



# MILLFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS



**20th February, 2015**

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**Week 4, Term 1**

## Working together to improve student outcomes

A strong link between school and home has long been recognised as essential to improve learning outcomes. Following school evaluations and parent feedback, we have decided to implement a new strategy to strengthen these links in 2015. Many of the comments made centered around more regular formal contact between teacher and parent regarding their child's specific learning needs throughout the year.

To support this we have increased the number of times we meet with parents throughout the year to at least once per term by holding **regular Learning Support Meetings for every child**. These meetings will centre around specific individual learning goals which are reviewed and updated every 5 weeks as part of a personalised learning plan.

Miss Pringle's class has started the ball rolling this week and the other classes will be following over the next few weeks.



## Intensive Spelling Challenge – Ready... Set... GO!

Start your engines, dust off the flashcards and sharpen those pencils as our 2015 intensive spelling challenge gets underway next week. Spelling is an important communication tool, although is something many of our students have difficulty with in the classroom. Our intensive spelling program will focus on improving each child's number of accurately spelt sight words.

Students have undergone pre-assessments over the last fortnight and have been allocated a list of unknown words to concentrate on over the next 5 weeks, both in the classroom and at home. After the 5 weeks, students will be tested again to see how much they have improved, with the most accurate and most improved in each year getting a medal for their efforts.

Packs will be sent home on Monday, which include your child's list and a range of possible activity suggestions to help them learn these words.



## *Dates for your Calendar*

### Term 1 2015

#### **Mon 23rd Feb**

Spelling Challenge Starts!

#### **Mon 9<sup>th</sup> March**

Debating Workshop  
(School debating team)

Yr 6 High School info  
night (MVHS)

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> March**  
Cross Country  
Fun Run

### Attachments

- School Fun Run Sponsorship Form
- Kitchen Garden Donations Request
- Accounts due
- Unexplained Absences
- Overdue library books

### Please Return

**Kitchen garden donations** by Wed 25<sup>th</sup> of Feb (if possible)

**Fun Run Sponsorship Forms and Money**  
By Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

## Kitchen Garden Items needed.

As the planning stages of our exciting new Kitchen Garden Program get underway, we are now calling on donations for any new/used kitchen or garden implements or utensils. If you have any lying at home or would like to donate a new item, can you either bring it to school by next Wednesday, or let us know so that gaps can be filled where needed. A full list of items is attached to a separate note with this newsletter.



## School Fun Run Fundraiser/Cross Country – 13<sup>th</sup> March

Our annual school cross country will be held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March within the school grounds. This event allows students to increase their fitness, have fun and possibly qualify for the Zone Cross Country to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> April.

In conjunction with this event, the Student Representative Council (SRC) have decided to hold a fundraiser to raise funds for our upcoming Kitchen Garden Program. The *School Fun-Run* fundraiser is a healthy, fun and active fundraiser that ensures we send the right message to our students about getting active, having fun and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The main focus of this event is on participation. Family support is most appreciated as we encourage all students to get involved.



All students have received a Sponsorship Form to help collect sponsorship on behalf of the school SRC. The funds raised will be used to purchase Kitchen Garden equipment. Please return your sponsorship form and fundraising money on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March to the office.

We ask all parents to read the Sponsorship Form and sign the front page to grant permission for their child to fundraise and participate in this event. Students who raise just \$10 or more will receive a reward for effort. In the Sponsorship Form you will also find many other benefits like the chance to win a family holiday to Disneyland! **Forms have been sent home today**

Students wanting to track their progress, and use online fundraising, can do so by logging onto [schoolfunrun.com.au/students](http://schoolfunrun.com.au/students) and creating a Student Profile Page.

Finally, we would like to welcome parents and family members to attend the *School Fun-Run* event day at the school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March to help cheer on the students or join in by doing a couple of laps if feeling energetic!

## Zone Swimming Update

Congratulations to Erin and Tane who this week participated in the Zone Swimming Carnival. Erin placed first in her heat of the 11 years 50m breaststroke, while Tane placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the 9 years 50m freestyle. Unfortunately despite the outstanding results, their times did not quite meet the Regional Qualifying times to progress through to the Regional Carnival. Nevertheless an outstanding effort and result by both Swimmers!

## Using student voice for school improvement

Students from years 4-6 will soon take part in an exciting opportunity to help shape the direction of Millfield PS in years to come. Students will take place in an online survey which asks a wide range of questions around their time at school. We then use these results to inform us about the feelings of students towards certain areas of schooling. Students are not identified against their responses. A permission note will be sent home next week.



