Regional Swimming Carnival
Kim competed in the Regional Swimming Carnival today. Kim swam a PB time of 46.29 seconds. Kim’s time was a state level time however, unfortunately, regional only send the top 3 swimmers and Kim came 5th. Well Done.

Forest Working Bee/ School’s Cleanup Day
Tomorrow Friday, 4th March (Week 6) we will be participating in the School’s Clean-up day, as a part of Clean up Australia Day. The children will be cleaning up around the school (K-4) with Yrs 5 and 6 cleaning up along Paterson Road. (The permission note needs to be handed in before leaving the school grounds). We will then record our results and analyse the types of rubbish found. All children will need gloves for the day. We have also organised our Forest Working Bee for that day, which will be followed by a BBQ for the workers. We ask for as many volunteers as possible to assist us regenerate our forest area, so badly damaged in last year’s floods and this January’s flooding as well. Trailers, whipper snippers, wheelbarrows… are all needed as we will be planting, laying mulch, trimming trees, cleaning up broken branches etc. We would like to start the day around 9.00 am, and with “many hands making light work!” we should be finished in a few hours. Please let me know if you can help, so we can organise the day appropriately.

Medical
Medical action plans expire after 12 months. If your child requires an action plan for anaphylaxis, asthma or any other medical condition can you please arrange a new plan.

Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 29th Feb</td>
<td>Young Leaders Day 5/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 4th Mar</td>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 11th Mar</td>
<td>Hunter Wetlands Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 21st Mar</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 24th Mar</td>
<td>Easter Hat parade</td>
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Canteen Roster
Please remember to have your lunch order in by Wednesday afternoon to allow time to purchase all the fresh ingredients. Please write your child’s name and class on the bag.

This Week: Ruth
Next Week: Ruth

SAUSAGE SIZZLE ONLY TOMORROW

Young Leader’s Day on Monday
Our Stage 3 children, Years 5 and 6, attended the Young leaders day in Sydney on Monday. It was a very memorable day, listening to many people outline how they became so successful with their chosen careers. We left school at 6.00 am and then enjoyed the Sydney traffic before finally arriving at Homebush at 9.20 am. We arrived back at school, on time, at 5.30 pm. I would like to sincerely thank the parents who helped for the day, as it was a very long day and tiring driving into Sydney with so many “enthusiastic” senior students.
**Bookclub**
All orders and payment need to be returned to school no later than Wednesday 16th March. If you would like these as gifts please let me know and I will not send them home with the children.

**PBL**
This week’s lesson was “I show I care if people are left out.” This lesson focused on feeling lonely, being a good friend, understanding empathy and friendship, and working on ways to include each other. A copy of this lesson is on our school website under “Curriculum activities- Positive Behaviour Learning”.

**Easter Raffle**
The P&C organised an Easter Egg raffle for Thursday afternoon, donations for prizes and any raffle tickets need to be returned to school by Tuesday, 22nd March.

**Easter Hats**
K/1/2 will be decorating crowns. School will provide the crowns and some decorations. Students are welcome to bring in some special Easter decorations for their crown. Please bring in any items by Friday Week 7.

2/3/4 will be making their Easter Hats in school on Friday 18th March. We will provide some Easter decorations and crowns. However, students are welcome to bring in a base (plastic hat etc) and any special items they want on their hat. Please limit the decorations to items that can be secured with a hot glue gun.

5/6 will be making their Easter hats in school on Thursday 17th March. We will provide some Easter decorations and crowns. However, students are welcome to bring in a base (plastic hat etc) and any special items they want on their hat. Please limit the decorations to items that can be secured with a hot glue gun.

**Mrs Bird at Course**
Mrs Bird will be away next Wednesday attending a Fundamental Movement Course in Belmont for the day.

**Hunter Wetlands Excursion - Reminder**
Next Friday, 11th March, all children, K-6, will be participating in an excursion to the Hunter Wetlands in Shortland. We will be leaving school, by bus, at 9.00 am, and should return back to school by 3.00 pm. The children will be participating in the following programs: Stage 3: Rivers and Wetlands; Stages 1 and 2: Living Things, Life Cycles and Habitat. The Stage 3 program description is: Powerpoint introduction; water quality testing, adaptations of pond animals, classification of pond animals, biodiversity of pond animals and birds, and features of a wetland landscape. The Stages 1 and 2 program descriptions is: powerpoint introduction, discovery activities, dipnetting, the visitor’s centre (live and static displays of wetland animals) and a wetland walk (walk to view birdlife on outer ponds.). The cost for the excursion is $17.50. Hats, sunscreen, comfortable “covered” walking shoes, insect repellent, and own recess, lunch and water will be needed. *Our Friday “Sports Uniform” is to be worn.* Please complete the permission note, which was sent home today, and return as soon as possible.

**Annual School Report Survey-reminder**
A “School Life” Survey which will be used as a part of our Annual School Report for 2015 was sent out a couple of weeks ago. The survey is rather open ended with written responses requested. Only those parents who were part of our school during 2015 will be given the survey. All survey responses are to be returned by tomorrow, Friday, 4th March, so the School Council can collate the responses. *We have only very few responses so far—please take the time to complete this survey as it is a vital part of our planning each year.*
Say No to Bullying Poster Competition
This is a copy of the letter received by Leila for becoming a state finalist in this Interrelate Competition about bullying. This is the second year in a row that Leila has achieved at this level—congratulations and we wish her good luck with the final judging. A copy of her entry is shown below, presenting a powerful message.

“I would like to congratulate Leila on being a Finalist for the Hunter/Central Coast Region in Interrelate’s 2016 Say No to Bullying poster competition. It is with great pleasure that we invite, Lelia, her parents and/or a teacher to attend a special Awards Ceremony on Friday, 18 March 2016 at The Concourse, Chatswood in Sydney, to mark the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Please find attached the event invite.”

Patricia Occelli, CEO, Interrelate.

Special guests at the Awards Ceremony will include The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, NSW Treasurer, representing the NSW Premier, Alistair McGibbon, Children’s e-Safety Commissioner and Ricardo Gonclaves, SBS World News Presenter among others. His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor of New South Wales, has also recorded a special video message for the children that will be played at the event.
STAGE 3 Clean-Up Australia Day Permission Note

My child, ..................................................., has permission to participate in Clean Up Australia Day outside the school grounds on Friday, 4th March. I understand he/she will be supervised by Mr Sheppard during this activity.

Signed: .................................................................

HUNTER WETLANDS – PERMISSION NOTE

I give permission for my son / daughter ..................... to attend the Hunter Wetlands Excursion on Friday, 11th March.

I understand that travel is by bus, departing from Iona P.S. at 9.00 am and returning to school by 3.00 pm.

Signed: ................................. Date .........................
Gifted and Talented Students (GATS)

The Hunter Primary GATS Committee will be holding 2 Parent Information Sessions to accommodate the Newcastle and Maitland regions.

**Maitland session**
- When: Wednesday 9th March at 6pm
- Where: School library
  - Rutherford Public School
  - Weblands Street, Rutherford
  - NSW 2320

**Newcastle session**
- When: Wednesday 16th March at 6pm
- Where: School hall
  - The Junction Public School
  - Union Street, Merewether
  - NSW 2291

**Guest Speakers:**
- Mrs Christine Rippon (Principal of Merewether High School)
- Mrs Lee Saurins (Principal of Wiripaang Public School)

**Agenda**
- What is a Gifted and Talented Student?
- Myths around ‘Gifted Students’
- Respect, Rights and Responsibilities
- Geniuses in the Making

Tea, coffee and light supper will be provided from 5:30pm.