Dear Parents & Carers,

We are all very busy at the school in preparation for the official opening of the school to be held on Thursday 12th June, commencing at 10am. The opening will be held in the new school hall. My thanks goes to Ashtonfield Public School who have graciously donated their portable stage for the opening. All parents are welcome to attend this very special occasion and we look forward to seeing you here. Please let the office know if you will be attending.

School Attendance

We are currently in the process of reviewing our attendance policy and procedures. Parents will soon receive a “handbook” which outlines the processes and procedures to be followed if your child is absent from school. We are very keen to ensure that we have a “note” from parents and carers to explain each absence. This is not a new concept, as it is a legal requirement that a note from parents or carers should explain each absence.

A number of parents contact the school by telephone each day that their child will be absent, whilst we do appreciate this advice, and the advice is noted on an official register, we will still be asking parents and carers to follow up that note with formal written advice. To assist parents in this, a proforma has been printed and will be available for parent use. In the event that your child arrives at school after an absence without a note, teachers will send home one of these proformas for you to complete.

These procedures have recently been endorsed by our Home School Liaison Officer, who monitors attendance rates and roll marking procedures each term.

Should you be experiencing any difficulties with any aspect of your child’s attendance we would be more than happy to assist you in any way that we can.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

National Consistent Collection of Data Project

Hunter River Community School will once again be participating in this national project involving the collection of learning adjustments afforded to every students who requires an adjustment. Currently the project is voluntary, however from 2016, all schools, public and private will need to participate in this annual data collection. Attached to this newsletter is more information about the project.

Please note permission for your child to participate in this project is on an “opt out” basis. This means that unless we hear from you asking that you child not be part of the project, their learning adjustment data will be collected.

Administration of Medications at School

For some time now we have been reminding parents about their obligations regarding the administration of medications at school. As you would be aware this is quite a big responsibility for staff at the school, monitoring and registering medications. We have one staff member responsible for the coordination of medications in the school. All staff have regular training in the administration of prescribed medications and asthma treatments, with the next round of training around asthma management occurring after school on Wednesday 18th June. This training is provided by a nursing representative from the Asthma Foundation.

To assist us meet our obligations in administering medications, we ask that ALL parents and carers send their child’s prescription medication in either a “Webster Pack” or the original prescription packaging, with the child’s name, medication type, dosage and times.

We would also like to suggest that when you are attending appointments with your child’s doctor that MAY involve a medication change you take along the school’s Updated Medication Form for your doctor to complete. This form is available for download from the school website, on the Useful Forms page, or you can request multiple copies from the school.

Dates for your diary…

Monday 9th June—Public Holiday
Thursday 12th June—School Opening 10am
Friday 27th June—Term 2 Concludes
Wednesday 13th August—P&C Meeting 10am
Room 4 have been enjoying their cooking classes on a Thursday morning. We have made biscuits, mini pizzas and vegetable fritters and spaghetti bolognaise. We have used some fresh produce from our garden to add some delicious flavour to our recipes. Well done boys!

Agriculture News

Our agricultural enterprises are well underway in the fabulous new plot at our wonderful new school. We have vegetables and herbs growing as well as our flowers that were transplanted from the old school.

Recently we purchased six new chickens and we expect that they will start laying soon. We are looking for some interesting and unusual names for our chickens. If you have any ideas send them to us in your child’s communication book. We will have a naming ceremony later in the term.

Happy Gardening!
School News

“Dream Cricket” Clinic

Thursday this week we were extremely fortunate to have some special guests visit our school to conduct some cricket skills clinics for our students. Rick McCarthy of the Bradman Foundation with the support of the Rotary Clubs from Greenhills-Maitland, Cessnock and East Maitland, led by club Presidents Michael Kirwan, Greg Bevan and Brian Coffey, conducted two sessions throughout the day with an emphasis on fun and participation for the kids. We were also fortunate enough to have some students from Francis Greenway High School assisting in the games. Our budding cricket stars had a phenomenal time and there were way too many highlights to choose from but one thing, all involved took away from the day was the look of enjoyment on the kids’ faces when they smacked a ball for six or took a “classic catch”. The program was part of an initiative called “Dream Cricket” and our school was fortunate enough to have Rotary Club member and co-ordinator of the Dream Cricket program Don Stephens donate a full kit of cricket equipment to our school so that we may continue to provide students with the opportunity to participate in the activities they enjoyed so much today! Many thanks to the members of Rotary District 9670 for donating the kit, as well as to Rick, Michael, Greg, Brian, Don and all the members of their respective clubs who came and gave their time to our kids. Looking at how much the kids improved over the sessions today makes me think it’ll be a long, long time before the Poms get back the Ashes! Below are some great action snaps of our superstar cricketers!

Damian Flaherty—Room 2 Teacher
Welcome to my news page. Each newsletter I will be posting interesting facts about our dedicated school Staff”........Enjoy!!

Staff Profile

Name: Olivia

Nickname: Liv, Livvy

Favourite Colour: Green & Black

Favourite Sport: Croquet

Favourite Footy Code & Team: None

(silly question—too narrow)

Favourite subject at school: Geography, Design & Technology

Three people I would invite to dinner: Brad Pitt, Wonder Women, Batman

If I won $$$$$$ I would: Buy a yacht and sail around the world
Nationally consistent collection of data on school students with disability – 2014

Our school is participating in the collection of nationally consistent data on school students with disability.

We will be collecting information already available in the school about the support that is being provided to students with disability. Better data will help the Government plan for students with disability.

The data collection will have no direct impact on your child and they will not be involved in any testing process.

The NSW Department of Education and Communities will provide data to the Australian Government from all NSW public schools in such a way that no individual student or school will be able to be identified. In this way, we will ensure the privacy and confidentiality of all students.

All information is protected by privacy laws which regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. Information about the Australian Government’s Privacy Policy can be found here: http://education.gov.au/condensed-privacy-policy. Information about the NSW Government’s privacy policies can be found here: http://www.ipc.nsw.gov.au/

If you do not want your child to be counted in the data collection you must complete the attached form and return it to the school before the end of Term 2, 2014. A decision to exclude your child will not affect the support they currently receive.

Further information about the data collection can be found on the Australian Government Department of Education website:


If you have any questions about your child being included in the data collection please contact the school.

If you need help with English to make an enquiry contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The operator will call the number you provide and get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

Kind regards

[Signature]

Principal
Aluminium drink cans for crushing for senior recycling program. All donations will be gratefully crushed!!

Entertainment Books for 2014 have arrived and are for sale at the office for only $60.00. They are full of exciting discount vouchers for a vast range of services. $12.00 from the sale of each book goes directly to our school. If you would like to purchase a book, write a note in your child’s communication book, enclose your money and we will send it home or read about the new Digital Membership for your Smartphone. Credit cards are also welcome.

Now there are two ways Entertainment™ can help your organisation raise funds...

1. **The Entertainment™ Book Membership**

   The Entertainment™ Book is a local restaurant and activity guide which provides hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from the finest restaurants, cafes, attractions, activities, retailers and hotel accommodation. The Book entitles buyers to exclusive offers that are virtually restriction free, literally pages and pages of offers to enjoy all year long.

   The brand new Entertainment™ Digital Membership puts all of the value of the Entertainment™ Book into the customer's smartphone. With 'near me' technology and the ability to show and save using a phone, this is perfect for the person on-the-go, with no Card or Voucher to present.

2. **The Entertainment™ Digital Membership**

WANTED