

# Hilltop News

Week One, Term Four, Tuesday, October 6th, 2015 Edition One Hundred and Fifty

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## Welcome Back

I trust that your family managed to get some relaxation and recharging time over the past two weeks, as we look forward to an exciting Term Four. It's just a few weeks till Orientation for Kindergarten 2016 begins, underlining just how fast the year seems to be going. Some maintenance work was carried out over the vacation, fixing up property damage from April's storm, masonry work on our Tyrrell Street fence continues, with iron work arriving shortly, and thanks to our Year Six students, a new seat was installed adjacent to the computer lab.

## Traffic Dangers

I am extremely concerned about dangers to our students caused by frequent traffic violations, and note that last term we had at least three occasions on which a student was almost struck by a car. There is a very real chance of a serious accident around our school, particularly at pick-up time, when many cars try to cram into just a few spaces. I have received correspondence from several parents who share my concern about dangers to our children posed by cars. Particular problems around our area include: -

- Cars parked on and across pedestrian crossings.
- Cars double parking on streets with extremely poor lines of sight for other drivers.
- Families crossing Brown Street and Tyrrell Street without using the designated crossing areas.
- Cars pulling into the school car park driveway, then reversing out blindly.
- Cars exceeding the 40kph speed limit within our school zone.

In many instances, the offending drivers are not connected to our school, but certain school vehicles/drivers are seen to be repeat offenders, especially with double parking and parking on crossings.

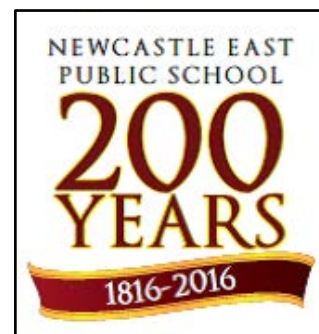
My worry is that my responsibility is to see children safely to and from school every day, so I am taking these steps to try to make sure our kids are safe: -

- I will be asking the parking police to patrol the school more closely in future
- I am seeking legal advice regarding publication of photos of offending vehicles, particularly in regard to parking on crossings, and double parking, as a "name and shame" section on our weekly newsletter.

- I encourage you to try parking a short distance from the school in the afternoon, and taking a quick walk into our grounds to pick up your child. Parking is possible in Brown, Tyrrell, Perkins, Pitt, and Church Streets, and spending a few cents in a meter may prevent an accident in the “rush hour” each afternoon.

## What's Happening for our 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday?

With our Bicentenary events taking place on the second weekend of Term One, we really have just this term to get organised. There's an excellent source of practical detail on our Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/NewcastleEastBicentenary> with lots of information, but here's a quick summary of what you need to know: -



- Events take place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February
- We hope to attract as many ex-students as possible, so please spread the word.
- Our sculpture will be unveiled on Friday 5<sup>th</sup>.
- There is a bush dance, with an Irish band, Friday night
- Saturday afternoon, 3 pm, sees the launch of our school history publication, *To Climb The Hill*, by Hon Julia Gillard, on our school forecourt.
- Saturday night – formal dinner at City Hall, with Ms Gillard and Justice Michael Kirby giving addresses, plus entertainment by the Gelzinnis Family.
- Sunday – Ecumenical Service at Christ Church Cathedral, then Open School displays at both our sites still extant, here and Bolton Street.

An historical play, involving all our students, will take place during Term Two, but most events have been squeezed into this one weekend, to minimise disruption to the school's routine. There will be extensive media coverage, and I urge you to start planning your participation now. Tickets for the Formal Dinner go on sale at the end of the month.

## Bunnings BBQ

Are you looking for a way to be more involved with the NEPS P & C and help raise funds for school programs and equipment?

The P & C are hosting a fundraising BBQ at Kotara Bunnings on October the 25th, and we need your help.

Shifts are only 2 hours each, and are a great way to meet other parents, and to help out your children's school. Grandparents, friends and other family members are all welcome.

Please go to the office to register your preferred time or call Jessica on 0428 900 272.

## Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Competition

Congratulations to Amy De Malmanche, awarded a Commended certificate for this excellent and very descriptive poem.

The Snail  
The wind is blowing,  
The clouds are snowing,  
Yet slowly, the lowly snail glides on.

Trees are bashing,  
Rain is lashing,  
Yet the slimy, slow snail slips on.

The wind is whining,  
The light is dying,  
Yet the glutinous snail slimes on.

The lightning is crackling,  
The thunder is cackling,  
Is the snail's courage cracking?

Will he make it or will he snap?  
The howling wind pulls him back,  
As he climbs the worn, wet track

Then the broken snail slides into the cave,  
A broken-down wreck, yet wonderfully  
brave,  
Survived to the end though the prospect  
was grave.

The slimy, gloopy snail,  
With his tall, droopy eyes,  
Was awarded for his bravery, with a  
wonderful prize,  
The best prize by far, was in the other  
snails' eyes.



## Canteen

Volunteers urgently needed or the canteen may need to close.

Please text Cherry on 0409927006 if you can help out this term.

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Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
5 October Public Holiday	6 Students resume	7	8	9
12	13	14 Sailing begins	15 Grandparents' Day 8.15 Breakfast	16
19	20	21	22	23 Sunday 25- Bunnings Barbeque
26 Swimming School begins	27	28 Kindergarten Information Evening 6pm Library	29	30
2 November  Kindy Orientation 10am	3	4	5	6 Last day – swimming school
9 Kindy Orientation 10am	10	11 State Final Premiers Spelling Bee	12	13
16 Kindy Orientation 10am	17 NHS + Feeder Schools Town Hall Performance	18	19	20
23 Kindy Orientation 10am	24	25	26	27
30 Captains Speeches Scripture Christmas Concert	1 December	2	3	4
7	8	9	10 Year 6 Dinner South Newcastle Leagues Club	11
14	15	16 Last day for students	17 SDD	18 SDD