Basketball for Sport
All children will be participating in Basketball for Sport this term. This will be held each Friday, beginning this week, for a period of 6 weeks. It is a free service provided by the Maitland Basketball Association. The sessions are as follows—K/1- 9.30-10.00; 1/2/3-10.00 to 10.45; 4/5/6- 10.45 – 11.30. The school sports uniform will be needed each Friday.

Mother’s Day Stall
We will be holding a Mother’s Day stall at school on Thursday 8th May to allow children to buy a little ‘surprise’ for mum. Gifts range in price from $1.00 to $5.00. There will be an adequate supply of gifts for children to purchase for grandmas as well. If your children ask for a few dollars that is what it is for.

Netball
Our School Netball Team is playing next Tuesday against Abermain and Bellbird at Cessnock Netball Courts. Mrs Melisa Smith (Coach) and Mrs Alison Mahony (Manager) will be accompanying our team for the day. The team is:
Lucy, Felicity, Bethany, Nyah, Bailea, Georgia, Chelsie, Amy & Kimberley

Iona Workshop 15 May
Iona Public School - your future your say
The Principal invites you as a member of the school community to participate in an evening to map out the schools priorities for the next 5 years. It is important that we capture the views of the school community to develop a position statement and report on the type of school Iona wants to be. This report will be a key document to influence decision makers in the department of education and elsewhere to ensure our community is heard and that its’ views are taken into account.
Where... Iona Public School; 4/5/6 classroom
When... Thursday 15th May from 7.00 – 9.00 pm
Light refreshments and supper will be provided. Please RSVP to the front office 49301415 by Friday 9th May.
I encourage you to take this opportunity to shape the future of your school.
Thanks
Darren and Sarah Bayley

Please give this meeting some serious thought as we would like as many families as possible represented at this meeting. After all, as the title says—this is our chance to have a say with our future. Please let Alison know if you can attend.
Bookclub
Orders need to be returned no later than 14th May.

Chaplaincy at our School
During second and third term Jody Gale will be doing a Chaplaincy Training Placement with our school. This will involve some extra time at school supporting staff and students in practical tasks. It also involves the opportunity to support families and children who need someone to listen to them and offer practical support. While it is not a counselling or religious role, the word “minister” in the job position (as shown below) recognises that people who ask for prayer support can receive this. Please ask Jody or I if you have any questions or concerns about this. Open communication helps break down misconceptions.

The Chaplaincy Role is defined as follows:

“The role of the School Chaplain is to minister to the students, staff and their families of the educational facility in which they work. They are available to support and guide students and staff through times of grief, stress or joy. They provide an independent outlet for students and staff and a support when things are troubling them”

We are sending home an information note and permission form that we would like all families to sign. This is an opportunity for all families to give/or not give Jody, as a Training Chaplain, permission to spend some time talking to children individually about what is going on in their lives and any concerns they have. Having a known individual in our school, who can support our children, and us, is too great an opportunity to miss.

Soccer
Our School Soccer Team is beginning their training next week (it was too wet this week). All children (Boys and Girls) from 3-6 who wish to try out for this team need to attend training next Wednesday afternoon from 3.30 – 4.30. Mrs Tracey Merchant will again act as our coach with Mr Sheppard being the Team Manager. We will be playing in a Gala day against Lochinvar/Hinton/Kitchener in Week 6 or 7 of this term.

Dance for PE
Mr Janos Szabo will again be providing some free Dance lessons for all our students, as a part of their P.E. lessons, beginning next Tuesday, 6th May. This is another great opportunity for our children to receive such professional tutelage with dance. I know that Janos would welcome anyone who would like to observe these lessons each week.

Softball
Our Girls’ Softball team has started training in preparation for their first game in the State Knockout. Mrs Di Barrymore will again be their coach, with Mr Sheppard the team manager. The children certainly have plenty of opportunities for sport!

Starstruck
Our Starstruck Troupe will begin their “quest” in earnest next week. They will be attending their first session next Thursday—the dates are as follows-

Thursday 8th May - Students will learn their new dance at the Newcastle Basketball Stadium. Students need to arrive at the stadium by 9:45am and should be finished by 2:00pm
Thursday 29th May – Major movement rehearsal at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre - 8am - 4pm
Wednesday 14th June – Major rehearsal at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre. - 8am - 4pm
Thursday 12th June – Technical rehearsal and dress rehearsal at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre, 8am - 5.30pm
Friday 13th June – Performance 1 at 10:30am / Performance 2 at 7:00pm. Students will need to arrive at the Entertainment Centre by 10:00am, and be picked up at 1.30pm, then be dropped back by 6:30pm and picked up again at 10pm.
Saturday 15th June – Performance 3 at 2:00pm / Performance 4 at 7:00pm. Students will need to arrive at the Entertainment Centre by 1:30pm, and will finish at 10pm. (The teachers will supervise the children in the break between performances on Saturday, and will organise dinner – more detail about this closer to performance time.)

