Calendar

What's On

Term 3, Week 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 18 February</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 19 February</td>
<td>Western Sydney Wanderers Football Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parents Auxiliary Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 20 February</td>
<td>PSSA District Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 23 February</td>
<td>Leadership Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 24 February</td>
<td>Leadership Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 25 February</td>
<td>K-6 Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meet the Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 26 February</td>
<td>Western Sydney Wanderers Football Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 27 February</td>
<td>PSSA Summer Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 3 March</td>
<td>Knockout Cricket Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 5 March</td>
<td>Western Sydney Wanderers Football Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 6 March</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 10 March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fete Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kindergarten Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome Morning Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 12 March</td>
<td>Western Sydney Wanderers Football Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 14 March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Trivia Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 16 March</td>
<td>Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 17 March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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</tbody>
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Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to 2015!

Welcome back to all our students and their families. A special welcome to our new students that have joined the Metella Road family.

It was again my great pleasure to be there for the start of our Kindergarten students’ life at school. It is wonderful to be able to share in the special moment with the mums, dads, grandparents and friends who come to see their loved ones start school.

Morning Assembly

It is lovely to see so many parents bring their children to school each morning and stay until the bell. I would like to ask that parents please begin to leave the school grounds once the assembly has begun, ensuring students and teachers have a clear path to their classrooms.

Composite classes

In primary schools, classes are organised in a wide variety of ways. Composite classes are one such type. Classes that are made up of children of different year levels have traditionally been called composite classes. In recent times, these classes have also been labelled stage-based classes, multi-aged or family classes. These classes are formed for a number of reasons such as where there is an uneven enrolment in school years and classes need to be formed across a number of school years, or on the basis of educational rationale as they are seen to have educational benefit for the student.

At the beginning of a new school year, many parents might suddenly find their child in a composite class. Naturally, questions arise: For the older group - will my child be held back? For the younger group - will my child be able to keep up?

Composite classes have been the source of much controversy over the years, with parents often believing that their child is being disadvantaged in some way by being in one. The key to understanding composites is realising that growth is determined in stages and not magically by ages.

Some points worth noting are:

- Children have always been in multi-aged classes anyway. The ages of kindergarten students range from four and nine months to six and six months, an 18 month difference! Some children start school barely toilet trained where others are quite mature and are already reading at an advanced level. Same class but different stages.
Older students are not held back in composite classes. In teaching we accept that different children learn at different rates. Separate programs are often used in many curriculum areas for the different groups of students according to their level of development. There are also some joint activities such as in art and drama. Expectations for each child differ and will be measured against the ability of the child. This tends to be focused on more so in a composite class situation.

Composite classes can provide significant benefits to both the younger and older students in the class. Older students can benefit from helping younger students in co-operative learning situations. The younger students have the opportunity of enhanced learning experiences where they are ready for it. Through multi-age learning groups, students begin to see themselves and others more realistically. They come to appreciate the diversity of talents, skills, and abilities of their classmates. This leads students to use more appropriate and varied criteria than just age as a basis for building relationships and learning from one another. The multi-age learning groups provide additional opportunities for children to develop a wider range of social skills.

Children in composite classes do no better or worse academically than their peers in straight grade class, however, socially, their development is enhanced. They are more confident, can operate better as part of a group, are more assertive, become more independent learners and better problem-solvers. They also make friends outside of their standard age-groups.

The greatest impact on student learning is the quality of the teacher not class composition.

Letterbox Payments
A black letterbox is fixed to the wall inside the front office on the left. Parents and students are asked to place their payment envelopes in the letterbox. Please be aware of due dates and times for payments as it is disappointing to miss out on events.

P&C and Spring Fete
Metella Road PS’s Parents and Citizens Association is a fantastic group of people that work closely with our staff. Together we make decisions about the direction of the school, fundraise for additional resources and occasionally hold a working bee to assist with odd jobs around the school.

