

HILLTOP NEWS

Newcastle East Public School – Australia's Oldest School

Week Seven Term Four, Tuesday November 19th, 2013

Edition Seventy



Drama Class for 2M

Last Friday, Megan (who is Darcy and Luka's mum), came into our class to do drama. First we sat in a circle and played Chinese Whispers. Next we read a book and predicted what would happen next. The fun part was we had to act it out in a group. We had to co-operate because we had to act out a frozen scene, just like we were in a postcard or in a book. I got to be someone lying on a beach in my group. At the end, we had to do a chant and copy Megan. It started off whispering, then we shouted! Mrs Thompson said we were very loud. I can't wait til drama next time. By Violet



How Will Our Playground Look After Christmas?

Plans are taking shape for our playground asbestos remediation, to take place over Christmas. At last night's P and C, members had a full briefing on just how the project will look when finished. While there will be some sections of artificial turf, in places where grass won't reliably grow, and while there will be some small areas of mulch, most of the grounds will be covered by rich "real" turf, providing children with a safe play space, and allowing for those more traditional games requiring broader areas.

The school has purchased some additional play equipment, including a wooden pirate ship, to be installed along with the shelter structure over the play equipment. We owe our sincere thanks to Anne Wiseman who worked hard to obtain for the school a Cancer Council Grant of \$3000, to help pay for the shade structure, which will cost overall in excess of \$8000.

Some main features of the project: -

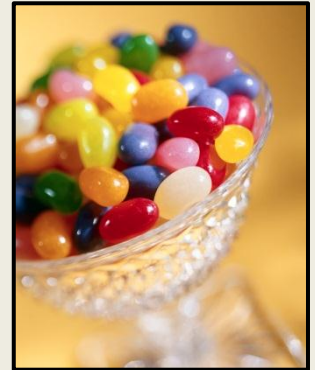
- Replacement of the log retaining wall below the play equipment with sandstone blocks
- Removal of one gum tree near the staff room
- Construction of a new path leading to the old play equipment and the lower playground
- Replacement of old tyre retaining walls with sandstone blocks
- Construction of shade structure
- Creation of new native garden along path near 3/4M demountable

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.

Jelly Beans Update

Thank you for your cooperation with our recent jelly bean sale, which has raised \$805 towards the cost of our iPad purchase. If you still have money outstanding from this sale please return it to Claire in the School Office now. Our C Block is now wi-fi equipped, so that students using the library or Special Programs Room will soon be able to research information using school tablets.



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.

School Council Thanks / New Office Bearers

With election of new members of School Council, I thank out-going President John Mowatt for his efforts in leading Council over the last two years. Congratulations to new members of School Council, with Kate Bookallil as President, Jane Gilchrist and Tom Szecsod as Secretaries, and parent reps Matt Zdenkowski and Kate Drew. Thank you also to Kim Hadfield and Julie Jardim for their continued role as staff reps.

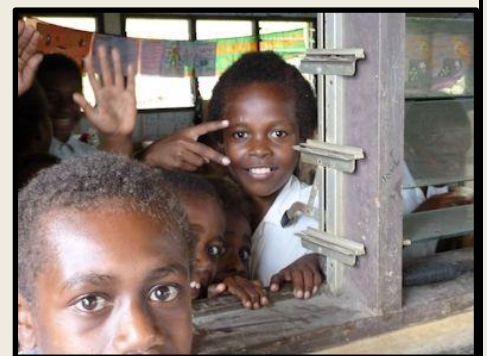
Draft GATS Policy on Website

School Council and staff have been working on a policy on gifted and talented education, including the sometimes contentious matter of selection of students for extension programs. It will be available in draft form on our school website for comment and suggestion from this week on, and your input will be valued and given weight.

New Vanuatu Link through MESCH

Our school's support for CamLy Orphanage over several years has been highly successful, with our students and staff combining to provide new roofing, a new water pump and water tanks, and some re-cycled furniture for the Orphanage. In fact, our intervention has been so successful that the two nuns operating the school have thanked us sincerely but suggested that our aid might be better placed elsewhere.

