Welcome back

Welcome back after what has ended up an extended holiday for students. We hope that everyone managed to stay dry and damage free over the last week. Thank you to everyone for your understanding this week and coping with the lack of communication surrounding school openings and closings. With no or limited lines of communication it was extremely difficult to send and receive information. It has been great to see everyone remaining patient and understanding of the situation. We have been very lucky at Millfield PS to have no major damage, and now power and communication has been restored we are open for business and looking forward to a busy term ahead.

Staffing News – Term 2

It is with great pleasure that we have the privilege to announce that both Mrs Butler and Miss Lightfoot will be adding to their families during 2015.

Mrs Butler will be taking maternity leave during terms 3 and 4 this year. She will be replaced on the 4/5/6 class by Miss Sharni Wynands. Miss Wynands is currently fulfilling a position at Paxton Public School and comes highly recommended. To ensure a smooth transition for students, Mrs Butler will be sharing her class with Miss Wynands from Week 5, Term 2 on a part time basis. This will enable both teachers to work closely together to ensure learning is not disrupted for the students involved.

Miss Lightfoot will be taking maternity leave from Week 7, Term 2. Miss Durie will pick up her days in addition to her current role.

I am sure you will join in our congratulations to the girls and their families and wish them well during this exciting time. If you have any questions relating to this matter, please feel free to contact Mr Anderson.

Celebrating 100 years of ANZAC

2015 sees the 100th Anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli. Students will be involved in commemorations during Week 1, Term 2.

A school ANZAC ceremony will be held tomorrow Friday 24th April. This will run from 2.20pm-3pm in place of our usual Friday assembly.

The Dawn Service will again be held at Millfield Public School, with attendees marching from St Luke’s Church at 5.15am to the school for the service run by the Salvation Army.

Students and staff will also have the opportunity to participate in the Cessnock March and Service, with the march starting at Peden’s Hotel at 11am. Please wear full school uniform and meet Mr Anderson at 10.45 between Peden’s and the Performing Arts Centre.
Zone Cross Country Postponed

Due to the weather this week, the Zone Cross Country originally planned for today has been postponed to a later date presumably next week. Students will be notified of this new date ASAP.

No Canteen Monday

Due to loss of stock during the power outage, the canteen has lost all frozen and refrigerated stock. To allow a stocktake of losses and re-stocking of items, there will unfortunately be no Canteen this coming Monday 27th April. We apologise for any inconvenience. It will reopen on Monday 4th of May.

Assessing Nationwide Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

Year 3 and Year 5 students from around the nation will in Week 4, sit down to complete standardised tests in Numeracy, Writing, Reading, Spelling and Grammar during NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy). Assessments will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. It is vitally important that all students in these years attend on these days.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tuesday 12th May</th>
<th>Wednesday 13th May</th>
<th>Thursday 14th May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language – 9-10am</td>
<td>Reading – 9-10am</td>
<td>Numeracy – 9-10am</td>
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<td>Writing – 10.20-11.20am</td>
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This is often a time of stress for students and parents, although there is no reason to have these feelings. Individual results have no negative effects on students, and merely provide a point in time assessment of your child’s knowledge which can then be used as a school planning tool.

Millfield Public School is a huge believer in not teaching to the test. In the end we want them to demonstrate what they know at that point in time so we can use this assessment to drive teaching and learning in the classroom. Students will however be supported in getting accustomed to the test format and style of questioning to reduce anxiety over the next few weeks.

Students in Years 4 and 6 will take part in simulated testing to help reduce any anxiety in future tests, as well as provide an in school assessment of progress when compared to last year’s results.

If you have any concerns about this assessment, please speak to your class teacher or Mr Anderson.

School Photos 21st May

Our school photo day will be held on Thursday 21st May. A range of packages will be available with an order form sent home closer to the date. These packages start at $23 for a group only photo package. All students will have their photo taken on this day for school records, however there is no commitment to buy.

P&C News

The P&C will be selling entertainment books this year. Books are $60 and contain a wide range of food, accommodation, entertainment and local attraction vouchers. There are plenty of ways to use it in our area and money can be made back with as little as 1 or 2 uses. Vouchers are valid until 30th June 2016. Digital editions for use with your smartphone are also available. Contact the office for orders or more information.

Pre-orders before the 29th April will receive an extra $200 worth of vouchers.