This year we will be holding our Spring Fete on Saturday 24 October. If you would like to help organise this great event please come along to our next meeting (before the P&C meeting) 10 March at 6.30pm in the staffroom.

I encourage all interested parents to also attend the next P&C meeting straight after the fete meeting, 10 March at 7.30pm in the staffroom. Please enter from the door under the 3-6 COLA.

P&C Trivia Night – Number 13!!
Our annual trivia night will be held on Saturday 14 March starting at 6:30pm in the school hall. The theme for the night is the ‘Number 13’. Get your friends together and book a table. Please contact the office for reservations.

Parking
It is imperative that parents and carers obey the parking rules surrounding our school. Parents and carers parking in the incorrect areas not only make the school zone unsafe but may find themselves receiving a fine from parking inspectors. The school car park is not for parents to park in under any circumstances. It is extremely unsafe to be entering or exiting the school car parks at the start and end of the students’ school day.

Please for the safety of all—obey the parking signs.

Play Equipment – We would appreciate if parents NOT allow their children to play on the play equipment before or after school as this is school equipment and is not supervised during this time.

Invoicing for school resources
At the end of last year we sent home information regarding payments for this year to give parents an understanding of what will be required in 2015. We are in the process of invoicing parents for the associated costs. Thank you for your assistance with this procedure.

Meet the Teacher—25 February
The Meet the Teacher afternoon will be held on Wednesday 25 February, beginning at 5:15pm for K-2 classes. We will be holding a sausage sizzle between 6:00pm – 6:30pm before the Year 3-6 class session between 6:30pm – 7:15pm. This is a parent event only but if you need to bring your child, they will be able to watch a movie in the hall whilst supervised by teaching staff.

School Website and Smartphone App
Our school website is always updated with the latest information and notes. You can find our school website at http://www.metellard-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/

We also have a smartphone app for Iphone and Android smartphones. In iTunes or Google Play look for Metella Road Public School and you will be able to have access to our school calendar, photos and notifications we send out as reminders of events taking place. The username is community and the password is metellard.

2015 Staff
Peter D’Ermilio Principal
Scott Staveley Deputy Principal
Sonya Larobina Assistant Principal
Amanda Saad Assistant Principal
Lise Bartlett Assistant Principal
Nicole Parker Assistant Principal/Learning and Support Teacher
Jenette Mienko Relieving Assistant Principal/Reading Recovery
Tiarna Agius Class Teacher
Katie Banning Class Teacher
Andrea Bekiaris Class Teacher
Leanne Boase Class Teacher
Suzanne Bratovic Class Teacher
Nerina Bridges Class Teacher
Luke Byrne Class Teacher
Troy Calnan Class Teacher
Dael Chant Class Teacher
Marianne Cheetham Class Teacher
Sherie Curran Class Teacher
Lisa Davies Class Teacher
Clair Diamond Class Teacher
Alix Fekkes Class Teacher
Michelle Gafa Class Teacher
Adam Hands Class Teacher
Kerrie Hawkes  Class Teacher
Monique Holburn  Class Teacher
Meagahan Jennings  Class Teacher
Margaret Lam  Class Teacher
Martha Marki  Class Teacher
Carolyn McCoy  Class Teacher
Erin McKenzie  Class Teacher
Rebecca Middlehurst  Class Teacher
Shahina Nawaz  Class Teacher
Belinda Sheather  Class Teacher/Reading Recovery
Gerry Stormon  Class Teacher
Beryl Aylett  Librarian
Cecile Rickard  English as an Additional Language / Dialect Teacher
Kasia Gluchowska  English as an Additional Language / Dialect Teacher
Sharlene Newcombe  Learning and Support Teacher
Jennifer Cartwright  Relief from Face to Face Teacher
Monique Holburn  Relief from Face to Face Teacher
Lyn Wilkinson  Relief from Face to Face Teacher
Shannon Mitchell  School Counsellor
Carol Ryan  School Administration Manager
Debra Martin  School Administration Officer
Joanne Weathered  School Administration Officer
Michelle Luccitti  School Administration Officer
Michelle Gafa School Learning Support Officer / School Administration Officer
Michael Nash  General Assistant
Edwina Davies  School Learning Support Officer
David Martin  School Learning Support Officer
Diana Pescod  School Learning Support Officer
Alison Steele  School Learning Support Officer
Rose Taouk  School Cleaner
Maroun Bourizk  School Cleaner

