

# HILLTOP NEWS

Newcastle East Public School – Australia's Oldest School

Week Seven Term Two, Tuesday June 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

Edition Ninety Nine

## Athletics Carnival – from Mrs Thomas

NEPS students, teachers, parents and friends enjoyed marvellous weather at the 2014 Athletics Carnival last Thursday. Students aged 9 -12 years competed in discus, shot put, long jump, high jump, 200m races and 100m age races. The students aged 5-8 years competed in 70m and 100m age races, relays and tabloid events.

The parents' races, as usual, were hotly contested and the toddler and pre-school races finished with winning ribbons for all competitors. Thank you to all the parent helpers on the day and to the tireless efforts of all the teachers who make our carnival a great success each year. Congratulations to Ross who finished in first place with 407 points, followed by Murphy on 390, Eckford 387, then Fraser on 383.



The Zone qualifiers are as follows: **Friday 25th July, Track Team** : 100m races and/or 200m races and/or 4 x 100m relay – Daniel De Beer, Marshall Rattray, Paddy Pidcock, Indy Leet, Tash Stockdale, Isla Fensom, Riley Egerton, Noah Handley, Angus Grimshaw, Adelaide Tait, Matilda Ramsey, Gabriella Van Rensburg, Jude Hampson, Luke Springett, Damien Ritter, Emily Miles, Chloe De Beer, Sophia Suters, Matt Corcoran, Gus Springthorpe, Miles McCauley, Dani Leet, Sage Murdoch, Oliver Lorincz, Lara Murphy, Alex Parsons, Lucy Bramhill, Will Hampson and Indiana Ryan. **Tuesday 29th July, 800m Races and/or Field Events Team-** Jude Hampson, Noah Handley, Emily Miles, Adelaide Tait, Matt Corcoran, Gus Springthorpe, Eliot Taylor, Eliza Payne, Sage Murdoch, Will Hampson, Alex Parsons, Lucy Bramhill, Damien Ritter, Jude Jennings, Laura Kwok, Ruby Jennings, Angus Tait and Ashleigh Ritter.

Our Age Group Champions are: -

**Junior Girls' Champion- Emily Miles**

**Junior Boys' Champion- Jude Hampson**

**11 Year Girls' Champion- Dani Leet**

**11 year Boys' Champion- Gus Springthorpe**

**Senior Girls' Champion- Alexandra Parsons**

**Senior Boys' Champion- Sage Murdoch**

My thanks to Mrs Thomas, whose organisation gave us our best carnival in memory, with more opportunities to participate in track and field events, and a structured training program leading up to the Carnival. In spite of difficulties with the facilities, the day ran like clockwork, and our students went home tired and happy. Thanks to Craig for this photo, Angus concentrating hard, and others at the end of this Newsletter. - Mr Beach

## The Quiz

Unscrambling the two mystery anagram clues from last week proved very difficult, but Lili unravelled the two names – Tanya Plibersek and Warren Truss, the two deputy leaders for their parties, with Mr Truss already having a brief term as our stand-in Prime Minister. We did receive an answer this week from last year's School Captain, Jamie Lyle, now living in Bath, UK, but it was too far for Jamie to come and pick up his prize. Great to see our Hilltop News being read internationally! I will be in Canberra this week, accompanying the Stage Three excursion, so no quiz this time.

## Circus Avalon Assembly Guest Performers

Our full Assembly last Wednesday featured two members of the Circus Avalon troupe demonstrating some of their tricks for our students. We saw some pretty fancy juggling, walking on an earth ball, uni-cycle tricks, and lots of other amazements. Parents interested in finding out more about this unique children's circus, based in Newcastle, can go to [www.circusavalon.com.au](http://www.circusavalon.com.au)




## Words of Wisdom from a Wayward Wombat

Kindergarten students had great fun at the Newcastle Regional Library on Wednesday with Karen and Lucy from Wacky Wombat. They sang, told us stories, read books, and included students in the action. Mrs Miller's favourite part was Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley. Back at school we made teddy bears from "Trudi's Tremendous Toy Shop!"

