



NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter No 3/1

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School Security – 4343 1119

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Feb 13	3-6 Tri Skills begins
Feb 17	P & C Meeting
Feb 18	Meet the Teacher evening
Feb 19	Leaders Induction Assembly
	Scripture begins
Feb 20	School Aid Bushfire Appeal Gold coin donation day
March 1	Uniform Pool AGM 9:45am
March 3	NWPS Swimming Carnival

Dear Parents and Students,

I am sure that like me, everyone in the NWPS school community has been shocked and saddened by the events that unfolded in Victoria last weekend and that as a school we should be part of the effort to help rebuild and support those who have lost everything. Individually there are many foundations that have been set up to which we can all contribute as individuals and individual families.

As Normanhurst West Public School I feel that any monies we raise should be directed to those schools and school communities most effected by the bushfires. Therefore I have registered our school with the School Aid Foundation. This foundation has been set up to directly support schools and school communities that have been devastated by natural or man made disasters. Next **Friday 20th February** we will be asking for a GOLD Coin donation for the School Aid Bushfire Appeal. The severity and solemnness of the situation does not lend itself to a giving for getting situation so it will not be a mufti day, rather a day for all students to reflect on the spirit of giving and thinking of others.

Home - School Communication

The importance of good home – school communications to improving student learning outcomes is undeniable. It is also very important to communicate with the best person to help solve your questions. The following will give you some direction.

- **Classroom Teacher:** always the first and best person to speak to regarding academic progress, social or behavioural concerns, class policy and procedures.
- **Assistant Principals:** If the question relates to a specific issue that is outside of the classroom, any questions regarding specific grade or department programs, issues relating to discipline / bullying, concerns that have not been

resolved by speaking with the classroom teacher or queries relating to teaching and learning within the classroom.

Assistant Principal K-2: Mrs Georgiou
Assistant Principal 3-6: Mr McLaren
Assistant Principal: K – 6: Mrs Liston

- **Administration and Finance:** Mrs Shears
- **Principal:** Any issues that relate to the whole school, child protection and student welfare, governance and management, financial and budgeting, community, concerns relating to teachers, issues that have not been resolved through discussions with the classroom teacher and /or the Assistant Principal.

Please note that contacts for our school's Parent & Citizens Association and School Council will be communicated after the P&C AGM and the School Council's first meeting.

Any issues you may have are best dealt with quickly. Make an appointment to see the appropriate person. They will be able to give you the correct answer or find it out. There is nothing more confusing than discussing your concerns or questions with people who do not know all the facts.

A Reminder

At the start of the year it is always good to go over some school organisational procedures of which new and existing parents need to be aware:

- All classrooms are out of bounds to all students (and parents) when a teacher is not present in the room. This includes before and after school, morning tea and lunchtime. This is a duty of care issue for students and professional courtesy to your child's teacher. I would also ask you to extend this professional courtesy to our office / administration area.
- The school day for students begins at 8.35 when morning duty commences. No child should be at school before this time. If they are a few minutes early they are to remain seated on the top playground seats until 8.35am. All students should exit the school as soon as possible after the home bell. Parents in the playground with their children after the home bell are responsible for the supervision of their children.
- The main school entrance and exit are those gates situated adjacent to the school hall on Dartford Rd and the bottom gate adjacent to the basketball court on Sefton Rd. Please do not enter or exit the school through the teacher's car park nor the office area.
- Lost property is situated in a room at the top of the staffroom steps. Please feel free to look for lost property at any time. Lost property is a constant concern. Please ensure that all clothing and other personal items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Any clothing not claimed after one semester is sent to Stewart House.

Meet the Teacher Night

A reminder regarding meet the teacher night next week, the purpose of the night is to give all class parents an overview of the many and varied aspects that make a school year. This will include teaching and learning, classroom organisation and procedures and whole school information. This is a generalist information evening not one

designed to discuss individual students (except for though those classes that have students with important health issues). Discussions relating to individual students need to be done via appointment with the class teacher.

