The Meet and Greet night last Wednesday was a valuable experience for the teacher of your child's class. The information exchanged on the night will lead to a better understanding of your child's social, emotional, physical and academic needs. Amongst the information provided last Wednesday, were some common concerns raised by Stage 3 parents (Years 5 and 6) and the Stage 3 teachers are already developing a positive education program to address these issues with the children. Parent information sheets will be coming home soon for Stage 3 parents. Please remember that you are welcome to provide information at any time during the year if you believe it is necessary to support your child at school.

On related matters, the school has just committed to becoming a 'Kids Matter' school. The 'Kids Matter' ethos focuses on the emotional and mental health of all. Parents will have a role in this program, initially through surveys that will help guide our program at school. Some information from the website follows -

Overview
KidsMatter Primary is a mental health and wellbeing framework for primary schools and is proven to make a positive difference to the lives of Australian children. KidsMatter Primary provides the proven methods, tools and support to help schools work with parents and carers, health services and the wider community, to nurture happy, balanced kids.

Belonging
Children need to feel that their world is a safe place. They need to know they're cared for, that their needs are met, and that they can get help to work out problems. Children develop a sense of belonging when they receive these things, which improves their mental health and learning. Children who feel that they belong to their school, preschool, kindergarten or day care will be happy, more relaxed and have fewer behaviour problems than others.

Getting along
Children's social and emotional skills are developing all the time, and they need chances to practice them regularly. Social and emotional skills influence children's mental health and wellbeing throughout their whole lives. Children learn these skills through important relationships with their families, friends, teachers, caregivers, and peers.

Resolving conflict
Conflict with others is a normal part of life for children, because they all have different needs and preferences. Problems often arise because children don't have the skills to avoid or resolve conflict alone. Adults can help children to share needs, listen to each other, and come up with ideas to resolve conflict.

John Black Relieving Principal

Reminders

**Oakvale Farm Excursion** - Notes and money due **Monday 16th March**.

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

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

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

Wow, what a great start our band has had, they are sounding fantastic! Welcome to Caitlin Card from Year 4 who has joined our band with the flute, well done. If your child is interested in learning an instrument and joining our School Concert Band, please see Tracey Hookway in the library.

**Book Fair**

SAVE THE DATE! 27th March 2015 is the date for this year’s Book Fair. The fair will be held in conjunction with Grandparent’s Day and Harmony Day.

**Kinder Photos**

Last week The Mercury came and took photos of our 2015 Kindergarten students. The pictures will be in the 18th March addition of The Mercury, these are a great keepsake.

**3 Gorton’s Writer of the Week**

I believe that dogs are better than cats.

Firstly, dogs keep you company. They sit on the couch with you. Don’t you want more company?

Secondly, Dogs keep you fit because you need to walk them. 99% of people say that they keep you fit.

Lastly, dogs run faster than cats. They are faster because they are stronger. Even Dr Chris says they run faster!

As you can see dogs are better than cats.

-Cameron

**Success Story for Ex-student of EMPS**

Well done Emily Davies who recently achieved Highly Commended status and runner up in the 2014/2015 Hunter ‘Surf Life Saver of the Year’ competition. Emily was a student and leader of our school and now acts as a great role model for other students. Great work Emily, very well deserved!

**STAGE ONE PHOTO DAY**

Next Wednesday, 11th March is School Photo Day. Stage One students are NOT to wear sports uniform on this day. Please ensure your child wears their regular school uniform and black shoes. Sports activities for the week will be adjusted according to the class timetable. Thank you.

**Cross Country**

Our School Cross Country will be held on Thursday 12th March. All children will participate in the event which is held on school grounds. Parents and carers are welcome to watch their children participate in their event. Children from the Support class will either run with their class or their age group. This will be dependent on individual students and their needs. The staff in the support unit will be able to advise you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Classes/Age</th>
<th>Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:10 am</td>
<td>12/13 Girls and boys</td>
<td>3Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:40</td>
<td>11 Girls and boys</td>
<td>3km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10</td>
<td>10 Girls and boys</td>
<td>2km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40</td>
<td>8/9 Girls and Boys (Year 2 children turning 8 this year can run the 2km course)</td>
<td>2km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Banner Winner**

Congratulations Jonah Fletcher

**Photo Day**

Photo envelopes were sent home last Friday. The envelopes can be sent back to school now or brought in on the day. Please remember photo day is Wednesday 11th March.
**This Week's EMPS Award Winners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K Aqua</th>
<th>Zac Hamilton</th>
<th>Serena Currie</th>
<th>Burgundy</th>
<th>Lydia Affleck</th>
<th>Chase Kasteel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K Jade</td>
<td>Joshua Rowling</td>
<td>Mia Bennett</td>
<td>K Rose</td>
<td>Tyler O'Brien</td>
<td>Millcent Millford-Chiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K Violet</td>
<td>Emma Carlson</td>
<td>Josef Cochrane</td>
<td>Senna Starkey</td>
<td>Plum</td>
<td>Aiden Quennell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Scarlet</td>
<td>Layla Fogg</td>
<td>Jeremy Winters</td>
<td>Tangerine</td>
<td>Zaki Neumann</td>
<td>Harshim Nimmno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 Cyan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1/2 Mauve</td>
<td>Chloe Moore</td>
<td>Lacey Spicer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Denim</td>
<td>Amari Flynn</td>
<td>Ben Collins</td>
<td>2 Emerald</td>
<td>Brock Newall</td>
<td>Alex Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Indigo</td>
<td>Austin Andonovski</td>
<td>Ma Chapman</td>
<td>3 Gorton</td>
<td>Molly Deane</td>
<td>Finn Sloan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Holt</td>
<td>Jack York</td>
<td>Lily Skarin</td>
<td>Koby Chadban</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jacob Affleck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5 Fraser</td>
<td>Sienna Flynn</td>
<td>Ruby Nunn</td>
<td>Jasper We</td>
<td>Lilly Blakemore</td>
<td>5 Hawke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Keating</td>
<td>Jenaya Mauriure</td>
<td>Arpad Neupane</td>
<td>6 Rudd</td>
<td>Ethan Menne</td>
<td>Jason Roberts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Canteen Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volunteer 1</th>
<th>Volunteer 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>Carly Bailey</td>
<td>Jenny Benning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Heather Buck</td>
<td>Meg Vile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Josie Houring</td>
<td>Leighsa Cox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/3</td>
<td>Judy Drop</td>
<td>Emma Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/3</td>
<td>Kaysee Reid</td>
<td>Tracey Van Tol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Megan Streeter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any problems please phone Jacki - School 4933 7524 or Home 4932 7226

