



Noticeboard

The Weekly Newsletter from Merewether Heights Public School

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Term 3 Week 4 Tuesday 8th August, 2017

SCHOOL CONCERT

Concert fever has started at Merewether Heights Public School! Classes are beginning to prepare their items and our lead actors have been busily learning their lines. Make sure you are available on September 6th so you don't miss out on what will prove to be a most enjoyable evening. Individual classes will be sending notes home about costume and prop requirements in the coming weeks and specific questions should be directed to classroom teachers.

ILLNESS

The cold and windy weather has contributed to a prevalence of illness in all grades in the past week. Please ensure that you keep sick children at home so they can have time to recover. We have been sending quite a few ill children home each day, with a variety of complaints. There has been a confirmation of a student with Chickenpox. Don't forget to phone the school, or send a note, or use the Skoolbag App to explain any absences your child may have.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS 2018

Kindergarten Orientation Day will be held on Wednesday, 13th September. Invitations have been sent out to all the children who have indicated they will be enrolling next year. Should you know of anyone who has a child to enrol in Kindergarten next year, please ask them to do so as soon as possible so they will receive their invitations.

CAMP DEPOSITS - YEARS 3-6

Camp deposits for students in Years 3 to 6 were due by the end of Term 2. Thank you to the parents who have paid the deposit by the due date. **However, we have a large number of students with the deposit outstanding. As the school needs to finalise the number of students**

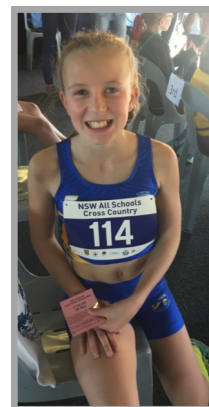
who will be attending the camps it would be appreciated if the payment of outstanding deposits could be made as soon as possible.

If your child is not going to be attending the camp in Week 8 Term 4, would you please advise the school office as soon as possible.

Should payment of the deposit cause concern or financial hardship, please contact Mr Egginton, Principal, or Mrs Yelds, School Administrative Manager, to make alternate arrangements.

NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY UPDATE

We are sending all our support and best wishes to Sienna K who is heading to Tasmania to participate in the National Cross Country Championships. Sienna will be running in the 11yr Girls 3km event. Good luck Sienna.



DONATIONS FOR TONGA

Dennis Pitt who trains our students in athletics is heading to Tonga on a voluntary trip to coach underprivileged children. If anyone has running shoes, T-shirts, caps, shorts etc that they no longer use, would you consider donating them to Dennis to take with him. If you can, please take the items to 4M classroom.

Amanda Mitchell

Important Anaphylaxis Notice

We have students who are at risk of severe allergic reaction to some food items. **This condition is potentially life threatening.** Please do not send nut-based products to school with your child's recess or lunch. Products include peanut butter, Nutella, sesame seed, loose nuts, muesli, nut or chocolate bars.

SPELLING BEE

Students from Year 3-6 have started practising for the Spelling Bee in class.

The official word lists for the 2017 Premier's Spelling Bee, provided by Macquarie Dictionary are now available for Stage 2 and 3 students to practise at home:

<http://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/speaking-competitions/spelling-bee/premiers-spelling-bee>

Password: riddle

Junior (Stage 2) levels 1-5

Senior (Stage 3) levels 2-7

Students have been selected, and a note has gone home, from in-class Spelling Bee to participate in our school Spelling Bee finals on Wednesday 9th August (Week 4). Stage 2 at 9.45am and Stage 3 at 11.45am.

Libby McClymont

AWARDS *Congratulations to*

Early

Stage 1 Mia C, Adrian F, Scarlett W, Finn B, Albie W,

Stage 1 Leila H, Isla C, Rex B, Chloe M, Harry Q, Luke M, Hugo M, Keira F, Dylan W, Cruz D, Alina S, John O, Tom M, Ingrid S.

Stage 2 Felix B, Maeva O, Amber T, Harrison G, Max J, Corbin Y, James E, Charlie D, Eden P, Tyler S.

Stage 3 Sebastian C, Toby C, Tahne H, Tye W, Cherri S.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kobi Worgan, James Cooper, Ben McGovern, Charlize Schatz, Sophia Nicola, Asha Hartley, Griffen Ross.



CLOTHING POOL

Clothing Pool is open every Tuesday morning

9 –9.30 am

FROM THE TEACHERS



Meet our Climate Cam Team 2017

Our first project this year is energy. These students work daily to ensure our teachers and classes are reducing our energy output by turning off lights, airconditioners and smartboards when we are out of the rooms.