I will be available on the night to discuss any whole school questions that you may have and will be found either in the playground or in the administration block.

Term One Invoices

Your term one invoice has been mailed out this week. If you have not received your invoice by this time next week please contact Mrs Shears in the office. Student Assistance money is available to help those families who may be experiencing financial difficulties. Please make an appointment if you wish to discuss any aspect of your invoice or student assistance.

B. Kunkler
Principal

FRUIT BREAKS

During five weeks of term 1 and later in the year each class will be having a fruit break each morning. The purpose of a fruit break is to reinforce the necessity of healthy eating as well as to give the student a chance to re-energise during the long morning teaching period.

The necessity and nutritional value of a healthy breakfast is something that all children should understand. A good breakfast gives each child the “fuel” needed to maintain the concentration necessary for successful learning. The fruit should be fresh, not canned or pre packaged and should be sent to school in a way that is quick and simple to eat. The class will only be given a 10 minute slot to eat their fruit.

As I wrote earlier each class will have a five week window for fruit breaks and you will be informed by your class teacher when this is commencing. You may question why only five weeks? Basically it is used as a stimulus to reinforce the need for healthy eating as part of our Health, Physical Education and Personal Development Syllabus. Feedback from parents about the initiative from previous years liked the short sharp burst as they felt it lost impact after this amount of time and became quite difficult to maintain, citing cost and the availability of seasonal fruits.

DRAMA TERM 1

Drama has been taught at our school for the past three years under the guidance of Karyn Johnson, a specialist Drama teacher. Drama lessons have developed confidence in the children and have brought enjoyment to all students. Drama classes have once again been scheduled for this term and commenced 3rd February.

The program this year, “The Mystery...The History...The Theatre” will aim to teach students how performance has always been part of our lives but changed over time. The children will enjoy familiar drama games and learn some new fun games while discovering how life in the past influences our lives today.

The cost of the program will be \$24 which will be invoiced on the Term One invoices. In the last week of term parents and friends are invited to watch a performance in which all students are involved. Students are required to provide their own simple costumes that will be outlined once casting has been completed.

We hope to see you at the end of term!

Helen Georgiou
Assistant Principal

CHESS CLUB

Chess Club will be held again this year. This is an opportunity for students in year 2 and up to practise their chess playing skills and strategies in round robin games. (There is minimal instruction, just supervision.) It will be held in 4/5KR classroom on Thursday afternoons from 3pm to 3.45pm, under the supervision of Mrs Gower. If your child would like to be a part of Chess Club, please fill out the slip below and return to your child's teacher by Friday 20th February. A note will then be sent home with more details. Chess Club will begin on 5th March.

Thank you
Mrs Rosemary Gower
(Organising teacher)

Please return this slip to Mrs Gower

I give permission for my child, _____ of class _____
_____ to join Chess Club in 2009. I am aware I need to make arrangements to collect my child at 3.45pm.

Signed _____ (Parent/Guardian)

LANGUAGE CLASSES

Before school French language class will commence on Friday 20th February at 8:00am in the Library Research Room. These classes will be taken by Sarah, a qualified language teacher and will be open to all students from Years 1 to 6. In each class she will be providing for a beginner group and a more advanced group for those returning from previous years. The cost is \$5.00 per week. I recommend this program as a fun way to introduce languages to younger children. Please complete the form below and return it to me by Monday 16th February.

G. Liston
Assistant Principal
Language Class Coordinator

✍ _____

Please return this note to Mrs Liston ASAP – LANGUAGE CLASSES

I would like my son/daughter to attend French classes commencing

Friday 20th March - French

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Language: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Parent/Guardian

DANCE

Over the next few weeks at school we will be holding auditions for the Sydney North Dance Festival for both the junior and senior dance group. The junior dance group comprises children from Years 3 and 4 and the senior dance, years 5 and 6.

The committee, (made up of teachers from other schools) organising the festival have put a limit of 24 children for each performance due to the size of the stage at the Glen St. Theatre, therefore the need for auditions. Unfortunately some children will miss out, enthusiastic as they are. However there is always the end of year dance performances where everyone is welcome.

