

HILLTOP NEWS

Newcastle East Public School – Australia's Oldest School

Week Two Term One, Tuesday February 10th, 2015

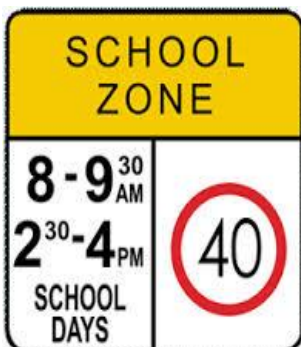
Edition One Hundred and Twenty-Three

Information Night – Key Points

Many thanks to those parents who were able to attend last night's Information Evening. Each member of staff distributed some information relevant to her class, which will still be available by contacting that teacher, but if you weren't there, here's a summary of main points discussed in the Principal's session: -

- Consistent attendance at school correlates strongly with success at school
- Lateness to lessons each morning correlates strongly with learning difficulties
- Parents are encouraged to become involved with the school in any way possible. You may be able to help with reading or canteen, with P and C or School Council, with sports or music. Your participation will always be welcome, and it demonstrates to your children that you see school as an important "project".
- Students will be busy this year in preparation for the Bicentennial celebrations in February 2016, which involves publication of a history of the school, a formal dinner, production of an historic play. More information on Facebook – NEPS 200.
- Communication with teachers is vital, but chatting at an arranged interview time is best. To make an appointment contact the school on 49292911.
- Your opinions on school issues are always valued, and I appreciate your feedback. Best to email me on john.beach@det.nsw.edu.au
- Extra-curricular programs are highly valued at NEPS, and include after-school sports, music lessons, study of a foreign language, the school band, choir, and dance troupe. More information is available on all these through the School office

Safety at School



Our students travel to school in a high-traffic zone, with cars travelling at high speeds, and very little parking. Measures are in place to keep our children safe, including the School Zone, which has now been fitted with flashing lights to alert motorists. Please observe speed limits, and when entering the school, use designated Pedestrian Only pathways. Children and their parents should never enter through the staff car park, which often has vehicles reversing out of narrow spaces, with poor rear vision.

NEPS Homework Policy

Teachers at our school set regular homework tasks for children, with the clear expectation that homework will be completed. In around 90% of instances, homework is submitted, finished and on time. Our staff manages the amount and nature of homework carefully, to avoid setting homework merely for the sake of giving homework. Teachers, mindful of the need for students to participate in other activities outside school, try to set learning tasks which reinforce what has been taught in the classroom. There is no punishment for not completing homework, but I encourage you to work with your child to see that it is completed. I am more than happy to discuss homework with you, if you have concerns.

Swimming Carnival Report

NEPS Swimming Carnival, held last Tuesday at Mayfield Pool, was a great success for our students. I would especially like to thank all the teachers and parents who helped out on the day to keep the carnival on schedule. All students were confident to enter the 25 metre races, with many entering four 25m events. A number of proficient students competed for selection in the NEPS zone team by reaching the qualifying times in the 50m races, set by the PSSA. Newcastle Zone Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 25th February at Lambton Pool. House teams competed fiercely for points with only one point separating the houses finishing in first and second place. Ross won the carnival with 273 points, followed by Murphy on 272. Both Eckford and Fraser competed admirably finishing on 178 and 153 points respectively. Congratulations to the NEPS 2015 age champions in swimming: Junior Girl- Heidi Schneider, Junior Boy- Noah Handley, 11yr Girl- Averil Jones, 11yr Boy- Hunter Pidcock, Senior Girl- Katie Madden, Senior Boy- Angus Tait.

NEPS Zone Swimming Team includes the following 16 students: Heidi Schneider, Noah Handley, Averil Jones, Hunter Pidcock, Angus Tait, Gracie Giles, Isla Fensom, Tasharna Stockdale, Harper Strachan, Hamish Anderson, Aren Barber, Luciana Clews, Kaden Dube, Jude Jennings, Adelaide Tait, and Genevieve Janse Van Rensburg. We wish them every success in the up-coming zone carnival.



Getting Involved – P and C, School Council

Our policies at the school are set by both staff and our School Council, and the homework policy, discussed above, is just one of these. If you would like to raise matters for School Council, the next meeting is Monday next, at 7. Everyone is welcome!

P and C meets before School Council, at 5.30, and attendance at P and C would be a great introduction for our new parents, to school life “behind the scenes”.

Both these organisations rely on strong parent support, and your involvement demonstrates to your family that you take what happens at the school very seriously!

Sailing – First Time on the Water

Twenty-two NEPS students had a beautiful day for their introduction to sailing yesterday on Newcastle Harbour. With tutors from Australian Yachting Federation and Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, and teachers and parents helping, they managed to tack their way up the harbour into a south-easterly wind, get up real speed running downwind, and even steer their boats. The sailing program runs all this term, with a special event for parents and kids at the end. A regatta for students and parents is planned for Monday March 30th, including a barbeque at the Club. The success of sailing this term will ensure that we can run the program again later.



Important Communication Coming Home

Each Family will today receive a statement of account for voluntary school contributions \$40 per student and text book levy \$40 per student. Contributions can be paid by cash cheque or EFTPOS at the school office between 8 and 3 on school days. The school also has credit card facilities if you would like to pay these contributions by phone. A credit card payment slip will also be included. We thank you for your continued financial support which allows us to provide the best possible education for the students of Newcastle East PS.

