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20 March 2018

EXECUTIVE REPORT

What an incredible term we have had so far! We would like to thank our students, parents/carers and dedicated staff for a fantastic and productive term. It is wonderful to see everyone committed and working together to provide our students with opportunities to pursue academic and personal excellence in a nurturing, community environment.

NAPLAN Online

In 2018, our school moves from pencil and paper NAPLAN tests to NAPLAN Online. The official NAPLAN Online assessment will take place in Term 2; however this term, our Year 3 and Year 5 students will be completing a coordinated practice test between 20-22 March. Please note that results will not be provided for this practice test.

Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

This term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

Please be assured that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to

complete. It will be administered during school hours between 26 March and 13 April 2018.

Attendance

It is important that all of our students attend school every day; arriving in line, on time, at five to nine! Every day that a student is away without reason, their absence is costing them valuable learning experiences. While we know and expect that there are genuine explanations for students being absent or late, we encourage regular attendance to assist your child to achieve their educational best. When students return to school, it is vital that they bring a note from their parent/carer in line with the Department of Education's *Attendance Policy* and the *School Attendance Policy Implementation Guidelines*.

Early Arrival at School

An increasing number of students are arriving very early to school and are sitting under the 3-6 COLA area. **Please be aware that supervision of students commences at 8.30am.** Whilst we understand that parents may work, the safety of our students is our priority. Students should be enrolled in Metella Road Out of School Hours Child Care if parents need to drop their child prior to 8:30am. Please contact Mr D. Martin, the Centre Manager for further information (9636 1740).



School Counsellor

Shannon Mitchell is the School Counsellor at Metella Road Public School. Her role is to support student wellbeing through the provision of counselling and assessment of learning/behaviour/emotional concerns that are affecting children in the school setting. Shannon works as part of the Learning and Support Team at Metella Road Public School and children are referred to see her through this team via their class teacher. At times Shannon is contacted by various external agencies offering courses for children and parents/carers. Information regarding these will be provided to parents via the school newsletter.

Parent/Teacher Interviews – Kindergarten

This term our Kindergarten teachers will be conducting parent/teacher interviews.

These interviews will take place on Tuesday, 3 April. Kindergarten parents can book a time by visiting the website below. The event code is 37vhx.

<https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/>

Term 1 Student Learning Performance Report

This term all students from Years 1-6 will receive a Student Learning Performance Report. This report will replace our Term 1 parent/teacher interviews for Years 1-6 classes. The reports will provide parents/carers with information regarding progress throughout Term 1.

Reports will be sent home on Tuesday, 3 April 2018.

On behalf of the staff we would like to wish all our families a happy and safe Easter.

Mr P. D'Ermilio (Principal)

Mrs S. Larobina & Ms N. Parker (Deputy Principals)

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Wow! It is so hard to believe that it is almost the end of Term 1. The students in Kindergarten have enjoyed their first term of 'big school' and they have learnt many new and exciting things. They have worked extremely hard this term and have made significant gains across a range of areas.

Throughout the term, our Kindergarten students have been discussing our school expectations and have become increasingly aware of appropriate behaviours in the classroom, playground and whole school environment. They have developed an understanding of what it means to be a Motivated, Respectful, Proud and Safe learner at Metella Road Public School and it has been wonderful to see the Kindergarten students developing these positive school experiences.

Our students have also been involved in a range of reading and writing activities through the use of small group instruction. During these group activities, they have learnt a range of skills including reading simple texts, learning single sounds, reading and recording sight words and writing simple sentences. All Kindergarten teachers are very proud of their students' efforts and the pleasing progress they have made this term.

Another aspect of school life that the Kindergarten students have been involved in, is meeting and spending time with their Stage 3 buddies. Each Kindergarten class has a Stage 3 buddy class and the Kindergarten students have been allocated a buddy. Their Stage 3 buddies have helped them to become familiar with places around the school and have assisted them to make their transition to school much smoother. Throughout the year, the Kindergarten students will have many opportunities to participate in a range of activities with their buddy class.