Toongabbie IGA
Toongabbie IGA have chosen our school as a beneficiary to its Community Chest program. Community Chest will raise funds for the school in several ways. A percentage of all products that carry the community chest logo and are purchased at Toongabbie IGA will be donated to our school. Extra fundraising activities will also be held throughout the year. The first one will be on February 28 at 10am for their grand opening and all funds raised will go towards our school.

From the manager George Achram "IGA Community Chest has raised over $60 million nationally since inception and have helped over 7,000 worthwhile causes like yours. This is something all of us at Toongabbie IGA are very proud of and look forward to being a more active player within the Toongabbie community."

1. Let your child see you making mistakes.
   Parents are their child’s first teacher and their lifetime teacher. Part of being a teacher is teaching your child how to deal with making mistakes. Let them see that you can make mistakes and deal with it so they will understand it’s not a big deal and they can cope when they trip up.

2. Use e-mail to keep in touch.
   E-mail is a great way to reach your child’s teacher without having to play phone tag. Teachers then have a record of a conversation or can print information out to put in a student’s file as a reminder. If you hear what your children are struggling in, please feel comfortable talking to the teacher about it. We want to know that they need help. Communication need not be limited to when there is a problem.

3. Do not tell your child that you were not good at Mathematics.
   Some parents might feel intimidated by the thought of helping children with their Mathematics homework, especially in the upper grades but Mathematics is here to serve you, not to trip you up. Mathematics should make life easier, and mastery can start at home with parents showing that they are not frightened by numbers.

   One way to make Mathematics more accessible is to relate it to daily activities. Capitalise on examples where Mathematics is useful, especially the kinds of calculations adults do daily like measuring ingredients, managing sums of money and working out distances.

   This way, children see how what they are learning matters in life.

4. Get organised with a colour-coded system and a checklist.
   Older students are expected to be more independent and manage their assignments themselves, but as they transition from primary school to high school, they might find it hard to keep track of everything. Try using colour-coordinated folders and notebooks to help children keep their material for different subjects organised. Keep a written checklist by their school bags so they can make sure they have packed everything they need.

5. Check their homework, and then have them explain it to you.
   It is not enough to just get the answers right. To make sure your children are not guessing, sometimes ask them to explain what they did and why. This lets you know that the child has completed the task and for the child to actually explain their work helps their learning.

6. Do not compare your child with others.
   Do not put pressure on children to be just like others. There is no such thing as the child that is like every other child. They are all different. They all have strengths and weaknesses; they all have talents and challenges.

7. Help your child make connections to literature.
   To help your child get the most out of books, focus on problem-solving, social skills and life experience. Take your child to the zoo (life experience). Teach them to ask an adult for help if they lose something (problem-solving) or to hold the door for others (social skills). With skills like these, children will be able to relate their own life experiences to those of book characters, improving their comprehension. If they do not have

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**How To Help Your Children Be Better Students**

Parents are a vital factor in their children’s educational progress. Here are some ways you help your child do better at school this year.
these life experiences, when they are asked to make deeper connections to reading material, it is hard for them.

8. Do not do everything for your child.
Sometimes it is faster to do things yourself than wait for your children to complete a task. Having everything done for them means they do not learn to take care of themselves. Empower your children to think for themselves and be more responsible.