## Canberra Excursion

Students from Grade Five and Six will be in the national capital this week studying exactly how elections and government work. Their accompanying teachers will be Miss Hicks, Mr Beach, and Miss Varagnolo. We'll be cold but busy!!



presents

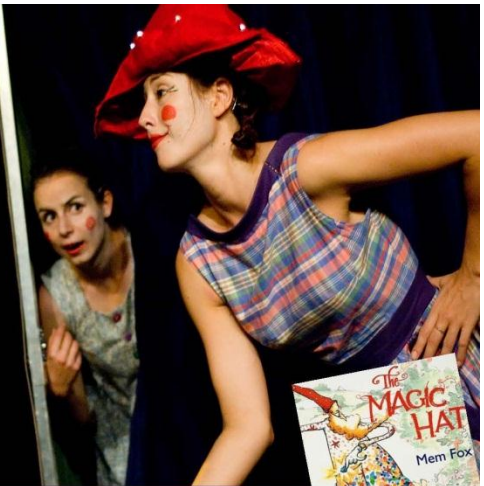
# THE MAGIC HAT

*Based on the book by Mem Fox*

**TUES 8 - SAT 19 JULY**  
**at 11am and 1pm**  
**For Ages 3 - 7 years**

In this charming adaptation of Mem Fox's best-selling picture book, follow the surprising journey of a magic hat as it flies through your imagination with shadow puppetry, song, rhythm and movement by three blundering clowns.

created by Drop Bear Theatre



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for more information & to book  
[www.monkeybaa.com.au](http://www.monkeybaa.com.au) or call 8624 9340

## For Your Diary – What's Coming Up?

As usual, we aim to finish the term with a bang, not a whimper, so there's lots planned. It would be wonderful if you were able to come to some of these events.

**Sunday 22th 9:00 – 11:00 am**

**Monday 23th 6:00 pm**

**Wednesday 25th 5:00 – 7:00pm**

**Thursday 26th**

**Friday 27th**

**Working Bee**

**Recital Night (see entry form below)**

**Disco – free entry, but you need a parent with you to get in!**

**NEPS Classroom Herald published**

**Public Speaking Finals** – K-2 at 9:00am, 3-6 at 11:00



## Barber of Seville

Who is this over-zealous barber? It's the hero of the Barber of Seville. Our Opera Australia performance of this opera is scheduled for our first day back next term, Tuesday July 15<sup>th</sup>.



Parents are welcome too, but we need to be organised with notes and payment before the vacation, which is just two weeks away. Don't forget, it's a comedy and an opera combined, and follows our performance of The Magic Flute last year, which was loved by our students. Notes are available from the School Office. More samples from the show at: -

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjIFz\\_Lkbxg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjIFz_Lkbxg)

## Writing Our School History

As part of our preparations for our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, just eighteen months away, we are looking for writers for our social history of the school. If you are experienced or enthusiastic, and might like to find out more about this project, please contact me for a chat. The idea is to write about significant eras of NEPS history, from a student's perspective. It will be a "people's history", to go alongside the Doctoral Thesis we already have, written by Professor Eddie Braggett. [John.beach@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:John.beach@det.nsw.edu.au)



Indiana from Year Six would like to thank everyone who donated for the World Wide Fund for Nature last week. Altogether we have raised around \$30. I have donated this in the name of N.E.P.S. Your donations were greatly appreciated.

## Colonial Fair

Preparations are now well and truly underway for The Colonial Fair to be held October 18<sup>th</sup> 2014. Thank you to all those parents and friends that have already expressed an interest in helping out. Donations of **baskets, small gift prizes, vouchers, wine, 2nd hand books, toys and clothes** are all being gratefully accepted at the office.

The Coffee Shop to be run by 5/6H is putting out a call also at this time for donations of **coffee beans, decaffeinated coffee grounds and chocolate powder**. And what would a coffee shop be without tables and chairs? So if you have any suitable **outdoor furniture or shades** we could borrow for the day please see Miss Hicks, Claire or Mr Beach.





