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.

From the Principal...

Dear Parents

I would like to welcome a new student and his family to our school and our school community. He has moved up from Cowra and I am sure he will enjoy his time at the school.

Music Camp is on again next week! The musicians attending not only have the opportunity to refine their skills but will also have a great time together. I am looking forward to their concert at the end of the camp.

ANZAC Day Memorial

This year will be the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. This event is seen as one of the defining moments in the formation of our identity and is something that is remembered every year. I have been collecting memorabilia to create a permanent display at the school so that children will always be reminded of the courage and sacrifice of our soldiers and also that we should do all we can to make sure a war like this never happens again. To make this display relevant to our students I would like to include a list of family members who have lost their lives defending our country and also a list of members who fought in the wars. For each soldier I would like a name, photo and some brief details (war fought in, decorations, married, etc.). From this information I will create a mounted frame to go on display (probably A5 size). I need your help getting this information to me asap as 25 April is not far away now.

The school students, with the help of Mrs W have been working on the mural which will be ready for unveiling at our school ANZAC Day service to be held on Friday 24 April.

Event | Class | Activity Date | Cost | Note | Due Date
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Selective High School Test |  | Thursday, 12 March |  |  |  
Band and Choir Camp, Glenrock |  | Mon, 16/3 – Wed, 18/3 |  |  |  
3MC Cup Cake Day | K-6 | Tuesday, 24 March | 50c |  |  
Disco | K-6 | Thursday, 26 March |  |  |  
Zone Cross Country |  | Friday, 27 March | $2.00 | Yes | Tues, 24 March  
Easter Hat Parade | K-6 | Thursday, 2 April |  |  |  

The Weekly Newsletter from Merewether Heights Public School
Phone: 02 4963 3192    Fax: 02 4963 3714
Web: www.merewethht-pschools.nsw.edu.au   Email: merewethht-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
School Security Unit – 1300 880 021


Stage Three Awards:  Brandon P, Owen F, Ellie L, Liam C, Ayvah W, Emma P

Happy Birthday to:  Samuel E, Andrew C, Immogen-Rae H

Enjoy your week.
Principal

From the Office...

HAVE YOU RECEIVED:

- A green note requesting payment of textbooks for your child (sent home Wednesday, 25 February). Payment is requested by Friday, 20 March 2015.
- An envelope containing a form/forms listing personal information for your child/children. Please return to school office as soon as possible.
- Band and Choir members – information regarding the Music Camp (16 – 18 March). Note and money due at the school office by Wednesday, 11 March 2015.

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE: ANNUAL STUDENT & FAMILY DETAILS UPDATE OF INFORMATION

Thank you to those parents who have returned the form for their child to update personal information such as address details, parent contact details, emergency contact details, doctors contact details and medical information.

We are asking parents to please alter any information on the form previously sent home to parents that needs to be changed, sign and date the form, and return to the school office as soon as possible. Even if there are no alterations to be made, we are asking parents to sign and date the form, and return to the school office as soon as possible.

Should your child have a medical condition which is not listed on the form, please contact the school office as soon as possible to provide details. It is essential that all medical conditions are noted to overcome the need for you to provide this information on every permission note throughout the year.

Please note: It is a parent’s responsibility to notify the school of any changes in their child’s medical condition.
TEXTBOOKS

Students recently bought home to parents a letter requesting payment for the textbooks they have been issued with and are currently using in classrooms. Prompt payment for textbooks would be appreciated. Payment for textbooks can be made at the school office by cash, cheque or visa/mastercard. Payment is requested by Friday, 20 March 2015.

SCHOOL DISCO

Our Term 1 Disco will be held on Thursday, 26 March.

Our infants disco for Kindies, Years 1 and 2 is on from 5.30 - 6.45 pm. The primary disco for students in Years 3 - 6 starts at 7.00 pm and finishes at 8.30 pm. To cover costs, the entry fee is $5.00 per student. Each student receives a packet of chips and a drink as part of the $5.00 cost.

The disco is for our school children only - please no pre-schoolers, high school students or parents in the hall. We have a safety barrier to clearly show and restrict the movement of the children. We do this for safety reasons and this has worked well in the past.

2015 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)

There is the opportunity for you to enrol your child in the following University of NSW tests:


These voluntary tests are for children in grades 3 – 6. The note later in this Noticeboard and money MUST BE handed in to the school office by Wednesday, 1 April. No applications will be accepted after this date.

Please note the tests will be administered in the Art Studio, supervised by a staff member. The children not doing the tests will continue with their normal school routine.

MOSQUITOES

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

PARENTS PLEASE BE AWARE:

The school office has been advised of a few cases of school sores within the school community. School sores are highly contagious and can easily be transmitted by skin contact. Should your child be affected, please seek medical advice. If school sores are being treated and are completely covered by clean dressings, students are able to come to school.

The school office has also been notified this year of a number of cases of head lice throughout different classes. Please be vigilant and regularly check your child/children’s hair. Should you find any signs of head lice, please have your child/children’s hair treated before sending them to school.
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 FROM THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY.

