

HILLTOP NEWS

Newcastle East Public School – Australia's Oldest School

Week Eleven Term Four, Tuesday December 16th, 2014

Edition One Hundred and Twenty-one

Presentation Day

Thank you to those who were able to come along to our ceremony yesterday, as we noted the achievements of each student at NEPS. It has been a busy year, but one marked by strong student performances and with lots of building improvements mooted for the Christmas period and the New Year, I anticipate a wonderful 2015. So many parents have contributed to making this year a fine one for our students, through P and C fund-raising, School Council involvement, helping with classes in so many ways – reading groups, sports, sewing, movie-making, to name but a few – and doing some hard yards on canteen duty and disco management. My sincere gratitude goes to all who have helped our kids in 2014.

New Student Leaders

Congratulations to our new School Captains, elected by students and staff, and announced at Presentation Day. They are: -

Captains Sophia Suters Kaden Dubé

Vice-captains Matthew Davis Evie Mee

Parent Focus Group for Planning the NEPS of the Future

Please remember tonight's focus group session with Clare Hogue, if you were one of the parents who indicated an interest in setting some future directions for our school. The discussion will be totally confidential, and any suggestions or comments passed on to me to help with our planning are completely anonymous, and treated with respect.

What's On During Vacation?

Staff members wish all NEPS families the best for a peaceful and refreshing Christmas period, getting the balance of excitement and relaxation just right, and I look forward to seeing our existing students back on Wednesday 28th January, with Kindergarten beginning on Monday February 2nd. During the vacation families using the school grounds are welcome, but do so at their own risk, since our insurance does not cover vacation periods.

Please note that building work will be carried out during January on our old building, and care needs to be taken to stay clear of this area for the entire vacation. As well, our old school bell will be undergoing restoration work, so don't panic if you're walking the dog in school grounds, and notice the bell missing. Finally, I expect (and really hope!) that a new demountable classroom will be placed on the garden near the school bell, requiring some minor excavation work, another area to be avoided.



Who created this wonderful work?

It was the combined effort of Luca, Adela, Alex, Emily, Kaden, Logan, Justin, Imala, Niamh, Ben and Millie, under the guidance of talented parent and artist Andrew Dennis, at his Wolfe Street shop, The Art Project. You can visit it too!

The Clap-out

Can you join us tomorrow, Wednesday, at 2.30, as we mark the end of Year Six's time here with the "clap-out", as I mark the roll for the final time, and send each student along a corridor of students and families here to wish them well, and to say "good-bye". I will hold an assembly briefly at 2.30, and then disperse students and visitors along the pathway out of the school, ready to clap as each Year Six student passes by, towards the front gate. It's something of a tradition at NEPS, and can be quite moving. Join us if you can, please.

Exciting musical opportunity in 2015

Christ Church Cathedral offers a great opportunity for enthusiastic young singers: The St Nicholas Choir. The St Nicholas Choir has a long history of providing excellent musical tuition and vocal training for children aged 8-14 in a safe, friendly and fun environment. It is an ideal choir for anyone who loves singing or music, and is the perfect complement to existing school music programmes or private music lessons.

Many of our choristers have successfully auditioned for Hunter School of Performing Arts, and for music scholarships at local, private high schools. Some Cathedral choristers have even gone on to local, national and international music careers!

Rehearsals are from 4-5pm every Friday during term time, and the choir performs on average once a month (generally on Saturday evenings). Further information can be found at www.newcastlecathedral.org.au/music (where you can download a brochure and hear the choir sing), or by contacting Peter Guy (Cathedral Director of Music) at music@newcastlecathedral.org.au or 0419 239 828.

Christmas Concert

Congratulations to all performers from last night's concert. It had all the impromptu character of our Christmas nights, but a wonderful atmosphere and sense of goodwill, thanks to some wonderful work by our School Band and Choir, class 3E and our talented Kindergarten kids, Mrs Edge's dancers, and a fine solo performance by Darcy. Very well done everyone!



How many books can you read these holidays?

Join the Summer Reading Club at your local library
or at www.summerreadingclub.org.au

Choose a free reward each time you borrow

Read 10 books to enter the draw for
GREAT PRIZES

The Summer Reading Club runs from Dec 8 – Jan 8

For a complete list of all library holiday programs
visit www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/library

Don't miss out!

Bookings are now open for all January activities

