

HILLTOP NEWS

Newcastle East Public School – Australia's Oldest School

Week Ten Term Four, Tuesday December 9th, 2014

Edition One Hundred and Twenty



Last Thursday our wonderful school choir, the Neptunes, performed some traditional carols, and some modern Australian Christmas songs, in Hunter Street Mall. With Mrs Edge leading them, they sent out a message of seasonal joy, with their beautiful melodious tunes. We became part of a walking Advent calendar, which led us through many shops in Newcastle's CBD, over almost two hours. We had some very, very tired and hungry singers by the end! Thanks parents, for your patience in adversity. Our appreciation to Mrs Edge, again, for her inspired leadership, and to our many talented students.

Presentation Day Next Monday

I hope that you are able to make it along at 10 am next Monday to see our awards-giving ceremony. We will announce the winners of our "special" awards for academic, sporting and citizenship excellence, and every student in our school will be awarded a certificate for some aspect of school performance. Finally, we will announce the prestigious Dux of the School, and the new School Captains for 2015. I anticipate that the ceremony will run for about 90 minutes, with effort made to keep it shorter than in previous years. Our mosquito problem has been made worse by the rain and hot weather, so we aim to limit pupils' exposure to bites during the ceremony. Visitors, good idea to bring a folding chair!

Parent Focus Groups for Planning the NEPS of the Future

About twelve parents have registered their interest in a focus group to be conducted at 5.30, Tuesday 16th, by parent and social researcher Clare Hagues. We are very anxious to engage with any ideas that you might have for future directions at NEPS, so even if you are not part of this focus group, you can email ideas to me and I'll pass them on to Clare. It is our good fortune to have such an intelligent and articulate school community, willing to advocate for the school and its students. The focus group meets in the Library.

Dates for Your Planner

We're getting to the busy part of the year, and the dates are piling up. Some really important ones for your diary: -

- Thursday 11th - Year Six Farewell Dinner, Souths Leagues Club
- Monday 15th - Presentation Day, on the COLA, at 10.
- Monday 15th - School Christmas Concert and Barbeque – 5.30, COLA. Your own folding chair would be a great idea for your comfort!
- Tuesday 16th – Party Day – OUT OF UNIFORM
- Wednesday 17th - Clap-out for departing students, 2.30
- Wednesday 28th January – classes resume for students, except Kindergarten, who will be doing their Best Start testing that week, to begin Monday February 2nd.

Year Six Dinner and the Clap-out

This Thursday we farewell our Year Six students officially, with a formal dinner at South Leagues Club. Our students have chosen a “hippie” theme for the occasion, and the night will be a mixture of memories, reflections, and fun, with a disco to finish the evening.

Christmas Concert

All welcome to come along to our Christmas Party on Monday, 15th December at 5.30pm. Kinder M and Kinder T Parents needed to help at the BBQ. There will be performances by the School Band, Choir and Kindy Students.

Kindergarten Welcome Barbeque

Many thanks to everyone who came along to last Friday's “welcome night” for kindergarten parents. Special thanks to the P and C stalwarts who once again turned out to assist with the cooking and serving of food. I've lost count of how many times we have cooked barbequed food for our community this year, but each time the cheery and reliable members of our P and C come along to help, and we appreciate their help greatly!

The Quiz,

Well done Ben Dennis, the only person to correctly answer this puzzle, this year's last: -

Your friend presents you with the numbers 2, 3, 4 and 5, and the symbols = and +, and the following tantalizing challenge: It is possible to use each number and symbol once and only once and end up with a true equation; further, you cannot use any number or symbol not given. How can you do this? That's tough!

Ben's answer: -

$$4 + 5 = 3$$



Top Swimmer!

Averil Jones qualified at the recent Coast and Valley Swimming Association Summer Long Course Championships, to swim in January 2015, at the Speedo State Age Championships, Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre for her 50m Freestyle. She has also qualified for NSW Country Championships, in February 2015. The photo shows Averil with her medal for first place in the 10 and under relay also at the recent Coast and Valley Champs, where she swam in the Hunter Swim Club A team.

Where Are They Now? - Occasional Series About Ex-NEPS Students

Congratulations to Emily Prickett, elected last week as Stewart Leader of the Middle School at Newcastle Grammar. Emily is a lovely girl, and we're not surprised to see her peers choose her as their captain for 2015. Congratulations!



Those who are unable to help with Canteen Duties your donation of MARGARINE/SOFT BUTTER or PINEAPPLE RINGS would be greatly appreciated.

Families on the donation roster for this week are: Parker, Harris, Lee, Zhang, Mysom-Drzyzga, Currington, Gittins, Hammond, Drew, Lyons, Robins, Meares

Canteen - Staffing Crisis

If you can spare even a day a term, your help will make all the difference. Currently we have a small band of helpers who are carrying the load and this is unsustainable. To prevent further closures please contact Cherry: 0409 927 006 to offer your help.



