Dear Parents,

I can’t believe how quickly this term is “humming” along.

**Athletics Carnival** will be held at Hunter Sports Centre at Glendale next Tuesday. We are hoping for a fine day, to be enjoyed by students, parents and staff. Students in Years 2 to 6 need to be at school by 8.45 am for roll marking before leaving the school on buses. Students in Kindy and Year 1 will be leaving the school at 10.00 am.

This week students will be running in our school Cross Country event. Classes have been training on the Cross Country track with their teachers and all are very keen to race their peers.

Our school’s App, “Skoolbag”, is now live and we are updating our calendar by sending alerts and reminders. This is a brilliant App for all of our busy parents to get the latest updates on everything that’s happening at Merewether Heights Public School.

We look forward to the rest of the term that is filled with great activities like our Harmony Day, Cupcake days and the Band/Choir camp.

Thanks for your continuing support.


**Stage One Awards:** Anika R, Gabriella L, Abbie U, Zara C, Jessica V, Maddie B, Lucia M, Aidan M, Lucia S, Halle M

Stage Three Awards: Ellie L, Madeleine McL, Max D, Eliza M, Xanthea V, Mackenzie R

Happy Birthday to: Samuel E, Juliet M, Immogen-Rae H

Enjoy your week!

Steve E
Principal

From the Office...

ATTENTION PARENTS OF YEAR 6 STUDENTS

Last week your Year 6 child was given the booklet “Moving into Year 7 in a government school in 2015”. This booklet provides information about government secondary schools and includes the Expression of Interest form for placement in Year 7, 2015. Parents of Year 6 students need to complete the Expression of Interest form to indicate your preference for the school in which you would like to enrol your child for Year 7. The Expression of Interest form needs to be returned to the school office by Friday, 21 March 2014.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED?

• Medical Information form – all students: Please complete this form and return to the school office to enable us to update medical information, family details, contact telephone numbers and emergency contact telephone numbers.
• Textbook account – all students: It would be appreciated if all textbooks could be paid for by Friday, 14 March.
• Athletics Carnival permission note – all students: please complete and return to the school office with $10.00 payment by Thursday, 13 March.
• Moving into Year 7 in a government school in 2015 booklet – Year 6 students only: please complete the Expression of Interest form and return to the school office by Friday, 21 March.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club Issue 2 was sent home last week. If you wish to order items from Book Club for your child please return the order and payment to the school before Friday, 14 March.

Would the students who have a back order for Minecraft Redstone Handbook from Book Club issue 1 please see Mrs Yelds in the school office.
CUP CAKE DAY 1J

1J will hold its Cup Cake Day on Tuesday, 1 April 2014. Donations of cakes, slices and other goodies can be left at 1J’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.

NOTICEBOARD BY EMAIL

Would you like to receive the weekly newsletter by email? We have the option for parents to receive the newsletter each week direct by email. This will ensure that parents receive the newsletter and have the added benefit of reducing the amount of paper used in its production. We will not be providing a paper copy of the newsletter to families who have one emailed to them. For those families without internet access, a hard copy of the newsletter will be provided for you. If you would like to receive the weekly newsletter by email, would you either:

- Email the school and type “newsletter” in the subject line. We will then assume that you would like the newsletter emailed direct to you and we will also then have the email address to forward it to. All email address will be BCC when Noticeboard is sent, so you can be assured that we will not be sharing your email address with others. If your email address should change, it will be your responsibility to notify the school office.
- Complete the tear off slip located in this newsletter. Please ensure that your email address is complete.

ALL FAMILIES WHO RECEIVED THEIR NOTICEBOARD BY EMAIL LAST YEAR WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO FROM NEXT WEEK AND DO NOT HAVE TO SUBMIT A NEW FORM. ALL NEW FAMILIES WHO RETURN THE FORM WILL RECEIVE THEIR NOTICEBOARD BY EMAIL AS FROM NEXT WEEK.

ART LESSONS

Dear Parents

My name is Hannah S. I have obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Newcastle in 2011 and am currently a working Artist. I will be commencing professional art lessons every Wednesday morning between 8 - 9am, beginning the 5 March. The lesson cost of $15 will cover tutorials and all required art materials. This will allow greater flexibility as well as broaden the diversity of mediums used in the children’s art works.

