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.

2015 Dates for the Diary:
Staff resume at school on Tuesday, 27 January 2015
Students in Years 1 to 6 resume school on Wednesday, 28 January 2015
Students in Kindergarten start school on Thursday, 29 January 2015

Parent Volunteers Needed:
If anyone can help on Monday, 8 December, please contact Kim in the canteen.

PLEASE NOTE: THE SCHOOL CANTEEN WILL NOT BE OPENING ON THE LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL, THEREFORE LUNCH ORDERS AND COUNTER SALES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.

From the Principal...

Dear Parents

We are well into finalising plans for 2015. The teachers are busily working out classes that will best suit each individual student. The school will be continuing with the Independent Learners’ Class in 2015 and will be for students in years 4, 5 and 6. If you DO NOT want your child considered for this class please let the school know before Friday 5th December.

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Next week I will publish the draft class structure and teachers for 2015 (keeping in mind that these could change).

Thanks to all the parents who contributed at our P&C meeting last night where we discussed the draft 2015-2017 School Plan. The plan is coming together well and will give us clear direction for the next three years. It will be an exciting time for our students and the school as a whole and will ensure the quality of education that is provided for our students!

Parent Helper Morning Tea – REMINDER!
Save the date! On Tuesday 9th December at 11.15am the staff would like to thank all the parent helpers who give so generously of their time to help us by putting on a special morning tea. It is our way to say ‘Thank you so much’! Without your help we would not be able to provide the quality educational experience that we do for your children. Please come along no matter how insignificant you think your contribution is – EVERY bit helps! Looking forward to seeing you at the morning tea.

Over the past few days one of our students, Millie S, has been representing NSW at the National Schools’ Athletics Carnival. She has competed with great determination and commitment. She has been part of the U11 8x100m mixed relay and their team came second, the U11 4x200m mixed relay which came third and has been placed as the 10th fastest U11 100m runner in Australia. What an outstanding effort – well done!

23 sleeps till Santa

Enjoy your week!

Steve Egginton
Principal

I would like to congratulate the following awards winners from this year’s Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition that was held for students in years 5 & 6. The school received outstanding results!

High Distinction – Year 6
Jaimee D, Harry S, Thomas W, Ethan S

Distinction – Year 6

High Distinction – Year 5
Sophie B, Cameron L, Owen F.

Distinction – Year 5


Stage Two Awards: Oliver R, Zippie T, Hannah McM, Hamish B, Jonah S, Holly B, Ethan T, Ethan L, Patrick S, Oscar M, Lucas W,

Stage Three Awards: Mackenzie R, Mae S, Oliver W, Liam W, Kira J,

Happy Birthday to: Blair C, Lucy N, Cameron L, Xanthea V, Holly S

From the Office...

HAVE YOU RECEIVED?
• An orange note titled General Permission to Publish and Disclose Information for all students. This form was due by Friday 16 May, 2014. Please ensure this form is returned to school as soon as possible.
• Years Kindy to Yr 2 – Permission note for Hunter Sports Centre for their party day on Wednesday, 17 December.
• Years 3 to 6 – Permission note for Lambton Pool for their party day on Wednesday, 17 December.

2015 ORGANISATION
Organisation has commenced for classes for the 2015 school year. If you know of any child who will not be attending our school next year please advise the school as soon as possible. We have a number of people enquiring about vacancies for 2015 and your early advice would be greatly appreciated.

MOSQUITOS
At the moment mosquitos are quite prevalent within our school grounds. It is recommended that students apply insect repellent prior to coming to school.

LOST PROPERTY
Our lost property cupboard is again overflowing with school uniforms, non-school uniform items, shoes, drink bottles, lunch boxes and plastic containers. These items do not have names on them. If your child is missing any items, please check the lost property cupboard in the western foyer of the staffroom, where the home readers are kept. All items in lost property will be disposed of at the end of term.

We ask parents to please label all items so when things go missing we can return them as soon as possible.

From the Teachers...

Follow us on Twitter @MerewetherHtsPS

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LIBRARY NEWS

Borrowing
Last week was the last week of borrowing books from the school library. Please return any borrowed books as soon as possible

Mrs L
Teacher-Librarian

BAND PRESENTATION NIGHT

The 11th annual Band Presentation night has been moved from Tuesday 2 December to Wednesday, 3 December. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused to parents and students. Band members received a note last week with details of the event.

