

Hilltop News

Week Seven, Term Four, Tuesday, November 17th, 2015 Edition One Hundred and Fifty-six

Farewell to OOSH Director

I'm sad to report that our Director of six years, Debbie, has given notice that she is leaving at the end of the school year. Debbie intends to return to her family in Adelaide, where she has beautiful grand-children. In her time at NEPS, Debbie has worked tirelessly to bring our OOSH Centre up to the very high standards now set by Government, and to establish a structured program and routine for our children. At last night's P and C Meeting, President Chris Baker spoke of Debbie's dedication, and the stability she has given OOSH. Personally, I will miss Debbie's happy demeanour and her always-ready-to-help attitude. We wish her well in this new phase of her life.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

What an impressive group of Grade Five students we have, leading this service independently, speaking confidently, and practising their public speaking skills ready for their speeches in the lead-up to our elections for School captain positions. We had some student poetry read too, and I've included two of these excellent pieces in this newsletter.

Remembrance Day

The sun is shining on the soldiers who are now lost
Their beds filled with dirt
One more glimpse at the sun for our noble heroes
Now sleep my soldiers, for you have served your country well and proudly

Claudia B, 4H

A Day to Remember

At the setting of the day, the gunshots end,
And the dying soldiers pray in bed to mend.
And the veterans weep as all have their friend,
As they look to the stars, broken wishes they send.

In the burning fields, the widows weep,
And the men in the trenches hope to sleep.
There's no quitting now, you're in too deep,
When the war is over, pride is yours to keep.

The fighting is done; the armistice signed,
It was a bigger adventure than you thought you'd find.
On the long trip home, the engines whined,
And forevermore, you can rest your mind. Ari Foggo

Dinner Bookings

With tickets selling quickly, you are encouraged to buy now if you intend going to our Bicentennial Dinner on Saturday February 6th. From this Friday, they will be advertised more widely, outside our school community, so to provide our school families with the best chance, get in this week! It's easy to specify your seating preference when you book, by noting a particular table or group that you'd like to sit with.

<http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=167759>

Sailing Spectacular

We enjoyed perfect conditions last week, a light easterly breeze on the harbour setting up some close racing. We have fifteen students learning how to sail, their tutors covering all the basics of steering, tacking, gybing, and sail trimming. In the last two weeks, all these skills are starting to come together, and our teamwork and attitude has really sharpened up, providing more competitive conditions. It's still lots of fun, too!



Golf Day

Our P and C President organised another fund-raising golf day last Sunday, well attended by a dozen golfers, playing in the Ambrose format. The day was lots of fun, and very successful, raising about \$500, and follows an earlier golf day which raised \$700. Many thanks to Chris for his constant efforts on behalf of our P and C and our children.

New Staff member

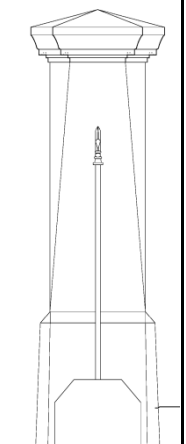
Yesterday's Kindergarten Orientation session provided the opportunity for our new K students to meet their new teacher, Ms Lisa Baker. Ms Baker has been appointed following a lengthy advertisement and interview process, and brings extensive experience from her Melbourne-based career. I welcome her to NEPS.

Office-bearers on School Council

Congratulations to newly-endorsed committee members from last night's Council AGM. President Kate Drew is now serving her second year as President, while Mike Giles was re-elected as Secretary. Leaving School Council, after five years in several different roles, is Kate Bookallil, who has made an outstanding contribution to the school, always professional in her approach, and ready to advocate on behalf of our children. Her efforts are appreciated.

Fence Progress Report

With stone-work almost finished this week the black-smith /metal workers are working her to do much of the installation of the iron pickets and fleur-de-lys symbols. Traditional skills are required, to keep it authentic. Each iron picket is secured in the stone by pouring molten lead around its base, preventing corrosion and making a solid bond. Thanks to all who have offered agapanthus. If you could leave them in the ground for another week or two, I hope to have a working bee to plant them in just a couple of weekends, after the fence is completed.



