Upcoming events:

Friday 8th February
- Swimming Carnival for Y3 to Y6 only. Permission note and $3 to be taken to the office as soon as possible. *Last payment day is Wednesday 6th February.*

Wednesday 13th February
- School Fete committee meeting to be held in the Breakfast Club @ 9.15am. All welcome.

Tuesday 19th February
- Vision screening for Kindergarten students only at 9.30am.

Tuesday 26th February
- Year 6 “taster lessons” at Callaghan Waratah.
- P&C Meeting 6.30pm in library. Welcome meeting for new parents.

Friday 1st March
- School photos—more information at a later date.

Saturday 23rd March
- MEPS Fundraising BBQ at Bunnings Kotara. 9am to 3pm. Volunteers needed.

Friday 26th March
- P&C Annual General Meeting 6.30pm start

Welcome back to the new year. Last week we put out an information sheet (special edition) that addressed some of the major issues regarding the school this year. These were:

- School uniform/hats
- School book packs
- Dogs on school grounds
- Cars accessing the staff car park
- Leaving the school safely
- Staff update
- Security issues
- School photos
- Starstruck
- Uniform Shop
- Lost property

School Canteen: we have altered our school canteen menu after recommendations from parents, reviewing menus from other local area schools and discussion with staff. The canteen will operate 5 days per week and is being co-ordinated by Callie Newman and Donna Zarkovich. Both ladies helped out considerably last year and the school is trying to see if we can run at a profit this year, by providing a higher quality well balanced menu. We are attempting to increase the percentage of fresh food choices and will be planting the garden accordingly in the near future. Thank you to both ladies for their assistance. We will be needing volunteers to help out on a weekly/fortnightly/monthly basis. So if you are able to assist, please leave your name and contact details at the office. If you have any questions, please talk to Callie or Donna in the canteen.

Asthma/Allergy Notification: it is essential that the school has an up to date Asthma/Allergy Health Action plan in place. If your child has either of these conditions. We require a letter from your child’s GP stating their condition and what treatment is required. We will then be able to formulate a health care plan. If you have any questions please come to the office.

End of School Day: the children from K-2 will be escorted by their class teacher to the COLA at 2.45pm. Parents and siblings are able to collect them from this area. Children who are going to OOSH will be collected by OOSH staff from the COLA. Children in 3-6 will be
walked down the stairs from their classrooms at 2.48pm and released to pick up siblings or exit the school grounds. Children who are catching the bus will be dismissed by their teacher.

**Book Packs**: the school has organised book packs for all student K-6. This pack is inclusive of:

- stationery,
- books,
- text books,
- school contribution,
- internet access,
- Mathletics access,
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Program (food component).

Due to the school no longer receiving $36,000 in equity money, we can no longer subsidise the cost of extra-curricular activities. The new book pack fees are $85 for Kindergarten, and $95 for Yr1 to Yr6. This payment can be made in full at the office or can be paid off throughout the term after payment of a 50% deposit. If you are experiencing financial difficulties, please contact the Principal.

It is hoped that families use the Educational Payment received from the government to assist with book packs and uniforms. The school prides itself on providing an equal education for everyone, so having access to these packs makes for an even start for all.

**Parent Volunteers**: we are always looking for people to assist in providing the best quality education possible. We are looking for help in the following areas:

- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen/garden
- Reading tutors
- Maths tutors
- Canteen
- Library
- Art/craft
- Music

Please complete the expression of interest and return to the office.

**New Demountable**: we have a new classroom on site and services are being connected. We hope the classroom will be up and running by the end of the week. Thank you to Miss Black, her students and their parents for their patience.

**Breakfast Club**: Breakfast Club is operating five days per week from 8.30am to 8.50am. If your children have missed out on breakfast, please encourage them to access this service. George and Manny do a great job and we appreciate them giving of their time so generously.

**School Photos**: the whole school will be having their photos taken on Friday 1st March. We usually begin with the youngest classes and finish by around 11.30am. Envelopes detailing cost and the packages available will be handed out to all families the week before photos are taken. If you would like any further information please ask at the office.

