Dear Parents & Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to start this Newsletter with some fantastic news. Last night I attended a function at Easts Leisure and Golf Club for the distribution of Club Grants. There were over 80 recipients in all with a total of $175,000 distributed. We were very fortunate to receive $15,000 to assist with the running costs of our school buses and to ensure our community access programs can continue.

As many of you would already know Easts have been ongoing supporters of the school, having received significant donations for over ten years.

I would like to sincerely thank Bill Hopkins (President) and his Board of Directors for their continued support.

School Development Day—Possible Variation
We are seeking the opinions of parents regarding a possible one off change to the school development day which usually occurs on the first day of term 3, Monday 14th July 2014. We have the opportunity to attend a "one off" training course focusing on Mental Health and Intellectual Disability, which is a high priority learning area for staff. We were recently successful in receiving a $5000 grant to undertake training in this area, so this training program has come at a very opportune time. The alternate date is Wednesday 6th August, should we go ahead, this will mean that the school will not be open for business on this day. Should you have any concerns about the proposed change, please contact me on 4933-5844 to let me know these concerns.

Reforms to P&C Federation
The NSW Parliament has introduced legislation to reform the NSW Federation of Parent and Citizens Associations, which has suspended operation pending Supreme Court action. While these reforms will not affect the day-to-day operation of individual school P&Cs, they will introduce a new executive structure which will ensure the Federation operates as a modern and representative body on behalf of school P&C Associations.

Each school’s P&C Association will be asked to vote for councillors and delegates who will represent their electorate at the Federation’s Annual General Meeting and councillors who will serve on the Federation’s Board of Management. More information will be available on the Department’s website at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/involvement.php.

Premiers Sporting Challenge
Hunter River Community School is once again participating in the NSW Premier’s Sporting Challenge. The aim of this challenge is to encourage young people to engage in physical activity and encourage them to lead healthy, active lifestyles.

The challenge will commence next week with students completing at least 20 minutes of physical activity per day. This activity will be logged on a daily basis and awards will be presented towards the end of the challenge in September. We look forward to promoting a fit and active lifestyle.
Illness at School

With winter fast approaching we are starting to see the effects of the change in weather condition, with many students experiencing flu-like symptoms of coughs and colds. In a school such as ours, the spread of germs can be problematic, despite our best efforts to remind students to:

- Cover their cough or sneeze
- Wash hands regularly
- Avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose
- Keep a distance from people who are sick.

The best action to avoid the spread of illness throughout the school is to keep students at home when they are unwell. It often only takes a day or two to be well enough to return to school.

We do realise that this can be difficult for families, but we do appreciate your efforts in this area.

Adobe programs. I would encourage all parents/students log into their portal to see what is available.

https://student.det.nsw.edu.au

Your child’s teacher will be able to assist you with your child’s login details. Please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher for this information.

Respite Arrangements

Thank you to all those parents who have been providing us with advanced information regarding respite and especially transport arrangements for respite. Last term I provided parents with a copy of our Respite Notification Form. I have sent another copy of the form home with your child this week. If you have access to the internet, the form can be downloaded from our website “Our Schools” “Useful Forms”.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Student Portal

Did you know that ALL students enrolled in NSW Public Schools have access to a “student portal”. This portal provides safe and secure access to many learning and communication tools, including student email. Yes your child does have an email address with the department. “username”@education.nsw.edu.au. The portal also provides access to a secure storage site where files can be stored for access at home and at school. Importantly the portal provides a link to a variety of powerful software that is provided “free” for student download on one computer. This software includes the latest Microsoft Office software and Adobe programs. I would encourage all parents/students log into their portal to see what is available.

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RDA News

RDA 2014 has commenced and everyone is extremely excited to be back in the saddle! This year we were lucky to secure 2 spots in the program. Our Senior Group rides Thursday mornings and our Junior group Thursday afternoon.

Jacqueline, Zac, Kai, Laura, & Lachlan are our senior riders this year and they have started extremely well. Zac and Jacqueline are new riders and have taken to the saddle like seasoned professionals!!