Quiz Winner

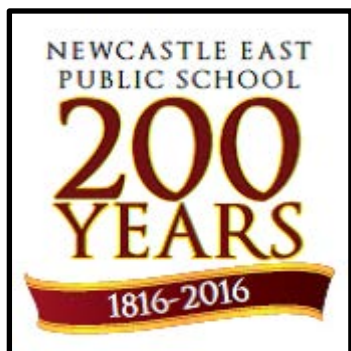
Congratulations to Eliza Mowatt for correctly answering last week's quiz.

This week is just for Kindergarten and Grade One students.

Can you tell me how many classes we have at our school?

Email your answer to john.beach@det.nsw.edu.au

Using our Bicentennial Facebook Page Yet? Like Us for Updates!



Just three months now until we celebrate our 200th birthday. We plan to use the Facebook page highlighted here for updates, tickets, news, re-union gatherings, etc, so it's important that as many people as possible "Like" it right now. If you haven't done so, please click the link below, have a good look around at the dates and functions, and click "Like", to receive updates as they come out.

<https://www.facebook.com/NewcastleEastBicentenary>



Some Key Dates for Your Diary

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|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Year Five Gala Day Newcastle High | Friday November 27 |
| • Captains' Speeches | Monday November 30, 8.45 am |
| • Year Six Dinner | Thursday 10 th December |
| • Presentation Day | Monday December 14, 10 am |
| • Christmas Concert | Monday December 14, 5.30 pm |
| • Clap-out | Wednesday December 16, 2.30 pm |



Still Missing the Newsletter, or Know Someone Who Is? Let Us Know!

There are lots of options when it comes to reading the weekly Newsletter:-

- We can supply a paper copy each week if you request it
- You can pick a copy up from the Office at any time
- Register for the free Skoolbag app from the App store or Play Store
- Email the Office so that we can email the Newsletter to you every Tuesday
- You can access it on our school website at any time –

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

Design Challenge

Check out the fun design exercise on the last page of the Newsletter. It's something the family can help with, to make a creative solution to an engineering problem, from recycled materials.

Need ideas? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tsrc2IMdH08>

Special Note for Year Six Parents

Year Six students will be allowed to wear their "farewell" T-shirts on these dates in December : -
Monday 7, Wednesday 9, Friday 11, Wednesday 16

Tonight!



MAKE
SOME
NOISE

NEWCASTLE
TOWN
HALL
NOV 17
6.30 PM
\$15

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS
A NIGHT OF DRAMA, DANCE AND MUSIC
FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY OUR PARTNER PRIMARY SCHOOLS
CARRINGTON:NEWCASTLE EAST:THE JUNCTION
HAMILTON:HAMILTON SOUTH:STOCKTON
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE
LIMITED TICKETS ON THE DOOR
-PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE FUCHS FOUNDATION-

IMPORTANT NOTICE from Transport for NSW

FAQ: School Principal

Dear Sir/Madam,

Changes to SSTS applications and the introduction of the School Opal card.

The School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) gives eligible students free or subsidised travel between home and school, on the approved train, bus or ferry services.

From term one 2016, Transport for NSW will be issuing School Opal cards to students eligible for travel under the School Student Transport Scheme via a new online application process.

The introduction of the new School Opal card and online application form will provide significant benefits for schools:

Automatic renewal

Most parents, guardians and students won't need to apply for a School Opal card if they have already been given a school student travel pass and will automatically receive a School Opal card in 2016.

However, parents, guardians and students will need to apply if the student:

- is just starting school and has not had a pass before
- is in a transition year (i.e., year 2 to 3, or 6 to 7)
- is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school
- or, if the student's personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Reduced distribution

While School Opal cards will automatically sent to schools for existing pass holders for distribution for travel in term one, all new applications received for travel from the start of 2016 will be sent directly to the student's nominated address.

Online application form

Schools will no longer need to keep the SSTS application form as parents, guardians and students can go on line from 2 November 2015 to complete their application form, print it out and return it to the school.

Fewer forms

Schools will only need to endorse a single application form for each student's eligible address and send it to a single address (Locked Bag 5085, Parramatta 2124) even if they are applying for multiple services.

Simplified replacement process

Schools won't need to endorse additional applications for lost, stolen or damaged passes, as parents, guardians and students simply need to visit www.transportnsw.info/school-students or call 131 500 to order a

18 Lee Street Chippendale NSW 2008

PO Box K659 Haymarket NSW 1240

T 8202 2200 F 8202 2209

www.transport.nsw.gov.au

ABN 18 804 239 602

new School Opal card. Schools can continue to follow their current processes for students who have lost their pass.