## Handy help for parents

### **Multiplication times tables**

Does your child need encouragement? Explain to them that learning times tables = instant, painless recall in exams. Here's School A to Z's help sheet:

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/eppcontent/glossary/app/resource/factsheet/4024.pdf>

### **Sorting fact from fiction**

Help your child develop their "dodgy website" antennae when doing homework. Here are ways your child can tell a good website – or any document – from a bad one.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/sorting-fact-from-fiction>

### **All about apostrophes**

Not knowing where to place apostrophes can haunt people for their entire lives. Here's an easy guide to help your child understand what they mean, how to use them and get them right, now.

Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z-/english\\_glossary/8Qum/551/apostrophe+denoting+ownership](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z-/english_glossary/8Qum/551/apostrophe+denoting+ownership)

## Recognising Great Work

### **Class Awards – Miss Pringle**

Congratulations to this week's award recipients:

<b>Abi Bedford</b>	confidence and expression when speaking to the class
<b>Lakota Kasteel</b>	making a positive start to school



### **Class Awards – Miss Cornish**

Congratulations to this week's award recipients:

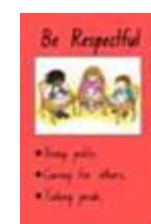
<b>Lily Brell</b>	engaging in our HSIE celebrations unit
<b>Jack Davis</b>	extending himself in numeracy



### **Class Awards – Mrs Butler**

Congratulations to this week's award recipients:

<b>William Cagney</b>	being a cooperative and independent worker
<b>Tane Carpenter</b>	being an active listener and always following instructions



### **Library Award – Miss Lightfoot**

Congratulations to this week's award recipient:

<b>Alex Lombardi</b>	great writing skills
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### **Principal's Award**

Congratulations to Angelina Bodycote, who is this week's Principal's Award Winner. Angelina has been a wonderful help to our new students this year and is always there to assist when needed. Thank you for making a difference Ange !





Presented by The Hunter Outreach Program, Family Action Centre and Cessnock Family Support Service



## Bringing Up Great Kids Parenting Program

**Bringing Up Great Kids** is a reflective parenting program to support parents to review and enhance patterns of communication with their children.

Australian Childhood Foundation:  
[www.childhood.org.au](http://www.childhood.org.au)

**Venue:** Cessnock East Public School

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Time:** 10am – 1pm

To express your interest, please contact:  
Lesley 4921 5758  
Email: [Lesley.Asher@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Lesley.Asher@newcastle.edu.au)  
**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

[www.newcastle.edu.au/research-and-innovation/centre/fac/about-us](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research-and-innovation/centre/fac/about-us)

Presented with the support of:



### Topics covered include:

- Messages from the Past
- The Message Centre
- Giving and receiving messages
- The Message Behaviour
- Messages about me
- Passing on messages

Morning tea will be provided

# Tuning in to Kids

## Emotionally Intelligent Parenting

Wednesdays March 11 – April 1

10 am to 12 noon at Koe-nara

This is a **FREE** course

Parents report this program helps their children to:  
make friends and keep them more easily,  
concentrate longer, stay calm when upset or angry

Please call Jane on 4990 9354 for bookings

Child Care available but bookings **ESSENTIAL**



## TRIPLE P SELECT PROGRAM

Triple P Parenting Seminars

**Week 1 Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Week 2 Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

The two seminars will cover the following topics:

- The Power of Positive Parenting
- Raising Confident, Competent Children &
- Raising Resilient Children

This program is free

**Time: 9.30 am - 12.00 pm**

at

Samaritans Neighbourhood Centre  
198-202 Vincent Street, Cessnock

**THERE WILL BE NO CHILD CARE AVAILABLE**

To book a place or for more information please phone  
**CESSNOCK FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE**

on

**4990 4507**



Seminars are presented by accredited Triple P practitioners  
Financial assistance for this service is provided by Community Services, Department of Family and Community Services, NSW



Want to re-enter the workforce but need to brush up on your skills first?

Come and talk with the helpful staff at  
**CESSNOCK TAFE, FOUNDATION SKILLS AND PATHWAYS**  
**OUR COURSES for Semester 1, 2015:**

- SEE Program (Literacy and Numeracy) – Skills for Education and Employment 10442/10443 – Free Course

This course is for Centrelink referred clients to upgrade literacy, numeracy & employment skills.

- Career Education & Employment for Women-Certificate II (CEEW) 10089 NAT

This course helps women reenter the workforce or education after a long absence. Work placement included in the course.

- Blake's Refresher for Education and Work (BREW) 10089 NAT

This course helps men reenter the workforce or education after a long absence. Work placement included in the course.

- Tertiary Preparation-Certificate IV (TPC) 29603

This is a Year 12 equivalent course, a pathway to uni &/or employment.

- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

This course is for people from non-English speaking backgrounds to improve English language skills for work or

### Babysitter available ( Year 6 and under)

Available most afternoons/nights. Great with children. References available upon request. Year 12 Student (Female -16 years old). Affordable. Homework help and tutoring available ( depending on subject and age)  
**Call Stevie-Lea Hoffmanbeck - 0429004371**