

HILLTOP NEWS

Newcastle East Public School – Australia's Oldest School

Week Four Term One, Tuesday February 10th 2015

Edition One Hundred and Twenty-four

From P and C and School Council

P and C election of officers took place last night, with Chris Baker, Kate King and Ado Thompson returned as President and Vice-presidents. Lisa Marshall is Secretary, with Emma Boylan as Treasurer, and Sarah Dennis Fund-raising Coordinator. Congratulations to all, and thanks for the outstanding work done by P and C last year. Welcome to some new Executive members, Reena Bilen taking on the Media role, Kellie Wyman OOSH Committee parent representative, and Rennie Ferguson P and C Grounds representative. Many thanks to all those elected.

This year we hope to get more new parents involved, and this role is still unfilled, but might be of interest to you: -

Properties Coordinator – this mainly involves keeping P and C property inside the storage container in order, and attending the occasional meeting. Interested? Ring me please.

Working Bee and Barbeque

Set aside the morning of Sunday March 1st, for our first working bee of the year. This will be a fun event, combining a gardening catch-up, with a social occasion. Working bees are a great way to meet other parents in a relaxed outdoor setting, and kids can come too. New parents are especially welcome. We'll do "chores" from 9 until noon, then celebrate with a sausage sizzle. Vegetarians are catered for too! Bring some garden tools if you have them, and stay for the morning, or just a few minutes. Our jobs include: -

- Trimming trees overhanging front path on Brown Street
- Weeding around our citrus trees on the lower playground
- Aerating and fertilising grassed areas
- Weeding our native tree gardens and our vegetable garden

20/20 Cricket Champions

Congratulations to Angus Tait's cricket team, now the Country New South Wales 20/20 champs for the Under 12 age. They go to Sydney at the end of March to play the top Sydney team. It was an exciting game on Sunday afternoon, in the extreme heat at Raymond Terrace.





Safety Alert

A busy parent, Tom Szecsodi, has kindly painted markings around the staff car-park, indicating where pedestrians can go, and which areas are cars only. A reminder that entry to the school at all times is along the path between the tall hedge off Brown Street and the COLA. Please keep risk to our children to an absolute minimum by never walking your children in through the car-park. Yesterday we had a truck-load of furniture delivered to the school, by a large truck reversing into the car-park, with virtually no rearward vision.

School Gossip

- Last week, in an evening course, all our staff updated their CPR and Emergency Care training, including defibrillator training.
- Sailing continues to be popular as an after-school sporting option, yesterday taking place in a strong north-easterly breeze. Rather than sail in uncomfortable conditions, we spent the afternoon on the rescue boats, doing safety drills and looking at the harbour.
- Miss Hicks' new class desks arrived this week, after a long and very patient wait.
- Our new Kindergarten students are settling in so well, and for that we can thank their buddies, who are doing such a wonderful job.
- Don't forget the briefing for interested parents about study of Chinese Mandarin this Wednesday at 3, in the Library
- Kidnect It Robot Club starts Monday. Register now.

Our clever new Kinders are settling in very well, and would like to say thanks their buddies for the help they have been given. Attached are some photos of KT children playing with the kinetic sand, which has been a real hit in the kinder classrooms. It was kindly donated by Kath Marosszeky from the Australian Geographic store at **Kotara**.



How We Deal with Bullying at NEPS

From time to time we have bullying incidents at our school, and our approach to dealing with these is both proactive and reactive. Later this week, a brochure will be sent to every home, with a return slip to be sent in if there is an incident needing investigation. Our approach to bullying is based on exposing bullies, so that their behaviour can be stopped, and support given to both the victim and the instigator. Our preventative measures are centred on the drama production, Bully No More, to



be seen by all students on Monday March 9th. This play deals with the underlying cases of bullying, the types of bullying, and the need to let an adult know if you are being bullied.