9. Ask about your child’s day.
Stay involved in your child’s education, beyond helping with homework. Even small things, like asking a child what happened at school, can be the difference between a child who unplugs at the end of the day and one who continues thinking about what they learned. Give them the kind of feedback that acknowledges and respects their feelings so they know you are really hearing them.

Acknowledgement: Mari-Jane Williams.

Together we can do amazing things for our students!!

Enjoy the rest of your week!

Mr P. D’Ermilio
Principal

Deputy Principal’s Report
Aiming High – 3 Key Areas
A very warm welcome back to each and every girl, boy, mother and father to our 2015 school year. As a school community we hit some new heights last year in terms of academic performance, results on the sporting field, musical and cultural performances and community events such as Multicultural Day and Grandparents Day. We had many moments for which we should feel incredibly proud as members of the Metella Road ‘family.’

In these first few weeks of 2015, we have already instilled our mantra of ‘Aim High’ in many conversations with our students. In striving to make our wonderful school a Centre of Excellence, we are asking parents to support our students to focus on 3 key areas that will build a strong foundation in our efforts to take our school beyond the heights we reached last year. The 3 key areas are:

1. Attendance and Punctuality at school:
   We have made gradual improvements in these areas in the past 2 years and we strive to have all students here at school as often as possible and always ‘in line on time at 5 to 9!’ We have started the year off extremely well in this area so let’s keep it up!

2. School Uniform:
   Our school staff and community hold a high regard for school uniform. I am very proud of our students and I am very pleased that as a school we wear our school uniform with pride.

   We are striving to see all students in full and correct school uniform for all days of the week, to promote a wonderful image and to instill school pride. From the school hat on the head to the white socks and black shoes on the feet, the wearing of school uniform is something we promote and expect each day.

   The uniform shop is open each Friday from 8:15am – 9:30am.

3. Bookwork:
   Whilst we are in the modern technological age, we still place a very strong emphasis on the presentation of our bookwork and the maintenance of books for which children should be proud. We encourage our students on a daily basis to be the best they can be and neatness and presentation of bookwork is an area that has a renewed focus in 2015. Please encourage your child at home in this area (eg. with homework) and please ensure they always attend school each day with the right equipment for all of their bookwork.

Looking forward to a wonderful 2015 with everyone ‘Aiming high’ in our community!

Mr S. Staveley
Deputy Principal

From the Office
Spare Clothing for Children who have accidents at school
When children have accidents at school we lend them items from our limited supply of uniforms. Unfortunately, many times these items of clothing are not returned to the office. If we do happen to lend your child clothing in the event of an accident, could you please wash and return to the Office as soon as possible. We are also requesting that if you have any clothing (especially socks, underpants and smaller clothing) that your children have outgrown, could you please leave these at the Office so that we can replenish our supply.

Money Procedures – All money should come to school in an envelope with your child’s name, class and amount clearly written on the front. Please remember to sign and return all permission notes with your payment, as permission is always needed for your child to participate in any activity. Envelopes should be placed in the ‘office mail box’ located in the front office. Please also remember ‘NO MONEY ON FRIDAYS’.

Mrs C. Ryan
School Administration Manager

Can Count
Here at Metella Road Public School we have an aluminium can collection. All crushed cans that are bagged and labelled with your child’s name and class should be left outside my workshop in ‘D’ block on Fridays only. Large amounts of cans can be picked up by arrangement. A prize will be awarded to the student who collects the most cans in 2015. Money raised from recycling aluminium cans goes towards providing classroom resources.

Mr M. Nash
School General Assistant

Kindergarten News
The Kindergarten students have settled well into school and class routines and seem ready for a busy term. At the start of the term the Kindergarten students participated in the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment. This process enabled teachers to identify the literacy and numeracy knowledge and
skills that each child brought to school as they entered Kindergarten. The teachers assessed the students’ early reading and writing, their ability to communicate with others and how they recognised and worked with numbers, groups and patterns. The Kindergarten teachers will use the data to plan and develop teaching and learning programs to meet the individual and diverse needs of their students. The first few weeks of Kindergarten have been very busy. The students have explored the school environment, discussed different places at school and have become aware of our school expectations. They have also been involved in a range of reading, writing and number activities. They are learning a range of skills including reading simple texts, learning single sounds, reading and recording sight words, counting and identifying numbers. The teachers are very proud of the students’ efforts and are looking forward to a productive term. The Kindergarten teachers would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents for their efforts in preparing their child for school. The ongoing support of parents and caregivers is greatly appreciated.