# Canteen

## Volunteer Roster

<b>Week 8</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> June</b> Cherry Connew Mel Pegg	<b>18<sup>th</sup> June</b> Nicole Tait	<b>20<sup>th</sup> June</b> Teval Guner Kylie Mowatt
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> June</b> Criag Mattsson	<b>25<sup>th</sup> June</b> Tracey Meares	<b>27<sup>th</sup> June</b> Cherry Connew Kamisha Refalo

### Donations – Margarine

Families on the donation roster for this week are: Snitch, Somjaipheng, Springett, Stockdale, Taylor, Shaw, Zdenkowski, Dyson, Walpole, McCallum, Whiteside, Williams, and Williams.

### Recital Night

Entries for our Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Recital Night are now requested, using the form attached to this Newsletter. We anticipate a performance by our School Band, which is now really performing to a high standard, our beautiful school choir, as well as many individual musicians, and a rock band. Please complete the form and return to be sure you are in the program. Everyone is welcome in the audience too!



### Recital Night Entry

Name.....

Class .....

Instrument.....

Tutor / Teacher.....

Name of your piece .....

How long does it run for? .....

What equipment do you need? .....

Signed .....Parent / Guardian



# Athletics Carnival 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014



## School Council - Parent Telephone Survey - 2013

This is a summary from the "Suggestions" section of the survey, but the full survey data is freely available from the School Office. Note that the overwhelming response was extremely positive, and that these points are suggestions for further improvement.

Comment / Suggestion	School / School Council Response
Students' toilets need a revamp. Spiders are a problem, especially for younger students.	Toilets were repainted and lights replaced two years ago. Cleaner has been asked to spray for spiders regularly.
Front fence needs fixing.	Principal and School Council are engaged in a major effort to bring about repairs.
More notification of events, such as Recital Night and discos, well in advance of date.	Planner included in Newsletter. School is investigating a school "app" or SMS broadcast service to address this issue, and short notice changes such as later excursion arrivals, washed out carnivals, etc.
Mandatory outdoor play and no access to computers during lunch	With restricted space, Library and computer room provide areas for some students off the playground. Computer Lab is open only half lunch.
More healthy eating options in Canteen	Canteen Committee works hard to provide healthy options, but staffing difficulties make some prepared food lines inevitable.
Ethics should be expanded to include some study of other religions, such as Buddhism, Ramadan, Hindi celebrations, etc.	Ethics is taught strictly according to DEC-approved program, but Stage Two HSIE does cover areas such as Comparative Religion.
Need more male teachers	Illegal to advertise/appoint staff based on gender.
More physical space needed to play	School site is very small, but older students often go off-campus for sport, using the beaches, gyms, and other sites.
COLA needs drop-down canvas on southern side	Has been investigated and found to be not practical.
DJ hands out pirated music at school discos	Principal will check if this is the case, and intervene.
Notes need to be emailed out, to avoid lost/missed notes	See Response 3 above, concerning a school app.
Areas of need in children need to be identified earlier in the school year so that help can be arranged	Staff have responded by scheduling parent/teacher interviews for end of Term One, rather than mid-year, an initiative well-received by parents.
Greater variety of sports and specific teaching of sportsmanship / School needs to provide a full-time PE teacher / Increased after-school sports opportunities for younger children	Staffing does not permit a specialist PE appointment, but staff work hard to provide a full range of co-curricular sporting activities, and we always look to expand that variety.
Premier's Reading Challenge not sufficiently promoted	The school is working hard to better promote the PRC this year, through <b>better</b> recognition of successful readers as they attain each benchmark.
Parents not notified when their children are included in the support program offered by the school's Learning And Support Teacher (LAST)	This is a serious matter, which is being rectified by written advice to parents if a student is referred by Class Teacher to LAST, for additional learning support, and a written report.
Students "in the middle" need more attention. The school caters well for those top students, and for those with learning problems, but more attention needs to be focused on "average" kids.	Teachers work hard to try to meet the learning needs of every student in their class, each having different needs. Concerned parents should bring the matter up with the class teacher directly, immediately.
Food waste is an issue for younger students, who sometimes throw away their lunch un-eaten.	The "eating" part of lunch is now under direct teacher supervision, following similar comments last year.
Drama needs to be re-invigorated in the school.	This is an area of need which we are hoping to address. In 2015 all students will work on a school drama for NEPS200.
Too much time spent on fund-raising, which could perhaps be avoided by doubling fees.	P and C responsibility, which will be discussed.
Totally disagreed with the jelly-bean drive as a fund-raiser. It set a poor example nutritionally.	This was definitely a one-off way to raise money for iPads, since we had these sweets left over after the Fair was postponed due to the playground problems.