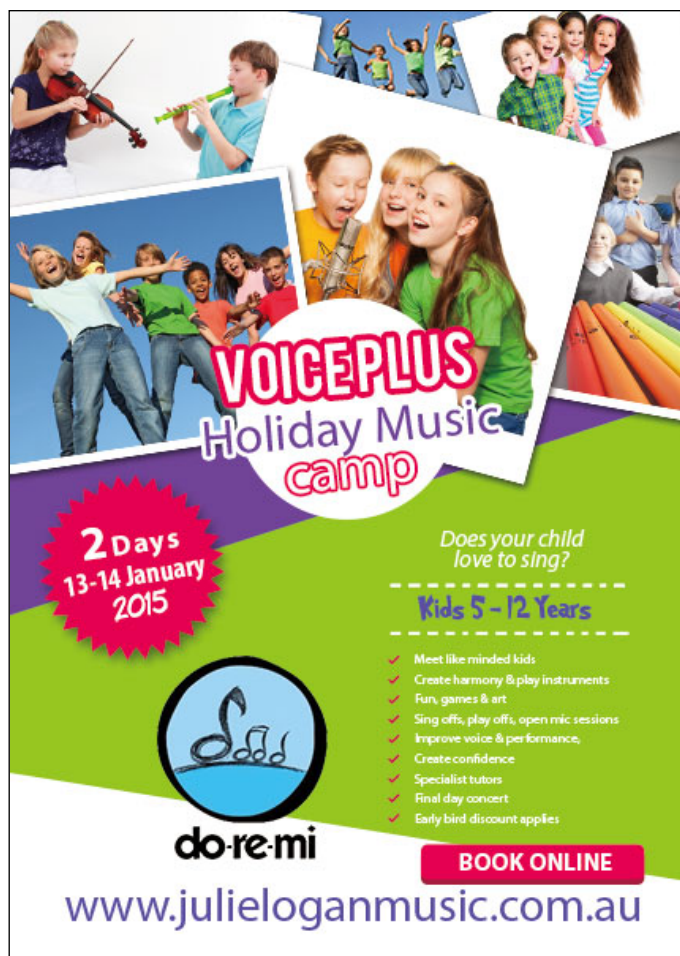
Volunteer Roster

Week 10	8th December	10th December Kate Bookallil	12th December Teval Guner Volunteer Needed
Week 10	15th December Volunteer Needed	17th December Volunteer Needed	

Safety in Our School

We work hard to keep our students safe at school, and we do our best to make sure that they get home safely every day. Several recent incidents have led to this reminder: -

- Traffic awareness – installation of the flashing School Zone signs around our school is expected to take place this week. In many cases installation is closely followed by a police campaign of enforcement, to make sure that the community is well aware of the speed restrictions and the timing of the School Zone.
- Playground safety – supervisory care is provided for children by the school staff whenever a teacher is on playground duty. A teacher is scheduled for the playground from 8.20 am, until bell time at 2.45, each day. Outside these hours, children using the grounds are the responsibility of their parents or carers.



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BOOK ONLINE



We are working towards streamlining our parent / community communication processes by consolidating all functions into the Skoolbag app. For those of you who do not have access to a smartphone or who would prefer to view the app alerts and info online we have installed a link on the front page of the school's website which also facilitates subscribing to email alerts. If you have not already done so please subscribe to this email list to ensure that you receive up to date school news and alerts.

Term 4 2014

<http://www.newcastle-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/calendar>

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/ Sun
One		7 Lessons resume	8 12.30 Cancer Council visit	9	10	11/12
Two	13 Bandfest/ P and C / School Council	14	15	16	17	18/19 Colonial Fair
Three	20	21 Choral Festival	22 Choral Festival	23 Choral Festival	24	25/26
Four	27 Swim School	28	29 Kindergarten Information Evening 6pm	30 Year 5 Gala Day NHS	31	1/2
Five	3 Swim School Kindy O	4	5	6	7	8/9
Six	10 Kindy O 2 nd Hand Uniform Sale 9:00am	11	12	13 Musica Viva 1:45 pm	14	15/16
Seven	17 Kindy O	18	19	20	21	22/23
Eight	24 Kindy O RSVP Year 6 Dinner	25	26	27	28	29/30
Nine	1 Captains' Speech Assembly 8.50	2 Scripture Christmas Concert 1.45	3	4	5 Kindy O BBQ 5.30	6/7
Ten	8	9	10	11 Year Six Dinner Souths Leagues Club	12	13/14
Eleven	15 Presentation Day 10am	16 Class Party Day	17 Last day of Term / Clap-out			