Online eligibility assessment

The new on line application portal will automatically assess eligibility based on distance rules.

Same eligibility rules

The eligibility rules for subsidised school travel remain the same for travel inside and outside the Opal network. Students may need to live a minimum distance away their school:

- Years K-2 (Infants) there's no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking distance or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking distance or further.

Schools can find out more about the School Student Transport Scheme at transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/schools

How you can help?

- Display the enclosed poster on the school noticeboard.
- Distribute the flyers to students and parents.
- Encourage applicants to go online to apply for 2016 travel in the Opal network via your communication channels. The application is available at transportnsw.info/school-students. Paper forms that have already been completed and submitted to Transport for NSW or a transport operator will be processed and do not need to be resubmitted.
- Responsibly dispose of any remaining blue SSTS application forms.
- Add digital tiles and banners to add to your website when they arrive via email.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Passes and Schemes on 02 9891 8900 or 1800 227 77 4.

Thank you for your support.

Transport for **NSW**

18 Lee Street Chippendale NSW 2008

PO Box K659 Haymarket NSW 1240

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Transport for NSW

Fact sheet: The School Opal card

Who's eligible?

To be eligible for a School Opal card, students need to be NSW residents and may need to live a minimum distance away from their school:

- Years K-2 (Infants) there's no minimum distance.
- Years 3-6 (Primary) 1.6km straight line distance or 2.3km walking or further.
- Years 7-12 (Secondary) 2.0km straight line distance or 2.9km walking or further.

Students completing secondary studies at TAFE, boarding school students and students temporarily in Australia may also be eligible for a School Opal card. The eligibility criteria for these students is available at transportnsw.info/school-students.

A School Opal card is provided to eligible students who need to travel within the Opal network. Paper travel passes are issued to eligible students who need to travel outside the Opal network.

Who needs to apply?

Most students or parents won't need to apply for the School Opal card. The School Opal card will be sent to a student's school automatically at the beginning of the new school year in 2016. However, a new application is required if:

- The student is just starting school or has not had a pass for travel before.
- The student is progressing from Year 2 to 3, or Year 6 to 7.
- The student is changing schools, including going between primary and secondary school.

The student's personal details have changed (e.g. address).

Applications must be made by a parent or guardian for children aged 15 years and under.

Applications must be made by the student if aged 16 years or older.

How to apply

Step 1 Complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students.

Step 2 Print, sign and submit the form to the school for endorsement.

Step 3 The school will then forward the application to Transport for NSW for processing. Once approved, Transport for NSW sends the School Opal card to the home address given in the application.

The application may take several weeks and the applicant's email address is required.

If the student doesn't qualify for free travel

They may be eligible for a Term Bus Pass which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.

Apply at transportnsw.info/school-students.

Find out more

For more information on the School Opal card and the School Student Travel Scheme (SSTS), please visit transportnsw.info/school-students.

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Design and Build Challenge

There are lots of different ways to move “bulk” things, like wheat or sand or soil, from one place to another.

Here are some:-

- A shovel can pick up stuff and throw it
- A wheel-barrow can be loaded up then carry materials to a new place.
- A truck or train can carry bulk things over a long, long distance.



Can you design and build a better system to move sand from one desk to another, using only recycled materials?

The desks will be 60 cm apart, with a pile of sand on one side, which you can load onto your machine by hand.

Things you might use:-

- Lego wheels
- Rubber bands
- Bike tubes
- Old bits of wood
- Paper/plastic cups
- Cardboard tubes
- Old belts
- Rules



It's fun, so anyone can help!

It's not a competition! Everyone trying gets a certificate. Every entry is precious!

Show Day is the last day of term, 1 pm, Wednesday 16th December, and that's when we try them out.

Need some inspiration? Try this link for ideas: -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrnPQJNAcGI> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQhFMENp-zY>

Some helpful hints needed? Look up “conveyor belts” and “luggage carousels” for ideas.

Questions? Email john.beach@det.nsw.edu.au

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 School Presentation 10am	15	16 Last day for students	17 SDD	18 SDD

Newcastle School Portraits

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w: newcastleschoolportraits.com p: 0249 654 114 e: admin@newcastleschoolportraits.com

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