## Planner Term Two

Week	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat/Sun
1	28 School Development Day	29 Lessons resume	30 12:30 ANZAC Service	1 Colonial Fair Meeting 14:45	2	3/4
2	5	6	7 17:30 iPad info evening parents	8	9 Mothers' Day Stall Regional Cross Country	10/11
3	12	13 NAPLAN Language/Writing	14 NAPLAN Reading	15 NAPLAN Maths	16 Free fruit for all students	17/18
4	19 Shaun Tan exhibition P&C Meeting School Council	20	21 National Simultaneous Reading Day	22	23 Gala Day Foreshore Park Yr. 4/5	24/25
5	26 School Photos	27	28	29	30	31/1
6	2	3	4 ICAS Science	5	6	7/8
7	9 Queen's Birthday Holiday	10	11 Wacky Wombat - K	12 Athletics Carnival	13	14/15
8	16 P&C Meeting School Council. ICAS Writing/Spelling	17 Stage 3 Canberra	18 Stage 3 Canberra	19 Stage 3 Canberra	20 Stage 3 Canberra	21/22
9	23 Recital Night	24	25 Disco	26	27	28/29



## KidzCare General Information

**OPENING HOURS: 8:00am – 6:00pm**

**COST: \$38\* per day (plus excursions)**

**\*CCB Approved**

Newcastle PCYC KidzCare offers quality accredited care to children from Kindergarten to Year 6. Our mission is to encourage children to participate in a variety of enjoyable activities within a safe and familiar environment.

Our activities cater for children of varying abilities while encouraging maximum involvement. Children rotate through activities which regularly include a variety of craft, cooking and sports for children to participate in.

Each school holiday period offers excursions to the movies, local parks, iconic landmarks or popular entertainment venues. Fun elements may also be incorporated to include special theme days.

Newcastle PCYC KidzCare staff members attend regular training to keep up to date with changes in legislation and programming, and are experienced in a variety of fields including childcare, physical education and primary teaching.

Bookings for the January school holidays open four weeks prior to the holiday period on **June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**. To avoid disappointment, early booking is recommended.

A copy of our current holiday program can be found on the Newcastle PCYC website:

[www.pcycnsw.org/newcastle](http://www.pcycnsw.org/newcastle)

For enquiries, please contact the club on 49 614 493, or via email at

[newcastle@pcycnsw.org.au](mailto:newcastle@pcycnsw.org.au)



## HELEN O'GRADY DRAMA ACADEMY NEW LOWER PRIMARY CLASS FREE TRIAL LESSON

**“Increase your child’s communication skills, confidence  
and creative talents.”**

We are proposing to start a new class in Newcastle for Lower Primary students only (6, 7, 8 years of age) to compliment our afternoon Upper Primary Drama classes.

A free trial drama class will be conducted at our Newcastle Studio in the Uniting Church Hall in Glebe Rd. Merewether on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June' 4.00pm – 4.45pm. The class will run for 45 minutes. If you wish to book a place or would like further details, please contact us to book in at:

[dramacorp@bigpond.com](mailto:dramacorp@bigpond.com) - 02 49692338

Shane Skerly  
Principal  
Hunter Region