A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have been very impressed with how most children have settled into school routines. They will be rewarded with some fun learning throughout the year if this is maintained. Some students are practising a drama item for our participation in Maitland Learning Community’s Performance evenings. This will happen in the first week of term 2 on the Wednesday evening. Information will be going home to these student’s parents/carers very soon and we will post information on our face book page.

Our choirs are learning some new songs for performances at up-coming school functions and sounding beautiful. We have had some great success in sporting events as well so far this year. Our swimming carnival was wonderful in building success, ‘have-a-go’ attitude and team morale. Our boys cricket team won their first game in the PSSA competition and our girls get their go this week. Two of our boys, Noah N and Foni P, have been selected in the PSSA Regional Rugby League team as centres. Our school sport program has been well supported by parents’ assistance and this is so very much appreciated. On Friday, we begin the Interschool Sport program at Maitland Park, which is an exciting new initiative.

Metford Public School is doing great things for our students to build their learning knowledge academically, socially and emotionally. Great team effort from all our school community!!! As the African proverb says, “It takes a village to raise a child.”

Changes to School Attendance Procedures:

Changes have been made to requirements to monitor and record your child/children’s absence from school. This brings all schools, public, independent and religious, into line with national requirements. The changes have been put into place after mandates from the Auditor-General and the NSW Ombudsman. Parents/Carers still have the responsibility to ensure that their child/children attend school regularly and that information is given to support every absence. There are two main changes that affect parents directly.

I cannot accept exemptions for family holidays any more, but can accept them as leave and this will be recorded in the child’s number of days absent. Parents/Carers are responsible for letting the school know if their child is absent from school within 7 days of the absence NOT 7 days from return to school. As a school, we may contact you if your child is absent to make sure you know they are absent after the second day. This is called a Phone Intervention Program, PIP. If we have concerns then we will be phoning you.

Verbal absences in person or over the phone are acceptable as well as written information. Reasons for absences must be reasonable and accepted by the Principal otherwise they are unjustified. Letters will be sent to those parents/carers who do not provide reasons for absences and the follow up of regular absences can be supported by the Home School Liaison Officer, HSLO.

If you have concerns or need further information about the changes, please contact me for a meeting.

Maitland PSSA Zone Swimming Carnival:

Good luck to all our swimmers competing at this level of competition on Tuesday.

Regards Cathy
THIS WEEK IN 6K AND 5/6B

6K and 5/6B have been busy establishing our Open Plan classroom. Students are becoming familiar with the routine and what is expected of them. Students are expected to complete the minimum classroom learning tasks each week, which are marked, graded and recorded. If these tasks are incomplete by Friday lunchtime, students are asked to complete the tasks in their own time during the break. Still incomplete work will result in a letter home and Planning Room on Monday. The students know the consequences. Fortunately, some students have shown the initiative by taking the learning tasks home and completing them for homework. These learning tasks are not difficult and it is up to the student to be self-directed and consistent with their application.

If any parent would like to visit or assist in our Open Plan classroom we welcome your help.

Our students are beginning to look like 21st Century learners. We have been most impressed with Friday writing assessments with a number of students striving to improve upon their past results. It’s quite an exciting time!

Corey Bruce & Dianne Kelleher
5 CENT FRIDAY
5-cent Friday started off with a bang with Mrs Morrissey’s class 5M winning for the first week. The total collected was $79. Well-done Metford. Wait until you hear who won last week! And how much was collected! You will be amazed. This will be announced at Tuesday’s assembly. Keep on bringing in those 5 cents. These books were chosen this week. Our library will have even more books to borrow.

MORNING MADNESS TIPS
Be organised around the house
Have your children designate areas for all necessary school items, such as library bag, lunch box, glasses etc. Help your child get into the routine of putting these items in their designated spots so they are easy to find in the morning. For example once homework is done, pop it into the school bag and place it by the front door.
With your children the line by the front door of ‘things to remember’ can include the lunch box, homework, ballet bags, cricket kit, school hat etc etc, but it was worth the evening routine to know it is all ready to go in the morning!
Have a time schedule
Wake up before your children so you have plenty of time to wake up and get dressed. If you are almost ready when you wake them up it will help with your stress levels. (You might even have time for a quick cuppa in peace!)

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COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER’S NEWS

Great news everyone! The TAFE Outreach course start date has been extended to give you time to register. The Intro to Computers course is expected to start on Friday 13th March (Week 7) so if you are interested in attending please leave your contact details at our office. Anyone who is registered with a Job Network Provider may be able to arrange for this service to cover enrolment fee if it applies. This course is open to all members of our community so Grandparents, relatives and friends are very welcome. Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

UNIFORM – Pre-order and payment will be available this week on Tuesday’s and Friday’s from the CLO’s office. Shirt price is $25.00 each and all sizes will be available. Cash only please.

LOWES still has some of the green Kinder shirts for $31.99. Sizes available are 4, 6, 10 & 12. They also have the white shirts for $19.99. Sizes available are 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, S & M. ** There will be no more ordered by Lowes once these are sold out. ** The transition to our new shirt will be over a 2 year period with all students required to wear the new style shirt at the start of school in 2017.

DRUMCORP – Started back last week with an amazing response. Our instructor Col now has a junior and senior group. This program looks set to be whole lot of fun!

Regards

Katherine Barr
P & C NEWS

As we are well into Term 1 activities we are preparing for Easter raffle prizes and would greatly appreciate any donations that our families are able to donate. Please leave any contributions at the front office. Thank you.

YEAR 6 SHIRTS

Just a reminder to our Year 6 students who may still wish to order a shirt. Final day for placing your order and payment to the office is this Friday 27th February. No late orders accepted.

CLAIM THE DATE

Metford Public School Fete will be held on Saturday 12th September from 12 noon to 4pm. If you would like to join our organising committee our next meeting will be held in the staffroom on Thursday 5th March at 3pm. “Many hands make light work.”

All proceeds will go towards a new sound system for our school hall.
Metford Public School

PUPS
Popping up to Primary School

A transition/orientation program supporting children before they start school

Activities include:

* School readiness
* Interactive Smart board technology
* Gross/fine motor skills development
* Literacy and Numeracy activities
* Social and emotional development
* Craft

When: Fridays during school terms - Commencing Friday 24th April, 2015

Time: 9.00a.m. to 11.00a.m.

Where: Metford Public School

Students Bring: A backpack containing a hat, a bottle of water and fresh fruit for fruit break – apple, banana, strawberries, carrots etc.

Cost: No cost

This program is staffed by an experienced Early Childhood Teacher and support officer

For all enquiries and registration please contact the school administration on:

49332655

Email: metford-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au