Dates to Remember:

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

Thursday 28th March
- K-2 Easter Hat Parade @ 2.15pm under the COLA followed by drawing of Easter Raffle

Friday 29th March
PUBLIC HOLIDAY—SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 1st April
PUBLIC HOLIDAY—SCHOOL CLOSED

Saturday 6th April
- MEPS Working Bee from 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Tuesday 9th April
- Last payment day for ICAS competitions
- Last payment day for Dance2bfit

Thursday 11th April
- Anzac Day Service @ 10.30am Parents and carers welcome to attend

Friday 12th April
- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL TERM

Tuesday 30th April
- P&C Meeting 6.30pm library

Wednesday 1st May
- STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR TERM 2 (Please note: Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th are Staff Development Days)

Friday 10th May
- Mothers’ Day Breakfast @ 8am in Stephanie Alexander Kitchen

Bunnings BBQ
I would like to thank all the wonderful parents who helped out on the day. The funds raised were a wonderful result. A huge thank you to the main organisers of the day, and a special mention to Hunter Valley Premium Meats for the delicious sausages, and also to Charles Webster (Chuck Duck) for the donation of the bread. These funds will be used to address identified needs around the school.

Book Packs
If possible we would like to distribute the remaining book packs to children. Could parents/carers please pay a deposit to the office as soon as possible. We will be sending out statements as reminders to all families at the beginning of next term.

 Mothers’ Day Stall
The school is seeking donations of small gifts suitable for a stall on Friday 10th May (Week 2, Term 2). This is a tradition at our school and means a lot to our students. Thank you for your support.

Nightly Reading
We are encouraging our students to read nightly from Kindergarten to Year 6. If your child is reading at home and not accessing school based books, you can still send in the booklets or a note so children will receive their certificates and it can be included in reports.

Manga High Maths
The school is trying to ensure that all students have their access passwords. If your child has not received theirs yet, please contact Mr Watt at the office, so he can ensure this happens before the school holidays.

Needs Survey
The school has been asked by the P&C to identify areas of need with regard to financial assistance. Staff have put in applications which will be addressed at tonight’s AGM.

However, it is important that parents are also given a voice. Please fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter and return to the office. We want our parents to be aware of our fundraising priorities, so they can support the various initiatives.
**P&C Annual General Meeting**

*Don’t forget that tonight is the P&C’s Annual General Meeting.* If you are a financial member of the P&C you will be able to vote. If you are not a financial member you are not able to vote tonight, however you are very welcome to come along and join the P&C for only $1. We are always happy to see some new faces and your support is appreciated.

**Easter Hat Parade**

**Thursday 28th March**

Students will now show their hats to the residents of Fronditha Aged-Care Facility next door after recess at around 2pm. **Students are to make their Easter hats at home and bring them to their classrooms on the morning of the parade.** Our Easter Raffle will be drawn at the conclusion of the parade. Get your creative skills working and have fun decorating!

**P&C Fundraising BBQ @ Bunnings**

A huge thank you to all those who helped out and came to support us at the Bunnings BBQ on Saturday! We had a very successful day and made $1664!! It would not have been possible without the help of Alan, Kris, Chuck Duck, Alethea, Bronwyn, Mark & Louise, Carla, Julie & Simon, Katie, Kate, Barbara, Cathy & Todd, Euridice, Mark, Eckie, John & Chris, Rhonda, Matt, Donna & Michael, Trent and Amanda & Andrew. Thank you very much, from Amanda Stephenson.

**Fundraising Committee Meeting**

If you would like to help our school with fundraising, why not come along to our next meeting to be held this **Wednesday 27th March at 9am in the Breakfast Club.** You do not need to be a financial member of the P&C or a member of the committee to come along and share your ideas. We always welcome new faces. We appreciated that a lot of mums work these days, but if you have an idea you would like to share, please email Alethea Parkinson at:

*meps_fundraising@hotmail.com.au*

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This Week’s Specials

**Hot Cross Buns**

$1.00 each

**this Thursday only:**

**Vanilla Cup Cakes**

$1.00 each
From the Library
We have unfortunately, a lot of students with overdue books. Teachers have been given a slip for each child detailing the name of the book. Please return these books as soon as possible. Children will not be permitted to borrow until all outstanding items have been returned. If you are unable to find a book, it would be appreciated if you can replace it with a similar title. If you have any questions, please see Mrs Bayl in the library, from Wednesday to Friday.

MEPS Bike Licences
Children who need to get their bike licences, are able to come into Mr Byth’s room on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings, wearing your helmet and carefully walking in with your bike/scooter/skateboard. If you have any questions or concerns please see Mr Blyth.

Dance2bfit Program
In Term 2 all Year 3 to Year 6 students have received notes concerning participation in this program. It is an energetic, innovative and fun way for our students to get fit and funky learning the latest dance styles to the hottest music tracks. This program has been specifically developed for NSW Primary Schools on the PDHPE syllabus. For your child to participate, you will need to complete the permission note and return to the school office with your money by no later than Tuesday 9th April.

Principal’s Award
Congratulations to the following students who received a Principal’s Award last week:

Zac Priest
Bayden Starkie
Bailey McGowan
Joey Dewson
Raine Gee
Samuel Wallace
Rachel Liddell
Louis Mackintosh
Amirah Bashford
Aleiah Newman

Blackbutt bush rangers!
The Newcastle Permanent Junior Ranger program brings kids back to nature. This school holidays kids will build a shelter, paint a boomerang, hunt for animals, and have a photo with a reptile for a take home bookmark!

Dates: 15 - 19 April 2013
Time: 9:30 - 11:30am
Location: Richley Reserve
Fees apply and bookings are essential.
For further information please contact: Blackbutt Reserve Office - 4904 3344 or visit www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au

School zone safety
A reminder to parents about the operation of school speed zones around the Easter holidays. School zones exist for the safety of children and families; they will operate on Thursday 28 March, then resume on Tuesday 2 April. Forty-kilometres-an-hour school speed zones operate across New South Wales at all school sites on gazetted school days, which are all days the school is open, even pupil-free days.

Back by popular demand
Mention head lice and most of us instantly develop an itch. While head lice and nits, (the eggs of head lice) are certainly annoying and persistent, they’re not dangerous. Here’s everything you need to know to rid your kids of head lice and nits. http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/Pages/nitbusters.aspx
I believe that the following financial assistance would enhance the opportunities offered to our children:

Priority 1:

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Priority 2:

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Priority 3:

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