Next Wednesday 25th March we are holding an event as part of the World's Greatest Shave.

The following teachers have volunteered to have their hair shaved off:

Mr Foulstone, Mr Eddy, Mr Payne & Miss Lindner.

Mr Howell has volunteered to have his beard shaved off.

Miss Roe, Mrs King, Miss Noble, Mrs Mather & Miss Lewis have volunteered to have their hair coloured as part of the event.

To help make this a FINANCIAL SUCCESS we would really appreciate any sponsorship that you are willing to contribute.

Our Goal is to reach $2000 in one week, which is quite a lofty target.

Here is our current progress...

To sponsor any one of the teachers in particular, or even the whole team then go to http://www.worldsgreatestshave.com and click on the SPONSOR link, then search for either Ian Foulstone or another teacher as "Shaver" or straight to the "East Maitland Public School" team @ http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/EastMaitlandPublicSchool

If you cannot go online but would still like to help out then drop any sponsorship into the front office.

We have had such an awesome response to our World's Greatest Shave event that we have decided to run a CRAZY HAIR DAY on the same day. Students are to come to school with hair as CRAZY as they like, but should be in school uniform.

All students are asked to bring along a gold coin donation that will be donated to our school's sponsorship tally.
Homework
There has been much debate recently about homework, and I came across the following article that presents some interesting points.

Homework debate requires a reality check by Brett Henebery 18 Mar 2015

If homework is a bridge between school and home, it must be lighter, narrower and more flexible, says NSW Parents Council (NSWPC) CEO, Noel Hadjmichael.

Hadjmichael says that times have changed since the days when students undertaking homework was an automatic expectation of parents, and attributes part of the shift to the emergence of social media and mobile devices as ‘distracting’ influences.

“The bridge that we built 10 years ago with higher expectations of more homework, more accountability and reporting was perhaps built with the wrong material,” Hadjmichael told The Educator.

“Maybe it was built too wide and we’re driving too much data, pressure and information over it. Perhaps it should be narrower, lighter and more flexible - and maybe some people should not walk over the bridge at all.”

Hadjmichael said that the NSWPC’s position on homework may surprise some.

“We’re actually not in favour of homework for homework’s sake, however we are in favour of schools individually setting the homework level at a level where parents and the school feel as appropriate,” Hadjmichael explained.

“If the school allows students to opt out, we’re very committed to the decision being left with the parents and not just the child saying ‘I’m not going to do it’ or ‘I can’t do it’ or ‘it’s all too much’.

“It’s got to be a considered decision.”

Hadjmichael pointed to the pressures that homework can place on parents who are often expected to help problem-solve their child’s academic papers late at night after a long day at work.

“The last thing you want is for a mum and dad at nine o’clock at night to get grumpy at a kid and be doing their homework for them,” Hadjmichael said.

“We believe that homework is a great thing for primary schoolers if it’s at the right level and it builds confidence and a good routine.”

The NSWPC, through the Australian Parents Council (APC), ran a project 10 years ago based on research suggesting that homework was important and that parents should be involved. However, Hadjmichael says the world has now changed.

“What’s happened in the last 10 years is that the world has moved on and primary school kids are now much more distracted with social media and other commitments. They’ve too many devices at their fingertips and it’s all getting too much for them.

“The 10 year-old a decade ago is very different to the 10 year-old of 2015”.

Hadjmichael concluded by citing a Telegraph.co.uk report which found that 5% of UK parents exclusively did their kids homework; however, one in five had homework-related arguments with their child three times a month.

“Is it really helping to be arguing?” Hadjmichael asked.

Vanuatu Relief
We have mentioned to all students that we are sending a package over to Vanuatu to support them in overcoming the recent tragedy. Children have been asked if they can bring in an item of clothing out of their cupboards and we will send it off to Vanuatu. Mr Howell has a friend who regularly sends aid over there for hospitals and schools and she has the transport contacts to get it there. So if your child comes home from school and asks for an item for the children in Vanuatu this is what it is for.
Hunter Regional Sports Representatives
Sporting trials for various representative teams take place this term at Zone, then Regional level. Two sports, AFL and Basketball have reached regional level and four EMPS students will be representing at State Championships later next term. Denver Ross, Zac Stewart and Rahn Sonneveld have been selected in the AFL side, while Ashton Proctor made the Basketball team. Congratulations boys.

