Enjoy your Easter school holidays, take care and have FUN!!!

Thank you to all the grandparents and parents who visited last Friday to help celebrate Harmony Day and Grandparents Day....and a massive thank you to those who were able to support our book fair, which helped raise much needed funds for our library.

State School Swimming
On Thursday 26th of March I went to Sydney Olympic Park for State School Swimming. I was competing in 50 metres butterfly. In my heat I came first and made it to the finals. In the finals I nearly missed the start of my race and then my dive was really bad. I came up a body length behind everyone else. Luckily I swam very well and still ended up getting 3rd place and also qualified to go to Nationals in Adelaide in November.

After the swim we had to go straight up to the podium to be presented with our medal. When I got my medal I was happy but sad at the same time. I didn’t know whether I would have been able to go to Adelaide. When I walked back up to where we were sitting I was relieved when my mum said “yes!”

By Arielle Taylor

For those of you wanting to keep up to date with the goings on in Canberra with our Year 6 students, have a look at our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/EastMaitlandPublicSchool) as Mr Payne is regularly posting updates.

Just a little light reading for you to think about heading into the holidays, (keep in mind this is probably aimed at an older student).

Three Awesome Educational Games

Hiding in Plain Sight
By Tanner Higgin, Graphite
When I was in school, game-based learning was a novelty. This was the era of Math Blaster!, Lemonade Stand and Oregon Trail, when game-based learning meant digitized practice problems or clunky, paper-thin simulations. Still, my classmates and I liked these games. For many of us, this was the only exposure we got to video games outside of arcades. Even as consoles increasingly took up residence in living rooms, computer games still felt special—just a bit more advanced and interesting.

But when my family got a computer, something changed. The edutainment we'd play in computer labs were still a nice spark in a typical school day, but the games felt different. What we were playing at school felt out of touch and out of step, not just in style and polish, but also in what they asked the player to do. While Oregon Trail might offer the appearance of a history lesson, it’s hard to convince a kid of that when she's going home and designing a metropolis in SimCity, or adding another page to her notebook full of hand-drawn Metroid maps.

Game-based learning, and the developers who identify with it today, have come a long way since then and gotten much closer to closing the gap. And there's still a need to communicate core content through games, a need that the consumer market just doesn't have incentive to fill. Yet at Common Sense Graphite, when we evaluate games for learning, what we find is that many of the highest scoring 'learning' games aren't aimed at the educational market. They're more at-home, consumer-oriented games. Because these games are free from the constraints of school standards and traditional curriculum, they flourish, featuring rich cross-disciplinary and truly 21st century learning experiences.

Here are just a few favourites that reviewed well on Graphite this year:
Elegy for a Dead World
Writing can feel like a chore in school when it’s only ever going to be read by a teacher and maybe a classmate. Elegy for a Dead World gives kids an audience and an absorbing premise: the player visits alien planets (each inspired by a Romantic poet) with long lost civilizations and must act as the storyteller of that world, drafting poetry and prose that brings to light possible pasts. This writing can then be shared with others. As a former slacker student who would sleep in English class but then go home and write pages and pages of fan faction, this is an experience that speaks to me and I know I would’ve loved.

Never Alone
There’s little debate that games have not represented indigenous cultures well. As a result, it’s been best for students to learn about topics like Native America via traditional means. Never Alone, however, sets a precedent for respectful representation of indigenous people. It was co-developed with native Alaskans, and it illuminates Inupiat stories, themes and values, weaving into play important concepts like interconnectedness and valuable skills like cooperation. Best of all, it features documentary-style videos of the Inupiat people who provide first person context for the conceptual and cultural learning embedded in the game.

Valiant Hearts
Look no further than the aforementioned Oregon Trail for an example of how tough it’s been to teach history well through games. That’s because it’s next to impossible to beat a good book or primary source material when digging into the details of the past. Valiant Hearts doesn’t try to simulate World War I or overwhelm the player with facts; instead, it tells a deeply affecting story that builds empathy, contextualizes the war, and, most importantly, offers a thought-provoking critique of war itself. And when it does offer facts and primary materials, they’re extensions–collectibles, really–that end up being far more palatable to players given the story-first approach that invests player’s in finding out more.

My intention here isn’t to argue that games have learning value. Educators don’t need convincing of this. Rather, what these three ostensibly ‘non-educational’ games show us is that there are many more options out there than we realize; we just need to shift out perspectives on what learning looks like. Our students already have, we just need to catch up. Tanner Higgin is Senior Manager, Education Content at Common Sense Education, a nonprofit organization and creator of Graphite ™, a free service that helps educators find the best edtech tools, learn best practices for teaching with edtech, and connect with expert educators.

This post is part of a series featuring highly rated games on Graphite. Go to Graphite to read the full reviews of games and find out how teachers use them for learning in class.