During the year I will focus on expanding the children’s range of knowledge of art genres which include drawing, painting, photography, sculpture and ceramics as well as further develop their technique. Every week my students are able to express themselves freely, have fun, learn and be creative allowing them to produce resolved artworks they can be proud of. My lessons will cater to all ages, everyone is welcome.

If you would like your child to participate or if you have any questions please email at hannah.simonovich@gmail.com
SCHOOL BANKING UPDATE

School banking is bigger and better than ever this year. This term we have seen the highest number of deposits ever made through our school which is great news. Our school earns $5 commission for every new account opened plus 5% commission on value of deposits made.

If you are new to school banking do not forget to pop into The Junction CBA Branch to collect your goodie bag.

Redeem your tokens for a great reward
Once you have collected 10 dollarmite tokens you can redeem them for an exciting reward. This term you can choose from the following:

2014 new rewards:
- Hand ball
- Scented pencils
2013 rewards (while stocks last):
- Projector torch
- Blue wallet
- Knuckles game
- Headphones
- Money boxes (Spen, Pru or Pat)

Further exciting rewards will be released each term – including key rings, large shark pencil case and a cool swim bag.

A selection of rewards is on display at canteen.

To redeem your tokens, pop them in an envelope and enclose with your weekly banking or bring to the office with a note of the reward you would like. Reward cards were distributed earlier this term in the blue school banking info packs. (Additional copies will be available soon at the office).

Win a marquee for our school
Four schools in the Newcastle area will win a marquee this term.
To win we need to have the highest percentage of active students at the end of term one.
To do this we need as many students as possible to join school banking.
We also need all our school bankers to bank as many times as possible this term.

If you want to join school banking please ask mum or dad to pop into your local CBA branch (and take along a birth certificate for you and photo ID for them).
Alternatively if mum or dad already bank with CBA they can open an account via CBA Net Bank.

Win $50 for you
If you bank 3 times (or more) this term you will automatically be entered into a prize draw to win a $50 credit into your school banking account.

Wednesday is school banking day

Thank you for supporting the school banking program

Your school banking coordinator - Helen T (0425 207 923)
CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL REMINDER

Our Cross Country Carnival is being held this Friday, 14 March. Please ensure your child has two water bottles, mosquito repellent, sports uniform and runners. It is recommended that students who are asthmatics should bring their puffers with them on the day.

Amanda M
Co-ordinator

SPORTING NEWS

Merewether Heights Public School has a very busy start in sporting endeavours this term. Congratulations to Will P and Charlie W who were successful in gaining a place in the PSSA Newcastle Zone Boys Basketball team on Tuesday.

Sophie B and Charlotte H represented Merewether Heights Public School on Wednesday afternoon at the PSSA Newcastle Zone Netball Trials. Sophie succeeded in gaining a place in the Newcastle Zone team which will play at the Hunter Region Netball Gala day at the end of this term.

Archie N, Thomas S, Tye W, Jasmine L, Lara F, Tiana S, Jack W and Liam W represented the Newcastle Zone at the Regional Swimming Carnival on Thursday at Maitland Pool. Huge congratulations to the following three Merewether Heights students who will be competing at the NSW PSSA State Swimming Championship in Homebush at the end of this term.

Jasmin L - 8 years 50m Freestyle
Lara F - 11 years 50m Breastroke
Thomas S – 11 years 50m Freestyle

Mrs L

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE 2014

The Premiers Reading Challenge has begun for 2014.

The Premiers Reading Challenge aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature.

Students can log on to the PRC website by using their DEC usernames and passwords or they can complete a reading log which they have been issued with this week in library. Students must complete a set amount of reading to meet the Challenge. K-2 students need to read or listen to 30 books. In both the 3-4 and 5-6 challenges students are required to read 20 titles. After reading each book please record the author, title and PRC.
identification number if available. The PRC identification number can be found on the PRC sticker which is on the front of the book. Booklists for the challenge are available in the library and on the PRC website https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html.