Zone Winter Trials
Yesterday a number of our students attended Maitland zone winter trials in their sports.

Boys Soccer: Zane Estatheo, Jonah Dowde, Jackson McNamee, Max Crowe, Kailin Broderick, Jack Brown
Girls Soccer: Josie Morley, Kethana Atkins
Boys Hockey: Joshua Magann
Girls Netball: Claire Williams, Amity Petersen, Emelia Mann

I am sure all students tried their best and represented East Maitland Public School with great pride.
Stay tuned for the outcome of these trials.

Banner Winners
Congratulations Chase Corry and Christian Ebrill.

NSW University Comp
If your child is in Year 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 and wish to compete in the University competitions, money and note must be returned to school no later than 1pm Friday 20th March.

Making Appointments
When needing to see your child’s classroom teacher or any other staff member at the school please ring first to make an appointment. Teachers have other duties within the school or may have previous appointments already made, by organising an appointment this helps the teacher / staff to schedule time for you.

Absences
Parents are required to explain the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven school days to the school. An explanation for absence must be provided to the school within 7 days of the first day of any period of absence.

If you have rang the school or used the Skoolbag app this is regarded as notifying the school, otherwise please ensure a note is sent in.

Newsletter
Last year we decided to reduce the amount of photocopying we were doing and with technology now such a major part of our lives most people are now receiving the newsletter via email, the Skoolbag app, our school website or viewing it on Facebook.

As of next term the few students who still receive a paper copy will need to come to the office and collect it for themselves in their own time or if you prefer to collect it yourself, which ever suits you. No newsletters will be distributed to the classrooms.

High School Expression of Interest
The High School Expression of Interest forms were sent home last week. These forms need to be returned to school by Friday 20th March.

Hunter Sports High School
Application and trials for Hunter Sports High School 2016 are now open. For further information contact Hunter Sports High School website.
Applications for 2016 close on 1st May 2015.

Reminders

**Blackbutts Reserve Excursion** - Notes and money due **Friday 20th March**.

**Canberra** - Final payment for Canberra is due **Tuesday 24th March**.

**Book Fair** - **Friday March 27th**. We will also be celebrating Grandparents Day and Harmony Day.

**Great Aussie Bush Camp** - Deposit for camp is due **Friday 8th May**. Full payment by **Wednesday 5th August**. Instalments can be made also.
Cross Country

Last Thursday, EMPS students participated in our annual Cross Country Carnival. Well done to all the students who took part. You all demonstrated our value of PARTICIPATION to the best of your ability and showed great sportsmanship.

Thank you to all the parents, teachers and students who helped with the running of the day.

The Maitland Zone Cross Country Carnival will be held at Tocal on Friday 27th March. Congratulations to the following students who have qualified to compete at the Zone Carnival.

