A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL
This week four members of our technology teaching team are heading to Coffs Harbour to learn more about how we can use technology in our classrooms to support the learning of our students. Technology in its many forms will be an integral part of this generation of children’s work force capabilities. We are looking forward to the teachers’ return and them sharing with our staff and our students ideas that we can begin implementing in 2016. Technology will be a focus in 2016, both the use of IT to promote collaborative and creative learning and the acquisition of equipment.

Red Size 7 Performance at Maitland High School:
For those students who are attending the matinee performance on Wednesday, please bring a drink and a snack with you in a bag of some sort, preferably a plastic zip lock bag. These will be stored in a plastic tub, so they must be labelled. There is an interval, and the food and drink will be consumed then. Tickets for the evening performances on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night are available from Maitland High School office or at the door.

Local Issues, Local Thinkers:
This Thursday, 19th November, years 3, 4, 5 and 6 students have an opportunity to express their ideas of how to improve their local community in a public speaking competition. There are special guests from 105.3 FM radio, Newcastle businesswomen and Maitland Council. All interested community members are invited to attend. This event will start at 9.45am in our school hall, will include a lunch break and continue till 1.15pm. More details are included in this newsletter.

Kindergarten 2016 Expo:
This Friday, 20th November from 10am to 11am, we will be holding an expo for our new Kindergarten parents and our community. There will be lots of information available that will support an easier transition for both parents and students. Come along and find out some of what we do at Metford PS!

Regards
Cathy Watt

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
“You can accomplish anything if you do not accept limitations.
Whatever you make up your mind to do, you can do it.”
POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL)
Focus for Week 7 is Responsibility: Playing safely and fairly

It is with pleasure we share the following students who received PBL recognition awards last week.

Mrs Christine Attard, Assistant Principal

METFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION
Local Issues, Local Thinkers – for Stage 2 and Stage 3 students in Week 7 Thursday 19.11.15

Local Issues, Local Thinkers is bringing issues of the local community into the limelight. Not only are issues being brought up, the young youth of today are bringing up to date solutions to problems. When a community sees that our students are given a voice and ideas are being heard, the community support will grow. This competition will empower people to stand up in a positive way and support each other in making a more safe, environmentally friendly, educational and healthy community.

So what is Local Issues, Local Thinkers? It is a 21st century public speaking competition. It invites our students to speak up about issues at school and/or the local community. The students will present an issue that is relevant to them and then provide a plausible solution that explains how they would implement it in their chosen area. The competition encourages students to challenge their abilities and encourages them to become positive leaders in their local community.

The competition aims to help students to develop an understanding of the skills needed to overcome problems in the real world. The students will begin to explore questions and issues that they may encounter throughout their life. Furthermore, it will allow the students to develop social skills to become a model citizen and offer them the potential to become future leaders.

Currently, Local Issues, Local Thinkers is at stage 1 of a 4-stage plan. Stage 1 will involve students from Metford Public School in Term 4 2015. We will invite key members in the community to attend and judge. Stage 2 will see teachers and the supporting community members reflect on the competition and work to improve it for 2016. In stage 3 we will invite local schools of the Maitland/Newcastle area to be a part of this competition. Stage 4 will act as an ongoing reflection to improve the competition.

The world is changing. Issues and engaging the young youth in the 21st century has changed. No longer is the old way working. We need new ideas from new, young blood. Local Issues, Local Thinkers competition takes the question, ‘How can we do better?’ to the root of our future. The answers to many of our problems are in the head of clever, young minds.

This exciting event will be held in our school hall from 9.45am. Guest judges and the Mayor of Maitland and the Maitland Mercury will be present.

Stage 2 speeches will commence at 10.05, there will be a break for lunch at 11.15am – 11.45 and the speeches will continue then with Stage 3 students concluding at 1.15pm.

KINDERGARTEN EXPO
This Friday 20th November, our school hall will display all the great programs that Metford PS has to offer our enrolled students. From 9:30am parents and friends are invited to browse and ask questions about the stalls and activities on show.

These stalls will include mini classrooms set up with reading, writing and counting activities, a library information stall, sports and cultural interactive stations, school uniform models, student leadership programs, junior choir performance, a morning tea table and a big screen video of students in action.

All welcome. See you there.
Jane Power Assistant Principal.
COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER’S NEWS
Hi Everyone,
The P & C Committee are currently working on making available for purchase our sport shirt. The shirt colour depends on which House your child is in. Flinders is blue, Cook is red, Phillip is yellow and Tasman is green. The shirt will be embroidered with the school emblem and will be available at the start of school 2016. The cost is $20.00 payable by cash only and preorders are now being taken. This will ensure your child has their sport shirt for the start of school 2016. Order forms will be included in next week’s newsletter.
Have a great week.
Katherine Barr

5/6B FOYER DISPLAY

FLIP OUT STAGE 2 EXCURSION
All notes need to be returned this week to finalise numbers to Flip Out. Please make sure that both parents and students sign the waiver forms before returning them this week, as time is running out. Closing date is 23/11/2015.

P & C NEWS
Crazy Hair Day
A crazy hair day will be held in week 7 on Friday 20\textsuperscript{th} November. Normal school uniform will still be required. A gold coin donation is requested.

