



NEWSLETTER

Phone: 9484 4252
Newsletter No 9/2

FAX: 9484 7354
June 25, 2009

Email: normanhurw-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Newsletter items via: normanhurw-p.admin@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: www.normanhurstwest.ps.education.nsw.gov.au
P&C Blog www.nwpspandc.wordpress.com
School Security – 4343 1119
OOSH – 9484 4412

June 26	Yr 4 Excursion. Govt House Parramatta
July 9	Last day for Stewart House bag return
July 9	Excursion Glen St Theatre – Dance Matinee. Yr 2,3,4
July 10	Last day of Term 2.

Congratulations to the following children who received a Principal's Award at assembly this week:
Taj Soupidis Bryn McIlwain

Dear parents and students,

Kindergarten 2010 Enrolments

The very multi skilled Mrs Georgiou coordinated Looking at Big School (LaBS) Day yesterday with aspirant school family members highly impressed with all aspects of the school from our performing artists, student leaders, tranquil school grounds and most importantly our working classrooms.

Normanhurst West Public School prides itself in delivering quality programs to students in a warm, caring learning environment. Our teachers are professional, caring and committed to teaching students a broad and balanced curriculum across the key learning areas (KLAs). We pride ourselves on catering for the individual learning needs of all children.

We are now accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2010. Places are filling fast so if you know of children turning 5 years old before 31 July 2010, in *or* not in this local area who are interested in attending Normanhurst West Public School, please encourage the parents to contact the school as soon as possible. Proof of the child's age will be required.

Mufti Day Mini Fete

The traditional mini fete managed by our year 6 students was enjoyed by all students last Tuesday. The senior students did a sterling job to provide exciting stalls with a variety of food and challenges. Mr Pinchbeck, Mr Payne and Mrs Campbell need a special mention for their valuable contributions. We thank all families for their support to enable \$1316.90 to be raised. These

days are important for year 6 to not only teach various traits but to raise funds to present a gift of appreciation to the school upon graduating from primary school in December. In the past, year 6 have furnished the school with shade shelter, honour boards, dedicated gardens and playground furniture, to name just a few things.

Outside the Classroom Distractions

A request to all parents who are in the school grounds prior to the end of the school time. Please be mindful of the noise having an impact on the nearby classes. The children are being distracted from their learning and it is not fair for teachers to compromise student learning opportunities to schedule lessons in response to the often loud conversations close to the classrooms.

School Council

Bear in mind your community representatives available to discuss school policy and practice. The school council members and school staff work in partnership to advance the best interests of the school. Our school council enhances this partnership between parents and staff which is open and publicly valued. Mr Rob Ellis is our hardworking president. Mrs Miriam Mulcahy, Mrs Linley Fullagar, Mrs Colleen Cowley and Mrs Belinda McMahon together with staff, Mrs Barrett and Mrs Shears, and normally Mr Kunkler, are all members of the school council. Matters directly related to individual student progress should be directed to your child's teacher or the assistant principals.

Australian Early Development Index

Over the next two months, our school and schools around Australia have been instructed to take part in a nation-wide program called the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI). This will involve our kindergarten teachers, Mrs Tootell, Mrs McAuliffe and Ms Lott, completing an online 'checklist' -like a survey or questionnaire—for every child in their class. Summary results of the AEDI checklists will be available for communities based on whole groups of children in a way that means no one will be able to identify individual children. The findings may provide communities with a snapshot of their children's development. This is in an effort to help communities understand how their children are developing and where Government improvements can be made to give children the best start in life.

You can find out more about the AEDI at www.aedi.org.au

Core Value: RESPECT

Having regard for yourself and others, lawful and just authority within Australian society and accepting the right of others to hold different or opposing views.

In **school communities**, evidence of this value includes:

- ☺ regarding as important the opinions of parents
- ☺ implementing government education policy
- ☺ affirming cultural diversity within the school community.

In **classrooms**, evidence of this value includes:

- ☺ accepting the right of others to hold different views to your own
- ☺ listening to others without interrupting
- ☺ obeying school rules
- ☺ acknowledging the strengths and abilities of students.

Connected Classrooms Program

Congratulations to Ms Lott and class KL for being acknowledged in a State-wide education publication 'Connected Classrooms Program'. Using technology through our school's interactive whiteboard and video conferencing equipment many teachers in NSW benefited from KL's lessons. Ms Lott and I were also involved in a panel discussion with our onlooking colleagues, from other locations. It was great to share with so many NSW teachers one of the numerous cutting edge projects at Normanhurst West PS benefiting the students.

Homework Help Online

Parents can access age-appropriate material to help with your child's homework assignments at the Teaching and Learning Exchange: www.tale.edu.au/tale/live/index.jsp. Information ranges from ages 4-9 which includes pages to help you follow your child's early learning and to help you talk with teachers about your child's progress. The content of each age group area is organised into these sections:

- What they learn
- Helping your child learn
- About stages of learning

The site also includes a Jargon Buster, a selection of translated documents and links to DET parent newsletters such as the Click! technology guide and School Parent's magazine.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK –

"A child is like a piece of paper on which every passer by leaves a mark."

-Chinese proverb

Greg McLaren
Relieving Principal

For Your Information:

NSW DET

What is a blog?

A blog (which is an abbreviation of a weblog) is a personal website that gets updated regularly. There is no set format, but generally blogs read like a diary with the most recent entry at the top.