A permission note was given to these students on Tuesday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Yr Girls</td>
<td>Macayla Sandy</td>
<td>Myah Willett</td>
<td>Ella Cox</td>
<td>Georgia Priest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/9 Yr Boys</td>
<td>Oscar Affleck</td>
<td>Harry Mulligan</td>
<td>Dallas Adams</td>
<td>Travis Caddy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Yr Girls</td>
<td>Arielle Taylor</td>
<td>Rebecca Wilson -Roper</td>
<td>Alli Dever</td>
<td>Kasey Biffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Yr Boys</td>
<td>Isaac Collins</td>
<td>Jasper Vile</td>
<td>Rahn Sonneveld</td>
<td>Josh Lorenz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Yr Girls</td>
<td>Imogen Pickard-Ling</td>
<td>Kate Dever</td>
<td>Kalisha Buck</td>
<td>Jade Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Yr Boys</td>
<td>Will Dyson</td>
<td>Kurt Woodward</td>
<td>Jack Cliff</td>
<td>Darcy Blackmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13 Yr Girls</td>
<td>Josie Morley</td>
<td>Jessica Young</td>
<td>Adele Cochrane</td>
<td>Meghan Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13 Yr Boys</td>
<td>Coby Wetini</td>
<td>Harrison Davis</td>
<td>Jackson McDonald</td>
<td>Harvey Wilks</td>
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Uniform Shop Roster Term 1 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volunteer 1</th>
<th>Volunteer 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19th Mar</td>
<td>G Milford-Chilvers</td>
<td>Jo Proctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th Mar</td>
<td>Deslie Groves</td>
<td>Jodi Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd April</td>
<td>Bronwyn Guy</td>
<td>Jo Proctor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are able to assist with the Uniform Shop in Term 2 please let Jacquie Linde know in the shop on Monday afternoon or Thursday Morning.

**UNIFORM SHOP WILL BE OPEN FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE EVERY**

Monday afternoon from 2:00pm till 3:00pm & Thursday mornings from 8:30am till 9am

Please ensure you have cash or cheque on the day only as we do not have EFTPOS facilities.

Uniform Shop Orders can also be placed at the office on any school day.

Orders will be filled on a Thursday and delivered to Children’s classes.

Link to Uniform Shop Order Form and Price list.

Sick Bay Linen Roster
20/3  Donna Burton
27/3  Noelle Green
3/4   Katie Brown

More volunteers would be appreciated so if you are able to help out, please contact me on 0437343447.

Thank you

Katie Brown
Following the P&C AGM held Thursday 12th March 2015 two main positions remain open on the Executive and are required to be filled as a matter of urgency. The positions are President and Secretary.

Without these positions being filled the P&C are unable to operate for 2015.

The P&C forms a fundamental operating role within the school and without the P&C there will be no canteen, uniform shop or other supporting functions.

Current Executive members are able to offer assistance to anyone who is interested in taking on these roles for 2015.

No prior experience is needed, just being an interested and supportive parent, grandparent, carer or community member is all that is needed.

If you are interested in a position or seek further information please speak with Tracey Mather at the school or contact the P&C by email at eastmaitlandpublicschoolpandc@gmail.com and one of our current Executive can speak with you to provide information on roles and responsibilities.

**Fundraising**
Michelle-Leigh Photography Session
EMPS Fundraiser

To be held on Saturday and Sunday 28th/29th March.

Bookings direct to Michelle Leigh Photography - Leighsa on 0421034805 or email leighsa@michelle-leigh.com.au

Sitting fee of $20.00 to be paid at the school office to secure your spot by 23rd March.

Included is a 20 min family photography session and a 8x12 enlargement.

Further photographs and enlargements available for purchase.

Funds raised from this event will go towards resources for the school such as home readers, sporting equipment etc.

**VOTE 1 EMPS Election Day BBQ & Cake Stall.**
Saturday 28th March 2015
Bacon and Egg Rolls, Sausage Sizzle, Drinks
Volunteers needed for the day.
If you are able to assist please email the P&C with your preferred time
OR leave your details at the office.

**Easter Egg Donations**
Each Family is asked to assist by donating items towards the Easter Egg Raffle. Eggs, baskets, toys etc can be left at the office until Friday 20th March the more donations we receive the more prizes can be awarded.
EASTER EGG DONATIONS

Each family is asked to make a donation towards Prizes for the Easter Raffle. This can be Easter Eggs, Baskets, Toys etc. Donations will assist in making sure as many children as possible can receive a prize. Donations can be handed in at the office or with your class teacher by Friday 20th March.

If you would like to purchase additional tickets they are available from the office.

Tickets 50c each

RAFFLE DRAWN THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2015

EMPS EASTER RAFFLE

Return your tickets by Friday 20th March for a chance to win some great Easter prizes.