This term we will be starting our lunch waste recycling program. Our team is doing great work.

Amanda Mitchell

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

We are holding a Performing Arts Committee meeting on Monday 14th August, 4.00pm in the 1/2G classroom. We are currently seeking parents from our band and choirs to volunteer to be a part of our committee. We are looking to fill the roles of; President, Treasurer and Secretary for 2018. Please come along and have a chat about future performing arts ventures. We hope to see you there.

Michelle Grist, Jessica Martyn and Liam Moran.

Follow us on Twitter @MerewetherHtsPS



CANTEEN ROSTER

Wed 9/8	Thurs 10/8	Fri 11/8	Mon 14/8	Tues 15/8
Alex V	Tracee S Felicity T	Amanda W Amanda C	Volunteer required	Closed
Wed 16/8	Thurs 17/8	Fri 18/8	Mon 21/8	Tues 22/8
Kath N	Edwina M Nikki N	Sussanah M	Volunteer required	Closed

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN PROMOTION

Merewether Heights Public School will be taking part in the 2017 Woolworths Earn & Learn promotion. During previous campaigns, we were able to purchase some great resources with the points we earned, thanks to our parents, staff and the community.

From Wednesday 26 July until 19 September 2017, you can collect stickers at Woolworths that go towards Earn & Learn points. For every \$10 you spend at Woolworths (excluding the purchase of tobacco, liquor and gift cards), you will receive a sticker. These stickers can then be given to your children to collect on a special sticker card. Once it is completed, they can simply bring it to the school office. Anyone from our school community – staff, parents, grandparents, neighbours and friends – who shop at Woolworths can collect stickers for our students. The more points we earn, the more we can redeem from a choice of over 10,000 educational resources, including Mathematics and English resources, art & crafts materials and much, much more!

We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program. If you have any questions, please ask at the school office.

COMMUNITY NEWS

“Why Cyber Security Matters to Everyone” - Vijay Varadharajan from the University of Newcastle is holding a free public talk on Thursday, 10 August from 6.00 to 7.00 pm at the Newcastle Conservatorium (Auckland Street, Newcastle), centred around providing practical advice for individuals, families and businesses to protect their private information and their applications. The talk will also explore recent developments in cyber security, the nature of cyber attacks and the capabilities of cyber criminals. The link to the free event is:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/why-cyber-security-matters-to-everyone-public-lecture-tickets-35499041589?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&aff=escb&utm-source=cp&utm-term=listing>

P&C FUNDRAISER

Sit back and let us do the driving

Join our shopping trip to
HOMEBUSH DFO & IKEA
on

Saturday 14 October 2017

Luxury coach departs from Merewether Heights
Public School bus stop, Scenic Drive, Merewether
Heights at

8 am and returns at 6.30 pm

Cost: \$55.00

Includes two shuttles between DFO & IKEA to tailor
your day to suit your shopping needs and enjoy a
movie on the way home.

Limited places available so don't delay your booking
For further information or to book your ticket please
visit <https://www.stickytickets.com.au/53638>
or phone Hollie Tuckerman on 0439 618184
All profits supporting the work of MHPS P&C

Tickets on sale NOW at:

www.stickytickets.com.au!

For your chance to win big at the:



FRIDAY 27th October

Charlestown Bowling Club

Doors open 6.30 pm, trivia starts 7 pm.

**Cost: \$25 per person, OR \$200 per table of 10*
purchased in advance.**

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS by credit card: copy
this url:**

www.stickytickets.com.au/56481

Or search “MHPS” at stickytickets.com.au

**Ticket includes: trivia, 1 drink voucher
tap beer, wine (still or sparkling), soft drink
Meals and snacks from the bistro menu can be
ordered at guests own expense.
Prizes for the most trivial minds!
Door prizes and raffle.**

