



MEPS MAIL

Create the Future

24th March, 2021

Key Dates

TERM 1

Tuesday 30/03/2021
- Cross Country Carnival

Wednesday 31/03/2021
- Easter hat parade

Wednesday 31/03/2021
- Sausage sizzle

Wednesday 31/03/2021
- Easter guessing competition drawn

Thursday 01/04/2021
- End of Term 1 2021

TERM 2

Tuesday 20/04/2021
- First day of Term 2

Friday 23/04/2021
- Anzac Day service

Monday 03/05/2021
- Sydney Writer's Festival

**Tuesday 11/05/2021 to
Thursday 13/05/2021**
- NAPLAN Year 3 & 5

**Monday 31/05/2021 to
Wednesday 02/06/2021**
- Year 5 & 6 Great Aussie Bush Camp

Friday 25/06/2021
- End of Term 2 2021

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Easter hat parade
Holiday activities
Sausage sizzle
Guessing competition
Stage 3 camp

Principal's report

Dear Parents and Caregivers



We entered the second last week of Term 1 with the joy of knowing that many of the Covid19 restrictions have been lifted. This time last year, we were all learning from home, and living with the uncertainty of whether the pandemic would keep us all out of school for a prolonged period. Thankfully, the situation changed but we still maintain all the precautions of washing hands, sanitising and keeping students within their stage groups whenever possible as the pandemic is not over.

Our school is finalising a Strategic Improvement Plan as part of the Department of Education requirements. Lifting students' outcomes in Reading and Numeracy are our focus areas along with student engagement and attendance. Every school in the state has percentage targets of students achieving in the top two bands in NAPLAN and attendance targets. Due to NAPLAN taking place during Eid, our school has been advised that catch up days are permissible.

Last newsletter, I mentioned the importance of attending school each day. I am pleased to say that our school's overall attendance has risen to 93.6% from 89.9% at the end of 2020 with 79.1% of students having an attendance rate of 90% or more. Just a reminder again that students need to be at school each day unless they are sick or have a medical appointment that cannot be made outside of school hours. All other reasons are not approved.

The wet weather is a reminder for students to bring an umbrella or raincoat to school to minimise the risk of students becoming wet and cold. With the heavy rainfall, it is important that students do not play or go near drains on the way to and from school, and motorists do not enter floodwaters. If you sustain storm damage (leaking roofs, etc) and need assistance, the NSW State Emergency Service can be contacted on telephone 132 500.

Next Wednesday morning is our Easter Hat Parade for K-2 students. It will be the first major event where parents are permitted back on our school grounds. In order to hold the event, we are still obliged to put in place a Covid-19 plan involving social distancing. On the same day, our school will be holding a sausage sizzle to mark the near completion of a school term.

John Goh
Principal



ICAS Assessments – 2021

Year 3-6 students at Merrylands East have the opportunity to take part in the 2021 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). For over 20 years ICAS has taken place each year in schools throughout Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, the Pacific Islands and South Africa.

All students receive a certificate and an individual student results letter indicating which questions they answered correctly. It also highlights strengths and weaknesses.



Certificates will be awarded as follows:

- High distinction to the top 1% of entrants in the state.
- Distinction for the next 10% of entrants in the state.
- Credit to the next 20% in the state.
- Achievement to students within the top 20% of the year group in their school.
- Participation to all other students.

All tests will be conducted during August at school under the supervision of teachers and the Principal. The cost for all tests is \$17.05.

If you would like your child to participate, all registrations are completed and paid online.

The parent page link is: <https://shop.icasassessments.com/pages/pps>

This link is case sensitive so be sure to use all lower case letters.

Our school access code is: **IYZ286**

Cross Country Carnival

The cross country has been rescheduled for **Tuesday 30th March**.



Meet the Teacher

Miss Asquith - 3 Achievement

What do you love about being a teacher?

I like teaching because I like helping students to be the best learners they can be and learn new things all the time. Helping students to enjoy learning and become excited for new things and always looking to learn new things are the best parts of teaching.



Favourites

What is your favourite:

- Book - *'Charlotte's Web' by E.B. White*
- Book Character - *Matilda*
- Subject - *Maths*
- Hobby - *Doing craft with my sister*
- Movie - *All the 'Harry Potter' movies*
- Movie Character - *Hermione Granger or Hagrid*
- Sport - *Cycling*
- Colour - *Pink*
- Food - *Pasta or cake*
- Drink - *Apple juice*
- Singer or group - *Anthony Ramos*
- Childhood Toy - *Pooh Bear toy*

Buy a gift for Mum



This year the P&C will be selling Mother's Day gift bags. There will be three \$10 bags and three \$5 bags. Notes will be sent home

explaining what is in each bag for students to secretly surprise Mum on Mother's Day.