Tickets 50c each

Child’s name and class to be written on the ticket please

If you would like to purchase additional tickets they are available from the office

Tickets 50c each

Families will be asked to donate Easter related products such as eggs, toys, baskets etc closer to the date.
MINI SESSIONS
20 min photo session +
8x12inch enlargement
ONLY $20
(All Session fees go to School P&C Fundraising)

Saturday & Sunday
28th & 29th March
MORPETH
8am till 6pm

Extra images available to purchase
Viewing session in studio
Belmore Road Lorn,
For bookings & information contact Leighsa
leighsa@michelle-leigh.com.au or 0421034805

 safeTALK Suicide Prevention Awareness Program
Longington safeTALK is a half day presentation to increase suicide awareness.
You'll learn how to recognise when someone may be thinking about ending their life, how to approach that person respectfully, and what you can do to help.

safeTALK for
SEASONS

For further information contact Dr Irene Antoun
Phone (02) 9817 2000
Email: pia@lifelinehunter.org.au
www.lifelinehunter.org.au

FAMILY FUN AT THE
HUNTER WETLANDS CENTRE
\nEaster School Holidays 2015
Easter Fun Day
Saturday 4th April
9.30am - 1.00pm
Various workshops and activities

School Holiday Activities
There’s lots to do, so come along and join in the fun
- Parking, \n- Canoeing, \n- Bike Riding (bring your own bike or hire ours)
- programs, \n- Walking Tours, \n- activities (up to 5pm for a small extra fee)
- Bring a packed lunch or eat at Scrabbled Cafe
- Wednesdays will be held on Good Friday, Easter Sunday & Easter Monday

LivingWorks
Lifeline Muswellbury & Muswellbury is a non-profit organisation that promotes, preserves and protects the

For more information contact Dr John Antoun
Phone (02) 9817 2000
Email: jpa@lifelinehunter.org.au
www.lifelinehunter.org.au

SPECIAL EVENT
The Spiegeltent at Woy Woy

The Spiegeltent at Woy Woy is a unique and intimate entertainment experience for the

For more information contact Ted Hall
Phone (02) 4392 1661
Email: ted.hall@nsw.com.au
www.woywoy.woywoy.com.au

SafetyNet Hunter - Woy Woy Regional Council
SafetyNet Hunter is a non-profit organisation that promotes, preserves and protects the

For more information contact Dr John Antoun
Phone (02) 9817 2000
Email: jpa@lifelinehunter.org.au
www.lifelinehunter.org.au
Election Day BBQ
And
Cake Stall
Saturday 28th March

Come along, vote and help the EMPS P&C raise funds for student’s resources.

We need Donations of Cakes
Cake Stall donations can be left at the counter between 8.30pm on Friday 27th March or from 7.30am Saturday 28th.
All donations need to clearly be labeled with full ingredients list. Donations can be cakes, sweets, jams/pickles etc.

We need a Donation of Your Time
We need help on the day, we know your time is precious on the weekend so we are only doing a roster in 1hr time slots. If you can help please fill in your preferred time below and return to the school or email the eastmallandpublicschoolpandc@gmail.com. Students will be able to help on the cake stall with a parent. We will need 6 people at each time slot.

Return your slip by Tuesday 24th March and we will put a timetable in the newsletter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Election Day BBQ</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.30 - 8.30</td>
<td></td>
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<td>8.30 - 9.30</td>
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<td>9.30 - 10.30</td>
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<td>10.30 - 11.30</td>
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<td>11.30 - 12.30</td>
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<td>12.30 - 1.30</td>
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<td>1.30 - 2.30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

BBQ Prices
Bacon Egg Sandwich $4
Sausage Sandwich $3
Cans of Drink/water $2
RETO DISCO

25th of March, Week 7

Infants: 5.00-5.45pm
Primary: 6-7pm

Snacks & Drinks from the Canteen: 2.00-5.00

Entry: $4

Make sure to dress up in 80s or 90s style

Disco