VOLUNTEER ETHICS TEACHER NEEDED FOR KINDERGARTEN

Ethics classes have now commenced for those children whose families have made that selection in Stage 1, 2 and 3. We currently have two excellent volunteers at our school delivering these classes but we need another volunteer to cover the Kindergarten children. The classes for Kindergarten run on Wednesday afternoons at 2.55pm for half an hour. All training is provided by Primary Ethics, which is the organisation approved by the Department of Education and Communities to deliver the syllabus for these classes. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering for this role you can find more information regarding what is involved on the website: primaryethics.com.au as soon as possible please.

Until we have found and trained another volunteer, those children who have selected ethics in Kindergarten will complete a ‘values booklet’ provided by the school during SRE time.

From the Teachers...

Follow us on Twitter @MerewetherHtsPS

RUNNING CLUB

Training will continue for those students who are running at the Zone Cross Country Carnival on Friday, 27 March. Students should be ready to start at the new starting time of 8.35 am. A big thank you to Mr and Mrs S for joining us this term and being the team pacers.

Thank you
A M
3MC CUP CAKE DAY

3MC will hold its Cup Cake Day on Tuesday, 24 March 2015. Donations of cakes, slices and other goodies can be left at 3MC’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.

STARSTRUCK

Dear MHPS families,

To offer our students the wonderful opportunity of Star Struck we are doing a Chocolate Fundraising Drive. If you think you could help our Star Struck students by selling a box of chocolates, please indicate below before we place the Chocolate Box order.

Coordinators

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Family Name: ___________________________  Child’s class:________________________

I would like to sell _____ boxes of chocolates.

Parent Signature: ______________________

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE 2015

The Premiers Reading Challenge has begun for 2015.

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 will be 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.

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
BOOK CLUB

Book Club 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, 13 March.

BAND NEWS

If your child is interested in learning to play an instrument and joining the school band, we currently have flutes, clarinets, trombones and trumpets available.

Band Coordinator

NSW SCHOOLS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND NUTRITION SURVEY 2015

Some parents may have heard about the Schools Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey (SPANS) which involves over 100 schools in NSW. I am delighted to announce that our school has been invited to participate. This is a great opportunity for our students to be involved in helping health professionals better understand children’s lifestyles such as their physical activity, fitness, food habits and movements skills. A team of specially trained teachers will collect the information on almost 8,000 students from Years K, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10. The survey is being managed by a research team from the University of Sydney.

Children in some classes in Years K, 2, 4 and 6 will bring home information about the study and a consent form. If you receive this package, please read carefully the information statement. If you agree to allow your child to participate, please complete the consent form and send it back to school (using the envelope provided) as soon as possible. The survey will take place at our school on Thursday, 19 March 2015.

From the Parents...

EASTER EGG DONATIONS

Time again for the Easter Bunny, Easter egg hunts and hot cross buns. Time again for us to dig deep to donate Easter Eggs for our elderly friends at Carpenter Court. It has become a tradition over the years to donate to this worthy cause. The old people look forward to it, along with our singing at Christmas.

We always have plenty of eggs donated and will have a raffle for the P & C. This raffle will be drawn on Thursday, 2 April at our Easter Hat Parade.

Raffle tickets are being sent home today. They are being sold for $1.00 each and will also be available for sale on the day. The tickets and money need to be returned to the office prior to the event. We are also asking for all unsold tickets to be returned as well as they will be sold on the day.

So, we are asking if this week could be your time to buy that extra Easter egg and send it along to school.
CACTEUR ROSTER

Wednesday 11/3/15 Kelly T, Nat W
Thursday 12/3/15 Reanna S, Tracee S
Friday 13/3/15 Julie R, Kris O’, Ruth D
Monday 16/3/15 Meg S, Rhianna E
TUESDAY 17/3/15 CANTEEN CLOSED

Wednesday 18/3/15 Casey Lee P, Jasmin H, Kerry B
Thursday 19/3/15 Edwina M, Nikki N
Friday 20/3/15 Kristen G, Brodie S
Monday 23/3/15 Kathryn N, Volunteer required

COULD ALL VOLUNTEERS PLEASE PAY THEIR $2.00 FEE TO COVER INSURANCE FEES NEXT TIME YOU ARE WORKING IN THE CANTEEN. Thanks.

CACTEEN ROSTER VACANCIES 2015 TERM 1

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 (0421336626) or see her in the Canteen. Any help you can give would be appreciated.

Thanks.

Week 9: Monday 23/3/15 9.30 am – 2.15 pm
Week 10: Monday 30/3/15 9.30 am – 2.15 pm

CLOTHING POOL

The clothing pool is opened every Tuesday from 9am - 9.30am. The clothing pool does not carry a float so correct money is appreciated. Cash or cheque is accepted. Cheques should be made payable to MHPS P & C. Sorry we do not have EFTPOS facilities.

