** Principals Message**

We had a wonderful time sharing some lessons with families today for Education Week. The Newcastle Middle School team are a dedicated and professional bunch of special educators and support staff. Thank you to those families who were able to attend. We will have some photos to share with those unable to make it as well. Well done everyone!

This past week has been a particularly busy one with several staff members away and no power to two classrooms. I would like to thank Camille, Bill and the Rm 8 students, as well as Alison, Andrea, Belinda and Rm 7 students for their flexibility having to relocate and work with less than optimal conditions. Students and staff handled it beautifully. There have been ongoing power issues at school and this was bought to a head last week with a surge from the grid knocking out one of our power junctions (affecting Rms 7 & 8). We are hopeful this issue has been resolved after works completed yesterday.

Finally, it was with much pleasure that I was able to attend the Newcastle City volunteer awards ceremony this week where one of our volunteers received an award.

Congratulations and thank you to Jemma Gosper for all her time working with our young people.

** Regards**  
**Belinda Ryan**  
**Principal**

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** Friends News**

**Jeans for Genes Day**

Thank you so much to our families and staff for their generous donations to the Jeans for Genes day collection.

It was great to see so many students and staff dressed in their denim to help celebrate the day!

We raised $100.30 to go towards valuable research and support the Children’s Medical Research Institute.

Thanks again for your support!

**Golf Day at Merewether Golf Club**

A note went home at the end of last term asking families if they had any business contacts that would be interested in sponsoring our Charity Golf Day at Merewether Golf Club on Friday 7th November 2014. Could you return the note as soon as possible to school if you are able to support in any way please. Thank you again for your ongoing support!

**Bunnings BBQ**

Our next BBQ is set for Belmont on Saturday 6th September from 8am.

We are very grateful for your ongoing support!

**Friends Committee**

**Office News**

**Term Fees**

As we are now in Term 3 we would like to remind families that the voluntary school fees are due. They are $25 a term or $100 for the year. These go towards purchasing personal hygiene products as well as art and craft supplies for the children.

**Susan and Kristy**

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**Diary Dates - Term 3**

**Week 7**

- Wednesday, August 27th  
  Life Education Visit
Planet Ark National Tree Day

Last Friday the students at Newcastle Middle school participated in a variety of activities to celebrate National Tree Day. It was wonderful to see our students finding out about the environment and connecting with the amazing trees that make up our beautiful world.

Students were involved in a variety of activities such as making unique pencil holders from old tree branches, harvesting vegetables grown via Agriculture lessons, planting seeds to grow seedlings for planting in the spring in our Agriculture plot and school gardens, learning about why trees are so important and completing different art activities to represent trees in the Earth’s environments.

Next week’s newsletter will feature a photo page of some of the students enjoying Tree Day activities.

Judy Mouthaan