There is now a NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge app. This free app will assist students to search for books on the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge booklist, record the books they have read and track their progress in the Challenge. The app is currently available on Windows 8 devices. At this stage it is not available on Apple or Android devices. You can download the app through the PRC website.

Please support your children as they undertake this challenge. Parents can help by ensuring that children: take their library bags to school, borrow, read and return books regularly, and record the titles read for the challenge on the PRC reading log. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me in the library.

Happy Reading
Mrs L

**From the Parents...**

**CLOTHING POOL**

The Clothing Pool will be opened every Tuesday from 9.00 – 9.30 am. Alternatively, uniform order forms can be located at the office. Please complete and return with payment. The order will be filled on Tuesdays and sent home with your child.

Thank you - Sharron S

**CLOTHING POOL CLOSURE - 18 March 2014**

Due to the athletics carnival being held on Tuesday, 18 March, the clothing pool will be closed. If you require anything from the clothing pool on this day, please complete an order form and will we complete the order later in the week.

Thank you

**SCHOOL EVENTS FOR TERM 1**

The first event for this term will be the school disco sausage sizzle on Thursday, 10 April 2014. This event will be organised by 1P & 1J.

The Easter Hat Parade raffle is being run by 4H and the Easter Hat Parade morning tea by 6H.

At this stage there isn’t a co-ordinator or any volunteers from 6H.

Parents of 6H, if you would like to help, please leave your name and number at the office.
If there are no volunteers there will be no morning tea held at this event.

Thank you
MHPS P & C
CANTEEN ROSTER

Wednesday 12/3/14 Emma K, Tracee S
Thursday 13/3/14 Nicole B, Cathy M, Brooke D
Friday 14/3/14 Kristen G, Tony H, Volunteer needed
Monday 17/3/14 Sheree MacD, Laura L
TUESDAY 18/3/14 CANTEEN CLOSED

Wednesday 19/3/14 Alex V, Ben C
Thursday 20/3/14 Reanna S, Belinda H
Friday 21/3/14 Brody S, Susie R, Volunteer needed
Monday 24/3/14 Donna P, Jess B
TUESDAY 25/3/14 CANTEEN CLOSED

CANTEEN NEWS

We would like to thank all the families that have registered and placed orders online. To show our appreciation we are giving away a free ice block to everyone who has placed an order on or before 14 March, this coming Friday. The ice blocks are not sold in our canteen and are a special treat. Please note: one ice block per student.

Sushi Day – Friday 14 March
Any orders you have made online or given to the canteen will be served on Friday, 14 March.

Rosters
Term 2 roster is almost full. Please contact Kim in the canteen if you are available for a Monday or Wednesday in Term 2. We are also taking names for Term 3.

I would like to thank Mrs Yelds from the office for helping to pack lunches in her lunch break last Friday. Due to unforeseen circumstances our rostered volunteers were unable to make it.

It you would like to go on an emergency canteen list for days such as these, please contact Kim in the canteen on 0421336626. Any time you can give would be appreciated.

Spinach and Fetta Parcels are no longer available. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

Community Notices...

Newcastle Youth Orchestra are presenting their first concert for the season, exploring music across the globe on Saturday, 5 April 2014 at 2.00 pm at the Newcastle Civic Theatre. Tickets are available through Ticketek. The orchestra consists of auditioned players between the ages of 14 and 25.
NOTICEBOARD BY EMAIL

I wish to receive the Noticeboard via Email. I understand that I will no longer receive a hard copy.

Name of eldest child and class *(please print clearly)*

Name: ............................................................................................................ Class: ................................

Email address ........................................................................................................................
*(please print clearly)*

Parent Signature: ............................................................ Telephone No .................................

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT
Merewether Heights Public School
The School will accept VISA and MasterCard payments Only

Student Name: __________________________________________ Class: __________

Amount: _______________ For: ________________________________

☐ MasterCard  ☐ VISA

Cardholders Name: ___________________________ Phone: ______________

Card Number: ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________

CCV Number: ___________ Expiry Date: ________/_________

Signature of Cardholder: ___________________________ Date: ______________