UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday 26th February
- P&C Meeting 6.30pm in library. Welcome to new parents—baby sitting available

Thursday 28th February
- “Welcome to our School” Come and join us for a BBQ and movie on the big screen from 4.30pm to 7pm

Friday 1st March
- School photos—order forms available at the office. Please do not bring your payment to school until Friday.

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

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

Friday 29th March
- Good Friday Public Holiday—school closed

Monday 1st April
- Easter Monday Public Holiday—school closed

Have you received the schoolkids bonus?
Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013—have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July. The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education—whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions. Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink—either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

Stewart House
We have two students attending Stewart House from Monday 18th March to Friday 28th March. We wish these children a wonderful trip and that they enjoy this new experience.

Demountable Classroom
The classroom has now been established and we are just waiting on data cables to be connected before the classroom is fully operational. Thank you to Ms Black and her class for their patience.
Volunteers
Thank you to everyone who has returned the note. The school will be contacting people in the near future to formulate times and dates that are suitable for you. For those people who ticked multiple boxes please prioritise your preference and allocate a time. Thank you for your ongoing support in providing opportunities for our children. It is through your help we make a difference.

Australian Mobile Dental Care
The school has distributed information packs for this service. The cost of the service is detailed on Page 3. Your child’s dental health is important and early intervention can save you serious money in the long term. The return date for this paperwork is the **22nd April 2013**.

100 Club Competition
To assist the school with raising funds we have decided to start a ‘100 Club’ raffle this week. These raffles will be run on a fortnightly basis and the tickets will be on sale for $2 each. Prizes for the first draw will be:

**1ST Prize:**
$100 gift voucher donated by Sunnyside Tavern, Georgetown

**Runner Up:**
30 minute Remedial Massage at Bodywise Physio

We would like to thank these organisations for their support. Tickets can be purchased from the office. Tickets will also be on sale before and after Wednesday’s Assembly in the hall. Children may purchase tickets on behalf of parents.

P&C News
Don’t forget our first meeting for 2013 is tonight in the school library, starting at 6.30pm. Everyone welcome, and babysitting is available. We would love to see some new faces come along and show your support for our school community. **If you wish to have voting rights at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 26th March, you need to attend the meeting tonight and be a financial member of the P&C.** We look forward to seeing some ‘old’ and hopefully new faces tonight.

School Clean Up Day is this Friday!!
In support of the outstanding environmental initiative Clean Up Australia Day, schools around Australia will be taking part in Schools Clean Up Day this Friday 1st March.

Classes will be allocated a section of the school grounds to clean. Please bring a pair of gloves and/or a plastic shopping bag to assist with the day and your school hat. Go green team!! Mr Blyth

Year 7 High School Enrolment for 2014
If your child will be moving to high school in 2014 it is essential that you return the Expression of Interest to the office as soon as possible. If you are applying to an ‘out of zone’ or ‘specialist school’ (Merewether High, Hunter Sports High, Hunter School of the Performing Arts or a private school) you still need to complete the form and return to the office as soon as possible. If you have any questions please contact the school on 4968 1495.

Welcome BBQ
&
Family Film Night
4.30pm to 5.30pm BBQ
Movie starts at 5.30pm
Come along and enjoy a sausage sizzle and meet other parents, staff and members of the P&C.
**Canteen Roster:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27th Feb</td>
<td>Chantel Alexander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28th Feb</td>
<td>Jessica Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 1st March</td>
<td>Callie and Donna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 4th March</td>
<td>Lauren Hancock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th March</td>
<td>Alethea Parkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6th March</td>
<td>Catherine Taylor</td>
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**World’s Greatest Shave**

Hi! My name is Melissa Cooper and I am a mum at MEPS. This year I am looking to participate in the WORLD’S GREATEST SHAVE. I hope to raise $1,000 for this very worthy cause.

If you would like to give your support to this fantastic foundation, please see me either in the morning or of an afternoon to register your sponsorship. I will be near the breakfast club room each day.

Your support will be greatly appreciated. Thanks from Melissa.

**Book Packs**

Please make sure you pay for your child’s book pack as soon as possible to enable teachers to fully implement their programs. If you are experiencing financial difficulties please give me a call on 4968 1495 and we can come to some arrangement that will suit everyone. Thank you, Mr Watt.

**St John’s Ambulance**

Is your child interested in being involved in the Junior St John’s Brigade?

If so, please contact Louise Osmond on 4968 2871. Meetings are held on a Tuesday night at St John’s Presbyterian Hall, corner of Hanbury and Macquarie Streets, from 7pm to 8.30pm.

**Multiplication times tables**


**Sorting fact from fiction**

Help your child develop their “dodgy website” antennae when doing homework. Here are ways your child can tell a good website – or any document – from a bad one.


**Nutrition Snippet**

Get your kids loving Fruit & Veg!

Are you one of the thousands of parents in Australia struggling to get your kids to eat fruit and veg?

- Remember the saying “the apple never falls far from the tree?” It’s important for you to eat and enjoy a wide variety of fruit and vegetables every day as kids are more likely to copy what they see.
- Get the kids involved in choosing and washing the fruit and veg they want to pack for school. Allow them to peel/cut/grate if old enough.
- Large pieces of fruit or veg can be hard to manage for young children. Cut them into a variety of shapes and sizes to keep it interesting.
- Keep ready-to-eat fruit or veg chopped in the fridge for kids to grab as an easy snack. Why not dip them in yoghurt or hummus for a refreshing change.

For more great ideas visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au and ‘like’ us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/eatittobeatit
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

between ___________________ and ________________

Name: ________________________________

Contact Phone: ____________________________