Enclosed you will also find an Emergency contact card for each student in your family. We have become aware that information and details updated in 2014 have not entirely transferred to our systems for 2015. Please carefully check your child's emergency card paying special attention to Family Title, Emergency Contacts and Medicare Card Numbers as parents are reminded that In case of an emergency these documents are the simplest and most accessible forms of information for staff assisting your child. These documents will now replace our coloured emergency contact cards. The timely return of these, along with any necessary medical condition updates and Asthma/Anaphylaxis Plans is essential.

Skoolbag App

During Term 1 of 2015 NEPS will be transitioning all bulk school communication to the Skoolbag app. This will supersede SMS alerts and previous email distribution lists. Newsletters will be distributed from this week electronically via the app and website. Printed copies will be available from the school office or upon request.

Skoolbag is a school to parent communication tool and provides an easy way to tell parents and carers everything you need to know about school news, newsletters, events calendar, cancellations, school notices, school information, school timetables, parent sick note forms, school documents and much more. No more lost paper in school bags! More info on features and benefits please follow the link: <http://www.skoolbag.com.au/forparents.php>



Canteen

The revised 2015 Canteen menu, Donation and Volunteer rosters will be sent home in hard copy today and re available on the school website and via the Skoolbag app.

Volunteers: Volunteering in the canteen is a fun way to be involved in your child's school. You get a chance to meet their friends and get to know the other children and staff at NEPS. We only need you once per term and if you haven't volunteered in the canteen before then we will roster you on with another parent for training. Text Cherry on 0409927006 if you're keen.

Week 3	9th February Donna Feiersinger	11th February Teval Guner	13th February Ziva Westley Kathy Smithson
Week 4	16th February Chris Baker	18th February Kate King Kathleen Egerton	20th February Mel Pegg Louise Hampson Ingrid Beavis

Donations: If you are able to donate during the week you are rostered it would be greatly appreciated as these donations help to keep canteen prices low.

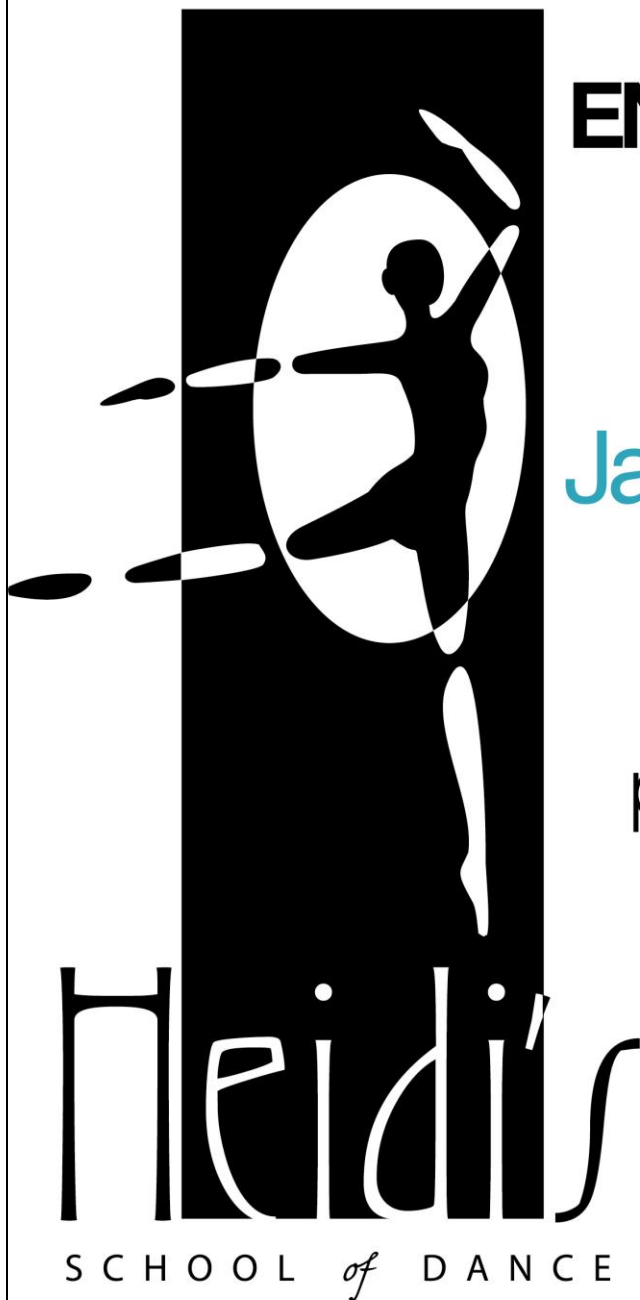
Families on the donation roster Week 3: Cabalzar-Lampert, Carr, Clack, Clews, Coakes, Russ, Navali, Madden, Davis, Dederer, Dennis, Cush, Drew, Milsom-Drzyzga, Dube, Ellway

Naming Our New Room

Keep your ideas coming in please, because the judges are still considering which answers are the best. Please email your ideas to Mr Beach john.beach@det.nsw.edu.au

Term One Planner

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
February 2	3 Swimming Carnival	4	5	6
9 Parent Information Evening	10	11	12	13
16 P&C Meeting School Council Meeting	17	18	19	20
23	24	25 Zone Swimming	26	27
March 2	3	4	5	6
9 Drama – Bully No More	10	11	12 Selective Schools Entry Tests	13
16	17	18	19	20
23 Parent/Teacher Interviews this week	24 Inter-relate Evening	25	26	27 Zone Cross Country
30 Parent/Teacher Interviews this week	31	April 1	2 Disco	3 Good Friday



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