Mrs S. Larobina
Early Stage 1 Supervisor

Stage 1 News
What a wonderful beginning to 2015! Our Stage 1 students have settled into their new classes extremely well. Classrooms are now a hive of activity, with students engaging in new and complex learning. In Mathematics, students have been busy investigating an assortment of two-dimensional shapes that they found in their classrooms and playground. Some classes have even been making up songs about shapes and lines. Students have been learning to count to 100, trying to find the number before and after! We have such amazing mathematicians in Stage 1. In English, students have been reading a myriad of texts on friendship. This has been a beautiful theme for students to study, particularly focusing on the author’s intention and how the author can effectively convey a message. In Writing, students have been busy writing complex sentences; aiming to include interesting vocabulary and helping the reader to form a better picture of what is being described. In Human Society and Its Environment (H.S.I.E), students have been learning about why we tell different stories. They have thoroughly enjoyed exploring different stories and their messages. In Science, our Year 1 students have transformed into budding scientists, locating different insects and animals found in the playground. They are learning the needs of these insects and how to protect their environment. Our Year 2 students are testing hypotheses, seeing how heat or cold can change different objects. They have observed the changes made to spaghetti when it is heated. I’m sure they are looking forward to seeing how corn changes when it is heated! We are so excited about learning as much as we can, being motivated students and always Aiming High! Our Stage 1 students are also encouraged to bring fruit and water every day so that they can enjoy this important snack during our Crunch and Sip time. We also encourage students to remember to bring their home readers back to school each week in their plastic folder so that they can have their readers changed. We hope that our students are reading every single night, helping to foster in them a love of reading, and helping them to become fluent, expressive readers. We look forward to having a wonderful time in Stage 1 as this term progresses.

Ms J. Minenko
Stage 1 Supervisor

Stage 2 News
Students in Stage 2 have settled well into the new school year. We have a great and productive term planned. They have been working hard in class; demonstrating that they are motivated learners. Stage 2 students will be involved in a range of English activities to learn reading more complex texts, reading with expression and fluency, using their knowledge of spelling patterns to write unknown and known words. In writing the focus is on Persuasive Texts where they will learn how to write a piece of writing expressing their own opinion through the planning stage, draft stage and presentation stage. The following concepts will be treated this term in Mathematics: Whole Number, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Fractions and Decimals, Two Dimensional Space, Three Dimensional Space, Length, Area and Chance. Stage 2 has ‘Crunch and Sip’ every day, with students eating fruit and vegetables in class during the morning. We encourage all parents to provide their children with fruit and water every day so that they can participate in this valuable program. In Week 5, we will be having our “Meet the Teacher Night”. We look forward to meeting our parents whose students are in our class.

Mrs L. Bartlett
Stage 2 Supervisor

Stage 3 News
Welcome back to another great year at Metella Road Public School! We hope you enjoyed a safe and happy break over the Christmas / New Year Period. Stage 3 have had a fantastic start to 2015 and have settled well into their new classes. It is set to be another busy year with lots of extra-curricular activities occurring throughout each of the terms. One of the big events coming up for Stage 3 this term is the leadership week. This will be held in Week 5 and will focus on leadership activities for both Year 5 and Year 6 students to prepare them for their roles as leaders of the school. On the Monday and Tuesday of this week our Year 6 Leaders will head off to their leadership camp at Brewongle to participate in a wide range of leadership activities. Also during this week, training will occur for Year 5 students who are running our Play Support Program and Year 6 students who will become our Friendship Ambassadors. Year 6 fundraising organisation will begin this term and notes will be sent home soon regarding the first fundraising event for Term 1. We appreciate all of the support we receive for these events and all money raised goes towards Year 6 end of year activities. We look forward to meeting with lots of parents at Meet the Teacher Night on Wednesday 25 February at 6:30pm in the Stage 3 classrooms. We hope to see as many parents as possible! If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child or Stage 3 events this year, please do not hesitate to speak to the Stage 3 teachers.

