A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL
TELL THEM FROM ME Student Survey:
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. Students in year 4, 5 and 6 will be able to participate in this survey.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 11th March 2016.

PARKING:
Thank you for ensuring that our school community is safe by parking correctly. There has been police surveillance of parking areas and there will be Maitland City Council rangers actively supporting safe and correct parking into the future.
The Schanck Drive and Melaleuca Drive car park gates will be closed until 3pm to further support this. Adults and children are to enter and exit our school through the walking gates only.

PSSA CRICKET MATCH:
On Tuesday, our boys’ cricket team will play their postponed match against Tenambit PS at Metford Oval. Good luck team!!!

TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE:
This Thursday and Friday, 7 staff members will be attending a conference in Sydney to support their learning about technology and how best to use it to promote learning in our classrooms. Technology acquisition, learning and use for staff and students are priorities this year. Staff will be sharing their new knowledge and assisting to improve our processes and use of technology in all our classrooms. Next term, we will also be hosting another computer course for our families and community members. This will be run by TAFE and will be held in our computer lab. If you are interested, please see Kath Barr, our Community Liaison Officer, who will add your name to our list.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY:
This Friday, our school will be participating in a clean up of our school grounds and with council permission, outside our fence.
There is a note to remind you of this going home this week. This is a great community activity which supports our values of responsibility, commitment and respect.

Regards,

Cathy Watt
Congratulations to our Zone Swimming Team who represented Metford with pride last Tuesday at the Zone Carnival at Maitland Pool. Congratulations to our four girls who were part of our Senior Relay team and our Senior Boys Relay Team. An excellent day and congratulations to our swimmers.

Mr Richardson

Emison, Jacob, Liam and Jack

Hannah, Sinead, Clarece and Jasmin

K-6L FOYER DISPLAY
POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL)

The focus for Week 6 and the Principal's lunch is Respect: Be respectful of others, their belongings and their personal space.

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

Mrs Christine Attard, Assistant Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bright Green Wristband</th>
<th>Dark Green Wristband</th>
<th>Bronze Wings pin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total of 9 High Flyer tokens</td>
<td>total of 27 High Flyer tokens</td>
<td>total of 54 High Flyer tokens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jack Macbeth

SCHOOL CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Every Week</td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
<td>School Assembly 1.30pm</td>
<td>DrumCorp 9am &amp; 9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Principal’s lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
<td>School Assembly 1.30pm</td>
<td>Student banking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 6</td>
<td>Feb 29-Mar 4</td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
<td>School Assembly 1.30pm</td>
<td>Student banking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 7</td>
<td>Mar 7-11</td>
<td>“Magical World of Crazy” science show in hall</td>
<td>Girls PSSA Cricket 10am at Metford Oval</td>
<td>6pm P &amp; C AGM</td>
<td>Student banking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 8</td>
<td>Mar 14-18</td>
<td>NRL assembles K-Y2 9.30am Y3-6 10am</td>
<td>1.30pm Sports Assembly – Special Guest: Madison Elliott</td>
<td></td>
<td>Student banking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 9</td>
<td>Mar 21-25</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade and raffle drawn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 10</td>
<td>Mar 28-Apr 1</td>
<td>EASTER MONDAY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk 11</td>
<td>Apr 4-8</td>
<td>“Shave for a Cure” at assembly – Miss King</td>
<td></td>
<td>P &amp; C Disco</td>
<td>LAST DAY TERM 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHOOL CANTEEN ROSTER Term 1 Week 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk 7</th>
<th>7.3.16</th>
<th>8.3.16</th>
<th>9.3.16</th>
<th>10.3.16</th>
<th>11.3.16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30-12pm</td>
<td>Kathy, Bronnie, Sabreena, Payton</td>
<td>Kathy, Theresa, Kristy</td>
<td>Kathy, Katrina, Paul</td>
<td>Kathy, Jody, Amber</td>
<td>Kathy, April, Paul, Lisa, Angie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2.30pm</td>
<td>Kathy, Bronnie, Karin</td>
<td>Kathy, Kristy, Gabby</td>
<td>Kathy, Kerry, Anne, Paul</td>
<td>Kathy, Amber, Jody</td>
<td>Kathy, April, Paul</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I'm a HIGH FLYER
Because I have displayed

COMMITMENT  RESPECT  RESPONSIBILITY
COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER

Some very important information is on its way home regarding our P & C and the activities they are planning. The information will be about the Easter Hat Parade, the Easter raffle, the colouring competition and the great work our P & C is doing. It’s a pink note and will be heading home this week with a book of raffle tickets, and colouring sheet.