Under the welfare umbrella of MESCH (<http://www.mesch.org.au/site/index.cfm>), we are now shifting our support to Pentecost Island in Vanuatu, an isolated school, with no electricity, no computers, and very few resources.



Art Gallery Thanks

With the completion of our successful Lock-Up exhibition, my appreciation to parents Susan Davies, Isabel Gomez, and Andrew Dennis, for their wonderful leadership in making this event such a success. It seems that we might have raised almost \$3000 towards our 200th event in February 2016.

How Do NEPS Kids Spend Their Leisure Time?

This week we surveyed all students in the school to see who is taking part in sporting events. The results are startling! We are a fit lot of people. Here's what the survey revealed: -

Sport or Recreation	Number of NEPS students involved
Swimming / Nippers	94
Dance	30
Cricket	25
Football (all codes)	46
Netball	19

Our Weekly Quiz Winner – Well Done, Clara

What sits in the corner, but goes all around the world? It was a stamp, according to Clara Barcan, the first person to answer correctly last week's quiz. Thanks to Ben Dennis for this week's quiz.

This Week's Quiz –

If Roald Dahl was still alive how old will he be when the school turns 200.

Email me with your answers at john.beach@det.nsw.edu.au

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.



KidsMatter

This excellent website from the New South Wales Department of Education and Communities contains lots of practical hints for parents on making their child's transition into "big school" an easy and fruitful path. Just click to follow: -

www.kidsmatter.edu.au/startingschool

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.

Help us with our fundraising

With the unexpected cancellation of our Colonial Fair this year fundraising is a priority and every cent counts. Educational Experience fundraising catalogues went home with students in Week 1 Term 4. For every order of \$100, you will raise \$20 for our school to spend on educational resources. The 2013 Educational Experience catalogue is packed full of unique gifts for all tastes and budgets and is ideal for Christmas presents for children of all ages. Simply fill in the enclosed order form and return to school by 22nd November, alternatively direct home delivery and online ordering are options explained in the accompanying information. Happy shopping!

Canteen

Volunteer Roster

Week 7	18th November Cherry Olsen	20th November Teval Guner Kylie Mowatt	22nd November Ziva Westley Michelle Crawford
Week 8	25th November Susan Crawford	27th November Katrina Kana	29th November Megan West Louise McCauley

Donations – Small Ziploc Bags

Families on the donation roster for this week are:

Mehraban Shahriar/Giles/Miles/ Mlynarczyk-Elices/ Molloy/McGregor/ Murdoch/
Murphy/Musgrave

Term Planner

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
One	Queen's Birthday – Public Holiday	8 First day of Term Four	9	10	11
Two	14 After-school sports begin AASS Junior Games	15 Staff Meeting- Best Start	16 AASS Surfing @ Nobby's	17 NHS "Taster" lessons Yr6 AASS Cricket on COLA	18
Three	21 P and C/School Council	22	23	24	25
Four	28 Swim School starts	29	30 Kindergarten 2014 Parent Information Night	31	1 Art Show @ Lock-Up 5.30-7.30
Five	4 Kindergarten Orientation	5 Safe Surf lessons	6 NHS "Taster" lessons Yr5	7	8 Swim School finishes
Six	11 Kindergarten Orientation	12	13	14	15
Seven	18 Kindergarten Orientation P and C/School Council	19	20	21	22
Eight	25 Kindergarten Orientation	26	27	28	29
Nine	2	3	4	5 Book prizes finalised	6 Kinder Parents' BBQ
Ten	9	10	11 Kinder Parent Helpers Morning tea	12 Year Six Dinner @ Souths Leagues Club	13
Eleven	16 Presentation Day – COLA Student Annual Reports Go Home  <i>Christmas Concert</i>	17 Class Party Day	18 Last day of Term Four Clap-out for departing students	Staff Development Day	Staff Development Day