Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

It’s hard to believe that Easter is rapidly approaching, this term has gone very quickly. There have some exciting changes to our school community in the past few weeks.

**New Class**

As many of you may know, a 10th class was established last week to accommodate our growing student population. This class became operational this week and there have been some student movements to fill the class.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms Amee Duncan to Hunter River Community School. Amee has been previously teaching in Newcastle and is excited about joining our school community. Amee and Amanda Straker will be situated in Room 9 and will be the 4th class in our senior school.

**Staff Variations**

Kerrie McGrath has also joined our teaching staff. Kerrie and Gerry Waters are currently filling Helen's teaching position in Room 6. Helen is recovering from an injury and is currently on administrative duty. Helen, Kerrie & Gerry have formed a very positive working relationship and there is some fabulous work being completed in Room 6.

**Grandparents Day**

Our Easter celebrations and Grandparent Day activities will be held on Wednesday 18th March commencing at 10:00. The junior school will be parading their creative Easter Hats and then the senior students will be hosting a Coffee Shop. There will also be an Art Show where families and friends can “purchase” art work for a small donation. Please come along and join in the festivities!

**NDIS**

Families residing in the Maitland Area will be able to transfer to the NDIS this year. David Nevins, Support Teacher Transition, is currently gathering information for families and coordinating guest speakers to talk to families about the process. To assist in the initial planning, I would suggest that families log on to the NDIS webpage and become familiar with the terminology and process. NDIS caseworkers will be available to come and meet clients and commence the planning transition. School staff can be involved in the planning stage if families request that they become members of the planning team.

**Attendance Policy**

As many of you may be aware, there have been some changes to the School Attendance Procedures. Schools are now required to seek clarification for student absences that may have been previously covered by “an appointment”. The management of “holiday leave” has also changed and it is no longer possible to grant exemptions for holidays. This does not mean that you can’t go on family holidays during the term, just that the code reflecting the absence has changed. If you have any questions or queries regarding the attendance policy, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Welfare & Discipline Policy
A big thank you to all parents and friends who attended the last P&C meeting to review the school’s updated welfare & discipline policy. The policy has been implemented this term and the changes to the policy seem to be working well.

Dates for Term 2
Just a reminder that Monday 20th April is a Pupil Free Day. Students will commence school on Tuesday 21st.

Yesterday I was successful in my application for Principal for Hunter River Community School. I’m very excited about my new role and look forward to working closely with all members of the school community in the future. Hunter River Community School is a fabulous place to work and I am very proud to lead such a wonderful and dedicated team.

Kind regards
Tracey

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrate a birthday this month

Nikkie Fleming 6/3  Courtney Simmons 7/3
Jorja Marlow 9/3  Ethan Parkinson 15/3
Dylan Ford 17/3  Jacqueline Vidray 24/3
An invitation to interested PARENTS, CARERS, GRANDPARENTS and FRIENDS.

A great way to learn more about computer applications – eg: Word, PowerPoint, Excel Spreadsheets Internet/Emailing and more.

RECEIVE TAFE STATEMENT OF ATTAINMENT UPON COMPLETION OF COURSE

TAFE Outreach Courses can assist in linking you into further Education at TAFE

- Build on computer skills
- Gain confidence
- Meet new people
- Help your child at home

INTERESTED? Please contact us with your details as soon as possible.

METFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL
Phone: 4933 2655

**No enrolment fee for Indigenous students**

**People with a confirmed disability or on the disability support pension get one free course enrolment per year need confirmation they are on DSP or a letter from their Doctor.**

**People on centrelink, or the partner or dependent of someone on centrelink pay $80 for outreach courses**

**People NOT on centrelink but have less than a Certificate IV level qualification pay $220**

**People not on centrelink who already have a Certificate IV level qualification will have to pay $2,340 for the course.**
Welcome to my news page. Each newsletter I will be posting interesting facts about our dedicated school Staff’……..Enjoy!!

Staff Profile

Name: Natasha Brown
Nickname: Tash
Favourite Colour: Green
Favourite Sport: Dancing
Favourite Footy Code & Team: NRL Knights
Favourite subject at school: PD/H/PE
Three people I would invite to dinner:
I would love to just have dinner with my family and friends.
If I won $$$$$$ I would By a new house and go on a holiday to Paris.