FREE Computer Course

WHERE: Metford Public School
WHEN: Every Friday in Term 2
       29th April to 24th June
TIME: 9.30am to 12.30pm
WHO: TAFE OUTREACH
WHY: *Gain skills and confidence to help your child at home
     *Make new friends

CONTACT: 4933 2655-Metford Public School

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way
...to save time packing lunches.

We know parents are eager to pack healthy, nutritious lunches.
But doing it five times a week, and getting the kids keen on healthy options such as fruit and vegetables, can feel like a chore.

Plan ahead to get organised and save time:

• Make sandwiches at the beginning of the week and freeze, then add fresh salad on the day.
• Cook extra at dinner and use leftovers for lunches - baked veg, stir fry, pasta and rice work well.
• Chop up sticks of carrot, capsicum, celery or cucumber and store in a container in the fridge until ready to use.
Let the kids help prepare and select, saving you time and getting them interested.

For more information visit
www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

Good for Kids good for life
SCREEN FREE QUIET TIME

Some families have a daily quiet time where everyone takes a break. Do your children watch movies during their quiet time?

Why not try some of these activities instead to reduce the amount of screen time they are exposed to during the day and to keep their minds active!

• Reading books
• Arts and crafts
• Puzzles
• Card games
• Listening to some relaxing music
• Spending time in the garden

Adapted from: Murumbidgee Local Health District Quick Bites
1. What is the *Tell Them From Me* student survey?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey asks questions about factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other outcomes. It aims to help improve the learning outcomes of students. The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights from the student point of view at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

2. What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey questions relate to the following 18 measures for primary schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in sports</th>
<th>Behaviour at school</th>
<th>Effective learning time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in extracurricular activities</td>
<td>Homework behaviour</td>
<td>Teaching relevance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of belonging</td>
<td>Interest and motivation</td>
<td>Teaching rigor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive relationships</td>
<td>Effect</td>
<td>Experience of being bullied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellbeing</td>
<td>School outcomes</td>
<td>Positive learning climate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching support</td>
<td>Advocacy at school</td>
<td>Positive learning climate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive teacher-student relations</td>
<td>Expectations for success</td>
<td>Positive learning climate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The survey questions relate to the following 22 measures for secondary schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in sports</th>
<th>Homework</th>
<th>Expectations for success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive learning climate</td>
<td>Participation in clubs</td>
<td>Behaviour at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience of being bullied</td>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>Sense of belonging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and motivation</td>
<td>Effective learning time</td>
<td>Aspirations: Year 12, University, TAFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive relationships</td>
<td>Effort</td>
<td>Teaching relevance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness</td>
<td>Navigating school outcomes</td>
<td>Positive learning climate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching support</td>
<td>Advocacy at school</td>
<td>Advocacy outside school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive teacher-student relations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open to all NSW government schools at no cost to them. Your child’s school has decided to participate.
4. How will taking part in this survey benefit my child’s school?

The Tell Them From Me student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students.

Data collected from the survey responses will be compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

5. What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes less than 30 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, The Learning Bar. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

6. Does my child have to participate?

No participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable, he/she can choose to stop the survey at any time. The majority of questions in the survey can be skipped. Parents/students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student’s information.

7. Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

8. What sort of analysis will be done of the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders can use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school.

The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE’s analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the Department’s continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

9. Can all school students participate in the survey?

The primary school survey is designed for students in Years 4 to 6. Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in these Year groups to participate. Secondary schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in Years 7 to 12 to participate.

10. When will the Tell Them From Me survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools at the end of Term 1 and (optionally) Term 3.

What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the Department of Education. CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales. CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

More information about CESE is available at: www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is The Learning Bar?

The Learning Bar is a Canadian education company that specialises in school surveys for both primary and secondary students. Its survey, Tell Them From Me, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada’s ten provinces. More than 2,600 schools and 1.7 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last nine years. Australian schools have been participating in the Tell Them From Me surveys since 2012.

The Learning Bar is led by Dr J Douglas Willms. Dr Willms is a Professor and Director of the Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy at the University of New Brunswick, and holds the Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development. Dr Willms led the development of questions on student engagement for the OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

More information about The Learning Bar is available at: www.thelearningbar.com

If you have any questions about the parent survey, please contact CESE via email: TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone: 9561 8056/9561 8688/9561 8370.
Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey non-consent form

If you do not want your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by Friday 11th March 2016.

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Name of student/s …………………………………………………………………………………………………

Roll class …………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Name of parent/carer ……………………………………………………………………………………………..

Signature of parent/carer …………………………………………………………………………………………

Date ………………………………...