We have had a great start to the year and we are looking forward to more exciting events at the end of this term, such

as our Easter Hat Parade which will be held on Wednesday, 28 March. In Week 10, on Tuesday, 3 April, we will be having our parent/teacher interviews. We look forward to being able to discuss the progress of your children at this time.

I would like to thank all Kindergarten parents for their ongoing support and hope you all enjoy a safe and relaxing Easter break.

Ms J. Minenko

Early Stage 1 Supervisor

STAGE 1 NEWS

Students in Stage 1 have been working through their topic talks and were assessed on their ability to clearly articulate using manner, matter and method. It is an important skill to learn, speaking in front of their peers and I admire all these students who continue to produce wonderful visuals to support their topics and express themselves with clarity at such a young age.

I have enjoyed handing out many Assistant Principal Awards this term. To see the students striving to work hard and be rewarded for their efforts has been wonderful. No doubt we will witness students on stage during K-6 assemblies receiving their Deputy Principal awards at some stage soon.

Wednesday was Harmony Day, this was an important event, especially as we reflect on our multicultural school community. The diversity at Metella Road Public School, contributes to an exciting and vibrant school in which to teach and learn. We appreciate everyone's differences and celebrate our successes. This goes hand in hand with our 'Friendship' unit as we unite and celebrate together.

Our Easter Hat parade will be held on Wednesday, 28 March and the teachers will assist the students to make some colourful creations. The teachers look forward to helping the students in Stage 1 prepare for this exciting event.

Stage 1 students continue to learn about their local area, especially their school and local parks in Geography. It is vital that students learn about caring for environments, both man-made and natural and at the same time, learn mapping skills. Metella Road Public School is a fine example of a school that is very clean and safe. Learning to keep it that way is very important.

Students will also continue to be involved in a variety of fundamental movement skills and fitness activities on alternate weeks when they are not involved in Sport in Schools Australia. These sessions will enhance coordination, balance, strength, flexibility and endurance. We are really encouraging all the students to learn our school's values and ensure they are motivated, respectful, have pride and are always safe in all aspects of school.

Mr V. Barling

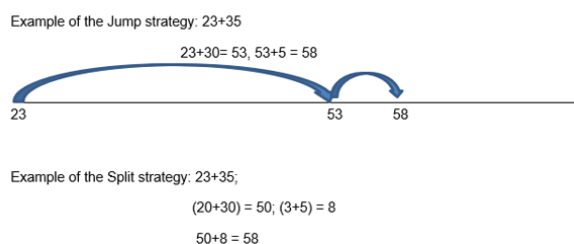
Stage 1 Supervisor

STAGE 2 NEWS

The students in Stage 2 have continued to work hard this term. They have set their learning goals for this year and are concentrating on a reading goal for this term.

We have been reading and exploring lots of persuasive texts focusing on the theme of Advertisements and Persuasion. Students have been examining the different techniques and language conventions that an author uses to persuade the reader. Through questioning and discussion the students have brainstormed their own ideas and made plans for their writing. Using their plan they have written some very creative persuasive writing pieces.

In Mathematics the students have been learning various addition and subtraction concepts in the strand of number. They are learning how to use the split strategy and jump strategy to help them solve addition and subtraction questions.



We have also been learning length concepts through using the ruler to measure centimetres and metres. Students enjoyed learning how to apply this knowledge when working out the perimeter of two-dimensional shapes.

We thank all our parents who continually support our students at school and at home.

If you have any queries or questions about your child's learning, please don't hesitate to call and make an appointment with your class teacher.

Mrs L. Bartlett & Miss Y. Moulakas
Stage 2 Supervisors

STAGE 3 NEWS

Term 1 is flying by! It has been a busy term for Stage 3 as we continue to set up programs and establish routines in classrooms as well as participate in extra-curricular activities. A big thank you to all of our Stage 3 students for their behaviour this term, we have been very impressed with how you have settled into your classes.

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who took the time to cover student books in clear contact. We appreciate your help with this as it assists to keep the books in good condition throughout the year.

The final order for Year 6 T Shirt orders was finalised last week. Hopefully this order will arrive early in Term 2. It's great to see all of the shirts that were purchased at the end of last year being worn by the students. They look great!

