**SWIMMING CARNIVAL:** I would like to congratulate our students, staff and families who attended our swimming carnival last Thursday. The day was a great success with high participation numbers and some outstanding individual performances in the pool. I was particularly impressed with the ‘never say die’ attitude shown by our competitors. It is heartening to see such impressive qualities in our students. I have a strong belief that the effort, commitment and resilience shown in sporting events is a quality that is transferable to life. Well done to all involved, with a special mention to our life guards, Les Lockwood and Rod Studdert and Mrs Petersen and Mrs Touzell for their organisation of the day’s events.

**Bus Route through Raworth:** I have recently been in contact with Mr John Meldrum from Hunter Valley Buses regarding the existing routes of the buses that service the Raworth estate. Currently the afternoon bus, Route 261, enters Canterbury Drive, turns left into Norwich Avenue and then left into Stanton Drive before turning right into Canterbury Drive and exiting the estate. During my discussions with the bus company, I have explained that many families who reside further into the estate are required to walk long distances to get to a designated bus stop. I have been informed that the company will consider an alternate route that may service a greater area of Raworth. It was explained to me that Council will need to approve any variation and that some roads will not be suitable for bus travel. Mr Meldrum also informed me that the preferred option is for buses to use ‘collector’ roads; in this case Canterbury Drive and Jenna Drive. If parents have any questions about possible changes to Route 261, please contact me.

**Parent Afternoon Tea:** Thank you to the parents who attended Friday’s afternoon tea for kinder parents and new families to our school. As a school it is our way of welcoming our families to our learning community so hopefully our parents have been able to meet other members of our school community. Thank you to our generous P&C for their support of the day.

**Assembly:** Congratulations to our award winners at Friday’s assembly. I would also like to congratulate 3 / 4 on their excellent promotional video about the 2014 commencement of our school economy. Mrs Fincher has produced a number of informative videos in recent times and it wonderful to see our students given the opportunity to use the format to inform our students and parents of the great things that are happening in our school. Our age swimming champions were also announced at the assembly. Congratulations to Jett Campbell and Ameliah Hutton (8 years), Sharlotte Mate and Taleb Anstey (9 years), Morgan Allsop and Willow Hawkins / Bede Van de Scheur (10 years), Eliza Vercoe and Toby Rumbel (11 years) and Tahlia Lee and Cooper Studdert (12 years) on their outstanding performance in their respective events.

**Parents and Carers Evening:** Just a reminder to parents of our year 6 students that on Tuesday evening Maitland High School will be hosting an information session regarding year 7 procedures in 2015. The session will begin at 6pm and will be held in Maitland High’s MPC. Information was sent home recently but, if clarification is required, please contact the school.

**Clean Up day / Fitness Fund Raiser:** This Friday our school will be holding a ‘Clean Up’ day. The activities will be held inside our school grounds and will be fully supervised by staff. We would ask that students bring gloves on the day. Students are also able to come to school out of uniform. We will ask for a gold coin donation with all funds going to purchase a fitness assessment resource kit for our school. Our PE and Sports coordinator, Ms Stevens, is preparing an excellent program to support student fitness and health and the resource kit will be an important addition to the program.

**Scripture:** On Thursday our school will be offering scripture instruction for students from K-6. Our students from K-2 will receive lessons from 1:10pm until 1:40pm, with student in years 3 – 6 receiving lessons from 1:40pm until 2:10pm. All students will be involved in lessons, unless parents / carers have indicated otherwise via the recently sent home usage agreement note.

**Drumming Lessons:** Due to our swimming carnival last Thursday drumming students were not able to participate in their Thursday lesson. This lesson will be made up in the coming weeks … details of this date will be sent home to families via the school newsletter. Lessons will return to normal this Thursday.

**School Photos:** Our annual school photos were taken last Wednesday. We anticipate that photo packs will be returned to school for distribution to families in the next couple of weeks. All students had their photo taken on the day so if any families did not order photos and are wishing to please feel free to contact MSP direct on 4966 8292 to organise your order and payment.

Peter Edwards
STOCKLAND STARS IS BACK !!!

Our star will be on display at Greenhills (above the Customer Care Centre) from Monday 3rd March to Sunday 6th April 2014. Please vote for our school and help us win the cash prize!

Canteen News

Week 5 - Term 1, 2014
Monday 24.2.14          Jo Kennedy, Nicole Hanson
Tuesday 25.2.14         Belinda Duffey, Natalie Carpenter
Wed 26.2.14             Natalie Hutton, Prue Wolfe
Thurs 27.2.14           Mel Anderson, Tammy Gakovic
Friday 28.2.14          Louise Vercoe, Nicole Hanson

Week 6 - Term 1, 2014
Monday 3.3.14           Sally Godwin, Kelly Mate
Tuesday 4.3.14          Kylie Brand, Jason Newby
Wed 5.3.14              Petah McGaw, HELP NEEDED
Thurs 6.3.14            Natalie Carpenter, Kellie Upton
Friday 7.3.14           Belinda Duffey, Janette Stevens

P & C Meeting Survey

A survey relating to the timing of P&C meetings has been sent home on behalf of the P&C Committee today.

Please complete this survey and return to your child’s teacher by Friday 28th February 2014.

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 : ............................................................

CANTEEN HELPERS NEEDED

Please contact the Canteen Committee if you can help out.

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Parent Signature : .......................................................... Date : ............................................................

SCHOOL SECURITY - 1300 880 021
Economy News

The Economy reopens on Monday 24th February.

To introduce this program to the school community for 2014, a short film explaining the Economy and its many ventures premiered at the assembly on Friday 21st February. Many thanks go to the talented students of 3/4F for their participation and to Kate Fincher, our director, for her effort and expertise.

To view this film, please log into the following link: http://www.mydls.com.au/morpethtv/

At that assembly, I also announced the winner of our bank book cover design competition and presented Chloey Lindsay with a cheque for $(P)1000. Highly commended certificates were awarded to Katelyn Lockwood and Olivia Gregor. The entries received were wonderful and Mrs Krempin’s task in choosing a winner was extremely difficult.

In anticipation of our Economy auctions, I would appreciate donations of items suitable for auction prizes. Toys, books, drink bottles, games and balls have all been the focus of spirited bidding at previous assemblies. If you can assist, please see Mrs Fincher. Any donations will be very much appreciated.

Clean Up Australia Day

Morpeth Public School has registered as a clean-up site for 2014. The students and staff will work together to tidy our grounds on Friday 28th February. On that day, we ask students to bring a pair of gloves and to make sure they have a hat and sunscreen.

If you have any questions regarding Economy operations, or would like to assist, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jane Fincher - Economy Co-ordinator

Book Sale

A second hand book sale of non-fiction books, recently culled from the library, will be held on Wednesday 26th and Friday 28th February.

All books will be 20c each and proceeds will go to buying updated resources for the library.
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