It is important for our students to know the difference between an occasional spat between children, and genuine bullying, which is both demeaning and protracted, and can take on physical or psychological forms. Parents can help by listening to their child's account of an incident, and deciding if it needs to be looked at by our School Executive. Our Parent Survey this year indicated that almost 20% of parents felt that their child had been bullied, but in most of these cases the school had not been told. Knowledge is gold.

House of Elliot

This local interior design business has been particularly kind in its donations to our school, and I thought it would be appropriate to recognise their generosity and commitment to the school. Our school policy is to support local small businesses, rather than big national chains, and our support is reciprocated! Shop locally!

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>

Naming Our New Room

With so many great 'VP' suggestions the panel has decided to keep it simple, with the name 'The Treehouse'. Thanks for all your creative suggestions.

School Band

We're having a growth spurt! The number of children in band has grown to forty two, leaving us with a big, but very good, problem – not enough instruments.

Musical instruments are very expensive. One can pay \$2000 for a saxophone and hundreds of dollars for a flute or clarinet. If you have instruments at home, not in current use, you might consider lending them to the school, for one of our beginners in band. We are very anxious to kindle interest in music, but lack of instruments can be quite a discouragement. Mrs Jardim has more information.



Canteen The revised 2015 Canteen menu, Donation and Volunteer rosters are 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 4	16th February Chris Baker	18th February Kate King Kathleen Egerton	20th February Mel Pegg Louise Hampson Ingrid Beavis
Week 5	23rd February Lisa Marshall Lesly Marshall	25th February Katrina Kana	27th February Zia Westley Pip Strachan

Donations: Pineapple Rings

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 4: Oliphant, Wilkinson, Newell, Fensom, Ferguson, Squires, Davis, Fitzsimmons, Ford, Beecham, Garafillis, Gardner, Gay, Suters, Gittens, Glastonbury, Gomez Morris

Community Notice

St Andrews Community Pre-School in Laman Street currently has places available for 3 -5 year olds. The pre-school is a community facility located on the grounds of St Andrews Presbyterian Church on the corner of Auckland and Laman Streets in the Civic Precinct. Opening hours are 8am - 4pm. The pre-school program has prepared many children for a smooth transition to NEPS and other local primary schools over the years. Please contact the director Kathryn Wade-Rose ph. 49291113 or email standrews.ps@internode.on.net with any enquiries.

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

The simplest way

...to make ice blocks.

Summer afternoons are hot and sticky in Australia, and kids come home from school tired and hungry. Get them eating fruit with these super easy, fruit-filled ice blocks ...

Place any combo of finely diced fruit into moulds like:

- mango,
- blueberries,
- strawberries,
- watermelon,
- rockmelon,
- kiwifruit, drained
- canned peaches,
- apricots or pineapple in natural juice, or passionfruit pulp.



Top with a fruit juice of your choice then freeze until solid – at least 4 hours, or overnight.

Enjoy watching your kids eat fruit!

For more information visit
www.eatittobeatit.com.au
or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit

ROBOTS ARE TAKING OVER YOUR LIBRARY!



ROBOTICS

Students develop computer programs to bring their creations to life.

ENGINEERING

Students learn about mechanisms, such as gears and pulleys that will make the robots function.

