Week 4 Highlights
The school webpage is now looking fresh and up to date. All teachers have updated their class home pages with many teachers uploading quality work. The school newsletter is also available and photo albums are continually being added, the most recent being the Swimming Carnival. Please take the time to visit our web page and look at the wonderful work the children at our school are producing.

Clean Up Australia Day
This Friday, all children from K-6 will participate in the Clean Up Australia Day program. After lunch, each class will be given an area within our school to tidy. It would be greatly appreciated if you could send in a pair of gloves for your child to wear whilst we carry out our clean up. We will have plenty of antiseptic gel on hand for children to use when they finish cleaning their area to ensure their hands are germ free.

Disco and Parent Information Night
We are holding our Parent Information Night this Thursday. All meetings will be held in your child’s classroom. All children who are attending the disco will need to get their name marked off the list outside the hall.

Vandalism
Over the past two weekends our school has seen unknown persons enter the grounds and break windows within our school. It has been very sad to see buildings out of action on Monday morning while the windows are being repaired. If you hear anything about who may be responsible for these attacks please contact either myself or the police directly.

Playground Blitz
There has been an increasing number of children reporting to teachers that they have been pushed or hurt while playing at lunch or recess. We do take these matters seriously and have a Student Well-Being policy that is followed by all staff members. Over the next two weeks we are having a playground blitz by adopting a proactive approach and having more staff on duty. We are fortunate that our school has such a caring staff. Many staff members have offered their time to this cause and will now not receive the gazetted amount of time for their lunch break. Students who push or hurt others will be recorded in our school management system, Sentral. For low level incidents the child will be placed on a white dot for the remainder of lunch time and then assigned a planning room the next day. Planning room is run by our Assistant Principals who have these students off the playground and spend time talking to the child to find alternative ways for them to react to incidents in the playground. For more serious incidents resulting in injury an in-school suspension or full suspension may be required. These decisions are made after interviewing children, witnesses and teachers. In some instances it may take more than one day to be able to determine the correct course of action.

Classroom Visits
I have enjoyed walking around the school and spending time in our primary classrooms. We have wonderful hard-working students and teachers in our school. I have watched students writing persuasive texts and am excited by the personal improvement they are making as they work towards producing the best writing samples they possibly can.

Allison Thompson
Relieving Principal

Dates for Your Calendar

**Tues 24th February:**
P&C Meeting, 6pm
In school library.
All Welcome

**Wed 25th February:**
MEPS Athletics Carnival
Hunter Sports Centre, Glendale

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

**Fri 27th February:**
School Photos
(Please bring money envelope on the day)
Library News:
This week we are featuring a selection of ‘GO GIRL’ books.

Please remember that children are not able to borrow if they have any outstanding loans. If you cannot find a book please send in a suitable replacement. Your child will then be able to commence borrowing again. If you have any questions or concerns please talk to Mrs Bayl in the library from Wednesday to Friday only.

We will be starting the Premiers Reading Challenge for 2015 in March. For our new students and parents more information is available at:-

https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/faqs.html

All MEPS students from Kindergarten to Year 6 participate every year in the challenge.

The Challenge aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure and to enable students to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. All students receive a Certificate of Participation at the end of the Challenge.

Uniform Shop:
Please note our opening hours are:-

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
8:30am to 9:30am

All other times by appointment only. Orders for winter jackets need to be placed as soon as possible. We will not be holding a lot of stock of this item so to avoid missing out please place your orders early. If you have any questions please see the ladies in the office.

PLEASE NOTE: the uniform shop will be closed on Friday 27th February due to School Photos.

Canteen News:
We understand that not everyone is able to volunteer at school due to family and work commitments. However you can help the canteen by donating staple items that we use on a daily basis such as:-

- Woolworths brand Tomato Soup (approx. 80c per can)
- Woolworths brand Small Spiral Pasta (approx. 70c-$1 per pack)

Your donation would be greatly appreciated. All donations can be left at the school office. Thank you for your assistance.

Kallie Newman,
Canteen Supervisor

P&C Meeting Tonight!
Join us for the first meeting of the year at 6pm - 7.30pm in the library.

Babysitting available!
We look forward to seeing lots of new faces and lots of energy and ideas.

Please bring a $1 coin for membership renewal.

See you there!

Carla Cowles
P&C President
Cowles.carla@gmail.com
0404 899 231

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