PRINCIPAL’S NEWS AND VIEWS

House captains

On Friday afternoon the names of our 2013 House captains were announced. We are proud to announce that Lexi and Jasper (Eyre), Roeshane and Kurt (Sturt), Leighton and Aliah (Hume) and Claudia and Tyler (Oxley) will captain our respective houses this year. I’m sure our they will do a great job throughout the year, starting with our swimming carnival tomorrow.

Holiday Reading

At this morning’s assembly Mrs Hanks handed our prizes to our students who participated in the summer reading program that was conducted over the Christmas holiday period. Almost 50 prizes were distributed, which accounts for more than 25% of our student population. Congratulations to our readers who participated and also to Mrs Hanks for her excellent organisation of the program.

Swimming Carnival Tomorrow

Our swimming carnival will be held at Maitland Pool tomorrow. All of our events have been finalised and we’re all looking forward to a great day of fun and participation. Hopefully lots of our parents/carers will attend to support our swimmers. Good luck, in advance to all of our students and our newly appointed House captains.

Photo day

Thursday is school photo day. School photos provide a great and traditional way to remember school days and the current packages available from MPS are of excellent quality. Could you please ensure that your child is in full summer uniform for the photos. Family envelopes are available from Mrs Touzell in the office.

Guitar and Drums

Our popular guitar and drum lessons start this Thursday as well. I know that our teachers, Jeremy and Col, are looking forward to working with our talented young musicians this year. There are still some spaces available, so if you would like your child to learn guitar or drums, please contact Mrs Touzell in the office.

Assembly on Friday

On Friday we will be holding our first awards assembly for the term. Students will be presented with certificates of achievement and we would love to see lots of parents and family members in attendance. The assembly will commence at 2:10pm in the MPC (Multi Purpose Centre, formerly known as the COLA).

New Parents Afternoon Tea

Prior to our Friday assembly, our P&C will be hosting an afternoon tea for our Kinder parents and any new family to the school. It is our way of welcoming our new families and, in turn, the get together will also provide a perfect opportunity for our parents to make some new friends. The afternoon tea starts at 1pm and will be held near the canteen area.

Sport Developments Days

We have lots of sporting days pencilled in for the coming weeks. On Friday 1 March, our students from K-6 will be involved in a Rugby Union skills development day while on Monday 4 March, a Rugby league Blitz day will be held. The development days are about skill development, fun and participation and are suitable for all students. The school will be covering the cost of these days.

If there are any issues you would like to discuss, please contact me - Peter Edmonds
AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS

Students in years 3-6 have the opportunity enter the 2013 Australian Schools Competitions. The Australasian Schools Competitions are the largest external schools assessment programs available in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region. They provide an opportunity for all students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external assessment situation. Students who participate will each receive a certificate and a detailed results letter indicating which questions they answered correctly, identifying the skill tested in each question and highlighting student strengths and weaknesses.

The competitions are offered in the subject areas of:

- Computer skills
- Science
- Mathematics
- Spelling
- Writing
- English

If you would like your child to enter, please indicate which competition/s on the form below and return to your child’s class teacher. Entry forms must be returned to school before the competition closing entry date and please include payment to cover the cost of the competition.

Students entering competitions will receive a reminder two days prior to the competition sitting date.

Jane Fincher - ICAS Co-ordinator

---

** Australian Schools Competitions

** Entry Form 2013

Students name: ____________________________________________________   Class______________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please tick</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Closing date for entry</th>
<th>Course sitting date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>Tuesday 9th April</td>
<td>Tuesday 21st May</td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Tuesday 9th April</td>
<td>Wednesday 5th June</td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday 9th April</td>
<td>Tuesday 18th June</td>
<td>$11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Tuesday 9th April</td>
<td>Monday 17th June</td>
<td>$17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday 9th April</td>
<td>Wednesday 3rd July</td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday 9th April</td>
<td>Tuesday 13th August</td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I have enclosed the amount of $________________

** Entries cannot be submitted until payment has been made.
Canteen News

Week 4 - Term 1, 2013
Monday 18.2.13  Jane Burn, Kellie Upton
Tuesday 19.2.13  CANTEEN CLOSED :Swimming Carnival
Wed 20.2.13  Jodi Lovell, Vanessa McGill
Thurs 21.2.13  Maiva Metcalf, Matt van de Scheur
Friday 22.2.13  Tanya Piggott, Fiona Emmett

Week 5 - Term 1, 2013
Monday 25.2.13  Jo Kennedy, Nicole Hanson
Tuesday 26.2.13  Belinda Duffey HELP NEEDED
Wed 27.02.13  Natalie Hutton, HELP NEEDED
Thurs 28.2.13  Petah McGaw, Louise Vercoe
Friday 1.3.13  Tanya Piggott, Belinda Duffey

Volunteers needed
Please contact the Canteen Committee if you are able to help

Student Banking
Wednesday this week
For new accounts please visit your local Commonwealth Bank or get an application form from the school office.
Please note that applications through the bank are instant whereas processing through the School Office will take one month.

