A Message from the Principal, Alan Watt

Student Safety
We have had a few situations at school recently and would like remind parents/carers of the following:

- Children who ride, scoot or skate to school must wear a helmet. Where possible they should be on the footpath for their own safety. They also need to be aware that pedestrians have the right of way.
- Morning supervision—we have had a number of students arriving at school at 8am in the morning. Staff are on duty from 8.30am. If your child needs to be dropped off early at school they should be accessing the OOSH facility. If they are dropped a few minutes early they are to sit inside the gate and wait for the bell to ring. They are not to play ball games on the grassed area at the front of the office.

Great Aussie Bush Camp
After last weeks meeting we had a number of students who have now decided to attend this fantastic excursion. We still have a couple of seats left if your child would like to attend. All payments must be finalised by Wednesday 19th November.

Closure of School Oval
As part of our Port Waratah Coal Services Environmental Grant we have installed a new underground watering system under the oval and around the garden beds. The oval will therefore be closed until the end of the year. This will improve soil quality and help with the reseeding of the damaged areas. We are sorry for the inconvenience but look forward to a fantastic grassed area for the beginning of next year.

Computers & Gaming Devices
We have been tracking the behaviour of our students and as a result the data shows a number of students with repeated aggressive behaviour. It has become apparent that children are using gaming devices and computers to access social media sites as well as inappropriate, violent games. Please monitor what games, DVDs and internet sites your child is accessing. Children should not be accessing social media sites until they turn 13 years of age. The Department of Education & Communities and the police are currently very concerned about child access to inappropriate material and would encourage you to review your practices at home. We will be discussing this matter with students over the coming weeks to ensure they are aware of the importance of not accessing inappropriate material.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Thursday 6th Nov:
Choir Performance
Jesmond Campus

Tuesday 11th Nov:
‘Musica Viva’ Performance
Whole School—no cost

Fri 14th Nov:
P&C Fun Run

Wed 19th Nov:
Final Payment for Bush Camp
PUT MORE FUN INTO YOUR P&C FUN RUN!
The P&C have put their heads together to make the Fun Run on the 14th November a memorable event for all students by making it a...

RAINBOW RUN

Whilst the students are running, nominated adults will spur children on by spraying coloured water and by throwing confetti, water balloons and silly string. This is hoped to add a really fun element to the run. Students are encouraged to come to school out of uniform in T-Shirts (with sleeves) and shorts. It is important students not wear their "best" clothes as there is the possibility that the coloured water may not wash out of their clothes. If your child suffers from allergies or you do not want them to be sprayed, please advise your child's class teacher with a written note prior to the run and they can opt out of this component of the fun run. They will be given a badge to wear so they can still participate in the run but not get wet.

SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FOR 2016
Information booklets on how to apply are now available at the school office. Please note that applications are online only. Key dates for your calendar:

**Tuesday 14th October**
Applications website opens

**Monday 17th November**
Website closes
(PLEASE NOTE: no late applications will be accepted)

**Thursday 26th February**
Test Centre advice

In early July 2015 parents will be notified of the outcome of all applications. If you have any questions please contact the principal during school hours on 4968 1495.

JARGON EXPLAINED
If your child's teacher mentions G&T in the COLA, she's actually talking about gifted and talented classes being held in the covered outdoor learning area.

More school jargon explained:


WHERE'S THE OCTOPUS
Wow - it's videos like this that show kids how cool studying science can be. Watch it with them:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoCzZHcwKxi&feature=youtu.be

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SHOES
School shoes may all look the same but the cost can vary from about $30 to $120 and beyond. Does a more expensive shoe mean a better shoe? Find out more:


NSW PUBLIC SCHOOLS TERMS & HOLIDAYS
Here's a snapshot of NSW public school terms and holidays for 2015 - 2016.

Find out more:


FOR SALE
GARDEN MULCH
$10 per trailer load
FROM SCHOOL GROUNDS
Please call the school office on 49681495 to arrange pick up time

RAINBOW RUN
P&C NEWS

CHEERS!
The By Election cake stall and BBQ was a cracker! The weather was beautiful *(if not slightly too warm...)* and we raised a total of **$1231.55**! We could not have done it without the volunteers who gave up their Saturday to support the new play space, our team also included visitors from Sydney, and a devoted, hardworking team of ex-students who worked tirelessly between both stalls all day, refusing to stop even for a quick run to the pool! Everyone worked together so well, and there was much laughter.

