



# MEPS MAIL

*Create the Future*

28th April, 2021

## Key Dates

### TERM 2

**Monday 03/05/2021**

- Sydney Writer's Festival

**Monday 03/05/2021 to**

**Friday 07/05/2021**

- Kindy AEDC begins

**Thursday 06/05/2021**

- Kindy hearing screening

**Friday 07/05/2021**

- OC applications close

**Tuesday 11/05/2021 to**

**Friday 14/05/2021**

- NAPLAN Years 3 & 5

**Tuesday 11/05/2021**

- Brainstorm Productions

**Friday 14/05/2021**

- Final camp payment

**Thursday 20/05/2021**

- P&C general meeting

**Monday 31/05/2021 to**

**Wednesday 02/06/2021**

- Year 5 & 6 Great Aussie Bush Camp

**Monday 14/06/2021**

- Public Holiday  
Queen's Birthday

**Friday 25/06/2021**

- End of Term 2 2021

### TERM 3

**Monday 12/07/2021**

- Staff Development Day  
No classes

**Tuesday 13/07/2021**

- First school day of Term 3

## Principal's report

Dear Parents and Caregivers



Welcome back to Term 2 and another term of teaching and learning. The commencement of this term involves Year 4 and Year 6 students undertaking an online NSW Department of Education Check in Assessment in Reading and Numeracy in the first two weeks, followed by the National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) for Year 3 and Year 5 students. All the assessments are a snapshot of students' performances at a given time and the results help teachers with future teaching and learning.

Instead of the traditional parent-teacher interviews at the end of this term, our school will be having student led interviews with their parents where school reports will be distributed.

At the end of Term 1, the Museum of Contemporary Arts (MCA) at The Rocks, Sydney, invited two of our Year 6 students to speak at their annual Bella Dinner. This was an opportunity of our students to share their learning from a recent excursion and workshop at the MCA. I'd like to thank Maitreyi Patel and Ayah El Helou for their outstanding speeches to an audience of 146 people. Many guests at the dinner, including the head of Qantas Mr Alan Joyce, commented on the students' public speaking abilities.

At Merrylands East Public School, we have students with anaphylaxis, asthma, food allergies and other medical conditions. We cannot share the names of the students due to privacy but we do need to put in risk management procedures for our students. Therefore, the sharing of food by parents and students on school grounds is not permitted. This includes birthday cakes, as numerous students are gluten and lactose intolerant.

Online applications for Year 5 placement in an opportunity class in 2022 opened on **Tuesday 20 April 2021** and will close on **Friday 7 May 2021**. Parents and carers will be able to apply from this website during this time. Late applications cannot be accepted by the NSW Department of Education. To apply please visit this website:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5/application-process>

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021, several Year 5 and Year 6 students will be attending the Sydney Writers' Festival at Town Hall, Sydney. The students will need to be at Merrylands Station at 7:50am for roll marking and preparations for boarding a train.

Our school community commemorated ANZAC Day with a short service last week. Students were encouraged to bring flowers as a mark of respect. I was also accompanied by one of our school leaders at Merrylands RSL's ANZAC Day memorial dawn service on Sunday. We laid a wreath on behalf of Merrylands East Public School.

A number of staff changes will be taking place early in Term 2. Deputy Principal, Mrs Noble, will be taking leave from Week 3, Term 2 for the remainder of the term. In her place, Mrs Fernandopulle will be the Year 1 Supervisor, and Assistant Principal Mrs Cruz will be the Year 2 Supervisor. School Administration Manager, Mrs Forster, will also be taking leave, working on Fridays only. In her place, Mrs George will join our office team. On behalf of our school, I would like to wish Mrs Noble and Mrs Forster a well earned extended break after an extensive career in the NSW Department of Education.

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**

### Thank You



MEPS would like to thank the school family who donated all the sausages and bread for our last P&C sausage sizzle! The school really appreciates your generosity.

### Buy a gift for Mum



Only one more week to order your Mother's Day gift bag.

There are \$10 bags and \$5 bags for Mum and \$5 bags for Grandma.

If you have misplaced your order form you can collect a new one from the office.

Bags will be delivered from Monday 3rd May to Friday 7th May. **Mother's Day is**

**Sunday 9th May.**

Don't miss out! Get your order in as soon as possible.

### Meet the Teacher

#### Mrs Stone

What do you love about being a teacher?

I love that each day is an opportunity to have fun and be creative. No two days are ever the same.



#### Favourites

What is your favourite:

- Book - *'The Princess and the Pea' by Hans Christian Andersen*
- Book Character - *Pig the Pug*
- Subject - *Creative Arts*
- Hobby - *Baking sweet treats and desserts*
- Movie - *500 Days of Summer/Grease/Avengers*
- Movie Character - *Iron-Man*
- Sport - *Watching NRL (Go the Eels!) & playing Netball*
- Colour - *Purple*
- Food - *Burgers!*
- Drink - *Smoothies*
- Singer or group - *Kylie Minogue*
- Childhood Toy - *Roller Blades*

### Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

Merrylands East Public School Kindergarten students will be taking part in the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). This will happen during May this year. Children and parents do not need to do anything to be included in the census.

During the census teachers will be recording information based on their knowledge and observations of your child.

