A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Maitland Learning Community activities:
Mrs O’Neile and Miss Crouch organized a great debating competition last week with Maitland High School’s partner primary schools. Four of our Year 5 students and another four Year 6 students competed on Monday. Our students were not winners of the competition but were certainly winners in their commitment to achieving their best. Well done teams!

Our Year 5 students enjoyed their visit to Maitland High School last Wednesday and are looking forward to furthering their knowledge of what it is really going to be like to be a high school student in around 15 months’ time. This is an important program for our students, as it is the beginning of ensuring that high school is seen as the next stage of the students’ learning journey and acknowledges their personal development. Over the next two Wednesday afternoons they will be experiencing more exciting activities. Our Year 6 students will be participating in further transition activities in term 4.

Staff visits to Merrylands East Public School:
Last Thursday, the second group of teachers visited Merrylands East PS to learn about their innovative programs that encourage their students to be lifelong learners who can fulfil their potential to be excellent citizens of the 21st Century. This school is actively involved in partnerships that support their programs from business and community sources. This is something that we want for Metford PS and our task will be to come up with a plan to implement this. In the MEPS classrooms, we saw collaborative learning that challenged each student’s thinking and encouraged them to take risks and step out of their comfort zones to achieve rich learning. IT and computers were very visible in each room and students were extending their knowledge of how IT works through the challenging projects they were completing.

Our next step is to discuss what we saw and how we can be inspired to implement ideas that will suit our students and their learning needs as well as our community’s expectations of them as students in the 21st century. It is an exciting time at Metford PS as we explore different ways of giving our best to each and every student.

PARKING Issues:
Please find the notice in this newsletter about the consequences for parking illegally around our school. There is a serious financial cost to not following the rules. Please take notice as there is Maitland Council and police enforcement of the rules. We want our students and their families to be safe and the parking signs are supportive of this.

The Kiss and Drop zone is one where drivers can park between the hours of 8 – 9.30am and 2.30 – 4pm for 2 minutes and only be 300m away from the vehicle. This needs to be adhered to as it allows more drivers to be able to drop their child/children at school safely.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“If someone offers you an amazing opportunity and you’re not sure you can do it, say yes – then learn how to do it later.”

Richard Branson
Relay Success:
CONGRATULATIONS to our Senior Boys Relay team, Zac F, Jye, Foni and Noah N who won their heat and were second on time overall at the Hunter PSSA Athletics Carnival. This means that they will now compete at the NSW PSSA State Athletics Championships at Homebush in October. This is an amazing opportunity for them. Practice hard and fast, boys!

School Photos:
Our photo day with Master School Portraits was very successful last Tuesday. Thanks everyone for your co-operation throughout a very busy day. I am sure that you will be happy with your photos.

Bring Your Own Device, BYOD, Stage 3 Information Session:
Metford PS has finalized its BYOD policy and this will be introduced to our Year 5 and 6 students and their families on Wednesday this week at 3:00pm. At this stage, we are trialling it with these students before deciding on whether we will expand it to other grades.
The information session is to explain the agreement and the policy which families and students must sign. We are not asking students and families to purchase IT as there is still opportunity to use IT provided by our school. What it will do, is provide more students the opportunity to use IT to complete learning tasks.

Father’s Day Breakfast and Book Week Parade:
This Friday we celebrate the influence of dads and father figures in our students’ lives with a yummy breakfast cooked by the staff and some friends. Breakfast will be from 7am to 8.30am. Afterwards we will have the Book Week Parade, hoping that dads and father figures will be able to stay and enjoy this event. We are anticipating that this will begin at 9:30am and conclude at 10:30am. Hopefully we will see lots of people cheering our students as they parade their book character for us all to see.

Regards
Cathy

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**SCHOOL ZONE PARKING OFFENCES**

*Increased penalties for School Zones. Current as at 1 July 2016*

**NO STOPPING**
- Means that in the area in the direction of the arrow, you must **NOT STOP your vehicle** at any point on the road or kerb, unless there is a medical or other emergency.
- **Maximum Penalty:** $425 + 2 Demerit Points

**P**
- Means that you have no more than 2 minutes for drop-offs or pick-ups of passengers or goods and the driver must stay within 3 metres of your vehicle.
- **Penalty:** $177 + 2 Demerit Points

**BUS ZONE**
- Means that in the direction of the arrow or arrows you are not allowed to stop your vehicle unless you are driving a bus.
- **Penalty:** $319 + 2 Demerit Points

**DOUBLE PARKING**
- You are NOT PERMITTED to stop or park your vehicle alongside another vehicle that is already parked parallel to the kerb.
- **Penalty:** $319 + 2 Demerit Points

**STOP in a NO STOPPING zone:** $319 + 2 Demerit Points, or **STOP on or near a Children’s or Pedestrian Crossing:** $425 + 2 Demerit Points
**STOP on pathstrip in built up area:** $177 + 2 Demerit Points
**STOP or Park in a Disabled Marked Area without a permit:** $631

*Please Note: fines subject to change without notice. Current to 30 June 2016. These penalties apply to offences in school zones during posted school hours.*
STOCKLAND STAR
The competition has now finished. Winners will be announced 5pm at Greenhills during a presentation event. Keep your fingers crossed. Thank you for taking the time to vote and support our school.