Some Year 6 students had the opportunity to participate in an Open Day at Greystanes High School in Week 6. This involved them travelling to the high school by bus and participating in some 'taster' lessons to give them some experience in what high school will be like next year. Thank you to Miss Thomas and Mrs Stormon for accompanying the students on the day.

Year 6 fundraising is well underway with the annual Year 6 Easter Raffle coming up in Week 9. Year 6 students are encouraged to bring in donations for this so that Easter baskets and raffle prizes can be made up. Raffle ticket selling has already commenced under the K-2 and 3-6 Colas during recess and lunch and before school. This raffle will be drawn at our annual Easter Hat Parade on Wednesday 28 March.

We hope you enjoy the Easter long weekend and have a safe and relaxing break over the holidays. We look forward to seeing everyone in Term 2.

Mrs A Saad & Ms S Curran
Stage 3 Supervisors

KINDERGARTEN HAPPENINGS

On Wednesday, 14 March 2018, we had the pleasure of hosting our annual Kindergarten Parents' Welcome Morning Tea. Parents had the opportunity to visit their child's classroom and look at some of the work that students have produced this term. Our students were very excited about the visit and thoroughly enjoyed showing their parents the work that they have completed so far at 'big school'. We have included some photos of this special day, as well as photos of Kindergarten's amazing work that we are so proud of.

We would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to all parents for their attendance and we hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did. We would also like to thank our P&C for organising the morning tea.



STAGE 1 HAPPENINGS

1H

1H have been learning about the lifecycles in Science. We have enjoyed seeing the different stages of a mealworm. Check out our mealworms and our lifecycle posters!

1T & 1E

1E and 1T have had a fantastic start to the year! In science, we have been watching things grow. We've been looking at mealworms and learning about how they change. We have also planted our very own seeds and are discussing how they change from a seed to a plant. We are very excited about the fun learning ahead!

1C

1C has had a very enthusiastic and productive start to 2018! We have been exploring the theme of 'Friendship' through texts such as the Bad Tempered Ladybird. We have enjoyed producing some creative artwork around this text as well as written a wonderful description of a ladybird, focusing on

adjectives. In Science we are looking at Lifecycles and are so very lucky to have our very own class mealworms to observe which the children are very excited about watching grow and change. We have also planted peas, which we are watering daily and are practicing our patience whilst waiting for them to sprout up!

2N

In Term 1, the students in 2N have been sorting and describing two-dimensional shapes. Look at our amazing artworks showing these shapes in different orientations.

2B

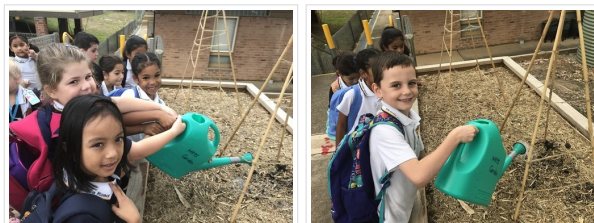
2B have been busy reading quality texts and viewing the visual elements within those texts. The story Rainbow Fish has explored the importance to care and share. We linked our school's values, including being respectful, to the characteristics of a true friend. We were able to write a creative storyboard and critically evaluate the author's intent from these texts. We used here, hidden and head questions to comprehend and gain a deeper understanding of why these texts convey important messages. We wrote summaries using **BROW** so as we could **brainstorm**, **read** key words, **organise** the words and **write** simple and compound sentences. In 2B we analysed why visual images support the meaning within the text.

2A

2A have been very busy over the past few weeks of this term. They have created a class mural which represents "Friendship" and that we all work together and follow the school rules. We have enjoyed listening and writing recounts about our awesome school holidays. 2A have used sponges to paint the background of our artworks and have designed some cool ice creams.

2M

2M have been working hard on our class goals in Numeracy and Literacy. In our writing time we have been making a plan to help us write detailed recounts, and descriptions using lots of adjectives. Each student has their own writing goal and has been shown some ways to achieve it. Many have achieved their first goal and now are working on a new individual goal. We enjoy reading other class members' published writing in our own class books.



