Principal’s Message

Our school fortnight has again been abuzz with lots of learning and fun activities. Swimming concluded with lots of children doing well in their assessments. Certificates have been presented for their achievements. Our new sports and SRC leaders have been presented with their badges and are proudly wearing them. Sports Captains and Vice Captains are: Paterson Captains: Leila O’Connor & Kayden Atkins, Vice Captains Carl Thompson & Alysha Cowley and Allyn Captains: Brodie Huckstadt & Jada Laurie, Vice Captain Billy Huckstadt. SRC Leaders are as follows: Kinder- Ewen Mitchell; Year 1– Piper Conn Year 2-Will Craig; Year 3-Jack Laurie; Year 4-Oscar Wyvill; Year 5-Alysha Cowley; Year 6-Jack Hodges. Together with our Captains and Prefects, these will form our student leadership team for the year and allow children to have a voice in the choices we make as a school community. Our school captains will travel to Sydney on 23rd March to participate in the Young Leaders’ Conference where they will hear presentations from some dynamic young leaders from across our country.

A dynamic team from our parent community worked hard last weekend to create a stunning central feature for our Remembrance Garden. This garden surrounds the Gallipoli Pine which was planted in 2005 to commemorate the 90th Gallipoli Landing. Now our garden is being lovingly refurbished in time for the 100th Anniversary of the Landing. Thanks go to the P&C for purchasing the beautiful sandstone for the project. New garden furniture will be delivered in mid April to add to this peaceful area.

Thanks also go to Mr. Jim Joliffe for giving of his time and expertise to run a cattle judging clinic for our cattle judging team for the Gresford show. We had a good roll up of parents also who shared in the presentation. Good luck to our team at the show and thanks go to Mrs. Dillon for organising this session. Good luck to all show exhibitors!

Another interesting and educational presentation this week has been the RSPCA Responsible Pets visit for K-2 students to teach children about safety around animals. This has proved to be a worthwhile presentation each year. Coming up next week is our visit from the Bell Shakespeare Company with their presentation of ‘Just Macbeth’ which will support the Shakespearean studies being done across the school this year. Parents are welcome to attend free of charge. We are then off to the Singleton Military Museum on 26th March where we will further our studies of the Great War.

Harmony Day and the National Day of Action Against Bullying will be held on 20th March and our P&C will be offering an international extravaganza of culinary delights at lunch time to increase children’s awareness of the richness that multiculturalism has brought to our country. Canteen will still operate on this day but there will be lots of delicious food for children, all courtesy of our generous P&C volunteers. Because of the later time of the P&C meeting on this day (12.00), there will be no assembly. Our school Cross Country will be held on Thursday, 20th March at 9.30 here at school and parents are most welcome to spectate. The Zone Cross Country will be held on 27th March at Tocal and we only received notification of this on Monday. Hence the hurried scheduling of our own event. You can see from all this information, we are having a very busy and exciting term.

The Department of Education and Communities has revised the Enrolment and Attendance Policy and responding to directions from the State Ombudsman, has introduced a number of changes. A summary of these changes has been provided in this newsletter. The full policy is available on the DEC website, School Attendance webpage on the DEC's Schools Internet Site Compulsory School Attendance - Information for Parents.

Professional Learning for teachers has been in the areas of school planning, evaluation, road safety education and leadership.

Kind regards,
Pauline
School Planning Snippets

A draft School Strategic Plan for 2015~2017 has been prepared. It will be shared with the School Evaluation Team for ratification before presentation to the P&C. Feedback from surveys received last year from parents and students, as well as planning done at last year’s collaborative visioning meeting held with parents, was used in drawing up this plan.
An Invitation To Carers

Do you provide care and support to another person? You are invited to Carer Connections. Take the opportunity to connect with our Carers and listen to our Guest Speaker!

GUEST SPEAKER: Kathie Nickerson, Clinical Nurse Specialist Hunter Integrated Pain Service.

TOPIC: ‘The Meaning of Chronic Pain: and Hunter Integrated Pain Service’s approach to Improving Life’

VENUE: East Maitland Bowling Club

TIME: 10.00am - 12.00pm

COST: FREE - includes Morning Tea

WHEN: Monday 23rd March 2015

RSVP: Wednesday 18th March 2015

For more information ring 4921 4895 or 1300 887 776 or Email: Educare-Admin@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

TRASH & TREASURE MARKET!

ELECTION WEEKEND SATURDAY MAR 28

Have you realised in the recent Council pick up that you have things you could sell?

We invite you to donate them to the GRESFORD MOBILE PRESCHOOL

Trash and Treasure Market

at the Gresford School of Arts Hall

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE PRESCHOOL

To donate your treasures please call

Cath on tel. 6577-6118

The ‘CHANCES’ program has been set up, through the Dungog Shire Community Centre, to give children an opportunity to participate in sport, dance & music.

We are asking for donations of old tennis racquets, football boots, ballet shoes, balls, musical instruments, sports uniforms etc. If you can help out please leave your donation in the grey bucket in the front foyer of the school’s office. Thank you.
Regular attendance at school for every student is essential if students are to achieve their potential and increase their career and life options. Schools, in partnerships with parents are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students.