What is Skoolbag?
Skoolbag provides schools with an easy way to tell parents/carers everything they need to know, and it provides parents with the most convenient way to receive school notifications.

No more lost paper in student school bags! School newsletters, school notices and alerts are communicated directly to the parent smartphone through the Skoolbag school Mobile App.

Skoolbag is school Mobile App that communicates directly with iPhone, and Android devices.

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.

Change of Details
It is very important that we have correct contact details at all times. If you have had any changes to any details please let the office know.

Reminders
Great Aussie Bush Camp - Deposit for camp is due Friday 8th May. Full payment by Wednesday 5th August. Instalments can be made also.
‘Captain’s Call’
Each term two different leaders will reflect on school events and present their ‘Captain’s Call’.

Term one has been a great way to start 2015. Sporting teams have started up and many students have represented East Maitland in PSSA sport, zone carnivals and beyond. The Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking competition showed some talented speakers and the debating teams have started preparing for the year. We wish all students the best with their accomplishments to come in these areas.

Some teachers decided to shave their hair clean off for cancer and others dyed their hair all the colours of the rainbow. It is great that we have a supportive community as we raised nearly six thousand dollars for the cause.

On the 27th March we had Harmony day and standing on the stage us leaders noticed a sea of orange. The leaders spoke well and the acts definitely would have impressed the Grandparents we were also celebrating. To add to one of the biggest days of the term, the book fair was a smash hit raising a heap for our school.

There have been numerous excursions to compliment the work being done in class. Year 1 have been to Oakvale Farm, Year 2 visited Blackbutt and the biggest of all- Year 6 will be off to see the wonders of Canberra this week! We are looking forward to seeing how the rest of the year turns out. If the opportunities provided are half as good as term one, then we will be proud to call EMPS the best school in the land.

By Imogen Pickard-Ling & Jack Brown

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**Book Fair Update**
This year’s Book Fair was a massive success, the biggest on record! Thank you to all our wonderful parents and grandparents for supporting the school and buying books on the day. It was fantastic seeing the students so excited about books and watching their heads buried in the books in the afternoon. We were also very lucky to have some wonderful families donate 16 books to our library for our students to enjoy. Thank you to:

- Cora Hodder Year 2
- Jack & Harry Brown Year 6 & Year 1
- Oshay & Isabella Betteridge Year 3 & Year 2
- Imogen & Rhys Pickard-Ling Year 6 & Year 3
- Jackson Pilgrim Kindergarten
- Linken, Paxton & Nash Malone Year 5, Year 2 & Kindergarten (3 Books)
- Ethan Hall Kindergarten
- Jennifer Scott Kindergarten (2 books)
- Taylah Wakeman Year 1
- Lauren Kime Year 2
- Imogen Burton Year 6
- Miss Roe
- Mrs Blain

A big thank you to Margaret Mossner, Dianne Hookway, John Hookway and Lara-Jane Cash who helped out on the day and of course to Clifford the dog for making an appearance.

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

### Uniform Shop Roster Term 2 2015 (still to be confirmed-watch this space for changes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Volunteer 1</th>
<th>Volunteer 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21/4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>22/4</td>
<td>Kelly Fryers</td>
<td>Katie Starkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/4</td>
<td>Sara Kasteel</td>
<td>Helen Morrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/4</td>
<td>Judy Drap</td>
<td>Emma Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/4</td>
<td>Karen Dodd</td>
<td>Sarah Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Noelle Green</td>
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### Sick Bay Linen Roster

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Volunteer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Katie Brown</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Katie Brown

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### Canteen News

I would like to thank all volunteers that helped on Friday Grandparent’s Day. It was much appreciated.

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### Uniform Shop Roster for Term 2?

Please let Jacque Linde know in the shop on Monday afternoon or Thursday Morning if you are able to assist or email the P&C.

eastmaitlandpublicschoolpandc@gmail.com

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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>23/4</td>
<td>Hayley Lindsay</td>
<td>Bronwyn Guy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th April</td>
<td>Deslie Groves</td>
<td>Jodi Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th May</td>
<td>Katherine Cant</td>
<td>J o Proctor</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th May</td>
<td>Suze Hamilton</td>
<td>Jodi Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st May</td>
<td>Amanda Dean</td>
<td>Hayley Lindsay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28th May</td>
<td>Deslie Groves</td>
<td>Bronwyn Guy</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th June</td>
<td>Ashley Owens</td>
<td>Amanda Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th June</td>
<td>Grisel Milford-Chilvers</td>
<td>Jodi Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th June</td>
<td>Katherine Cant</td>
<td>J o Proctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th June</td>
<td>Hayley Lindsay</td>
<td>Suze Hamilton</td>
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</table>
Next P&C Meeting Thursday 23rd April
9:15am in connected classroom near library
Children are more than welcome to come along with mum or dad, ipads, colouring in and books available for children’s enjoyment.

