

HILLTOP NEWS

Newcastle East Public School – Australia's Oldest School

Week Eight Term Four, Tuesday November 26th, 2013

Edition Seventy-one

Help for the Philippines

Our students have acted with compassion on hearing of the tragic events in the Philippines over the last two weeks. Our captains came up with the idea of a Chalk Day, with a stick of chalk for sale for a gold coin. We used the chalk to learn a little about the Philippines, and to decorate the flag and symbols of that country. Altogether we raised over \$534, which was paid directly into the Red Cross Typhoon Relief Fund on Friday. As well, 3/4M students Matina and Logan made a number of woollen bracelets, which they sold at the school to raise additional funds. I was proud of their thinking, showing concern for others and acting to make things better.

It is important for our students' well-being that they learn that the best reaction to a bad situation is to act positively, even in a small way, and on this occasion they did. Thank you parents for your support. The picture shows our Philippines sign.



Classroom Herald Awards to NEPS Student

Congratulations to our entire editorial team for their excellent entry in this competition, and special congratulations to Wil Knott, who won Highly Commended in the regional prize for best cartoon or advertisement. The awards were made today at a ceremony at Hunter Stadium, Broadmeadow.

Kindy Orientation

With the last formal session this week, I would like to thank all those who gave up their time to make our new students and parents feel welcome in the school. Kate Drew and Jodie Whiteside worked hard to give advice from the current parents' viewpoint, Mrs Thompson coordinated the whole Kindy O program beautifully, with speakers Mrs Mac (school Counsellor), Ms Van Dam (our Learning Support teacher), Debbie from OOSH, Kate from School Council, Sarah Dennis from P and C, and Christine Sheppard (our Student Welfare Worker).

St Nicholas Choir Opportunity

Christchurch Cathedral Organist and Musical Director Peter Guy have made available spaces in the St Nicholas Choir for our students. Strong religious beliefs are definitely not a pre-requisite, but the Choir does provide singers with a sound and enjoyable musical education, plus a very positive and formative experience. Our school has had a long association with the Cathedral, especially since our first school premises were on the Cathedral site, and for a brief time in the 1830's, we were in fact a Church School. The Choir experience may boost a student's chances of successful application to a Performing Arts High School. A sample musical performance of the Choir can be found at the following web address: - <http://www.newcastlecathedral.org.au/music.html> Parents are very welcome at all rehearsals and performances. For more information, please contact Peter Guy at music@newcastlecathedral.org.au, or on 0419 239 828.

Police Visit for Safety

This week we host a visit from Police Officer Kurt Greenwood, who will speak to all classes about various safety issues, including road safety, stranger danger, traffic sense, and pedestrian safety. Traffic safety is an ever-present issue here, and with the installation of our flashing School Zone signs not due until the end of next year, we are very conscious of the dangers of crossing the roads around the school, particularly in times of heavy rain or poor light. The Police Safety visit will reinforce these messages to our children, but I encourage you to drive with extreme care around the school, and to avoid parking illegally, double-parking, and parking near our crossings.

Live Life Well at School – Materials Sent Home

Our school has embraced the Crunch and Sip program from Hunter New England Health, and now we are part of the Live Life Well at School scheme, which pays particular attention to students' dietary needs. This week we will send home some materials for your perusal, looking at healthy lunch ideas. As well as a brochure, there is a handy fridge magnet, with some practical ideas for school lunches and snacks.

http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/live_life/

It's Parent Survey Time

You may receive a call over the next few weeks from a parent member of our School Council, conducting a telephone survey of parents' perceptions of our school. Please try to participate if you can – the survey is completely anonymous, it gives staff valuable information on how our school is seen by our community, and often turns up some very creative ideas about things we could improve or change at the school.

For Your Diary- Last Four Weeks of School Year

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
25 Chalk Day Last Kindy Orientation	26	27 Police Safety talk	28	29
2 Speeches by Grade Five students – School Captaincy	3	4	5	6 Welcome BBQ for new K parents, hosted by this year's K parents – School Forecourt
9 Last P and C Meeting School Council	10	11	12 Year Six Formal Dinner at Souths Leagues Club	13
16 10-Presentation Day 5.30 Christmas Concert 6.30 Christmas Barbeque	17 Class Party Day	18 Final day of school year 2.30 – Clap-out		

Captain Canoe

Former parent at our school Peter Cuppaidge (aka Captain Canoe) has today donated to our students a billy cart kit, designed and built by him, requiring some construction. It is a generous gift, and we will use it (very carefully) early in 2014. Peter also makes canoe kits, built to traditional lines, and much more information can be found at

<http://www.captaincanoe.com.au/>



Recycling Your Old School Uniforms

Don't forget to mark our Christmas Concert in your diary – Monday 16th December at 6pm. As well as some entertaining class items and delicious food for sale, there will be a sale of beautiful Christmas craft items made by our children, as well as re-cycled uniform items. To assist our P and C, if you have any second-hand uniform pieces you might like to donate, please send them in laundered and folded.

P and C Golf Day

Put it in your calendar - Sunday December 8, at Merewether Golf Course. It's an Ambrose Day, so the longest shot each time sets every-one's starting point for their next shot, making the day far more even for beginners and experienced, and lots more fun, even if you have the odd bad shot. Just \$60 gets the round of golf, plus food and drinks. P and C President Chris Baker has all the information, but he needs your name. You can reach him on 0411 571 721.

Our Weekly Quiz Winner – Well Done, Violet and Zedlin!

Violet and Zedlin were equal winners of last week's quiz with their answer to the question, If Roald Dahl was still alive how old would he have been when the school turns 200? A: 100!

Excellent Tea Towel Sale Now On – For a Limited Time Only

Our Colonial Fair didn't happen, because of the asbestos problem we have been dealing with, so we have surplus stock. With Christmas coming up soon, it's a great gift idea for grandmothers and all the rellies. P and C has taken the bold marketing step of discounting, to a mere \$10 per tea-towel or 3 pack for \$25, for a fabulous Christmas present.



Canteen

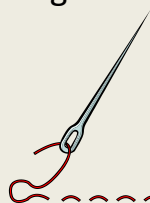
Volunteer Roster

Week 8	25th November Susan Crawford	27th November Katrina Kana	29th November Megan West Louise McCauley
Week 9	2nd December Deb Clarke-Jones	4th December Sally Bursill	6th December Maggie Hall Nicole Tait

Donations – Tinned Pineapple Rings

Families on the donation roster for this week are:

Nagle-Hill/Retzlaff /Osborne/Parsons/West/Payne/Frost/ Phillips/Pidcock/Mee



Sewing Club

A quick reminder that the last meeting of Sewing Club for this year will be held next week on Friday 6th of December. This meeting will be 'Party Day' for the club and will be in Miss V's room as usual.