- Parents must ensure that their children who are enrolled at school attend every day the school is open for instruction.
- Parents must provide an explanation of absences to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence through means such as telephone, written note, text message or email. This is a requirement of the Education Act of 1990.
- Where frequent absences are explained as being due to illness, consultation must occur with parents regarding the health care needs of the child.
- Principals can request that the parents provide a medical certificate if they have concerns with the information provided, or where there is a history of poor attendance.
- An exemption from attendance at school can no longer be granted for vacations taken outside the school holidays. If the principal does not accept the reason for travel as valid, the absence would be marked as unjustified.
- Should an unexplained absence occur and the school is not notified, the school will contact the parent within 2 days.
- An unsatisfactory pattern of attendance includes, regular absences without explanation (despite follow up from the school); regular absences and explanations provided by the parent are not accepted by the principal; extended periods of absences without an explanation or the explanation is not accepted by the principal.
Awards

**Library Award**

Hamish Mead
Lara Silver

**Good Listener Award**

Ryan Skołyszewski

**School Merits**

K/1 - Cooper McDonald & Mia Wilton
1/2 - Mary Briggs & Daniel Abra
3/4 - Taylah Jolliffe & Amber Smith
5/6 - Shaelyn Crouch

**Sports Shed Award**

William Mitchell & Billy Huckstadt

**Spelling Champions**

Joey Galvin, Dylan Gardiner, Hamish Jupp, Verity Spinks, Josie Hodges, Madeleine Wrigley & Alysha Cowley
THE BEST HOLIDAYS HAPPEN AT CAMP

- Relaxing
- Fun
- Great value
- Safe

Entertain the kids those school holidays with a Sport and Recreation camp. Our popular Kids’ and Family Camps offer a range of exciting activities to keep even the biggest kid entertained. Try your hand at over 40 different activities, including fishing, slip'n'slide, abseiling, crafts, kayaking, cooking and more. Led by qualified instructors, you can rest easy knowing your kids are in safe hands.

Kids’ Day Camps start from $47. Family Camp weekends start from $65 per day for kids and $36 per day for adults (kids under 5 attend free, cost includes accommodation, meals and activities).

Bonuses Residential Kids’ Camps
Include supervised transport from:
- Central Station, Sydney
- Penrith
- Lithgow
- Bathurst
- Orange
- Wellington
- Brooklyn
- Mooney Mooney.

The simplest way

...Six steps to packing a healthy lunch.

Follow these tips to make lunch packing a breeze:

- Breads/cereals: wholemeal or wholegrain bread, wraps and pita.
- For a treat, pack plaited, rice cakes or homemade muffins and slices.
- Fruit: Slice in half 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 milks: 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

Easter Services - Chisholm Pastoral Region 2015

CHRISM MASS
SACRED HEART
CATHEDRAL
HAMILTON
7.00pm TUESDAY
31st March

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION
Clarence Town
Sunday 15th Mar 7.40am
(before Mass)

Dungog
Tuesday 17th Mar 7.00pm
Rutherford
Wednesday 18th Mar 7.00pm
Beresfield
Thursday 19th Mar 7.00pm

Lochinvar
Tuesday 24th Mar 7.00pm
Gresford
Wednesday 25th Mar 9.30am
(followed by Mass)

Largs
Wednesday 25th Mar 7.00pm
East Maitland
Thursday 26th Mar 7.00pm

HOLY THURSDAY
2nd April
Mass of the Lord’s Supper
St Helen’s Gresford 5.30pm
St Mary’s Dungog 7.00pm
Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield 7.00pm
Sacred Heart Campbell’s Hill 7.00pm
Evening Prayer 10.00pm

HOLY FRIDAY
3rd April
STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield 10.00am
St. Columba’s Paterson 10.00am
Immaculate Conception Morpeth 10.00am
St Mary’s Dungog 10.00am
St Joseph’s East Maitland 10.00am #
St. Paul’s Rutherford 10.00am
Sacred Heart Campbell’s Hill 10.00am
St. Patrick’s Clarence Town 10.00am
St Helen’s Gresford 10.00am
# Denotes outdoor youth dramatisation

GOOD FRIDAY
The Passion of the Lord
Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield 3.00pm
Immaculate Conception Morpeth 3.00pm
St. Joseph’s East Maitland 3.00pm
St. Paul’s Rutherford 3.00pm
St Mary’s Dungog 3.00pm
Sacred Heart Campbell’s Hill 3.00pm
Holy Family Largs 3.00pm
St. Patrick’s Clarence Town 3.00pm
St Helen’s Gresford 3.00pm
+ Denotes Clergy in Attendance

Easter Vigil
St. Joseph’s East Maitland 7.00pm
Our Lady of Lourdes Beresfield 7.00pm
Sacred Heart Campbell’s Hill 7.00pm
St. Mary’s Dungog 7.00pm

Easter Sunday
5th April
Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Services
Stockdale Hill, East Maitland 6.00am
Immaculate Conception Morpeth 7.15am
St. Patrick’s Clarence Town 8.00am
St Paul’s Rutherford 8.00am
Holy Family Largs 8.20am
St Joseph’s East Maitland 8.30am
St. Patrick’s Lochinvar 9.30am
St. Columba’s Paterson 9.30am
St Helen’s Gresford 10.00am

NO EVENING MASS EAST MAITLAND

Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen Indeed!