**Bring your family, friends, sporting team 250
tickets available.**

***selling all 10 seats is the responsibility of the pur-
chaser, no partial refunds possible unfortunately.**

Tickets: www.stickytickets.com.au/56481

DIARY DATES

TERM 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
REMINDER, THE CANTEEN IS CLOSED ON TUESDAYS. STUDENT BANKING DAY IS WEDNESDAY.					
WEEK 4	7/8 Zone Public Speaking Kinder @ Stockton PS, 11.40am Zone Athletics	8/8 Zone Athletics	9/8 Zone Public Speaking Yr 3 & 4 @ Carrington PS 12.00pm	10/8 Zone Public Speaking Yr 5 & 6 @ Stockton PS 11.40am	11/8 Zone Public Speaking Yr 1 & 2 @ New Lambton South PS 11.40am Yr6 Kotara HS taster lesson
WEEK 5	14/8 Performing Arts Meeting 4pm	15/8 ICAS Maths 2N Cupcake Day	16/8	17/8	18/8
WEEK 6	21/8 P&C Meeting	22/8 Open Day / Book Week Parade / Grandparents Day	23/8 Yr 5 & Yr 6 NPBS Maths Competition	24/8 Y6 Kotara HS Numeracy Program	25/8
WEEK 7	28/8	29/8 4P Cupcake Day	30/8 Life Education Van	31/8 Life Education Van	1/9 Life Education Van Fathers Day BBQ
WEEK 8	4/9 Life Education Van	5/9 Life Education Van	6/9 School Concert	7/9	8/9
WEEK 9	11/9	12/9 KG Cupcake Day	13/9 Kindy 2018 Orientation Day	14/9	15/9 Hunter Water Safety Program K-6
WEEK 10	18/9	19/9 K-2 Reptile Park Excursion	20/9	21/9 Disco	22/9 Last Day of Term 3

PAYMENTS

Payments can be made quite easily on our POP (Parent Online Payment) system found on our webpage, www.merewethht-p.schools.nsw.edu.au , **Please Note; when making a payment online, only fill in the boxes with a green asterisk, no need for the student number.** Or correct money or cheque in an envelope to the office, or Eftpos at the office.

SKOOLBAG APP

The MHPS Skoolbag App is a great way to stay in touch and up to date with the school. We send alerts and event information as well as the Noticeboard. You can also notify the school regarding absences.



Fact sheet for parents and carers

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Planning has begun to move NAPLAN from a pen and paper assessment to an online assessment.

What are the benefits of NAPLAN Online?

Results will be faster and more precise

- Your child's individual results will be returned to you within just a few weeks of the NAPLAN testing.
- Online assessment will reduce the time it takes to mark and provide feedback to schools, teachers and parents.
- Improved precision and timing of results will help teachers to tailor their teaching more specifically to address students' learning needs.

Tailored tests will provide better assessment

- The online format allows for 'tailored testing', where the test adapts to a student's performance and asks questions that match their achievement level.
- Students in each year level start with the same set of questions which can then branch into a different set of questions based on their responses to the first set of questions.
- This means that students will be directed to questions that may be easier or more challenging depending on their responses.
- This test design will allow students to better demonstrate their literacy and numeracy skills.
- Students find online assessment is more engaging*, which means they are encouraged to persist longer and try harder.

* Research by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) into online assessment has shown that students have engaged well with electronic tests.

NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test

NSW schools will participate in a school readiness test between 14 August and 22 September 2017.

The school readiness test is a 'practice run' for schools to assess their technology ahead of NAPLAN Online. The readiness test is not an assessment of student ability. The readiness test allows schools to:

- become familiar with the NAPLAN Online test format and processes
- check whether they have the technical capacity, rooms and devices to administer NAPLAN Online
- provide students in NAPLAN years 3, 5, 7 and 9 with the opportunity to experience the online test question types and format by completing a practice NAPLAN online test.

For more information

Parents, students and schools interested in familiarising themselves with the NAPLAN Online format can access the NAPLAN Online demonstration site that includes sample tests for each NAPLAN year. Use the following link:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/naplan-online-public-demonstration-site>

Further information about NAPLAN Online is available on the national ACARA website:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online>

Contact your school principal or visit the ACARA NAP website for more detailed information:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/online-assessment.html>



Frequently asked questions

Which students will participate in the NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test?

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will participate.

How should I prepare my child for the NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test?

Your child will not need any academic preparation for the school readiness test. This is not a test of their literacy and numeracy skills, but an opportunity for them to experience the online test format and for their school to assess its online testing capability.

How long is the school readiness test?

The school readiness test is expected to include two assessments: a writing assessment* and a combined numeracy/literacy assessment. The duration of each assessment will be approximately 40 minutes.

** Year 3 students will only be expected to complete the combined numeracy/literacy assessment.*

When will my school participate in the readiness test?

One week within the test period in August and September will be identified for each school to conduct readiness testing.

How will students be prevented from using the internet or spellcheckers when completing the test?

The NAPLAN Online assessment platform will have state-of-the-art security protections. The assessment is delivered inside a locked-down browser. This ensures students cannot access the internet or spellcheckers while completing the test.

Will schools and parents be provided with information on the results of the readiness test?

There will be feedback to schools about the technical information gained from the readiness testing. There will be no reporting of student test results from the readiness test.