The roster for the clothing pool is as follows:

Term 1:
17 March: Caseylee
24 March: Michelle
31 March: Toni

Term 2:
21 April: Toni 28 April: Sharron
5 May: Kerri 12 May: Caseylee
19 May: Dora 26 May: Julie
2 June: Caseylee 9 June: Kris
16 June: Michelle 23 June: Caseylee

If there are any problems or changes that need to be made, please contact the school office.

Please note: Winter jackets are now in stock in all sizes. All pre-orders have been filled and sent home with students. If we do sell out of any sizes, another order should be received in mid-March.

Our advertisers support our school but please be aware that advertisements appearing in Noticeboard are not an endorsement by the school.
From the Community...

**Parks Week** – celebrate at the Glenrock State Conservation Area on Sunday 15 March from 10 am to 2 pm. Please meet at the Gun Club Road entrance. This is a free event. For more information please visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) or phone 1300 72757.

**Young People’s Theatre Newcastle Inc.** present “Beauty and the Beast” at The Young People’s Theatre, cnr Lindsay and Lawson Streets, Hamilton from 6 April – 23 May 2015. Tickets are $17.50 each ($20 for opening night, Wednesday, 8 April). Discounts available for group bookings. YPT box Office House: Saturday 9 am – 1 pm. Phone: 49615345. Fax: 49610340. Email: ypt@ypt.org.au

**Sport and Recreation Holiday Camps:** Sport and Recreation has some great holiday options for kids and families this Easter, with camps for kids aged between 7 and 16 years and all-inclusive family camps. For more information please see dsr.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps and dsr.nsw.gov.au/familycamps or phone 131302.

**Sensory Movie Day – “Penguins or Madagascar”** – an inclusive event for families with special needs is being held at two locations.

**Reading Cinema Maitland** – Sunday 15 March from 11.00 am. Tickets are $8 each. Children 2 and under are free. For more information please contact Chanelle at sensory.maitland@hotmail.com

**Tuggerah Birch Carroll & Coyle** – Sunday 15 March from 11.00 am. Tickets are $8 each. Children 2 and under are free.

This year **French Friday movie nights** return to bring you the chance to see five of the most critically acclaimed French films of 2014. Come along early (from 6.30pm) on Friday 20 March to enjoy the atmosphere of the little French market and sample some of the fantastic offerings from our stallholders. French Fridays will take place at Tower Cinemas, King Street, Newcastle. Tickets for each movie will be $10 per adult and $7 for concessions. Tickets can be purchased at the door or prepaid via the cinema’s website.

**Samba - Comedy Drama - (2014). From the directors of ‘The Intouchables’, with Omar Sy and Charlotte Gainsbourg.**  
**Synopsis:** Samba is a Senegalese immigrant who is desperately trying to legalise his immigration status. Alice is a high-flying businesswoman who has burnt out. As they both struggle to get their lives back on track, their paths cross.

**Newcastle Youth Orchestra – Kids Classics:** On Saturday 28 March the Newcastle Youth Orchestra will hold its first concert for the 2015 season at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music. This concert is “Kids Classics: Introduction to the Orchestra”, where the orchestra will perform engaging music and provide entertainment with life-sized puppets, dancers and storytelling. For more information please contact Laura Dawson on 0402368338 or laura@nyo.com.au

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Our advertisers support our school but please be aware that advertisements appearing in Noticeboard are not an endorsement by the school.
The simplest way...

Six steps to packing a healthy lunch.

Follow these tips to make lunch-packing a cinch!

**Breads/cereals:** wholemeal or wholegrain bread, wraps and pita. For a treat, pack pikelets, rice cakes or homemade muffins and slices.

**Fruit:** Serve in fun ways; try fruit kebabs or fruit in jelly, and cut whole fruit into small pieces.

**Veggies:** Pack carrot or celery sticks with hummus.

**Reduced-fat dairy:** A slice of cheese, yoghurt or custards are all great lunch box items.

**Lean protein:** cooked chicken, tuna, egg or roast meat. Legumes like red kidney beans and chickpeas are a good source of protein, and a great source of fibre too!

**Water or milk:** Water or reduced-fat milk are the best drink choices for the lunch box.

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit
Our advertisers support our school but please be aware that advertisements appearing in Noticeboard are not an endorsement by the school.
Return Slips for Parents...

UNSW TEST ENTRY FORM

Please tick the boxes against the tests you would like your child to do. Return the form WITH the money for the test/s by WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL 2015. No applications will be accepted after this date.

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

☐ Digital Technologies $8.00 19 May 2015
☐ Science $8.00 3 June 2015
☐ Writing $17.00 15-19 June 2015
☐ Spelling $11.00 16 June 2015
☐ English $8.00 28 July 2015
☐ Mathematics $8.00 11 August 2015

I have enclosed $.......... for the nominated competitions above.
Signed: ................................................................. (Parent/Carer)

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: __________
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  .............................................