Welcome to Week 4!
The highlight last week was the swimming carnival. It was marvellous to see children of varying swimming abilities entering different stroke events. Everyone was also well-behaved. I’d like to thank the house captains for keeping their areas tidy and organising the relays. It was the first time that our swimming carnival has been able to run junior and senior relays. This is a reflection of the ‘have a go’ attitude the children at Mayfield East have.

Another lovely surprise last week was each family in our school receiving the book, “A Harbour From A Creek”. Newcastle Port Corporation arranged for each family to receive this book as a present in recognition of past and present contributions the community has made to the Port of Newcastle.

The book looks at the history of the Port of Newcastle since European settlement. Local historian, Rosemary Melville, has produced this publication with the assistance of many people and organisations in our area. I hope you enjoy this book and learn a little more about the Port of Newcastle.

School Photos
Please note the change of date for our school photos. They will now be held on Friday 27th February. It is really important that your child arrives to school on time as the photographers keep a very tight schedule. Please do not send your envelope/money before this day. Students bring their envelope on the day and they are handed directly to the photographer.

Year Six
It certainly comes around early each year, but it is time for our Year Six parents to think about what High School their children will be attending. Forms were handed out last week and it would be greatly appreciated if they could be completed and returned to the school office as soon as possible. I’d also like to remind parents that the office has the ‘High Achievers’ applications in the office for interested students.

Disco & Parent Information
Next Thursday, all staff members will present a half hour presentation to parents. The aim of these sessions is to provide a brief outline about the school curriculum, the units of work being studied as well as general routines that are established within the classroom. Whilst these information sessions are being held, a disco will be run in the school hall for all school aged children. The cost is $4 and all children will receive afternoon tea. The kitchen will also be open for parents wishing to grab a coffee. The disco is from 4:30pm to 6pm. Class information sessions are as follows:

4:30pm to 5pm:
KH, KB, K/1L, 2P and 3/4T

5:30pm to 6pm:
1/2W, 1/2JV, 3B, 4/5M, 5/6AJ, 5/6B

Please return the blue form and money to the office to assist with the catering for the evening.

Responsible Pet Ownership
Early next term K-2 will have the opportunity to be part of ‘Living Safely With Dogs’ presentation. Nikki Porter, will bring her cocker spaniel and show our students how to interact safely with dogs. I believe this is a worthwhile program for our younger children, as we do see dogs in and around our school environment. Children will learn how to be comfortable around strange dogs and how to approach them safely.

Morning Assemblies
As you are aware each morning the children assemble under the COLA for a brief assembly. In the past parents have stood down the side of the assembly. It would be greatly appreciated if parents could move when their children line up to the aluminium chairs and tables that have been placed at the back of the assembly. It is hoped this will reduce the anxiety that some of our students face in the morning from leaving their parent’s care. It will also allow classes to leave the assembly area promptly as the passageways will be clear. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Allison Thompson
Relieving Principal

Dates for Your Calendar

Tuesday 17th February:
P&C info & welcome Afternoon Tea

Fri 20th February:
Expression of Interest due for Newcastle Writers Festival

Wed 25th February:
MEPS Athletics Carnival Hunter Sports Centre, Glendale $8 per child (K-6)

Thurs 26th February:
Information Night & School Disco $4 entry

Fri 27th February:
School Photos (Please bring money envelope on the day)
Swimming Carnival:
The carnival this year was a great success and students, teachers and parents all had an enjoyable time. All students were well behaved and participated enthusiastically in their events. A very special thank you to our parent helpers who assisted with time keeping. Congratulations to our age champions:

**Jnr Boy**—Amos Mackintosh
**Jnr Girl**—Hannah Nguyen
**Snr Boy**—William Rothery
**Snr Girl**—Kaylah Beattie

Well done everyone! All the best to our students who have qualified to compete at Zone Swimming on Wednesday 25th February.

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Library News:
Please remember that in order for your child to borrow they must have a suitable bag. Library borrowing days are:

**Wednesday**
K/1L, 2P, 1/2VJ

**Thursday**
1/2W, 5/6B, 5/6A, KH

**Friday**
3/4T, 4/5M, 3B, KB

This week’s featured book titles are:

**Kindy/1/2**
I’m Taggarty Toad
The Bird who was an Elephant

**Year 5/6**
Emily Windsnap and the Monster from the Deep

**Year 2/3/4**
Goosebumps Most Wanted
Audrey of the Outback

**Non fiction**
Dangerous Animals
Frog

Our school has the opportunity to attend the Newcastle Writers Festival, Newcastle Regional Library, 16-21 March at the Newcastle Cultural Centre.

This Festival program will provide an opportunity for students to meet and engage with inspiring authors and illustrators such as Anna Fienberg (author of Tashi) and international award winning illustrator Mark Wilson. Workshops aim to inspire primary school students to use their imagination and discover the joy of reading and drawing. There are limited places available so we are asking for ‘expressions of interest’ from parents. Please complete the form in the newsletter and return to the office by no later than next Friday 20th February. This opportunity is available for Kindergarten to Year 6 students. There will be a cost involved but we anticipate that it should not be more than $10 per child.

Volunteer Ethics Teachers:
Primary Ethics provides the opportunity for NSW public primary school students who don’t attend scripture classes (SRE) to participate in philosophical ethics classes. Due to a lack of volunteer teachers, many more children have applied to attend ethics than we are able to cater to. We have been forced to put many students on a waiting list. We urgently need new volunteers to teach all stages of ethics classes at Mayfield East Public School.

The classes teach children how to approach ethical issues and develop their capacity for considered moral judgment, which will enable them to respond more thoughtfully to many of the problems and issues they will face in their lives. Volunteer Ethics Teachers are trained to deliver our age-appropriate curriculum every week and to use the accompanying learning and teaching materials.

Now is the ideal time to start the application process, as a 2 day Teacher training course is to be held in Newcastle on March 15 and 22. After initial training it only takes about an hour per week for preparation and teaching. Several of our current teachers actually teach during their lunch break. For more information about the role and to volunteer, please go to [http://www.primaryethics.com.au](http://www.primaryethics.com.au). Thank you.

Bronwyn Kanitz
MEPS Ethics Coordinator
m: 0416 368 984

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School Photos 2015:
Please note the change of date. This is due to unforeseen circumstances and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

All students were given an envelope to bring on photo day. Please do not bring to the office before Friday 27th February. All photo envelopes and money will be collected on the day. This year parents have the option to pay online. **The online order code is 151547.** Please keep your envelope in a safe place until photo day as we do not have enough to replace lost ones. Separate family portrait envelopes are available at the office if required. Please be aware that the uniform shop is not open on this day.

Uniform Shop
We are now taking orders for winter baseball style jackets. Please leave your order and money at the office. It would be very much appreciated if you can order early as we will not be keeping a huge amount of extra stock in this style. Also we now have plenty of stock of Size 4, 6, 8 polo shirts.

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Library News:
Please remember that in order for your...
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Newcastle Writers Festival—16th to 21st March 2015

(please return to the office by Fri 20th Feb)

Yes, I am interested in my child _________________________ of class _______

attending the Newcastle Writers Festival. I understand that there will be cost involved to be confirmed at a later date.

Signed: ____________________________ Date: ____________