Mrs A. Saad
Stage 3 Supervisors

Library News
In the library this term Stage 1 have been learning about a famous author called Nick Bland. Stage 2 have been learning how to use My Library for different purposes including using the online dictionary, later they will apply this to Famous Australians. Stage 3 are learning about the world of pirates during the time of the famous explorers that they have been covering in class. New Library monitors have been chosen and after they have been trained Chess will start again with Stage 3. Premier’s Reading Challenge will be open online in early
Pulse Choir
Years 5-6 Students will be auditioning over the next few weeks for a place in Choir A. This choir endeavours to perform in two events, namely PULSE and Arts Alive. Further details will be shared when we have been accepted into these prestigious performance opportunities and students will be informed of their success in auditioning in week 5.

PSSA News
We are sending nearly 30 students in Years 5 and 6 to District Trials. Sports represented include basketball, soccer, netball, rugby league, touch football, AFL and cricket. Good luck to all involved. PSSA commences in Week 5. Notes went home late last week for those students who made a team. Once we know where our teams are playing we will inform you via either Facebook or the app. Please ensure notes are signed and back by Week 5.

Wanderers Cup News
It is great to see over 120 students involved in our Western Sydney Wanderers Program for 2015. It was great to see so many parents taking up the early bird special. For some students it is their third year of the program whilst some others are just getting underway and the program is designed to cater for their skill level. Throughout the year students will develop their skill set and be able to transfer this into game situations. Through this we hope to have a successful season in PSSA, State Knockout and Wanderers Cup.

Junior Dance Group RED
Congratulations to those children in Year 1, 2 and 3 who were successful in becoming part of the Junior Dance Group RED for 2015. This year we will be traveling back in time to explore the rock n roll moves from the 1950s! The Junior Dance Group RED will be meeting every Tuesday at lunchtime in the hall. It is very important that you attend every rehearsal so we can learn our awesome dance moves. Please stay tuned for more information about future performances. If you have any questions in regards to Junior Dance Group RED for 2015 please come and speak to Miss Cheetham, Miss Agius or Mrs Bekiaris. We look forward to another successful year in DANCE!

Senior Choir Report
The Senior Choir will commence in Week 4 on Tuesday 17 February. We will meet at lunchtime in the multi-purpose room and welcome any new students who wish to join us this year. Your child does not have to audition to be a part of the Senior Choir. They only need to enjoy singing. In 2015 we will be participating in the Blacktown Music Festival. The Festival will be held on the 24 & 25 August. We will also be performing in School assemblies during the year when the parents are welcome to come and listen to us. We look forward to an exciting year of singing.

P&C and the Parents Auxiliary
Welcome back to all students, staff and the school community. A special welcome to the new students and Staff starting at MRPS in 2015. Hope you all enjoyed your holidays and are looking forward to an exciting 2015 - Aim High!

The Good Guys
If you shop at THE GOOD GUYS, Prospect, mention at the PAY POINT that you want your SKOOL IS COOL dollars to be allocated to Metella Road Public School P&C Association. This is a great way for the P&C to purchase prizes and giveaways for up coming events like :- Trivia Night and the Spring fete.

Next Meeting
The Auxiliary meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, 2pm in the staffroom. Due to a very busy first month back at school, this month it will be held on Thursday 19th Feb. 2pm in the staffroom. We encourage and hope to see new parents / members join us in fundraising, organising events and supporting this great school.