There are only 55 of each bag so please make sure your child selects, in order of preference, which bag they would like. Once one of the gift bags is sold out, students will be given their second then third choice depending on how quickly they return their order to the school office. Families with more than one child will have the opportunity to purchase different gifts for Mum.

Easter Hat Parade

On **Wednesday, 31st March** we will be holding our annual Easter Hat Parade. Parents are welcome to come and watch the parade starting at 8.20am in the school playground.

All Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 classes will be creating an Easter Hat for the Easter Hat Parade. The students will be given time in class with their buddies to create their hat.

We ask that each student bring in some materials in order to create and decorate their hat, including a hat to decorate or cardboard to make a hat, items to use for decorating (cotton wool, decorative eggs, chicks, streamers), glue stick, tape or string.



Please bring these items to school by tomorrow, Thursday, 25th March.

Year 2 Excursion - Sydney Zoo

Year 2 students recently travelled to Sydney Zoo, in Bungarribee. They were transported by bus and had an opportunity to get up close to a range of animals while learning about their habitats.

The zoo is committed to embracing advanced technology and innovation to improve animal welfare, visitor engagement and education. It is home to a wide range of exotic and native animals living in clever habitat designs. Visitors have the chance to experience this in an immersive and engaging way.

Everyone had a great time!



'Tell Them From Me' survey



Tell Them From Me

This week students from Year 4 to Year 6 will take part in the 'Tell Them From Me' student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our

students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them.

The survey is completed online and is run by an independent research company. Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password.

This research will help schools in NSW to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement.

Holiday Activities

Cumberland Council will be holding FREE school holiday clinics again over both weeks of the school holidays.

Registrations open on Monday 29th March at 7.00pm. Some activities fill up fast so get online as soon as it opens.

Follow this link to register your child/children for these great activities.

www.trybooking.com/eventlist/healthandwellbeing

Some of the fun activities include: skateboarding, basketball, badminton, pickleboard, hip hop classes, rainbow glow hula hoop rave, ten pin bowling, outdoor bootcamp, Zumba, tennis and much more.



P&C NEWS

The next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 13th May, 2021. Now that some restrictions have been lifted we are hoping to return to many of our traditional fundraisers. The upcoming Easter raffle, sausage sizzle and Mothers' Day activities are just the beginning of the P&C being active in the school once more.



Our meetings will now be held on the second Thursday of each month at 12.15pm.

NSW Health—Covid testing

The Department of Education requires any child with a sore throat, runny nose or any other flu like symptoms, to get a covid test.

Our school needs to follow the NSW Health guidelines and students must stay home until a negative test result is received.



If your child's test is negative, but they are still feeling unwell, please keep them home until they have

Sausage Sizzle



The first sausage sizzle for 2021 will be held next week, on Wednesday 31st March.

Don't miss out!

Return your order to the school office before Tuesday 30th March, 2021.

Easter Guessing Competition

The P&C's Easter guessing competition tickets have now been sent home where parents can buy tickets and each ticket has a chance of winning a prize. All the tickets for each class will be placed in a box and two tickets will be drawn. The student who has



purchased the ticket drawn will win an Easter egg as a prize. Two prizes will be given for each class.



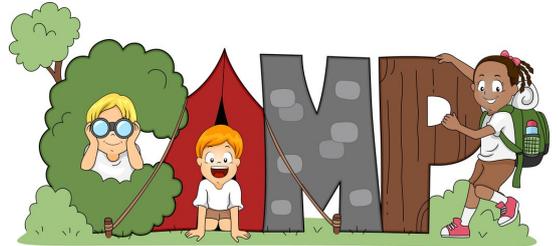
The P&C runs this raffle and all money raised goes back to the school for needed equipment or supplies.

Stage 3 Great Aussie Bush Camp

Stage 3 Great Aussie Bush Camp is on again this year beginning on Monday 31st May and returning on Wednesday 2nd June. Students will be able to participate in activities which may include archery, ropes course, abseiling, and orienteering. This program supports the Stage 3 PDHPE curriculum, allowing students to develop problem solving and collaboration skills.

Participation is strictly limited to the first 35 students who pay their deposit. To reserve a place, a non-refundable deposit of \$50 must be given to the school office before 15th March, 2021.

This is a fantastic camp and our students enjoy it every time they attend!



Athletics Carnival

The annual MEPS Years 3-6 Athletics Carnival was held last week at the Holroyd Sports Ground.

The Athletics Carnival was a fun opportunity for our older students who enjoyed participating in events and joining in the cheering of their team members.

Congratulations to everyone and good luck to those students who qualified for the district carnival next term.



Did you know?

Australian Lyrebirds have a stunning ability to mimic any sound they hear, both natural and artificial. They have been recorded mimicking chainsaws and car alarms, as well as copying many other bird species calls.



Hindu Scripture



Hindu scripture is looking for teachers at MEPS.

If you are interested please call Ranjana on 0403 011 568.