on the night of the disco)

I give permission for my child/ren ……………………………………………………………
To attend Metford Public School Disco on Thursday, 10th April, 2014.
I have discussed the rules with my child.
Signed: ……………………………………………    Contact Phone No: ………………………
(Parent / Guardian)

Parent Volunteer Note (to be returned to school as soon as possible)
I would like to be parent volunteer at the disco on Thursday, 10th April, 2014.
Child’s Name: …………………………………………………………….   Class: …………………
Parent’s Name: …………………………………………………………….
YOU ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL EVENT

Weekend of dance at Woodville Hall

Talented dancers and professional dance teachers Hanna Trott and Eden Read will be performing and teaching at events at the Woodville School of Arts on 4 and 5 April.

On Friday 4 April they will host and perform at a vibrant dance and dinner evening at the School of Arts, from 7pm. Full buffet dinner and performance: $55 per head. Dress up! (but you don’t have to be formal). BYO alcohol. Soft drinks will be available.

On Saturday 5 April Hannah and Eden will run three lively and creative dance sessions for children to improve their skills – in tap, circus and jazz.

9 am – 11 am. Ages 12 – 15. $15.00
1 pm – 2pm  Ages 5 – 8. $5.00
2 pm – 4 pm  Ages 9 – 11. $15.00

**Hannah** is a graduate of the National Institute of Circus Arts Melbourne, an aerialist, an ex-Disney Princess, and a professional dancer who has performed widely in Europe, Asia and Australia. **Eden** is a dancer, choreographer and dance teacher, including in tap, jazz and musical theatre. He has performed in musicals including *Hello Dolly, Sunset Boulevard,* and toured internationally with the Irish tap show *Spirit of the Dance.* He has a Bachelor of Dance from the Victorian College of the Arts.

This is a great opportunity for residents around Maitland to enjoy a wonderful time with world class dancers and help raise funds to keep Woodville Hall viable.

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**METFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL – PARENT WORKSHOP 3RD & 10TH APRIL**

**BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS** WITH GABBY MEAD 9.15am – 11am

I would like to attend the Parent Workshops on 3rd and 10th April in the school library.

Name............................................ Contact number ..........................................

**PLEASE PRINT**

My child is ........................................... in Class ..........................................

Please return to Katherine Barr in the office.

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