Scripture News
Scripture will begin as normal this term. Metella Road offers Catholic, Hindu and Protestant Scripture classes for half an hour each Wednesday morning, as well as, Non-Scripture classes. If for some reason you would like your child to attend a different Scripture class please write, sign and date a note, and have your child deliver the note to me for the appropriate arrangements to be made. Thank you!

Easter Scripture Assembly
The annual Easter Scripture assembly will be held on the Wednesday, 1 April, during normal Scripture time. Students that attend non scripture will not be involved in this event.

March so please keep your logs going until you can enter your child’s details.

Mrs B. Aylett
Librarian

Wanderers Fun Day
Over 80 students from years 2 and 3 were invited to Merrylands Park to participate in the Western Sydney Wanderers Fun Day on Friday Week 2. These students had a wonderful time developing their football skills and playing football in a safe and enjoyable environment. Students were also able to meet their heroes with a signing session after the games.

Mr L. Byrne
Coach

 SRC Update
We have just voted for our class representatives. They will be inducted at the first K to 6 assembly. Meetings will be held on Tuesdays at lunch each fortnight, wherever possible. We hope to have lots of ideas from our reps. Stay tuned for updates!

Mrs M. Holburn
Coordinator

PSSA News
We are sending nearly 30 students in Years 5 and 6 to District Trials. Sports represented include basketball, soccer, netball, rugby league, touch football, AFL and cricket. Good luck to all involved. PSSA commences in Week 5. Notes went home late last week for those students who made a team. Once we know where our teams are playing we will inform you via either...
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Late arrival is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school, you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unexplained. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unexplained.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences
  
  You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court — Compulsory Schooling Order
  
  If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court
  
  School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

政策、信息和手册:

教育离校年龄:

你是否需要一位通译?

通译服务可按需要提供，包括听力障碍。通译服务由政府提供。有关服务详情请联络以下部门。

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

学与参与

学生参与与机构伙伴关系

www.decd.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

NSW GOVERNMENT

Education & Communities

Find us on: facebook.
What has been happening in Stage 2 this term?

Stage 2 have settled into their classes and are getting used to daily routines and expectations with enthusiasm. We are enjoying getting to know one another. Stage 2 are motivated, respectful, proud and safe students of Metella Road Public School.

The students in Stage 2 have been working extremely hard within English this term. 4H have read the book The Little Refugee and they wrote persuasive letters and book reviews about the text. Check out their photos.

Stage 2 have been having fun learning about Number and 2D space in Mathematics. Look at our artworks of our 2D shapes.
What has been happening in Stage 2 this term?

Stage 2 have been working hard. They have all settled really well and we are so pleased with their enthusiasm for learning!

It has been enjoyable listening to and reading about their exciting holidays. They have completed their published copy of their holiday recount. We have been reading lots of quality texts focusing on Persuasive Texts. Students have been busy analysing the author’s intentions in texts; identifying various devices that the author and illustrator use to convey meaning. In 2/3 B it has been exciting to watch the students discuss and unpack these complex concepts, particularly in the book “Into the Forest” by Anthony Browne.

Students have also been learning Whole number strategies in Mathematics. They soak up lots of new information every day!
During Science 2/3B have been exploring change through the context of food including spaghetti, chocolate and popcorn through our “Spot the Difference Unit”. They are learning about how heating or cooling food can change its properties and whether the change can be reversed or not. They loved our lesson on spaghetti as one of the components was drawing a picture with real spaghetti! They were very creative.

Stage 2 have been getting to know one another and we all look forward to an exciting 2015!
Fantastic start to the year!
Stage 3 are off to a flying start! We have already been very hard at work, learning about interesting and exciting things including explorers, desert survivors (as you can see from our desert inspired artwork) and persuasion in advertising.

