



MEPS MAIL

Term 1 Week 8 - 19th March 2024

Key Dates

Term 1

Wednesday, 20th March

- World Day of Social Justice

Thursday, 21st March

- Harmony Day

Thursday, 28th March

- Easter Hat Parade

Thursday, 28th March

- P&C Meeting

Fri 29th - Mon 1st April

- Easter break

Tuesday, 2nd April

- International Children's Book Day

Thursday, 4th April

- Last day for Yr 6 High School EOI

Sunday, 7th April

- End of daylight saving

Wednesday, 10th April

- Eid Al Fitr

Friday, 12th April

- Last day of Term 1

Term 2

Tuesday, 30th April

- First school day of Term 2

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- Easter Hat Parade
- PSSA
- P&C Meeting

Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we dive into another exciting month here at Merrylands East Public School. As always, it's a pleasure to keep you informed about the latest happenings and updates from our vibrant school community.

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Year 3 and 5 students for their dedication and hard work during the recent NAPLAN assessments. These assessments play a crucial role in providing a snapshot evaluation of our students' progress and identifying areas where we can offer additional support. Our students approached these assessments with determination and resilience, showcasing their skills in Reading, Grammar and Spelling, Writing, and Numeracy. We eagerly await the results, which are due to be released later in Term 2 or Term 3. Regardless of the outcomes, I want to emphasise that we are immensely proud of all our students for their efforts and commitment to their education.

In other news, I am delighted to share that twelve of our talented students had the honour of representing our school at the NSW Department of Education Pulse Alive Concert Choir held at the iconic Sydney Olympic Park. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their musical talents and collaborate with peers from across the state. Their hard work and dedication were truly commendable, and they represented our school with grace. Congratulations to all the students involved, as well as our dedicated music teachers for their guidance and support.

Two weeks ago, the Department of Education Attendance Support Officer checked our school rolls to identify students with unsatisfactory attendance. It is important that students attend school every day and provide a reason if they are away. Sick leave, where possible, should be accompanied by a medical certificate. Students who are away regularly for health reasons need to discuss the matter with Assistant Principal, Ms Fernandopulle or myself and provide specialist reports to our school. Together, we can write health care plans and make adjustments to your child's class program.

The mural opposite the Kindergarten classroom is almost complete. It is a portrait of Uncle David Williams, an Aboriginal person who served in the Vietnam War on a ship called the HMAS Vampire. The ship is currently moored at Darling Harbour as part of the Maritime Museum. Our school will be having an official reception for David and his family in the near future but the mural serves as a reminder that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have been pivotal in their service to our country.

As we transition into the autumn season, I kindly remind parents to ensure that their children are prepared for the changing weather conditions. With temperatures dropping and the likelihood of wet weather increasing, it is essential for students to wear a jumper and carry a raincoat to school, particularly on days when rain is forecast. Ensuring our students are comfortable and equipped for all weather scenarios ensures they maintain good health.

Finally, I would like to wish all those who partake in Ramadan, abundant blessings, peace, and joy as you embark on this sacred journey of Ramadan. May your fasting be a source of spiritual growth, reflection, and enlightenment. Ramadan Mubarak!

John Goh

Athletics Carnival - Years 3 to 6



Congratulations to all the MEPS students who participated in the Athletics Carnival on Thursday 29th February. Despite the weather being extremely hot, the students did a great job of staying sun safe and hydrated. All students showed great sportsmanship and team spirit.

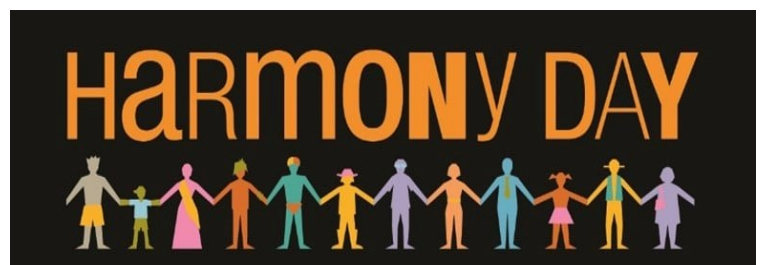
Many thanks to our teachers and parent helpers. Well done everyone!



Harmony Day

Harmony Week in Australia is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. This year's theme is 'Everyone Belongs' and at MEPS we will be celebrating on Thursday 21st March. Orange is the theme colour for Harmony Day so students may wear anything orange or their traditional or cultural clothing. We look forward to sharing our school diversity on this day.

EVERYONE BELONGS
www.harmony.gov.au



Easter Hat Parade



On Thursday, 28th March MEPS will be holding our annual Easter Hat Parade in the school playground at approximately 8.20am.

Parents are welcome to come and watch the parade.

All Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 classes will be creating an Easter Hat for the parade.

We look forward to seeing some of the great creations by our students and hope to see you there.

K - 2 Sports Day



Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 had a great time at their sports day on Wednesday 6th March. They played many games and tried lots of new activities. Thank you to our senior students who helped out on the day.



Ramadan Mubarak



Ramadan Mubarak to our MEPS community.
Monday 11th March to Tuesday 9th April.

Happy Easter



Happy Easter to our MEPS community.
Friday 29th March to Sunday 31st March.

Student Absences

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

education.nsw.gov.au



Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just... they miss days per year

5 mins per day = 3 days

30 mins per day = 18 days



Patterns of lateness can have a serious impact on your child's education.

education.nsw.gov.au

The Department of Education requires all students to attend school every day of the school year.

Students should only be absent due to sickness or a specific religious day like Eid. All other times, students need to be at school.

Thank you Good360

The mission of Good360 is to ensure the excess goods and services businesses produce every year flow to people in need rather than going to waste. MEPS is often one of the fortunate recipients of some of these goods to help our students and greater school community. Kindergarten students were excited to see the Duplo Good360 donated to our school.



Daylight saving

Daylight saving ends at 3am, **Eastern Daylight Saving Time on Sunday 7th April 2024**. Clocks should be changed to 2am local standard time instead. Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on 7 April than the day before. There will be more light in the morning.



Our New Mural

Our new mural opposite the Kindergarten classrooms is a beautiful tribute to Uncle David Williams who often speaks to MEPS students about our First Nations people and their traditions. We are proud to represent him within our school with this beautiful mural celebrating his service to Australia's armed services.



Yr 6 High School EOI



High Schools

Thursday, 4th April is the last day for Year 6 students to enter their 2025 High School Expression of Interest online. Please make sure this is done before the online site closes so your options can be considered by the respective High Schools.

P&C NEWS

MEPS P&C is always looking for new members.

The next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 28th March, 2024.

The meeting will be held at 12.15pm in the Community Room under the verandah of Block C.