**Uniform Shop Roster Term 1 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volunteer 1</th>
<th>Volunteer 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th Mar</td>
<td>Amanda Dean</td>
<td>Jodi Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th Mar</td>
<td>Amanda Dean</td>
<td>Katherine Cant</td>
</tr>
<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>

**Sick Bay Linen Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volunteer 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/3</td>
<td>Jodi Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/3</td>
<td>Sarah Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/3</td>
<td>Donna Burton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/3</td>
<td>Noelle Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Katie Brown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Thank you

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**Uniform Shop**

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.

School Skorts are now available at the uniform shop.
AGM Agenda
- Pass Minutes of Prior AGM
- Financial Members list
- Audit Report
- Reports from President, Bookkeeper, Principal, Fundraising, Canteen, Uniform Shop
- Positions Vacant and to be filled at AGM, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
- Pass P&C Constitution
- Approval of Uniform shop operations
- Approval to continue Bookkeeper as paid position
- General Business

If you are unable to attend the AGM and wish to have an item listed on the agenda please ensure your communication is received to the P&C email address 14 days prior – eastmaitlandpublicschoolpandc@gmail.com

If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to make a nomination or absentee vote please send to the P&C email address 14 days prior to AGM date.

As many of the current P&C members will be leaving the school at the end of 2015 we would like to encourage new members to take on an Office Bearers position this year. Current members are willing to assist new members in their role as a transition period. Additional information regarding Office Bearers Roles and Responsibilities can be located here http://pandc.org.au/index.php/publications

Membership for the P&C is 50c for the year. Only Financial Members are able to vote on P&C matters raised at meetings and vote for positions at the AGM. If you are interested in attending the AGM and monthly P&C meetings please come along on Thursday 12th March at 6:00pm and pay your membership fee. You can also grab a membership form from the office at any time.

Second hand Uniforms Available
Thank you to those who have donated a large number of quality second hand items to the Uniform Shop. There are a number of jumpers, jackets, tunics and some summer dresses as well.

If anyone has coat hangers they no longer need and could donate to the uniform shop it would be greatly appreciated.
They can be dropped off on Monday afternoons or Thursday mornings.

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 20min family photography session and a 8x12 enlargement. Further photographs and enlargements available for purchase.

Please ask your children for a copy of the Flyer that is being sent home.
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.

Easter Raffle
Tickets will be coming home very soon. If you do not wish to purchase any tickets please return the ticket book to school.
STAGE ONE PHOTO DAY

Next Wednesday, 11th March is School Photo Day. Stage One students are NOT to wear sports uniform on this day. Please ensure your child wears their regular school uniform and black shoes. Sports activities for the week will be adjusted according to the class timetable. Thank you.
RAFFLE DRAWN THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2015

EMPS EASTER RAFFLE

TICKETS 50C EACH

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

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

Families will be asked to donate Easter related products such as eggs, toys, baskets etc. as close to the date.

Childs name and class to be written on the ticket please.
MINI SESSIONS
20 min photo session +
8x12inch enlargement
ONLY $20
(All Session fees go to School P&C Fundraising)
Michelle Leigh
Fun, Natural, Creative Photography
Extra images available to purchase Viewing session in studio 32, Belmore Road Lorn.
For bookings & information contact Leighsa leighsa@michelle-leigh.com.au or 0431034805

Vacation Care
Maitland Baptist Church Child Care Inc.
PROVIDER APPROVAL NUMBER: PA000073
PH: 02 49384540 1300 365267 1300 365266
Fax: 02 4938 9540 ABN: 94 298 377 301

7th - 9th April 2015 - Ashington, Maitland, Rutherford & Thornton
Pupil Free Day - Monday 20th April 2015 - Ashington, Rutherford, & Thornton Centres Open
Open: 8.30 a.m. - 5.40 p.m. Monday to Friday.
Closed Monday 6th April - Easter Monday Public Holiday

Quality care for children 5-12 years, who attend infants or primary school.
Organised activities such as: Craft, Sports, Indoor & Outdoor Games, Movies and Excursions.

4 convenient locations - Ashington, Maitland, Rutherford & Thornton
"Child Care Benefit" (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR) is available pending eligibility
Full fees will apply until CCB and/or CCR is authorised. "Best of Human Services" (adjustments will be made)
Daily fees after CCR range from $5.92 (a child with 100% CCR) to $46.50 per child
Extra excursion fees if applicable. Fees to be paid on first day of care each week.
Bookings can be made at our centres and Main office from Monday 9th March 2015.
Please remember a 2015 yellow enrolment form and a vacation care booking sheet must be completed before acceptance of any bookings.
Sorry no phone bookings.

Please note: Bookings are essential and 5 FULL WORKING DAYS (Working Days are Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm excluding Public Holidays) written notice must be given to book out or else full fees will be charged.
Supported by Community Services, Department of Family and Community Services NSW.