Principal’s Report

LMBR
Yesterday I spent the day in a classroom at the old Gateshead West Public School with 25 other principals. We were in our first full training day for the LMBR rollout. It was interesting to work closely with a group of highly professional people as we began to develop our understanding of the new financial and student management software. It is already easy to see why the investment from the State Government has been so high; the new system is completely different to the current software which was developed in the early 1990s. It will require lots of support and understanding from the trainers as principals and office staff switch their thinking from the old to the new. We appreciate your understanding as well as we have been required to make changes to the way that money and permissions notes are now collected to strict cut-off dates. LMBR will affect our whole school community as the Department of Education strives to make all schools thoroughly professional. Thank you all for making our relieving office ladies so welcome when Mrs Dunford and Mrs Majer are attending training. They will be away again this week on Thursday and next week on Monday and Tuesday.

Late Arrivals
With the end of term fast approaching it is timely to remind parents that we monitor student attendance very closely and that late arrivals are not acceptable. School starts at 9:00am and supervision of children begins at 8:30am. This gives parents 30 minutes in which to drop children off to ensure they do not miss important learning. If your child does arrive late YOU are required to bring them to the office and provide an explanation. Lateness is regarded as an absence and must be explained by the parent/carer. Our home school liaison officer will be visiting the school early next term to monitor student attendance and one of the things he will be looking at very carefully is partial absence.

Easter Walk and Raffle
The Easter Walk was another huge success last Wednesday. The children enjoyed themselves and Year 6 raised some money for their end-of-year celebrations. The P&C raffle was also a great success with nearly $800 going towards the fund for the new playground equipment. Thanks to everyone who was involved.
Zone Cross Country
Good luck to all the students who will be heading off to Stephenson Park for the zone cross country tomorrow.

P&C Treasurer
Just a reminder that our school P&C still requires someone to fill the role of treasurer. If you can spare an hour a month to attend a meeting and a little of your own time to keep the books up to date please don’t be shy – come and talk to me and I can put you in touch.

Have a great fortnight and enjoy the time together over the holidays. School finishes on the 8th April and teachers return on the 26th April. Students return on the 27th April.

Mr Meek

Voluntary School Contribution
The School Contribution has been set for 2016. The cost will be $20 per student and a maximum payment of $50 per family. Please pay at the office.

Parents Online Payments (POP)
We now have another alternative for paying for school items. Parent Online Payments enable parents to pay directly into the school’s bank account via a secure online payment portal. The secure online portal is accessed via the schools website and allows payment by Visa or MasterCard credit or debit cards. Full information available on our website or contact the office staff.

Entertainment Books
We are again fundraising through Entertainment Books however this year the books will not be sent home to every family. A flyer was sent home to every family with details of how to purchase either the traditional Book or the Digital Membership. If you have any questions regarding the Entertainment Books please see the office staff.

Sport
Last Thursday six students from Heaton attended the Newcastle Zone Soccer Selection Trials. All the children played well and enjoyed their experience. Two of the girls, Lisa M and Brandi-Lee J were selected in the Newcastle PSSA to play in the Regional trials on April 8th. We wish both girls all the best. Thank you to all the parents who attended the trials and supported their children.

Stage 3 Excursion
A note was sent out last week detailing information about the deposit required. This $50 deposit is non refundable and is due by Friday 6th May. Also on the note was information about selling chocolates to assist with the cost of the excursion. This is due tomorrow and it will enable me to order boxes for the holidays. For every box sold $19 will be taken off the total cost of the excursion which is expected to be approx. $160

NSW Public School’s Finance System
Cash, cheque, EFTPOS and online payments: Between 6th June 2016 and 15th June 2016, we will not be able to accept payments by cash, cheque, EFTPOS or online as we prepare to close our current bank account and transition to the new one. Please ensure that you have made any outstanding payments before the 6th June 2016. From the 14th June 2016, online payments will be accepted as before and from the 15th June 2016 cash, cheque and EFTPOS payments will be accepted as before.

Gymnastics
A quick reminder that payment for Gymnastics must be paid in full before 29th April. It is not possible to pay weekly as has been done in the past. We are happy to accept payments by instalments during the remainder of this term but the total cost of $56 must be received before the 29th April to enable your child to participate.
Canteen Closure
Due to a lack of volunteers the canteen will be CLOSED NEXT TUESDAY 5\textsuperscript{TH} APRIL. Please ensure your child has all of their food and drink requirements for the day. Attached is a canteen roster for Term 2 if you are able to assist by volunteering on canteen please fill in your name and return to school. Your help is very much appreciated.
Thank you

Life Education
Permission notes and payment for the Life Education visit must be returned to school by Monday 2\textsuperscript{nd} May. No late notes or money will be accepted after this date.
My child ............................................................................. in Class ............... was absent from school on:

Dates: .........................................................................................................................

The reason for absence was:

............................................................................................................................

Signed ........................................................................

Date........../........../2016