Introducing EMPS P&C Committee for 2015
President – Hayley Lindsay
Vice President – Angela Manson
Secretary- Suze Hamilton
Treasurer – Jodi Smith
Bookkeeper – Kris Redding
Fundraising Coordinator – Kym Petersen
Sick Bay Coordinator – Katie Brown
Uniform Shop Manager – Jacquie Linde
Canteen Manager – Jacki Cassidy

Thank you to Hayley and Suze for putting up your hand to assist this year. Both ladies have children in kindergarten this year and are interested in being a part of their children’s education and development at EMPS. Without their support the P&C was unable to continue for 2015 so we greatly appreciate them taking on these roles.

Please provide Hayley and Suze with your support in their new roles. Come along to the next P&C meeting, introduce yourself, offer ideas, raise any questions, and offer your assistance.

We also need to recognise the efforts of the P&C Committee from 2014. These people worked tirelessly to grow the P&C and Funds during 2014.

President – Angela Manson
Vice President - Joy Edwards
Secretary – Georgina Balding
Treasurer – Julie Taylor
Bookkeeper – Kris Redding
Fundraising – Kym Petersen
Uniform Shop Manager – Kerry McFerran

What would I find out at a P&C meeting?
P&C meetings are a place to find out what is happening in the school, gain a better understanding about curriculum, school policies and activities, make a comment, raise a concern or ask a question, and get to know other parents.

How do I find out what is happening when at the School?

Find us on Facebook - https://www.facebook.comEastMaitlandPublicSchool
Make sure you have the latest version to receive all the features.

Attend a P&C Meeting! – 2nd Thursday of the Month. Dates will be advised in newsletter.

East Maitland Public School has designated “No Parking” Zones near the school. These are designed to leave spaces for parents wanting to drop off and pick up their child without having to get out of the car.

Effectively this is a “kiss and drop” zone. Parents/carers are asked not to park in these areas- even if you do not get out of the car.

The RMS website advises that that parking zones are areas where:
“You must not stop for more than two minutes in a No Parking area. You must remain in or within three metres of the vehicle.

Hours of operations may apply to some signs. This means restrictions apply for those times only.

Mobility Parking Permit holders are allowed to park for up to five minutes”

We understand that it is frustrating for parents who cannot find a park right out the front of the school- but there are 600+ students leaving the school at the same time! By parking a little bit further away, you will be parking legally and not stopping other parents who want to use the No Parking Zones for the intended purpose.

The current fine for stopping longer than 2 minutes in a No Parking zone is $104.00.

Stopping in a bus zone has a current fine of $242.00. Please be aware.
Zone Cross Country

Congratulations to all students who travelled to Tocal on Friday to participate in Zone Cross Country. All students displayed great sportsmanship and it was lovely to hear students, parents, grandparents and friends cheer students on as they raced up the final hill to the finish line.

Some outstanding results from the day include:

Josie Morley 1st in girl's 12/13 year event
Imogen Pickard-Ling 5th in girl's 11 year event
Arielle Taylor 5th place in girl's 10 year event
Kurt Woodward 7th place in boy's 11 year event
Jackson McDonald 8th place in boy's 12/13 year event

Josie, Imogen and Arielle have qualified for Regional Cross Country on Friday the 8th May in Newcastle. Good luck at this event girls.

Thank you to all parents, grandparents and other family members who transported students, cheered for students as the competed and for helping on the day.

Mr Swab and Mrs Folpp
A Big thank you to all the volunteers who helped out on the Easter Raffle. I’m sure there were many happy children who took home Easter Eggs last Thursday. We raised approx. $1800 so thank you again to those who bought tickets and donated prizes. Also thank you to Leighsa Cox and her business Michelle-Leigh Photography for taking our Family Portraits over the weekend.

It was lovely weather, the photos will be beautiful.

Thank you to everyone who gave up their time on Saturday to help out at our Election Day fundraiser cake stall. It was great to see a lot of new faces helping out, it gives the regulars a break. The baked goods were a huge success thank you!

Daylight saving will end in NSW this Sunday, 5 April 2015, when clocks go back one hour at 3:00 am. We score a whole extra hour to sleep! Fingers crossed the kids do the same.

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“I love my Digital Membership! Now I always have my Entertainment offers with me, wherever I go.”

The entertainment™ Book or The entertainment™ Digital Membership

We receive $12 from every Membership sold, so order yours today. Thanks for supporting our fundraising!

East Maitland Public School

To order your Entertainment™ Book visit:

Contact: Karen King
Phone: 0249337524
Email: karen.king10@det.nsw.edu.au
Date

Dear

My son/daughter _________________ of class ______ was absent from school on

_________________________ as he/she

Sign

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Date

Dear

My son/daughter _________________ of class ______ was absent from school on

_________________________ as he/she

Sign

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Date

Dear

My son/daughter _________________ of class ______ was absent from school on

_________________________ as he/she

Sign

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