All the Junior riders are new to the sport. Connor, Orlando and Justin have settled in extremely well, with Connor displaying outstanding skills!

STEWART HOUSE

Congratulations Hunter River Community School students and staff for raising $98.90 for Stewart House.

All money and envelopes will be sent to Stewart House Monday.

Good luck to all who entered the draw to win a $4,000 holiday.
Room 10 news!

Everyone from Room 10 are very excited to be back and are looking forward to a busy and successful Term 2.

This term in Child Studies we are looking at toddlers and how they eat, walk and play. The homework assignment from last term was a huge success and everybody did a great job in creating a toy for babies. Well done!

We are also looking at “Australia at War” this term and look forward to visiting some historical sites around our local area.

Emma has commenced her sessions at Grossmann High School and has loved participating in maths and reading lessons and their coffee shop.

Courtney Simmons and Luke are continuing to attend Mai – Wel on Mondays and are eagerly looking forward to work placement next term.

Courtney Simmons is about to commence work in Maitland High School’s “Down Under” Café. She is looking forward to meeting up with all her friends from last year.

Emma heads off to Grossmann

Emma's toy mobile

Courtney Simmons’ butterfly mobile

Lachlan’s fabulous train

Courtney Sowter’s Peppa Pig Shaker was a hit
RESULTS FOR EASTER HAT PARADE HELD ON 9/4/14

 Hat Parade
 Room 5
 Most Eggs-ellent - Dekkard
 Most Egg-ceptional - Orlando
 Most Creative - Ethan
 Room 6
 Most Eggs-ellent - Jonathon
 Most Egg-ceptional - Connah
 Most Creative - Darcy
 Room 7
 Most Eggs-ellent - Justin
 Most Egg-ceptional - Connor
 Most Creative - Jorja

 Colouring Competition Awards
 Junior School 1st Place: Orlando
 Middle School 1st Place: Adam
 Senior School 1st Place: Scott

 Room 5
 Most Eggs-ellent - Dekkard
 Most Egg-ceptional - Orlando
 Most Creative - Ethan
 Room 6
 Most Eggs-ellent - Jonathon
 Most Egg-ceptional - Connah
 Most Creative - Darcy
 Room 7
 Most Eggs-ellent - Justin
 Most Egg-ceptional - Connor
 Most Creative - Jorja

 Metford Public School’s Awards
 Most Eggs-ellent - Jeff
 Most Egg-ceptional - Josh
 Most Creative - John

 Metford Public School’s Awards
 Highly Commended: Chris
 Highly Commended: Callum & Jacqueline
 Highly Commended: Katie & Murad

 CANTEEN RED DAY
 Hunter River Community School will be holding their canteen ‘Red Day’ once again. We are having this day on Wednesday 21st May at recess. Please bring along some money to purchase some yummy treats!

 PRICES:
 Milk $1.00
 Bags of lollies 0.50c
 Chips $1.00
 Chomps 0.50c
 Curly Wurlys 0.50c
 Milky Way 0.60c
 Milkos 0.10c

 The Canteen Crew
Room 6 have planted a herb garden. We turned over the soil, planted the herbs and have been watering them. Our spring onions, purple sage, basil and oregano have grown so much and are looking very yummy!
Aluminium drink cans for crushing for senior recycling program. All donations will be gratefully crushed!!
Welcome to my news page. Each newsletter I will be posting interesting facts about our school.....Term 2 will also be dedicated to “Getting to Know the Staff”........Enjoy!!

Staff Profile

Name: Amanda

Nickname: Straker

Favourite Colour: Purple

Favourite Sport: Netball

Favourite Footy Code & Team: None

Favourite subject at school: Lunch

Three people I would invite to dinner: Pink, Robbie Williams & George Clooney

If I won $$$$$ I would : Go on a holiday

YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST: Cow naming competition will be happening soon! Put your thinking caps on!!