Thanks to: Staff- Alan Watt, Claire Lenditch
Parents- Brett, Amanda, Kate, Zoë, Phil, Mel, Matt, Anna, Gail, Julie, Ali, Ben, Liz, Alethea, Donna, Michelle (who was visiting Eleanor’s family and came to help!)
Current Students: Dodge, Jayden, Taylor, Elliot, Amos, Louis, Willow, Zephyr, Darby, Sarah, Hayley, Rachael.
Past students (who stayed ALL DAY!!!): Brittany, Zach, Jess, Carlie and Seth

Please lend a hand for the next election day on Saturday 15**th** November.

FUN RUN! (volunteers, spectators and funny runners needed!)
What: Fun Run during school hours to help raise funds for our play space.

When: Friday 14**th** November starting at 1pm on the MEPS school oval

Who: K-6, collect sponsors and return money to school office Thurs. 13**th** Nov.

If you can help at all please contact
Liz Lidell on 0438 731 539 or lizlidell@bigpond.com

Secretary Ali’s summary notes from the last meeting, full copies available.

“Last week we had our second last P&C meeting of the year. Lots of people have been working very hard behind the scenes to contribute to the fundraising for the playground. We heard about grant applications that members have lodged and we discussed plans for our upcoming election BBQs and cake stalls. We also heard updates about the Fun Run that will be happening at the school soon and worked out some details about the Summer raffle. The playground planning committee have now engaged a designer and will be meeting with him next week. One member also brought up the less-than-optimus state of the school toilets, and we had some discussion about how we could help get this addressed.”

MEPS P&C is always open and always inclusive! New members welcome at each meeting and you can be a fully financial member with voting rights for a gold coin.

*We ask only that you adhere to our code of conduct, and bring your enthusiasm with you!*

Summer Getaway Raffle
Our last raffle was pretty impressive......
This one is positively AMAZING!!!!

Tickets will be $2 each or 3 for $5 (cheapest family holiday EVER!) and they will be going home with kids soon, 3 cheers to Eden’s dad, **Brett Purcell** for arranging such a super summer prize!

***We realise we are asking for lots of parent volunteers at the moment, but the new play space will require quite a financial outlay. We have managed to raise over $10,000 since the Easter raffle, and that is probably only a third of what we might need to complete works. The hard work will be worth it, the students will have a great space in which to play, run, climb, imagine and laugh together. Anything you can do to help take the fundraising out into the community is greatly appreciated. If we have left you out of our thankyou list, please let me know!***

Cheers!
Zoë Roxburgh
MEPS P&C Vice-President and Communications Co-ordinator
zoroxburgh@gmail.com

---

**1st Prize:** 4 x night accommodation in 2 x bedroom villa cabin at Myall Shores Holiday Park - *Not valid in peak periods.*
http://www.myallshores.com.au

**2nd Prize:** Flynn’s Beach Resort Port Macquarie, 3 night mid-week stay or 2 night weekend escape in 2 x bedroom self-contained studio apartment - *Excludes school holidays and public holidays.*

**3rd Prize:** 2 x Complimentary Tickets to a BBQ Galore East Maitland Cooking School valued at $60 plus a $100 Summer BBQ Utensil Pack.

**4th Prize:** $100 Gift Voucher to Breakaway Surf Co in Hunter St Mall

**5th Prize:** current Entertainment Book
Affordable & Enjoyable Music Lessons

Monica & Marea’s Music Studio
(Est. 1976)
36 George Street, Mayfield NSW 2304

Lessons available in
Piano * Keyboard * Flute * Recorder
Guitar (Acoustic/Electric/Bass) * Singing

Monica and Marea are graduates from Newcastle Conservatorium/University,
& Catholic University of Australia
Child Protection # 16187

Please feel free to contact us and discuss your music dreams or visit our website:
monicaandmareasmusicstudio.com.au

PH: 4968 9000 or Monica on mobile 0407 705 021 or Marea on mobile 0429 705 021