

HILLTOP NEWS

Week Ten, Term Four, Tuesday, December 8th, 2015 Edition One Hundred and Fifty-nine

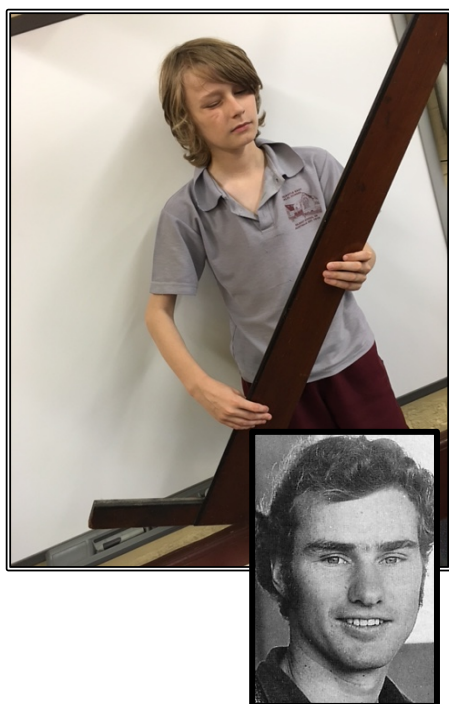
Gold Reading Awards

Congratulations to these clever students, who were awarded Gold Certificates for four years' participation in the Premier's Reading Challenge. They were Caitlin, Eleanor, Albi, and Charles, and their favourite books, which might make excellent holiday reading, or gift ideas: -

- *The Invention of Hugo Cabray* Caitlin
- *The Boy Versus Beast Series* Charles
- *Tree-house Series* Albi
- *Geronimo Stilton* Eleanor



Can You Identify This Strange Object?



What is the mystery object held by Matt, our puzzled School Vice-captain? It's 1.5 metres long, made from cedar, it has a perfect right angle, and it's a vital part of our school's history. But what is it, and where did it come from?

Answer: this is the T-square used by our student Ben Lexcen, pictured here, the famous Australian naval architect, designer of many Olympic yachting classes, and most famous for his winning design for the America's Cup yacht race, which was won by Australia II. Ben was a NEPS student in the 1940's, and was "famous" for the number of school days he spent at Newcastle Canoe Pool, sailing and modifying model boats he had built.

Our school holds many artefacts and archival materials, and these will be on display during our Bicentenary "open day" celebrations, on Sunday February 7th next year.

Christmas Carol Evening Monday

Following the excitement of next Monday's Presentation Day assembly (10 am in the COLA), join us for a relaxed evening of carol singing, led by our two choirs, under the COLA. Bring chairs and blankets, enjoy hot food from the barbeque from 5.30pm. Then settle down at 6.30 for some beautiful traditional carol singing. Vegetarians are catered for too, and lots of cold drinks will be available or sale.



Kindy Barbeque

We do other things as well as sausage sizzles at NEPS, but Friday was a beautiful evening for a barbeque, and was ideal for welcoming our new Kindergarten families to the school, in a friendly and comfortable manner. Many turned out, at a very busy time of the year, and our thanks go to Mrs Miller and Mrs Thompson for their organisation, and for having such a sound idea. Our P&C managed catering in their usual unflappable manner and it was a very pleasant evening for all. We do have a lovely group of new students for 2016.



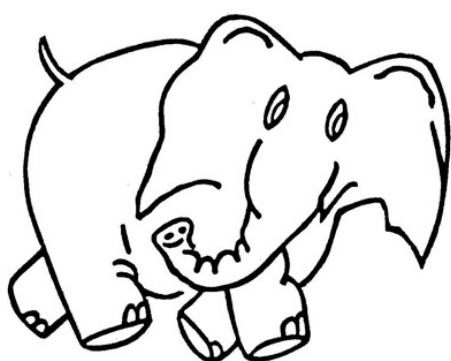
Demographer Visit to NEPS School Council

In the past two years the DoE has implemented a strategic plan to look at long and short term planning of student numbers throughout NSW. They are reviewing the data annually and next year implementing *cluster planning* of school zones. NEPS is in a high priority cluster for review and it is reassuring that they have identified that there will need to be plans put in place for inner-city Newcastle as soon as possible.

Early next year they will be reviewing our cluster area and representatives from the school will be invited to be included in this process. Of course process and departments always take time to implement change so early next year we will be able to keep in contact with them to ensure this planning is on schedule.

Dinner Sold Out

Amazingly, our Bicentenary Dinner has completely sold out, with 320 people attending. There is still demand for tickets, so please let the office know if you are unable to use a ticket or two. Interest in our 200th anniversary is very high, with many former students visiting the school, and using the occasion to link up with old school mates. Please keep checking our Facebook page for updates between now and the first weekend in February. Some video has been added this week, and our captains have just been interviewed by ABC TV, along with our former pupil Senator Arthur Sinodinos. <https://www.facebook.com/NewcastleEastBicentenary>



White Elephant Sale for Our Neptunes Choir

We are holding a white elephant stall, to raise money for our choir. Bring in anything you do not use any more, but only usable items in good condition please.

The stall will be held on Carols Night, Monday 14th December, at 5.30pm.

If anyone would like to help on the night please see Mrs Edge.

Media Permission Form

Miss Hicks is currently shooting some video scenes for use in a Bicentenary video, showing a typical day in the life of our school. The video will be accompanied by a song specially recorded by our school choir, the Neptunes, last week at Newcastle High's recording studio.

Parental permission is needed before a child can be featured in this production, so families who have not completed a media permission form have had another one sent home. Seventy families are in this category. If you are happy for your child to be featured, OR do not want your child included, please complete the form and return it promptly.



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 some stimulating helpful ideas?

Try this link:-

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

Canteen Roster

Week	Monday	Friday
10	7 th December Chris White Greg Warburton	11 th December Robin Hetherington Volunteer needed
11	14 th December Volunteer needed	

Christmas Holiday **bricks** 4 kidz **FUN!**

Fun, Themed School Holiday Workshops.
BOOK A SPOT for your little builder TODAY!



Beat the Christmas Holiday Brain Drain and treat your kids to some Holiday FUN. Our Summer themes include Mining and Crafting, Minion Madness, Jurassic Brick Park, Remote Control Mania and Brick Wars "May The Bricks Be With You".



Be quick to secure your spot and receive a **BONUS GIFT!**

Great Venues in Charlestown, Lambton, Fletcher and Maitland.



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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 Welcome Kindy BBQ 5.30pm
7 P&C /School Council Meeting	8	9	10 Year 6 Dinner South Newcastle Leagues Club	11
14 School Presentation 10am	15	16 Last day for students Clap out	17 SDD	18 SDD

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