Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a higher level of illness in recent weeks due to the cold weather. Thank you to all the parents who have kept their children at home to fully recuperate. I do believed that this has helped greatly.

A reminder to all parents and carers that a note explaining each absence is required upon return to school. Teachers will send a proforma note home for an explanation should this not happen. Unexplained absences are generally followed up by both school attendance officers.

Exemption from School Attendance

Whilst on the topic of attendance, parents on behalf of students can apply for an exemption from attending school directly from the school principal up to 100 days. People seeking exemptions in excess of 100 days must be approved by the school director.

Exemptions can be granted for exceptional family circumstances, including family holidays during school term.

Applications for exemption from attending school MUST be made using the appropriate form (available from schools) in advance of the anticipated event.

If the exemption is approved this means that the days away from school are not included in any absentee count.

I would be more than happy to discuss any aspect of applying for an exemption with you should you be interested.

Annual Sports Carnival

A reminder that our Annual Sports Carnival will be held at Maitland Hockey Centre on Friday 12th September. This year we have almost 250 students attending from local Special Schools and Support Classes. For those parents who are new to the school I can assure you this is a wonderful family day, and would thoroughly recommend families spending some time with their child throughout the day. I would also like to assure parents that the site is completely secure. An application has been made to Assisted School Travel to alter the drop off and pick up point to Maitland Park on that day. We would also ask that parents drop off and pick up at Maitland Park on that day.

Please consider joining us for this fabulous day.

Orlando enjoying last years carnival with his friends from Maitland Grossmann High

Welcome Newcastle University Interns

Hunter River Community School is hosting two students from Newcastle University for their final practicum before becoming a permanent teacher. Ruby Brown is working with students in Room 10 and Jo Rathbone is working with the students in Room 3. It is wonderful to have two such keen and enthusiastic teachers in the school and I am sure you will join with me in wishing Ruby and Jo a successful and rewarding career in Special Education.
School Strategic Planning 2015-2017
All NSW public schools will begin the cycle for the next three year strategic plan.

The new school plan will support schools in working proactively with their staff and school communities to establish school strategic directions and key educational improvements. It will support collaborative leadership and community consultation for strategic decision making, ensuring that the educational priorities of the school reflect the goals and learning needs of students, staff and parents.

The new approach supports schools and their communities in transforming their shared vision to achieve quality educational delivery through the establishment of each component of the school plan:

**purpose** - the development of 3 strategic directions which will support educational innovation and improvements

**people** - a clear plan to build the capabilities of the school community to contribute effectively

**processes** - ensuring the school’s systems for project management deliver education improvements

**products** - the achievement of key improvement outcomes and deliverables

**practices** - the embedded cultural practices that will sustain educational improvements.

School staff will be consulting with parents through a variety of forums next term and in the first term of 2015. I would encourage all parents to participate.

Payments via EFTPOS

Our school now has EFTPOS facilities available for paying accounts, such as excursions, sport programs and other associated expenditure. Our terminal also supports Pay Wave and Pay Pass transactions. We trust that this method of payment will assist families.

Hunter River Community School was a sea of yellow today, as we were all supporting the very important fundraiser—Daffodil Day.

Alyssa and friend celebrate Daffodil Day

Mu-rad looking resplendent in yellow

August Birthdays

Jesse B 2nd - 13yrs  Corey B 24th - 17yrs  Orlando G 7th - 7yrs
Lachlan M 17th - 15yrs  Jonathon N 25th - 10yrs  Zachary W-S 19th - 13yrs
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...

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.

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