



# MEPS MAIL

Term 3 Week 6 - 27th August 2024

## Key Dates

### Term 3

**Wednesday, 28th August**

- Stage 1 Excursion

**Wednesday, 28th August**

- Whole School Assembly

**Tuesday, 3rd September**

- Stage 2 Excursion

**Thursday, 5th September**

- Author visit Stage 2

**Thursday, 12th September**

- School Photos

**Mon 16th - Fri 27th Sept**

- Swim Scheme

**Tuesday 17th Sept**

- All Schools Spectacular

**Wednesday, 18th Sept**

- Whole School Assembly

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## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

### **Celebrating the Magic of Reading during Book Week!**

At Merrylands East Public School, we believe that reading truly is magic. This year's Book Week, centred around the theme "Reading is Magic," was a fantastic celebration of imagination, learning, and community spirit. The week culminated in our much-anticipated Book Week Parade, where students donned creative costumes inspired by their favourite book characters. It was a joyful sight, with everyone - from the youngest kindergarteners to our Year 6 students - showing off their love for reading. The parade was more than just a showcase of costumes; it was a vibrant display of the wonderful school spirit that makes Merrylands East such a special place to learn and grow.

### **Year 1 Phonics Check-In: Building Strong Foundations**

This week, our Year 1 students participated in the Phonics Check-In Assessment, a statewide initiative designed to assess students' progress in learning phonics. Phonics, the ability to connect sounds with letters, is a crucial foundation for reading. The assessment helps teachers tailor instruction to meet the needs of each student, ensuring that every child is on the path to becoming a confident, fluent reader. We're proud of the effort and determination our Year 1 students have shown during this assessment, and we look forward to continuing to support them on their reading journey.

### **Managing Costs for Families**

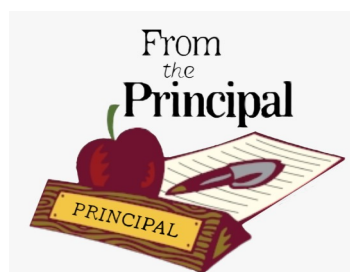
We understand the costs of living can be financially challenging for many families. Despite a reduced school budget in 2024, we have made a concerted effort to minimize or eliminate costs for excursions, extracurricular programs, and PSSA sports. While this has meant making some difficult decisions - such as pausing the gymnastics program for K-3 in Term 4 - we hope to resume these activities in Term 1 of 2025. We remain committed to providing enriching experiences for our students while being mindful of the financial pressures on our community.

### **Important Reminders for Parents**

A friendly reminder to all parents about parking regulations around the school. Please avoid parking in the bus zone on Myee Street and the No Standing Zone on York Street. Additionally, parking across resident driveways is strictly prohibited. Cumberland Council rangers and NSW Police will be monitoring these areas, and motorists found in violation will be fined. Your cooperation in ensuring the safety and accessibility of our school environment is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our school community. Together, we can continue to make Merrylands East Public School a place where learning and magic happen every day.

John Goh  
Principal



## Book Week & Character Parade

MEPS had a great week celebrating Book Week's "Reading is Magic". The highlight was the Book Character Parade held on Tuesday 20th August. Teachers and students enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book characters.



## Stage 2 Excursion



Stage 2 students will be participating in an excursion to **The Royal Botanic Gardens** in Sydney on Tuesday 3rd September. This excursion supports their English and Geography Unit on 'Factors that Shape Places: People, Places and Connections'.

Students will depart from school at 8:10am and return to school by 1.30pm. Students should wear their full school uniform, including a hat, and bring recess, lunch, a water bottle and a raincoat or umbrella.



## Kindy Enrolments for 2025

Merrylands East Public School is accepting Kindergarten enrolments for 2025. To be eligible to enrol, students need to be turning 5 years old by 31 July 2025.

For enrolment purposes, you will require proof of age (birth certificate or passport), proof of citizenship (passport, citizenship certificate or visa documents), proof of residential address (a gas or electricity bill, rate notice or a lease agreement), and immunisation history from Medicare. Original documents need to be shown to the office after the online enrolment is complete.

Visit:

[Merrylands East Public School website Enrolments tab](#)



## Kindy Visits the Farm

On Thursday, 22nd August, Kindergarten students visited Calmsley Hill City Farm, in Abbotsbury. Kindy students had a great day learning about different farm animals. They enjoyed meeting the baby animals in the Farmyard Nursery, and seeing the cows, horses, goats, camels and sheep in their pens. They loved watching the working dogs round up the sheep and were amazed by the sheep shearing. Two highlights were milking the cow and riding behind on the tractor, a bumpy but fun ride. What a great day!



## Swimming Scheme



The NSW Department of Education School Swimming and Water Safety Program commences on Monday 16th September concluding on Friday 27th September 2024.

It is a 10 day program that provides students with the opportunity to develop water safety skills along with very beginning skills to swim. For those more advanced in swimming, the program enhances their skills in swimming techniques. The scheme is open to all students in Years 2 - 6.

## Stage 1 Excursion

### RANGER JAMIE: WESTERN SYDNEY PARKLANDS

The students in Stage 1 will be participating in an excursion to Bungaribee Park, on Wednesday 28th August.

This excursion supports their current unit of work in Geography, focusing on Features of Places. The students will have the opportunity to explore the effect pollutants have on our environment, use natural resources to create habitats and go bug catching.



## School Photos



The School Photographer will be attending MEPS on Thursday 12th September.

All students should wear their full school uniform.

If you are purchasing your child's school photos, please return your photo envelopes and payment to the office as soon as possible before photo day. Family photo envelopes are available in the office.

All students will be photographed for the class photo regardless of whether they are purchasing a photo or not. If you do not want your child to be photographed for inclusion in the class photo, please send a note to the office stating this, **before** photo day. Photos will be taken regardless of the weather.

## Term 3 Assemblies



Parents and Caregivers are invited to the following whole school assemblies for Term 3 starting at 12.30pm.

Week 6                      Wednesday 28th August

Week 9                      Wednesday 18th September

## Help!

Our school canteen serves delicious food each day for our students. All food is cooked on site from fresh ingredients and fresh fruit every day.

The Canteen needs **volunteers** to help our Canteen Supervisor continue to offer this delicious food to our students. If you can help please contact the office.



## Parliament & Civics Education Rebate

**PACER** Students from our school have recently undertaken, an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage, and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding to our school in the amount of \$45 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

## P&C NEWS

MEPS P&C is always looking for new members.

The next P&C meeting will be held on Thursday 26th September, 2024. This is not a meeting about your child.

The meeting will be held at 12.30pm in the Community Room under the verandah of Block C.