Carols under the Cola Raffle
In week 9 our Carols Under the Cola will be held and a hamper raffle is being organised which will be drawn on the night. A page of tickets is included in this newsletter.

UNIFORM SHOP – OPENING TIMES – IN THE HALL
SHIRT COST $25.00 paid by cash only
MONDAY morning 8.30am – 9am
TUESDAY morning 8.30am – 9am
WEDNESDAY afternoon 2.30pm – 3pm

Pre-order is available by bringing in order form and cash amount to the office. The shirt will be delivered to your child as soon as possible. Our apologies for not including the order form in last week’s newsletter.

Available now: SIZES 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, S, M
Larger sizes: L, XL, XXL have been re-ordered and can be pre-ordered.
## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### Term 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Every Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast Club every 2nd Monday</td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
<td>Principal’s Lunch</td>
<td>Student banking</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Assembly 1.30pm</td>
<td>School Assembly 1.30pm</td>
<td>Drumcorp 9 &amp; 9.15am</td>
<td>9.45am Public Speaking competition in hall.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk 7 Nov 16-20</th>
<th>Last scripture lesson for T4</th>
<th>“Red Size 7” Performance at Maitland High 10am</th>
<th>Kinders Expo 10-11am in hall</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wk 8 Nov 23-27</td>
<td>Presentation Day Assemblies</td>
<td>Swimming scheme</td>
<td>PUPS 9-11am</td>
<td>Yr 6 Fundraiser Out of Uniform Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 9 Nov 30-Dec 4</td>
<td>Swimming scheme Yr 2 - 6</td>
<td>Swimming scheme</td>
<td>PUPS 9-11am</td>
<td>Swimming scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 10</td>
<td>Swimming scheme</td>
<td>Swimming scheme</td>
<td>PUPS 9-11am – last day for 2015</td>
<td>Swimming scheme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wk 11 Dec 14-18</td>
<td>Stage 3 excursion to Strike Ten Pin Bowling</td>
<td>Students last day</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 Term 1 Wk 1</td>
<td>Australia Day holiday</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
<td>Students start</td>
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### SCHOOL CANTEEN ROSTER Term 4 Week 7 and 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk 7</th>
<th>16.11.15</th>
<th>17.11.15</th>
<th>18.11.15</th>
<th>19.11.15</th>
<th>20.11.15</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30-12pm</td>
<td>Kathy, Bronnie, Tiana</td>
<td>Kathy, Theresa</td>
<td>Kathy, Hazel, Lisa, Paul</td>
<td>Kathy, Katrina, Tiana, Kelly</td>
<td>Kathy, April, Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2.30pm</td>
<td>Kathy, Tiana</td>
<td>Kathy, Theresa</td>
<td>Kathy, Paul</td>
<td>Kathy, Tiana</td>
<td>Kathy, April, Paul</td>
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<th>Wk 8</th>
<th>23.11.15</th>
<th>24.11.15</th>
<th>25.11.15</th>
<th>26.11.15</th>
<th>27.11.15</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.30-12pm</td>
<td>Kathy, Bronnie, Tiana</td>
<td>Kathy, Theresa</td>
<td>Kathy, Lisa, Hazel, Cherrie</td>
<td>Kathy, Katrina, Tiana, Kelly</td>
<td>Kathy, April, Paul</td>
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Don’t pick up the rope!
Submitted by Michael Grose - 14 February

"Don’t do it!"

I sat in the back of the classroom and I saw a fourteen-year-old student taunt his teacher in a way that only young adolescent boys can do.

The teacher asked the student to get back to work and stop disturbing others, reminding him that his behaviour was out of order.

The student grudgingly resumed his task. But just before he put his head he threw out a comment about it being a stupid piece of work that he had to do.

This young fella’ threw down an ‘imaginary rope’ (actually it was a jibe!) for the teacher to pick up.

“Don’t pick it up! Just let it go!” I thought as I sat in the back of the room. He was getting back to work. This was the boy’s way of saving face in front of his mates.

The teacher picked up the imaginary rope and began a tirade of abuse that was extremely personal.

I detected the slightest grin the student’s face that said- “Gotcha!” The teacher’s remarks were like water off a duck’s back. He revelled in them and I watched as his status amongst his male peer group just went up a number of notches.

Okay, so what’s the point?

The hard part of dealing with kids, whether you are a teacher or a parent, is to ignore some of their ‘last wordedness’ and the verbal comments they throw our way.

I am not suggesting that we ignore all taunts or rude remarks but there are many occasions when we should just leave the ‘imaginary rope’ that children throw where it lies. Usually when we ‘pick up the rope’ we turn into a child!

‘Throwing the rope’ is so effective as behind most conflict between kids and adults are the deeper issues of Power, Position and Prestige.

Arguments, last-wordedness or comeback lines, which are often about kids saving face, threaten our position or prestige as parents or teachers. “You can’t say that to me, I am the adult,” is the type of thinking that brings us undone every time.

They are also a way of kids saying that I will acquiesce to you but on my terms, which is about power.

Next time a child ‘throws the rope’ by having the last word or using a quick throw-away line realise what is happening. Look at the imaginary rope, smile and refuse to pick it up. That is the adult thing to do.

Hard work, but essential if we are going to be successful bringing out the best in kids behaviour.
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<th>Metford PS P &amp; C</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carols Under the Cola</td>
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