Congratulations on a wonderful swimming carnival. Karuah was the house winner on the day.
Senior Boy : Jaxson Stericker
Senior Girl : Tahlia Thew
Junior Boy : Gilbert Ainsworth
Junior Girl : Jemma Kershaw

Many students swam their personal best times and should be congratulated for these achievements. Due to the strict times for competing at the Zone Swimming Carnival, this year we have no students eligible to compete.
Principal's News

Welcome to Week 4 and some more hot Summer weather – please check your child(ren) has a water bottle each day and their school hat. We have had several school hats go missing so please ensure they are clearly labelled with your child’s name. It is also a good idea in this hotter weather to pack two drink bottles – an icy cold one for the morning and a frozen one which can melt through the day and still be cool in the afternoon. We also have our Hunter Water water bottle refilling station on the Hall wall opposite the Kindergarten room for refills throughout the day.

Last week our Swimming Carnival went well with students participating in a positive manner. Unfortunately we will not be sending a team to the Zone Swimming Carnival this year as our times were well short of the qualifying times. Congratulations to each house Hunter, Williams, Karuah and Paterson for your efforts on the day.

Scripture got off to a great start last week and Mrs Hallett did a wonderful job introducing the new classes into their 2015 Scripture sessions.

Last Friday our school hosted a DEC School Security Response Unit Serious Incident training workshop with staff from our school, Dungog PS, Vacy PS and Paterson PS attending. The day ran as a simulation of a day in a school when a series of serious incidents occurred – it was very beneficial and reviewed all the DEC policies and procedures for Serious Incidents. The presenters from both DEC and the Police were highly experienced, skilled and informative.

Unfortunately our February P&C meeting had to be postponed as I was ill last week but I am looking forward to our first P&C meeting for 2015 tonight. Once again I would invite and encourage all parents and carers to attend to support our decision making processes across the school.

As I mentioned in last week’s newsletter final student numbers were due on February 11 and as no further students enrolled at our school we were one short of maintaining 6 classes. This means we will operate with our current 5 classes. A ‘nominated transfer’ – which means one of our teachers will be transferred to another school – will now be activated. After following DEC procedures Mrs Etchells will be the nominated transfer and we should receive notice shortly of where she will be transferred to. It also means we will lose some Library time and Mrs Brown will be a nominated transfer for one of her days. Mrs Brown will still be with us 1 day per week. This will mean that the Library timetable will be adjusted and Library days may change, but I will

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keep you notified in the newsletter. Once again please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or problems either by phoning the school on 49964156, making an appointment at the office or via my email louise.blakemore@det.nsw.edu.au.

Our first Weekly Assembly for 2015 will be this week and don’t forget … this year we are moving our assembly time to a Wednesday from 2-3pm. Each week the class performance will be advertised in the newsletter and the classroom teacher will notify the Student of the Week’s parents. Our Student Leaders are looking forward to hosting their first Weekly Assembly on tomorrow and our first class performance will be from S2/3L.

Yesterday afternoon I attended a Professional training course at Raymond Terrace Public School for disabilities and there will be two more workshops in this training later this term. The training combines both face to face and online learning and is a very comprehensive and flexible way to learn.

The Student Welfare Program is progressing well with our Tawny 5 Rules:

- I can listen
- I can put up my hand and wait
- I can work quietly
- I can follow instructions
- I can control what I do and Say

I was able to send home lots of Happy Notes last week and look forward to doing the same this week.

A quick apology as I didn’t get the parent letter home I mentioned last week as I was ill but the letter will be in this week’s post so please keep an eye out.

Have a great week and I look forward to seeing you throughout the week.

Louise Blakemore
Principal
Dungog & District Community of Schools – News Updates

Notes for our combined Sorry Day Event will go home this week – all Aboriginal students + a friend and all Year 6 students from the Primary schools will join together at Dungog High School on Wednesday 25 February to participate in a day of healing as part of the anniversary of Sorry Day. The students will be involved in talking circles, storytelling, art, music, dance and a traditional Aboriginal Smoking Ceremony. The transport costs of the students to the High School will be covered by a grant we received at the end of 2014. Permission notes will be sent home this week.

Dungog High School would like to invite year 5 & 6 students and their families to the annual Dungog High School Information Evening on the Wednesday 25 February. The Transition Evening will provide opportunities for students and parents to meet staff and tour the school. A free sausage sizzle and beverages will be available on the night.

Time: 5pm
Place: Dungog High School MPC
Contact Details: Mrs Denise McKinna 49923022
RSVP: Friday the 20th February

As a Community of Schools we are all members of our local AECG (Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups) and we are part of the Youyoong AECG. Each month representatives from each of schools attend meetings to network, share and develop ideas for ensuring our cultural and educational needs of our Aboriginal students are met. Every second meeting is held at a school with our group during school hours and the alternative meeting is held at Raymond Terrace. If you are interested in attending please call me at school for details or contact Rachel on the number below.

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR CHILDS SCHOOLING?

Youyoong Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG)

is the place to make that difference.

AECG is an Aboriginal community organisation that works with schools & community to better the outcomes for Aboriginal Students in Education.

If you would like to have a say in your child’s education come along to our meetings, or if you just want to learn more about what we do please contact Rachel on 0431 580 086.
Weekly Assembly

Our first Weekly Assembly for 2015 will be tomorrow Wednesday 18 February from 2-3pm. Each week the class performance will be advertised in the newsletter and the classroom teacher will notify the Student of the Week’s parents. Our Student Leaders are looking forward to hosting their first Weekly Assembly.

Reg Kelly Shield

The Reg Kelly Shield cricket training will resume Wednesday 18 February at school from 3pm to 4pm.

Hunter Sports High School

Hunter Sports High School are holding their Open Night on Tuesday 24 February at 6.30pm.

Application forms for 2016 enrolment are available on line at www.huntersports.com.au. Placement in this program is dependent on ability, interest, potential, commitment to school studies, academic performance, school conduct and attendance.

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Call Kristy Now: 0413 313 727 & Find out which of HVT’s 7 locations is closest to you

17 February 2015
CLUB: Maitland Hockey

CONTACT NAME: Ros Sherlock   CONTACT NUMBER: 0418 212 489

LOCATION: Maitland Hockey Centre, Eigin St, Maitland, NSW, 2320

START DATE: Wednesday 25th, February, 2015    TIME: 5.00pm

EMAIL: ros.s@me.com    WEB: www.maitlandhockey.org.au

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Also on facebook: Maitland Hockey Association