Follow our school on the Morpeth PS Twitter Account
http://www.twitter.com/morpethps

GUITAR & DRUM LESSONS
Starts this week - PAYMENTS NOW DUE
PLEASE SEE THE OFFICE FOR A PARTICIPATION NOTE

In the event that your child is absent from school, feel free to use the form below. This can be copied as many times as necessary.

STUDENT ABSENTEE NOTE - Please return to class teacher

CHILD’S NAME: ...........................................................................................................  CLASS: ...........................................................................................................
Absence Dates: ...........................................................................................................
Reason for Absence: ...................................................................................................
Parent Name: ...........................................................................................................
Parent Signature: ..................................................................................................  Date: .......................................................................................................
MORPETH PHARMACY
“Always there for Family Care”
Open: Monday to Saturday
9am - 6pm (excluding Public Hols)
Phone: 4933 6229

SIMONES HAIR STUDIO
Catering for Ladies & Mens
Cutting - Colours - Perms
Phone: 4934 2855
5 Close Street, Morpeth

MALVIC
PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE
For all your home maintenance needs
Phone Mal on 0402 456 774
Prompt, reliable and local service

TAYLORS TURF
“Get Your Money’s Worth
Buy Taylor Made Turf”
Couch * Kikuyu * Buffalo
Stuart Taylor
395 Duckenfield Rd Duckenfield
Ph: 4930 5435 Mob: 0428 211 827

MUSIC LESSONS
ERIC LOI
Professional Guitar & Bass Tuition
Enquiries: 4930 1669 or 0419 642 096

PETERS PAINTING & HOME MAINTENANCE
Call Peter McGregor on 4933 2646 or 0402 900 281

DANCE HEADQUARTERS
ZUMBA
Mon, Wed & Fri Nite
Phone - 0417674420

GARETH ROSS
PIANO and KEYBOARD TUITION
Beginners to Advanced
Personally tailored lessons
Studio at East Maitland
Email - 0402 634 446
Phone Gareth on 0402 634 466

Tippa Toppas
Handmade Cake Toppers
Turn ho-hum store-bought or homemade cakes into stress-free
For enquiries or to request a catalogue
Email tippatoppas@gmail.com or

Please support these businesses, as they support our school
P&C Fundraising 2013

This year the P&C will again be holding numerous events to raise valuable funds for our school. Please find below details of some of the upcoming events. Volunteers are always required to assist with each of these events and are very much appreciated. If you are able to assist in any way it would be great to see you at our next P&C meeting or otherwise please contact Ben Mate on 0407 822 441.

Entertainment Books

This year the P&C will be selling Entertainment Books. The books provide a large range and quantity of discounts and 2-for-1 offers from many of Newcastle and the Hunter’s restaurants, hotels, accommodation, attractions and activities. Books will be sold for $60 each and will generate $12 to the school for each book sold. Books will be available in March for use until June 2014. Pre-orders for books will be available to be placed in the coming weeks. For those who purchase books please encourage your family, friends and work colleagues to purchase these books through our school to assist in raising valuable funds for our children.

Easter Raffle and Out-of-Uniform Day

We will again be holding an Easter Raffle in conjunction with the Easter Hat Parade to be held on Thursday 28th March. Students will be invited to donate an Easter egg for the raffle at an out-of-uniform day also to be held in March. In the coming weeks, families will be provided with a book of raffle tickets to sell. Your generous donations will be greatly appreciated and will make this an enjoyable event for our children.

Ipod Raffle and Disco

The Term 1 school disco will be held on Thursday 11th April. In conjunction with the disco, we will be running an Ipod raffle. In the coming weeks, families will be provided with a book raffle tickets to sell. We are hopeful that the following prizes will be available –

- One Ipod touch for any ticket buyer
- One Ipod touch for students who sell a complete book of tickets
- One Ipod touch for students who attend the disco

Tocal Field Days

This year the P&C will again be running food and drink stalls at the Tocal Field Days. This event runs over 3 days from the 3rd to 5th May. We will be selling a range of gourmet BBQ products and drinks including milkshakes. This event requires significant input and as such it is anticipated we will require between 40 and 50 volunteers over the 3 days. As substantial planning is required for this event it would be appreciated if those willing to volunteer could pencil the above dates into your calendar and also advise your availability to the P&C asap. Last year this event proved to be a great fundraiser for the school raising in excess of $5000. So that the workload for this event can be shared it would be great to have as many volunteers as possible. Please contact Ben Mate on 0407 822 441 to advise your availability.