The event commences at 6.00 pm in the school hall. Band members should arrive by 5.45 pm and should wear smart casual clothing. Band members need to bring musical instruments and music, and are asked to bring a plate of food to share; the band will provide tea/coffee and cool drinks.

BAND NEWS

A big thank to everyone who attended the band movie premier fundraiser on Sunday. A great time was had by all who attended. A big thank you to Brody S and the Event cinema staff for all of their hard work in organising this fabulous event, and to all the parents who helped on the day. We raised $1,545 to go towards purchasing new instruments for the school band. Thank you everyone for your support.

Band Coordinator

---

Invitation to Parents to attend the Parent Helpers Morning Tea!

The staff of Merewether Heights Public School would like to say thank you to those parents and friends who have helped throughout the year in so many ways.

The staff is putting on a morning tea and would like to invite all parents and friends who have assisted throughout 2014 to attend.

Date: Tuesday 9 December, 2014

Time: 11.15 - 12:00 in the staffroom

Thank you all for your assistance throughout 2014.
YEAR 6 COUNTY FAIR DAY

Year 6 will be holding their annual County Fair Day on Friday, 12 December, to raise money for their end-of-year Farewell and gift to the school. The Year 6 students will be running all sorts of stalls, providing plenty of fun for everyone to enjoy. All the usual activities will be there, including the ice-cream stall, the sponge throw and we are hoping to have a slip and slide. Most stalls will cost 50 cents to $1.00. It will be an out-of-uniform day for all students. Year 6 will collect a gold coin in the morning from students for coming out of uniform and we recommend all children have around $8 to spend at the fair.

Looking forward to a great day.

The Year 6 Teachers

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER AWARDS CEREMONY

Last week, members of our Newcastle Herald School Newspaper team attended the annual awards ceremony at Hunter Stadium. Our very own Ella B won an award and was recognised as highly commended for her writing.

Students enjoyed a delicious morning tea and enjoyed the opportunity to meet with students from other schools.

Many thanks to all of the students that contributed to our school newspaper entry and a special thanks to parents that provided transport on the day.

Mrs H

CUP CAKE DAY KE

KE will hold its Cup Cake Day on Tuesday, 9 December 2014. Donations of cakes, slices and other goodies can be left at KD’s classroom. (No toffees or nuts please as we have students with peanut allergies.)

Don’t forget – Cup cakes are now 50 cents each for a delicious treat. Helpers on the day would be most welcome and should come to the canteen at 10.30 am.

MHPS CHRISTMAS APPEAL

In the tradition of Merewether Heights Public School’s end of year activities we are once again holding a Christmas Appeal of non-perishable food items. Each class will be given a box in which students can place food items that will then be donated to The Samaritans.

Suitable items include canned items, cereal, long-life milk, pasta, rice, soup, tea, coffee, children’s lunch box snacks, spreads (jam/vegemite) and pet food. Other items include toilet paper, toothpaste, soap, shampoo and conditioner.

“A small donation of food can make a massive difference”

It would be wonderful if each family could donate one or two items to those who are less fortunate. Thank you for your support!
From the Parents...

CANTEEN NEWS

On Friday 5 December the canteen is having a Christmas special day. To add to the merriment of the day, students are asked to come out of uniform and wear something “Christmassy” on the day. Please note all students must wear enclosed shoes and primary students will need appropriate shoes for sport. An order form can be found on the next page. Orders need to be at the canteen by Wednesday, 3 December.

CANTEEN ROSTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3/12/14</td>
<td>Colleen L, Lisa S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4/12/14</td>
<td>Alison M, Karen P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>5/12/14</td>
<td>Tony H, Kristen G, Ruth P, Julie R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>8/12/14</td>
<td>2 Volunteers Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9/12/14</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10/12/14</td>
<td>Tracee S, Volunteer Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11/12/14</td>
<td>Edwina M, Nikki N, Reanna S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12/12/14</td>
<td>2 Volunteers Needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>15/12/14</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>17/12/14</td>
<td>CANTEEN CLOSED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: Unless we get volunteers for Monday, 8 December, the canteen will be CLOSED. If anyone can help on this day, please contact Kim in the canteen.

CANTEEN ROSTER VACANCIES - TERM 4

Below is a list of days where help is needed in the Canteen. If you are able to help out on any of these days please contact Kim or see her in the Canteen. Any help you can give would be appreciated.

Thanks.