Year 5 and 6 attended their first stage assembly for the year in Week 2, and behaviour was absolutely exemplary. A huge congratulations to our first award winners of the year. Keep earning those Captain Metellas Stage 3!

Cyber Safety Talk
On Thursday 5th of February, Stage 3 took a trip to the hall to hear Snr Constable McDonald discuss some vital lessons about how to be safe on the Internet.

Students were reminded of the dangers they are at risk of being exposed to on the Internet, and possible ways to avoid ending up in unsafe situations.

Please be reminded to check that any social networking sites that your child wants to use are appropriate for their age. For example, the age restriction set by Facebook is 13 years old.

Interrelate Anti Bullying Program
On Monday of Week 3, we were very fortunate to have staff from the Interrelate Program come to our school to talk about the very serious issue of bullying.

Students participated in a series of activities and group discussions to promote an atmosphere of mutual respect and to help develop strategies for what to do in bullying situations.

The program aimed to encourage a school culture of awareness and concern about bullying, and reinforce that it is everyone’s responsibility to help stop it.
5L’s First Day of School Poems

What are 5M looking forward to this year?

“I can’t wait for all the Sports Carnivals!” - Aaron
“I’m excited because there are only 2 more years of primary school!” - Max
“I’m looking forward the drawing club.” - Angelin

“I’m interested in doing experiments in Science.” - Jydon
“I’m looking forward to writing in my new school diary.” - Tanvi

“I can’t wait to go to Camp!” - Felicity
“I always love Mufti Day & the Easter hat parade.” - Jal
“I love the Talent Quest at the end of the year. That’s my favourite!” - Torrynce

Coming up!

It’s a big term ahead for students in Stage 3!

Good luck to students involved in Play Support, Friendship Ambassadors & the leadership camp to Brewongle.

We can’t wait to meet you at the Meet the Teacher Evening in Week 5!

Artwork by 5/6D
Metella Road Public School, as a service to parents, will advertise community events that may be of interest.

Metella Road Public School does not necessarily endorse or sponsor the events and accepts no responsibility for the management or organisation of these events.

Auskick After School (4 week program)
- Starts Monday, 2nd March, 3:15pm – 4:15pm for 4 weeks.
- Venue is the School Oval and AFL coaches are there from before 3pm.
- For $37 children receive an Auskick Footy Boots Bag with football, AFL Activity book, GIANTS giveaways and more!
- Families also receive 4 complimentary ticket to the GIANTS v Hawthorn match.

Parents can register online at www.aflauskick.com.au which also has additional information, my contact details and answers ‘Frequently Asked Questions’. Last year we had 70 children participate from Kindy to Year 6, it would be great to reach 100 in 2015!
Sporty School Shoes

$70 Off for the 2nd Pair

Gents School Shoes
Style 810
Gents School Shoes
Style 811
Gents School Shoes
Style 812
Gents School Shoes
Style 813

20% Off for Shoe Parties of fitting 8 or more children

Cash, Cheque and Credit Card is accepted

Expires 1/4/2015

Thank You!!

Turn your preloved children's items into cash.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
www.wskids.com.au

We do the work, you make the $$$

Clean out your toys, books, clothes, sporting goods, baby items, outdoor play equipment etc.
and drop it off for us to sell for you.

Western Sydney Kids Supa Sale
W. www.wskids.com.au
E. wskids@yahoo.com.au
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Fred Cateron Reserve, Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Contact Us

Tel. 0408 921 948

Email: castlehill.bmx@hotmail.com

Check us out on facebook.

National Sign On Day

Saturday 14th February 2015

Costume themes:

Heroes - Mystique - The Avenger - Captain America - Iron Man - Superman - Batman

Villains - Joker - Green Goblin - The放映 - Thanos

Superheros vs Villains

This year BMX Club will be held at Castle Hill BMX Oval.

Entry is free but all riders must have signed in on the day.

NSW Government and Education and Communities

Monday, 16 February 2015