Please understand the difficulty in which we are placed when having to leave out children. It is not an easy task.

If your child is selected to participate in one of the dance groups they have to realize the importance of commitment. Dance practices will be held during lunch times – twice a week to begin with, and in some cases there will be before and after school practices as we near the festival.

There will also be a cost involved for costuming.

The festival also runs during the last 2 weeks of second term, so if anyone is planning to take holidays could you please let us know ASAP if your child is chosen.

Thanking you for your understanding and cooperation.

Robyn Barrett- Senior Dance Coordinator and
Holly Ryan -Junior Dance Coordinator

YOUR USED INK CARTRIDGES CAN BE RECYCLED!

Bring all your used fax, computer inkjet and laser printer cartridges to the office and the school will receive a rebate on some, but all will be recycled for reuse. A great way to help our environment and reduce landfill.

Any questions see Mrs Rosemary Gower. (Maybe your office would like to support the school by recycling laser printer cartridges through us).

FROM THE P&C

Our first meeting for this year will be held next week, please remember that in order to vote at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 17th March you must become a financial member of the P&C at the meeting next week.

For those who have never been to a P&C meeting and have been warned of the potential dangers of P&C AGMs (all those jobs needing volunteers!) this meeting is the perfect opportunity to come and check us out. I'm looking forward to meeting families who are new to the school and I promise we won't try and rope you into anything other than a warm welcome, a cuppa and the consumption of something involving chocolate :-)

If you can't attend next week's meeting you can leave an envelope at the school office with your name and "P&C membership" on it and the princely sum of \$1 inside it by Tuesday afternoon.

Next meeting: Tuesday 17th February, 7:45pm at the OOSH rooms

OOSH NEWS

The term has started with much enthusiasm from our Directors, Fiona Hall and Emma Reed. They will have news about some of the exciting things that happen in the OOSH program in upcoming newsletters.

In the meantime, we would like to remind all parents that the AGM for the OOSH Parent Management Committee will be held on Wednesday 25th February 7.30pm in the OOSH rooms.

The OOSH committee is a sub-committee of the P&C. The committee meets once a term with much communication between meetings via email. If you would like to know more, please email Robyn Potts on clagpotts@optusnet.com.au



BAND NEWS

WELCOME BACK!

Our 2009 band programme is now in full swing. A big welcome to all new players and those moving up to Concert Band from Training Band. Don't forget to contact us if there are any issues with tutorials. Also, keep checking your emails as Maestro Ray will be sending through some useful tips for your tutors.

YOUNG TALENT TIME

Congratulations to Jacqueline Morrison of 5/6P, who successfully auditioned for the Northern Sydney Youth Orchestra's Wind Ensemble. If there are any other musicians who are interested, please talk to our Band Liaison, the lovely and helpful Mrs Steggles.

COMMITTEE MEETING

AS we're a caring and sharing lot, the meeting is open to all band parents (new and not-so-new). Please come and find out about the 2009 programme at **7.30 tonight (Thursday 12th) in the OOSH rooms.**

CANTEEN ROSTER NEWS - VACANCIES FOR 2009 - SHIFTS STILL UP FOR GRABS!

Thankyou, thankyou, thankyou to all those who have very kindly volunteered to staff the Canteen this year. The 2009 Roster comes into effect on Monday 2 March.

As can be seen from the attached Roster, there are still several shifts to fill. It would be great to have the Roster "full" to start the new year. Please contact Jules Curtin (Canteen Roster Clerk) on either 0433 879 006 or 9484 5280 or email her at tccabling@bigpond.com if you are able to fill any of the remaining vacancies.

Thanks also to Lisa Ryan, Margie Kemmis and Leanne Stopford who will be filling some of the "one-off" vacancies advertised last week. There are still two to be filled:

- . 8.30am-11.30am Wednesday 25 February; and
- . 8.30am-11.30am Friday 27 February.

Signed: The Old Duck