PBL NEWS

Focus of the Fortnight

We have commenced our Focus of the Fortnight for 2018. The focuses are linked and in conjunction with our whole school expectations of Motivated, Respectful, Proud and Safe. Students are reminded of our Focus of the Fortnight during morning assemblies, as part of our daily Sentral messages and by classroom teachers throughout the day.



House Points

We are very excited to announce that students will be able to receive 1 house point for their house each time they follow our "Focus of the Fortnight". Points are allocated to students within the classroom and out on the playground. All Metella Road Public school staff members are able to hand out house points. A tally of house points is kept within each classroom. House Leaders will come around at the end of each fortnight to collect and tally the points. These points are then added to our overall house points. The house with the most points at the end of the fortnight will receive an extra 50 points!

Club 250

Students earn Captain Metellas as part of their quest to join Club 250! Please see below of how our Club 250 reward system works.

Club 250 Reward Points – An Explanation

Each Captain Metella is worth 1 point
10 Captain Metellas = 1 Assistant Principal's Award (Total 10 points)
5 Assistant Principal's Awards = 1 Deputy Principal's Award (Total 50 points)
5 Deputy Principal's Awards = 1 Principal's Distinction Award (Total 250 points)

Club 250 Membership

When a student becomes a **New Member** to Club 250, they will be given the opportunity to participate in a 'one-off' reward activity (e.g. attending a movie). Such reward activities will be held in the final week of Terms 1-3 and also in week 7 or 8 of Term 4.

Additionally, in the final week of the school year, a morning tea / lunch / afternoon tea will be held for **ALL members** of Club 250.

Thank you for your continued support of PBL!

PBL Team

NEWS FROM THE GARDEN

We are extremely excited that our vegetable garden is now well and truly underway. A very big thank you to Mr Stormon and Mr Davies who built the raised garden beds last year; and to Mr Stormon for the recent addition of the arbor. We have begun to plant lots of wonderful fruit trees, vegetables and

herbs, including strawberries, eggplants, pumpkins, zucchinis, corn, beetroot, celery, cauliflower, shallots, spinach, potatoes and sweet potatoes.

Last year's interest groups made rosemary cuttings which have grown roots. Recently, some students from Year 4 were able to plant them, learning about the parts of a plant and the spacing required to form a hedge. What a great way to incorporate some real life math and science lessons in the garden!

Year 1 students have planted peas as part of their Science program (learning about life cycles) and used the trellises constructed by some of our senior students to support their growing plants. They have been very excited to see the shoots emerge as they begin to grow. 2/3F have planted peas under their new trellis too.

Year 4 are also using the garden to enhance their learning in Science, studying the parts of flowers and plants, seeing how seeds grow, understanding pollination and identifying male and female flowers!

Similarly, Year 5 students (who are learning about microorganisms) have been able to enhance their understanding through the garden. The new compost program will certainly provide plenty of meaningful opportunities to investigate these tiny living beasts (thanks for the song Miss Whitfield and Miss Agius!)

4/5D have initiated a whole school compost program to provide nutrients for the garden. All classes have nominated "Compost Masters" which will be responsible for collecting food waste generated from Crunch n Sip and taking it to the compost bins.

But what's a vegetable garden really good for? Eating of course! After a successful harvest of zucchini, 4/5D were able to cook zucchini bread balls which turned out to be an absolute hit! We've included the delicious recipe for you try. We hope that other classes will soon be able to enjoy the benefits of growing and eating their very own food.

Many students, including Friday's interest groups and some of our EALD students, have also been able to dig in and get their hands dirty in the garden, learning how use tools appropriately, shovel dirt and plant seedlings.

We are very excited about the opportunities that our garden will provide so watch this space for more news, learning and developments from the garden.

Mrs Davies and Mrs Stormon **Gardening Coordinators**



Zucchini Bread Balls

- 125 ml water
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon salt



- 90 g grated zucchini
 - 405g bread flour
 - 1 sachet (7 g) dried yeast
1. Place lukewarm water, honey and yeast in a small bowl. Stir and leave in a warm place for 10 minutes to activate the yeast. The mixture will be frothy.
 2. Place the flour, salt and zucchini in a larger bowl. Add the oil and yeast mixture and mix to combine.
 3. Turn out onto a lightly floured board and knead for 10 minutes. Place back into the bowl, cover with a tea towel and leave to rise in a warm place for an hour. It should rise.
 4. Preheat oven to 200 degrees Celsius.
 5. Set out 12 paper patty pans onto a tray.
 6. Knock the dough down and divide into 10-12 even sized pieces. Roll each piece into a ball and place in a patty pan.
 7. Bake in an oven for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.
 8. Serve warm with butter and enjoy.