Parent Meeting
We will be holding a parent meeting, at school, at 3.15 tomorrow (Friday) after school to finalise some details about our Starstruck participation, especially the Starstruck costumes ( In which my wife cannot do this year due to some heavy family commitments)
Forest Working Bee
We are planning a forest working bee next Friday, 9th May from 9.00 am, where we will be cleaning up our forest area. This includes renewing our bark chip paths, clearing out branches and debris, planting new vegetation and creating a new vegetation area (under Ms Hamer’s guidance) using some of our Environmental Education funds and a grant we received from the HRCMA. We will organise a sausage sizzle for the day as well. As they say, “many hands make light work!” Please let us know, in the front office, of your availability.

Opportunity Class Placement
I have received the application forms for Year 5 Opportunity Class Placement for 2015. If there any Year 4 families interested, please see me for the forms, or alternatively apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

Naplan
Our Year 3 and 5 students will be participating in the National NAPLAN Tests in Week 3. This is the Letter to the parents from the Board of Studies:

In May 2014 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 13 - 15 May 2014.

TUESDAY 13 MAY
Language Conventions
(Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)
Writing

WEDNESDAY 14 MAY
Reading

THURSDAY 15 MAY
Numeracy
(Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and Space)

Entertainment Books
You should have received your Entertainment Book during last week Term 1, if you did not please see Melisa Smith or Mrs Mahony. Those who still have books could you please either pay for them or return them to school promptly.

If you or any of your family or friends would like extra books please see Melisa or Mrs Mahony and we can arrange more for you.

Thank you for your support.

Paterson Valley Swim Club
Presentation night for Paterson Valley Swim club is Friday 9th May starting at 6.30 with a sausage sizzle with will cost a gold coin. There will also be raffles on the night. Hope to see all members there.

1 May 2014
3
Dungog & District School Horse Sports Day

Hosted by: St Joseph’s Primary School, Dungog
and supported by Dungog Pony Club

FRIDAY, 13th JUNE 2014

8.30am START
Gear Check by Team Manager PRIOR to the First Event

Dungog Showground, please use Chapman Street entrance
All forms available on the school website below:
www.dungog.catholic.edu.au

ENTRIES CLOSE WEDNESDAY, 18th MAY 2014
Entry Fee: $20 per rider * (See conditions of entry)

Age Groups: 8yrs, 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs, 15yrs, 16yrs, 17yrs & over

Riding Events: Riding Classes
Hacking Classes
Pleasure Hack Classes

Sporting Events: Barrel
In & Out of Paddock
Ball Race
3 Mug Race
Western Pole Bend

For further information please contact:

Entry Enquiries: Nicole Osmond: peter-nicole.osmond@bigpond.com
Mob: 0427 835959

Enquiries: Jen Breneger: countrygrubdungog@gmail.com
Mob: 0427 945327

For Wet Weather Contact either Nicole Osmond or Jen Breneger

ALL ENTRIES ARE TO BE FORWARDED TO:
Dungog & District School Horse Sports Day
C/- Nicole Osmond
PO Box 43 Dungog NSW 2420

Facilities:
Canteen – Will be available all day from 7.30 am
Camping – Available if required $10 per site
Merriwa Central School
HORSE SPORTS DAY

Monday, 11 August 2014

7.45 AM - START

GEAR CHECK TO BE COMPLETED BY TEAM MANAGERS PRIOR TO THE FIRST EVENT.

FOR RIDERS - Kindergarten to Year 12

VENUE - MERRIWA SHOWGROUND

ALL ENTRIES CLOSE - Friday 18 July, 2014

Limited to 180 riders / 35 entries per school

COST - $20.00 per Student

For further information please contact:

Rebecca West - 6548 2101 Merriwa Central School
Alison King – 6548 2119 Merriwa Central School

ALL ENTRIES ARE TO BE FORWARDED TO:

Please check with your child’s school that the nomination has been confirmed by Merriwa Central School. If nomination has not been confirmed under no circumstances will the rider be able to participate.

Camping and Stables are available at the showground - $10.00 per stable. Stables must be pre-booked, paid for with entry fee and are allocated on a first in first served basis.
Dear Parents,

As a part of the Chaplaincy Training that Jody Gale is undertaking, she will be doing voluntary hours at school on Wednesday mornings. During this time there is the opportunity for your children to spend some time speaking individually with Jody about what is going on in their lives and any concerns that they may have. The children are familiar with Jody, through her Learning Support Teacher’s role, and it is advantageous to have someone available who has relationship with them.

If you would like to utilise this opportunity, parental permission is required.

We would encourage you to sign this note giving your permission so that we are able to allow your child to talk with Jody at any time during her placement.

Thanking you

Daryl Sheppard
Principal

I give permission for my son / daughter .............................................................. to speak and work with Mrs Jody Gale in her role as Training School Chaplain. I understand that this is not a counselling or religious role, but an opportunity for my child to have support in their daily lives.

Signed: .............................. Date .......................