Welcome Back!

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the break. Our holidays were punctuated by the Easter period and of course ANZAC day. Term 1 was an extremely busy time and, although Term 2 is a shorter term, it is certainly packed with lots of school activities. In the tradition of hitting the ground running, this week we have the Stage 3 Rainforest excursion to the Central Coast (Thursday) and the TOCAL visit for students in years 3–6 on Friday. Next week (Monday) our year 6 students will be involved in a leadership project with Cheree O’Neill, who represents the Maitland Learning Community while on Tuesday, the very popular NRMA roadshow will visit the school. Also, as previously communicated, Term 2 sees the implementation of electronic newsletter distribution. Today will be the last hard copy, paper newsletter sent home - from next week the newsletter will be sent to families via email and the newly created Skoolbag app (see article below). Paper copies of the newsletter will be available for collection from the office foyer.

ANZAC Day

Thank you to the students and families who attended the ANZAC march held in Morpeth last Friday. The weather leading up to the ceremony was extremely threatening, with strong winds and heavy rain the order of the day. Remarkably however, the skies cleared and the march went ahead as planned. Captain, Molly Worthington, spoke beautifully as she read ‘The Commemoration’ and her fellow leaders placed a wreath at the cenotaph during the ceremony. I would like to particularly thank Kristy Hawkins, mother of Willow who is in year 5, for the magnificent wreath she made for the occasion. Our school held a brief ANZAC ceremony at school on Tuesday to commemorate the occasion.

STOP PRESS : STUDENTS TO WEAR OUT OF UNIFORM TO RUMBALARA (so sports is clean for Friday)

Skoolbag App

Our school has recently purchased the Skoolbag app. The app is an excellent tool designed to improve school and home communication and can be installed on both apple and android products. Skoolbag will provide a ‘one stop’ shop for information (newsletters, permission notes, excursion / sport information etc), it also provides direct access to the school’s webpage and it also provides links to contact the school via email, phone and to explain a student absence. Skoolbag also provides alerts via instant notification in the event of cancellations or important information that needs to be communicated to families. During the coming weeks, more information will be made available about the app, but certainly feel free to download the app (see pages 3 and 4 for details) in order to become familiar with its features. A huge thank you to our generous P&C for assisting in the funding of this initiative. Join us at the P&C meeting for an overview and training on this fantastic application.

P&C meeting

On Monday morning our P&C will be holding their monthly meeting. Hopefully a large contingent of current and intending members will attend the meeting. During the meeting, Mrs Touzell will provide a brief overview of the Skoolbag app. The meeting starts at 9:30am and will be held in the school’s library.

TOCAL Excursion

As mentioned, students in years 3–6 will attend TOCAL on Friday. The field trip is always and enjoyable experience and I’m sure our students will value the experience. If parents attend the day, please be aware that the visit is a school event and that it is important that students stay with their respective classes. In saying that, please feel free to join the group and share the experience. Please be reminded that parents will need to pay in order to be admitted.

Woolworths Food sample Day

Next Thursday, our friends from Woolworths at Stockland Green Hills will visit the school to run a series of healthy eating workshops for our students. Woolworths will provide a lunch for all students and also suggest ideas for nutritious and tasty snacks. Students are also asked to submit a favourite recipe—winning entries will be displayed at the shopping centre.
EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE
Thank you to all the families who donated eggs for the Easter Hamper Raffle.
We raised over $700 for the school. Congratulations to all our winners.

UNIFORM SHOP
Winter Uniforms are now in stock for orders.
The P&C Uniform Co-ordinator will be available for fitting and uniform purchases at the following times:
Monday - 8.45 to 9.30am
Friday - 8.45 to 9.30am also Assembly Friday from 2pm
Other times by appointment
Please contact Jodi Lovell on 0438 131 447 or email the uniform shop morpethpsuniforms@gmail.com

WINTER ITEMS
FOR THE CANTEEN MENU
Sweet and Sour chicken with rice - $2.50
Fried Rice - $2.50
Beef and Gravy roll - $3.00
Chicken and Gravy roll - $3.00
Chicken patty - $2

COUNTRY FAIR MEETING
All interested parents are invited to attend the next meeting about our Country Fair.
The meeting is being held at
THE COMMERCIAL HOTEL - MORPETH
Monday 12th May at 7pm

MOTHERS DAY STALL
The stall will be help at school on Friday 9th May 2014 Gifts $1 to $5
Anyone wishing to donate items to the Mothers Day stall
Please leave them at the Canteen.
Additional items will allow for grandmother gifts - Thanks in advance

Canteen News
Week 1 - Term 2, 2014
Monday 28.4.14 SDD : No students
Tuesday 29.4.14 Petah McGaw, Jodi Lovell
Wed 30.4.14 Belinda Duffey, Natalie Hutton
Thurs 1.5.14 Kellie Upton, Natalie Carpenter
Friday 2.5.14 Melissa Armer, Nicole Hanson

Week 2 - Term 2, 2014
Monday 5.5.14 Sally Godwin, Gaby Whelan
Tuesday 6.5.14 Angela Smith, Kylie Brand
Wed 7.5.14 Prue Wolfe, Mel Anderson
Thurs 8.5.14 Emma Ramm, Louise Vercoe
Friday 9.5.14 Sallyann Rumbel, Sam Cook / Rachael P

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Our School now has our own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent/Student community. We are asking parents/students to install our Skoolbag School App.

To install it, just search for our school name "Morpeth Public School" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

Thank you to the P&C for helping fund this initiative.

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**ECONOMY NEWS**

*Jane Fincher - Economy Co-ordinator*

**Banking:** Many students have begun recycling or working in the gardens and Economy office and have been paid by cheque. To deposit these cheques, all students from years 3-6 MUST visit the bank and complete a deposit slip. Our friendly bankers are happy to assist any students who are new to the Economy. The bankers process cheques for all students K-2. Please remember, you MUST have a bank book to begin saving and to be eligible to bid at auctions. Forms are available from the Economy office.

**Interest Cheques:** The Economy is currently issuing interest cheques at the rate of 100% on bank balances as at 11th April. Students from years 3-6 will need to complete a deposit slip to ensure that their account is credited with their interest.

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

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**ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

Activities for this term are:

**Monday:** Tae Kwon Do  
**Wednesday:** Gymnastics

Students who have not participated this year will have priority when placements are given.

Notes for successful applicants will be sent home this week - The program begins in Week 2.

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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: .................................................................
How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

**iPhone & iPad Users**

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

**Android Users**

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook! 🧡 Like

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au
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:

- Mathematics
- Spelling
- Writing
- English

Please note that there is a minimum of 3 students per subject required to enable the program to proceed. No money is required to accompany this note - if the minimum numbers are achieved an invoice will be generated and sent home via your child.

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 15th May 2014.

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

Jane Fincher - ICAS Co-ordinator

__________________________________________________________

Please tick

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Course sitting date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Tuesday 18th June</td>
<td>$11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday 17th June</td>
<td>$17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Wednesday 3rd July</td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday 13th August</td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signed: _____________________________ Parent / Guardian

Date _____________________________

NOTE : NO PAYMENT REQUIRED UNTIL MINIMUM NUMBERS ACHIEVED (See note above)