LEADERS NEWS

Today we planted olive trees on both sides of the entry way to the school garden. We planted olive trees because they represent peace, friendship and victory.

Ashalia &Tino **School Captains**



HARMONY DAY

Metella Road Public School celebrated Harmony Day on Wednesday, 21 March. Students wore orange clothing to show their support for cultural diversity and the key message that 'everyone belongs'.



Students also completed activities with their class, grade, stage or buddy class to celebrate the day.

Cultural diversity is a big part of who we are at Metella Road Public School.

Did you know?

- We have 469 students who come from a home with a language background other than English – that's 66% of our school population!

- We have 49 languages other than English spoken in our students' homes, with Tamil, Hindi and Gujarati being our largest language groups.
- Some of our students speak, read, write or understand more than one language, including English.

Miss Y. Moulakas
EAL/D Teacher



LABELLING AND COLLECTING ITEMS OF PROPERTY

All students' belongings should be labelled with their name and class (e.g. drink bottles, lunch boxes, jackets, jumpers, hats etc.).

Many items are being left underneath the COLAs and are not being collected by students. These items are usually not labelled so cannot be returned to students either.

Please remind your child to collect their belongings after recess and lunch.

CYBER SAFETY WORKSHOPS

On Tuesday 13 March, Metella Road Public School hosted a Cyber Safety Parent Workshop. The workshop was led by Senior Constable Nathan McDonald, Youth Liaison Officer, Blacktown Police Area Command.

Senior Constable McDonald presented some very useful and enlightening information about how to keep children and young people safe in the online world, and how to deal with cyberbullying.

The top tips for using technology were:

- Be careful accepting friend or follower requests on social media.
- Learn how to block and report.
- Know how to get help on the social media websites and apps you and your children use.
- Know what content your children are searching online.
- Talk to your children about when and how they are using the internet.
- Keep passwords secure. Passwords with at least 8 characters, including letters, numbers and symbols are best, as are 'passphrases' – passwords that are a phrase rather than just a word, as they are more difficult to hack (e.g. password: milk1234; passphrase: Ilikemilk1234).
- Some useful sites that were recommended for parents included:

- Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>
- ThinkUKNow: <https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/>
- Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network (ACORN): <https://www.acorn.gov.au/>

Senior Constable McDonald also spoke to our Stage 3 students on Tuesday 20 March to help empower them to use online websites and social media safely.

The example Family Online Safety Contract provided by Senior Constable McDonald is a great way for families to help children stay safe online by considering what they see, say and do online.

Mrs L. Bartlett and Miss Y. Moulakas
Workshop Coordinators

P & C NEWS

We are already into week 8, time is flying by and quickly it will be school holidays.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Kindergarten morning tea and classroom visit. It was lovely to meet new parents and see some old faces too. I'm hoping everyone is feeling welcomed into the Metella Road family.

This year the P&C are raising funds for our school by selling the 2018 entertainment books. Information will be sent home early next term regarding how you can get one for your family and /or friends.

The P&C's main goal is to contribute in any way possible to help make our school be the best it can and of the highest quality standard. As the saying goes, many hands make light work. I encourage you to join the P&C this year and become involved in your children's school. Your contribution will make a difference.

The next P&C event is the Mint Fresh IGA Toongabbie BBQ fundraiser on Saturday 14 April from 11:00am to 2:00pm. If you are available to help with this fundraiser please let one of the committee know. We will be needing help with set up, cooking, serving, bake sale donations and pack up. Even if you can only commit a small amount of time, your participation would be welcomed.



If you have any suggestions or feedback for the P&C please email metellaroadpublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au

Belinda Bryan
On behalf of MRPS P&C