**P&C NEWS**

On behalf of the Mayfield East Parents & Citizens Association, I’d like to say welcome back to our students and school community! An especially big welcome to those joining us for the first time. We are very proud our school and we hope you settle in quickly and feel comfortable here.

Our P&C Association is made up of parents, carers, staff and other interested community members, and contributes in many ways to school life. It is a great way for you to get involved in the school community, find out what happens around the school, raise any concerns, and have your say in your child’s education experience.

Our fundraising has made possible major school infrastructure like classroom smart boards and air-conditioning. We also provide assistance, advice and feedback to the school management, and advocate for the school on local issues that affect us all.

We meet monthly at the school on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm, and childcare is provided, so there’s no problem if you need to bring them along.

Our first meeting is on the 26th February, and will be a special Welcome Meeting, held in a relaxed atmosphere with drinks and nibbles, so you can find out more about the P&C and what we do.
The second meeting on 26th March will be our Annual General Meeting, where we elect the new officeholders for this year. Anyone who attends and becomes a member at the first meeting will be eligible to vote or stand for office at the AGM. We have lots of plans for this year, and there’s plenty to be done! How can you help to make our great school even better?

I look forward to seeing you at our Welcome Meeting, or feel free to call me for further details.

Stephen Clarke, P&C President
0435 543 683

**MEPS FUNDRAISING**

There will be a meeting on Wednesday 13th February at 9.15am in the Breakfast Club building (next to admin). This is an informal get together of any parents who would be interested in getting involved in the planning of A SCHOOL FETE. We are looking at holding this event on Friday 25th October. This a tentative date and will be confirmed later. MEPS has not had a school fete in many years, and we hope to make this a major fundraiser for the year. If you think you would like to be involved please come along to this meeting and find out how you can help our school. If you are unable to come to this meeting, you can email your ideas to:

*meps_fundraising@hotmail.com*

We will be holding a **BBQ at Bunnings Kotara, on Saturday 23rd March.** We are looking for volunteers to come along and help out on the day. If you can spare an hour (even 1/2 an hour) we would love to hear from you. The more people who help out the easier it will be. If you are interested in volunteering please complete the form on the back page of the newsletter and return to the school office.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Welcome back to a new year of reading. Regular borrowing has now started. All children need to bring a library bag to school on their library lesson day to borrow a book (plastic preferred but an old pillow case is acceptable). Small plastic bags can be purchased for 10c from the library. It is very important that children read regularly, and it can be a great time to share some time with your child.

**Scholastic Book Club** will recommence this month. New brochures for the first issue will be given to students this week. Money and orders are to be returned in an envelope with your child’s name clearly marked on the front to the school office by **no later than Friday 15th February. Sorry, no late orders can be accepted.**

**YEAR 7 ENROLMENT FOR 2014**

All Y6 students will be given an Expression of Interest Package for enrolment in a NSW Government school for Year 7 in 2014 in the next week. Please complete the form and return to the school office **no later than Friday 22nd March.** If you have any questions or need help with completing the form, please ask your child’s class teacher.

**“STARSTRUCK”**

Our school has applied to audition for the dance and choir sections of Starstruck this year. Auditions will be held towards the end of this term. More information on this in the near future.

**UNIFORM SHOP**

The shop is located in the office area and is open between 8.30am and 9.30am, and 2pm and 3pm Monday to Friday. Order forms are available at the office.

**NEW CANTEEN MENU**

A new canteen menu was handed out today with this newsletter. If you did not receive a copy, please come to the office to collect one. Don’t forget if you have some spare time and would like to help out in the canteen, please complete the Volunteer
**MEPS VOLUNTEERS**

Yes, I would like to volunteer at the school. I am interested in:

- [ ] Stephanie Alexander Kitchen  
- [ ] Canteen
- [ ] Kitchen Garden  
- [ ] Library
- [ ] Maths Tutor  
- [ ] Art/Craft
- [ ] Reading Tutor  
- [ ] Music

Name: ________________________________

Contact No.: __________________________ or __________________________

**MEPS FUNDRAISING BBQ**

*Bunnings @ Kotara*

*Saturday March 23rd 9am to 3pm*

Yes, I am able to help out at the BBQ. I am available to help out

*Between ______________________ and __________________**.

Name: ________________________________

Contact Phone: __________________________