📌 Blog Etiquette

A blog is a personal website that gets updated regularly. With blogging becoming more popular, take the time to talk about personal websites with your child. Remind your child that anything that appears on a website is part of cyberspace forever. They might think something is a great idea at the time, but down the track, potential employers may start Google searching names and see what comes up as representative of the person blogging.

Remind your child that they should be proud of whatever they blog about while remaining the good person they already are. If they don't want you to read their website, then you may have something to worry about.

Explain to your child that whatever they write represents them and they should always consider the repercussions of publishing information for the world to see.

Mention that blogging shouldn't be used to write unkind things about any other person, but rather discuss what's going on, and other important issues in their lives.

EMAIL

Here are a few "do's and don'ts" your child should keep in mind before sending their next email.



Do

Think about how they will write their message and read it back to make sure it says what they want it to say.

- ✚ Use things called 'emoticons' like :-) (happy face) or :-((sad face) :-O (surprised face) to make their message more interesting and funny.
- ✚ Be polite and friendly. If they are upset about something, tell them to wait a while before writing an email.
- ✚ Be careful with sending to 'Reply All'. Do they really want everyone to get this message or only the person who sent it to them?
- ✚ Put a subject in the subject box so people know what it is about before they open it.



Don't

- ✚ Use capital letters in their emails. IT WILL LOOK LIKE YOU ARE SHOUTING AND THAT IS RUDE!
- ✚ Reply to emails from people or email addresses they don't know.
- ✚ Reply if someone bullies them or writes something bad to them. Ask them to tell you or their teacher.
- ✚ Open pictures or attachments from people they don't know. They could contain 'viruses' which might hurt the computer.
- ✚ Send spam or chain letters on to their friends. This junk mail fills up their inboxes and may stop them getting other important messages.
- ✚ Say anything in an email that they wouldn't want anyone else to see.



ONLINE



Keep your children safe online:

- ✚ Spend time online with your kids. Check out good sites together. The internet can be a fun family activity!
- ✚ Help your kids use the internet as an effective research tool - learn about handy homework tips for kids and also good searching techniques
- ✚ Learn about the world out there. Kids are communicating in a diverse range of ways, from chat to IM, and from message boards to blogs. Learn how these work and what tools they offer to protect your child's privacy
- ✚ Be aware of online stranger danger, particularly in chat rooms. Set house rules about what information your children can give out and where they can go online.



Online Safety Tips

Worried about your child's safety online? Here are some guidelines that can help:

- ✚ Put the computer in a central area of the home, not in a bedroom
 - ✚ Be reasonable and try to set reasonable expectations
 - ✚ Be open with your child and encourage them to come to you if they encounter a problem online – cultivate trust and communications because no rules, laws or filtering software can replace you as their first line of defence
 - ✚ Talk with your child about how they use the Internet. Make sure they understand basic safety guidelines. These include protecting privacy (including passwords), never posting personal information, never meeting people they only know online and not posting inappropriate or potentially embarrassing photos
 - ✚ Try to get your kids to share their blogs or online profiles with you, but be aware that they can have multiple accounts on multiple services.
-

Education Tax Refund – Don't Forget To Claim


How do I claim the Education Tax Refund?

- In your tax return.
- If you don't lodge a tax return, claim on a separate form or over the phone.
- If you use a tax agent, make sure you ask them to claim for you.

The Education Tax Refund lets you claim up to 50% of eligible education expenses for school children. If you are eligible, you can get back up to \$375 for each primary student and up to \$750 for each secondary student.

You can claim things like text books, stationery and even internet costs.

If you receive Family Tax Benefit Part A for a child at primary or secondary school, you will be eligible. Some other people are eligible too, to find out more about this and other information such as what you can and can't claim go to australia.gov.au/educationtaxrefund or call the Tax Office on **13 28 61**.

 Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.



RECYCLE YOUR INK CARTRIDGES

Your inkjet or laser cartridges can be recycled by placing them in the box in the lost property room. They are collected for free by a company who recycles them, thereby saving our environment, and who pays a small amount for the laser cartridges. These payments will no longer be paid to the school, but will all be paid to The Royal Flying Doctor Service, a most worthy charity. Over the past year our cartridge recycling amounted to \$55.00.

Rosemary Gower

CANTEEN COMMITTEE 2009 UPDATE

As you know, next Monday is the Snow themed Dad's do Lunch. If there is a **dad out there who could do the 11-2pm shift**, please call me or email me at the address below ASAP.

The canteen would like to farewell our current treasurer Wendy Allen who has done a fabulous job over the past few years keeping the canteen books in order. Patricia Uren has volunteered to take over from Wendy. Thankyou to you both!

Everyone will also be sad to say goodbye to the Old Duck. She has written her last posting and will be handing over the position of Roster Clerk – but not the feathers- to the capable hands of Sally Lusher-Maine. After many years, thanks Jules!!!

The canteen committee also welcomes Di Black to the group.

Thanks to the support of all the NWPS families, the canteen was able to donate \$3000 to the P&C last month.

I will be stepping down as conveynor for the period of Lesley's leave and Ros Cameron will be taking on the role temporarily. Our next meeting will be held in the canteen at 1.45pm on Friday 7th August if you are interested in joining.

Thanks,

Kerrie Basclain . Canteen Convenor. 9980 9836 . email kerrste@optusnet.com.au

MISSING TOTE TRAY

On Family Fun Day weekend a grey tote tray with 'scrap paper' written on it went missing from 5B's room. If anyone knows of its whereabouts could you please see Mrs Barrett. Thankyou.