Week 10:  
Monday     8/12/14        9.30 am – 2.15 pm  
Wednesday  10/12/14       9.30 am – 2.15 pm  
Friday     12/12/14       9.30 am – 2.15 pm  
Friday     12/12/14       9.30 am – 2.15 pm

CLOTHING POOL - Roster for term 4

9 December – Casey  
16 December - Sharron

The clothing pool co-ordinator’s position will be available from next year. The position isn’t very hard and doesn’t take much time to do. Duties are ordering new stock, completing the roster every term (there are currently seven volunteers on the roster) and working at the clothing pool two - three times a term from 9am – 9.30am on a Tuesday. If anyone is interested in this position, please leave your name and contact details at the office.

Thank you. Sharron S
Xmas Special Day
Friday 5\textsuperscript{th} December

The Canteen is getting into the spirit of Xmas
Special counter items will be available on the day
priced from 50c to $2
Every lunch order will receive a special treat

Special lunch available $4 meal deal

Name………………………..Class………………

Hotdog with sauce, drink and treat………………

Meatball sub with sauce and cheese, drink and treat………………………………………………………………

Please return order with money to the canteen by
\textbf{Wednesday 3\textsuperscript{rd} December}
SCHOOL BANKING UPDATE

Projector Cup and Swim Bag – BACK UP FOR GRABS !!!

Due to the unprecedented popularity of the Projector Cup and the Swim Bag, Comm Bank have now placed these items on back order. Yes, you can now order both these items, but, due to the lengthy production times, these will be delivered in Term 1 next year. Apologies to all those who received a note saying that these items are out of stock.

2 New Special Rewards Released – Beach Ball and Snap Band

With so many items being out of stock, Comm Bank have a special release of 2 new items:
- Inflatable beach ball (yellow and white)
- Dollarmites slap wrist band ruler (yellow)

So ..... in the final 2 weeks of banking you may now choose from the following rewards:
- Projector Cup
- Swim Bag
- Beach Ball
- Slap band ruler
- Sea Streamers
- Scented Pencils
- Shark Keyring
- Wallet (from 2013)
- Headphones (from 2013)
- Knuckles Game (from 2013)
- Character Money Boxes (from 2013 – Pat, Pru, Spen)
- Projector Torch (from 2013)

Out of stock items: Dollarmite money box, penguin key ring, shark whale pencil case and the hand ball

The last day for School Banking will be Wednesday Dec 10th. No deposits can be taken after that day

Also, all tokens must be redeemed for reward/s by Wednesday Dec 10th

Wednesday is school banking day.

Thank you for supporting the school banking program

Your school banking coordinator - Helen T

Community Notices...

The Newcastle Youth Orchestra Concert series – Classics on the Boardwalk: Lights, Camera, Action! - is coming up on Friday, 5 December 2014, 6.00 – 9.00 pm, at Honeysuckle Promenade, Newcastle. This is a free event. Join Newcastle Youth Orchestra and Bella Voce as they present an evening of music from the silver screen. Get your popcorn ready, sit back, relax and enjoy classics from the movies and original scores by John Williams, Ennio Morricone and many more.
Auditions for places in the orchestra and NYO Kids are now open and have been extended until the end of November. The link is: http://www.ryo.com.au/#auditon-information/c1isp.
Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery is hosting a special event on Sunday 7 December at 11.00 am, which involves a visit by some native animals from Hunter Valley Zoo. This event will mark the opening of an exhibition by students from Newcastle schools. There will be a sausage sizzle and art activities in the sculpture park. Admission is free. Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery is also running holiday workshops. Please contact the art gallery for more information on 49658260.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries is holding a Kids Fishing Workshop on Thursday, 8 January 2015 from 10.00 am – 2.00 pm at Thomas Halton Park, Croudace Bay (eastern end of park, away from boat ramp). Cost is $40.00 per child. Bookings are essential. Please contact Jamie Burns on 49809204 for more information.

The Hunter Wetlands Centre at Shortland is running school holidays programs for 9-12 year olds and for 5-8 year olds. As well as the programs, why not visit the Wetlands Centre and try some dip-netting from the jetty, watch the magpie geese feeding, climb the egret tower, get up close to some of the reptiles at an interactive tank talk, become a wetlands explorer, hire a bike or canoe and explore the wetlands, play in the discovery playground, bring a picnic or eat at Spoolbill Café. For more information phone 49516466 or www.wetlands.org.au

Blackbutt Reserve is holding a Junior Ranger Fun Day on Tuesday 20 January 2015 from 9.30 to 11.30am at Carnley Avenue Reserve (off Carnley Avenue, Kotara). For more information please contact 49043344 or email blackbutadmin@ncc.nsw.gov.au

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