PRINCIAL’S LUNCH 27.8.15

SPORTS - FOYER DISPLAY THIS WEEK
Please come up and check out the wonderful photos of recent sporting achievements that are on display in the foyer this week.

REGIONAL ATHLETICS
Noah Nailagoliva and Zac Morgan were just two of our wonderful students who attended and gave their all.
## METFORD MUNCHIES
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 0450 166 199 or fill in the slip below and send it back to school. Thank you!

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## SCHOOL CANTEEN ROSTER Weeks 8 and 9

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<td>Kathy, Bronnie, Tiana</td>
<td>Kathy, Katrina</td>
<td>1 volunteer needed</td>
<td>Kathy, Hazel, Lisa</td>
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<td>1-2.30pm</td>
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</tbody>
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**METFORD MUNCHIES**
I would love to volunteer to help in the school canteen.
Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________
Days I am available: ___________________________
**P & C NEWS**

**FATHER’S DAY STALL** – Will be held on Thursday 3rd September. Gifts will be from $2 to $10. Remember to bring your money on that day so your child can buy Dad something special for Father’s Day.

**BOOK PARADE**
Save the date - Friday 4th September. Come along to our book parade which starts at 9:30 and watch our students celebrate their favourite characters. Why not come dressed as a character as well and join the fun. As this is just after the Fathers’ Day Breakfast it would be a great opportunity for our dads to be involved. We have included some ideas for costumes from the shortlisted books for 2015. If you need any ideas see Mrs Wright.

**A ‘HAT’ CHALLENGE FOR YOU FOR THE FETE**
Attention all budding milliners to get out your designing caps to create a hat, fit for a competition! Design and create a hat fit for a Mad Hatter’s Tea Party. Entries can be made from any medium. $2 entry fee for your chance to win 10 specially crafted handmade Christmas cards which you can have personalised. Watch out for posters displaying card options.

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**Mental Health Information Evening**

Finding life as a parent or young person hard? Want to know more about how to talk to each other regarding tough times?

You are invited to the second Mental Health Information evening focusing specifically on the topics of non-suicidal self injury (self harm). Our presentations and panel discussion will aim to help young people, parents and families learn more about:

- mental health & mental illness
- how to talk about it
- where to access support

**Mental Health Information Evening**

16 September 2015, 6–8pm  
Cost: FREE

Headspace Maitland, 73 Clun Street Maitland

Our guests for the evening who will be part of an informal panel discussion include representatives from: Hunter Valley Child & Adolescent Mental Health, Youth Mental Health Project, Headspace Maitland staff & Youth Reference Group, and Department of Education.

RSVP/for more information contact Katie Brown at Maitland High School on (02) 4933 7933 or text 0427 032 908 by September 9th, places are limited so get in early!
Hi Everyone. **Tell Them From Me** is a survey for parents, students and teachers. This online survey will help our school understand parents and carers perspectives on their child’s experience at school. We are inviting our parents and carers to come along to the school’s computer lab to participate in this online survey which will give everyone the opportunity to have their say.

Survey questions will ask about:
- Communication between parents and the school
- Activities and practises at home
- Parents and carers views on the school’s support of learning and behaviour

The survey is:
- Confidential
- Will only take around 15 minutes

If you would rather complete the survey at home you are welcome to do so, however you will need to obtain a user name and password to start the survey. Please let me know if you would like to do this. The username and password is needed to identify that the feedback is for Metford Public School.

We will offer this opportunity to do the survey here using our computers for the remainder of the term. Please take note of the times for next week (Week 9).

**Can you help us by completing this survey?**

Please meet me at the computer lab (near the canteen) on one of the following days – refreshments will be available.

- Tuesday 8th September – afternoon from 2pm to 3pm
- Friday 11th September - morning from 9am to 10am

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**FATHER’S DAY BREAKFAST** – It’s this week on Friday 4th September from 7am to 8.30am. Please return the tear off slip provided if you are attending with your child ASAP.

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**FATHER’S DAY BREAKFAST– Friday 4.9.15  at 7am – 8.30am**

Father’/carer’s Name: ____________________________________________

Child/Children attending:   _____________Class____
________________Class____
________________Class____

Please place ticks ✓ next to the food items you would like to eat.

Sausages ......................
Bacon  ......................
Eggs  ......................
Metford Public School Fete
Saturday 12th September
12noon-4pm

We need you

Metford Public School’s fete is fast approaching and we need as many parents, carers and friends to volunteer their time to ensure a successful day. If you think you could spare an hour, or two or three please indicate below.