This data is collected for a wide variety of purposes to make future decisions.



This is not a test. Data will be collected for every child. If you wish your child's information to be excluded from the census please contact the office before Friday, 30th April, 2021.

## ANZAC Day

MEPS students commemorated ANZAC Day at school last Thursday with our annual ANZAC Day service in the school hall. We celebrate forty different language backgrounds in our school population but we all come together to share this occasion and remember those who served in the past and think about those who will serve in the future.

On Sunday, Mr Goh and one of our school leaders, Maitreyi Patel, represented MEPS and laid a wreath at Merrylands RSL's dawn service at Charles Mance Reserve.

The local member for Granville, Julia Finn MP, and other dignitaries attended the service.

Well done Maitreyi for getting up early and meeting Mr Goh at the reserve at 5.15am!



## Library News

Our Library has many new, interesting, imaginative and factual books that are available to be borrowed by our students. To borrow, students will need a library bag or other suitable bag to protect our books from being damaged. Library bags are available from the uniform shop or office for \$10.

The Library will be open before school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 7.30 – 7.50am. The Library is also open for Years 3-6 at recess (**after eating time**) Monday – Thursday from 10.50 – 11.05am. Students may borrow or return books, read quietly, play critical thinking games, work on puzzles, or use the computers (priority is given to school projects). From time to time, changes to this schedule may occur, due to other considerations.

We remind students that **food or drink is not allowed** in our library.

The Premiers Reading Challenge (PRC) has opened as of Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021. A reminder to students in Years 3-6 to **Login** and **update your reading record**. Please see Mrs Papadopoulos if you require support. PRC Reading Records for students in Years K-2 will be managed by Mrs Papadopoulos, in consultation with teachers.

Library Monitors – Congratulations to the following students who have successfully made it through the recruitment process and earned their Library Monitor Badges: Ambrin, Fatima, Ayushi, Zahra, Claire, Zainab, Somaya and Layla.

We thank these students for their hard work and dedication to our school library. Library monitors offer important support, by volunteering some of their own time to help ensure that the books are back on the shelves and kept tidy, recess games are packed away, and other tasks are completed as required.

Mrs Papadopoulos (Teacher Librarian)



## P&C NEWS

The next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 20th May, 2021. Now that restrictions have been lifted we are able to meet in person once again.



The meeting will be held at 12.15pm in the community room under the Year 6 verandah.

We look forward to seeing you there for a quick meeting about what the P&C will be doing for the rest of the year while sharing a cup of tea and a chat. Preschoolers are welcome.

## 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.



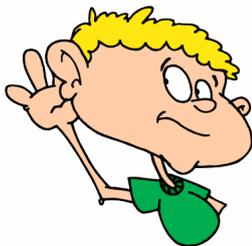
If your child's test is negative, but they are still feeling unwell, please keep them home until they have recovered.

## Kindy Hearing

Kindergarten students have the opportunity to have free hearing screenings done at school on Thursday 6th May.

The screening assessment involves a basic hearing assessment and a test of middle ear function in both ears. The screening is performed by students completing their Master of Clinical Audiology from Macquarie University. They will be able to obtain enough information to determine if your child requires a follow up with a medical professional or audiologist.

Please complete the permission note as soon as possible and return to the office.



## Year 6 polo shirts

### Time is running out to order!

Each year, the Year 6 students have the opportunity to purchase a polo shirt that is designed by an artist specifically as a memento of their final year at MEPS.



If you haven't done so already, please return your order form before Friday 7th May so your child doesn't miss out!

Sample sizes are available in the Year 6 classroom.

## Stage 3 Great Aussie Bush Camp

Stage 3 Great Aussie Bush Camp is getting closer and students are excited about the fun they are going to have at this great camp, participating in activities including archery, ropes course, abseiling, and orienteering.

Students will be leaving early in the morning on Monday 31st May and will return in the afternoon on Wednesday 2nd June.

Final payments must be made before Friday 14th May, 2021.

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



## Writer's Festival

Students from Stage 3 who have returned their notes will travel by train to the Sydney Writer's Festival at Sydney Town Hall on Monday 3rd May. They will be inspired by their favourite authors and illustrators in a fun, educational and interactive way. The writers will talk about their craft, read from their work and take questions from the audience.

We now have hit the limit on the number of students able to attend so no more permission notes will be taken.

Students must meet their teachers at Merrylands Station at 7.50am and will return at 2.28pm. All students must bring their lunch, morning tea and a drink plus an umbrella or raincoat. All students must wear the correct school uniform.



## NAPLAN

NAPLAN is an annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It tests the types of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. The tests cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy. The assessments will be held between Tuesday 11th May and Friday 14th May. Any student who misses an assessment due to EID will have the opportunity to sit that assessment at another time during the week.

It is important for parents to remember that these assessments are a snapshot of students' performances at a given time. The results are primarily used to help teachers with future teaching and learning.



## Did you know?

The hummingbird builds the world's smallest birds nest at approximately 4cms in diameter. That's about the size of a golf ball! The female weaves the nest from bits of moss and lichen, cotton fibres, small bits of bark or leaves, feathers and spider webs. The spiderwebs allow the nest to expand as the chicks grow.



## Hindu Scripture



Hindu scripture is looking for teachers at MEPS.

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