Name

Contact number

11am-12noon (set-up)
12noon - 1pm
1-2pm
2-3pm
3-4pm

Do you have any special skills or preferences (here are some examples), please indicate below:

- Sausage Sizzle
- Coke Stall
- Face painting
- Cotton Candy
- Trash and treasure stall
- I am happy to help where needed

Rides, Giant Slide, Merry-Go-Round, Bungy Trampoline, Laser Tag, BBQ, Trash and Treasure, Face Painting, Stalls: Chocolate Wheel, Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, and LOADS MORE!

HMRI Open Day

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

The Research Expo will run from 10am-4pm throughout all levels of the HMRI Building.

- Things that go Pop, Fizz and Bang! - every 30 minutes, Kid’s Area, Level 1
- What grows more bugs? - every 30 minutes, Kid’s Area, Level 1
- Healthy Kids Football Clinic with Mark Hughes and friends from the Newcastle Knights - Kid’s Area, Level 1
- The Genetics of Rare Abilities - Real Life X-Men talk - The Science Behind Zombies Lecture with ‘Zombie Expert’ School Session: “How did we get here? Stories from working inside a medical research institute” - Caves Theatre, Level 4
- 1pm: Kid’s physical activity workshop - Kid’s Area, Level 1
- 1pm: ‘The Genetics of Rare Abilities, Real Life X-Men’ - Caves Theatre, Level 4
- 3pm: Become an editor: Help write a science kid’s book with author Susan Whelan - Kid’s Area, Level 1
- 4pm: School Science Session: “How did we get here? Stories about working at a medical research institute” - Caves Theatre, Level 4
- 4pm: Special Lecture: ‘The Science Behind Zombies’ - Caves Theatre, Level 4

For the full program of events or to register, visit: hmri.com.au/open-day

In partnership with our Community

HMRI

In partnership with our Community

Newcastle

NSW Health Northern Region

Local Health District
With 2016 quickly approaching Hunter Valley Buses have provided some valuable information for our families whose children will be travelling with them. A new application is required for students going into Kindergarten, year 3 and year 7, who are changing their address or who are new to the school. It is now time to be completing application forms for travel in 2016 and forwarding them to Hunter Valley Buses. Please include the correct details of the journey with the nearest cross street, the school year that your child/children will be in and the correct date of birth. Incomplete or incorrect forms will be returned.

Before completing the application check that you are eligible for this free travel by calling 4929 7006 and ask to speak about the Student Transport Section or use this link for digital map: http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/operators/bus-coach/rural-and-regional-bus-service-contracts

Click on Student Radial Eligibility Assessment Tool, which will bring up a map, enter your school name, the student’s street address, and click Search. The circle around the school indicates that if your address is inside the circle, you are ineligible.

Please note that even though all Infants students are entitled to free travel, they are still required to have a valid bus pass. New applications can be ordered online at: http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/customers/stss/schools/how-order-stss-forms-and-brochures

Please send all applications to: SSTS Hunter Valley Buses PO Box 3161 Thornton NSW 2322

Application forms are also available at Metford Public School office.

How do I know if a student is eligible for a School pass?

To be eligible for subsidised travel under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) students should:

- Be 4 years 6 months of age or older.
- Be an infant student i.e. attending kindergarten, year 1 and 2 classes, irrespective of the distance from home to school.
- Be a primary student (year 3-6), and reside more than 1.6 kilometres (radial distance) from the school attended measured on a radius from the centre of the school site, or 2.3 kilometres or more by the most direct practicable walking route to the nearest point of physical entry to the school.
- Be a secondary student (year 7-12), and reside more than 2.0 kilometres (radial distance) from the school attended, measured on a radius from the centre of the school site, or 2.9 kilometres or more by the most direct practicable walking route to the nearest point of physical entry to the school.

Please note that the School Student Transport Scheme is not available for travel to Before & After School Care, Grandparent’s, parent’s workplace, after school sport, or any other destination that is not the students home address, these trips are not subsidised by the SSTS and a fare must be paid.

What if your Bus Pass is lost or stolen?

Parents or guardians must apply for a replacement school bus pass, which will cost $10.00. Students will be expected to pay the fare until a new pass is issued.

Replacement bus passes can be purchased from your local depot located at:
Thornton – 6 Glenwood Dr, Thornton NSW 2322 Ph: 4935 7200

Replacement forms can also be downloaded from www.cdcbus.com.au on the School Information page, scroll through until you see the section on replacement passes. The processing of the replacement bus pass takes place at Thornton depot only and will be posted to your home address as stated on the pass. For the interim, receipt for payment can be shown to the driver for travel. If paying by a cheque or money order it should be made out to: ComfortDelGro Cabcharge. All students must have a bus pass or pay $1.20 to the driver each way. (This includes K-2)

Can I purchase a School Bus Pass if not eligible for a free pass?

If you are ineligible for free travel you may purchase a term ($52), semester ($104) or yearly ($208) school bus pass from the Thornton depot and they will be posted to you, or download the application form from www.cdcbus.com.au on the School Information Page, then scroll to Semester Pass section. More information is available from Hunter Valley Buses 4935 7200.