FREE BUILD

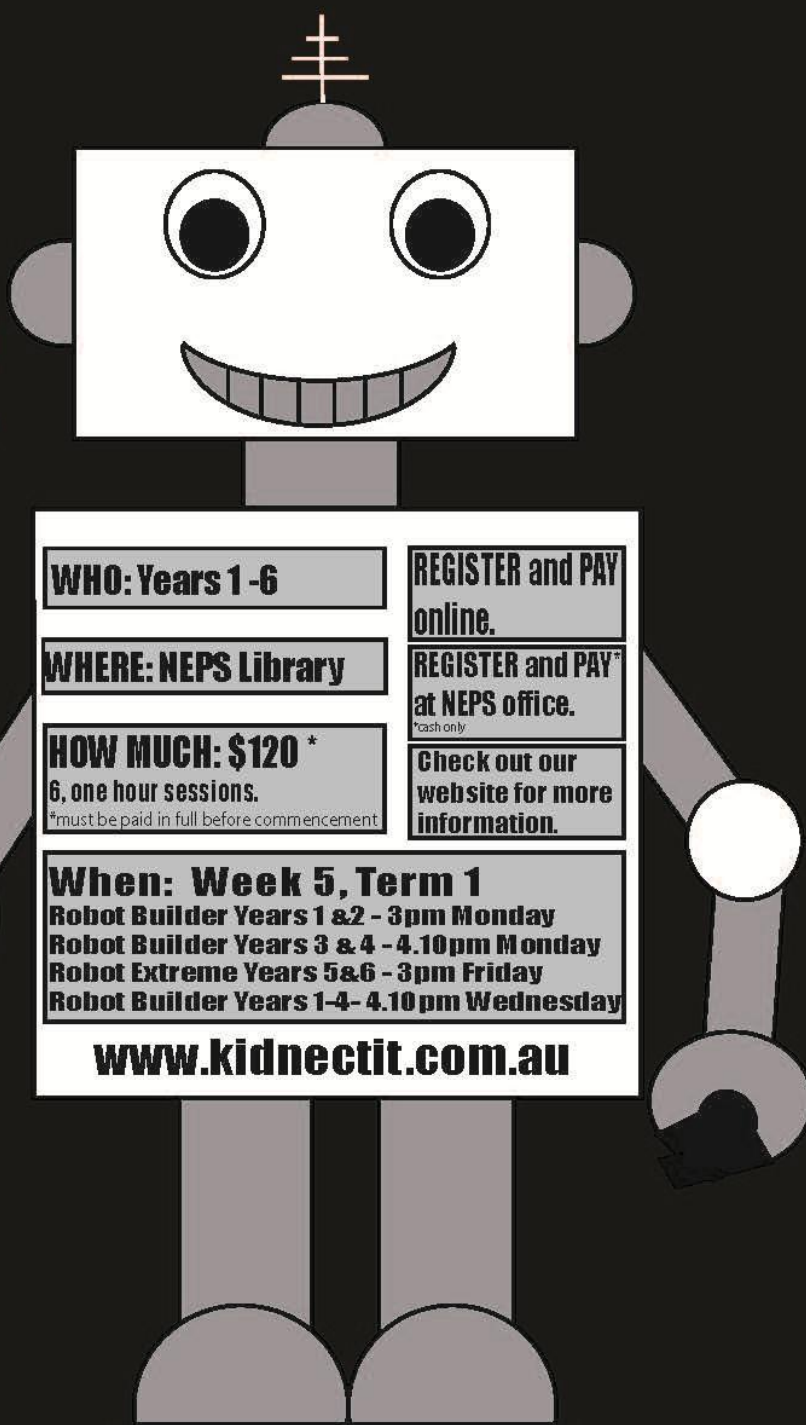
Students will exercise their creativity and see where their imaginations take them.

Discounts

\$15 discount if you Register and pay before 18/02/14.
Sibling discount \$10.

Contact us

Email: info@kidnectit.com.au
Phone: 0491 147 560 or 4942 3651



WHO: Years 1-6

WHERE: NEPS Library

HOW MUCH: \$120 *

6, one hour sessions.

*must be paid in full before commencement

REGISTER and PAY
online.

REGISTER and PAY*
at NEPS office.

*cash only

Check out our
website for more
information.

When: Week 5, Term 1

Robot Builder Years 1 & 2 - 3pm Monday

Robot Builder Years 3 & 4 - 4.10pm Monday

Robot Extreme Years 5&6 - 3pm Friday

Robot Builder Years 1-4 - 4.10pm Wednesday

www.kidnectit.com.au

Kidnect IT clubs are everything a child would want in an after school club. Each class is fun, fast paced, interactive, collaborative and at the end of each weekly one hour class they have literally brought an inanimate object to life. Sounds pretty cool, doesn't it?

Children work in pairs under the supervision of a fully trained teacher to complete various projects that provide children with a first-hand look at the practical real-world application of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Mayfield Swimming Pool **MOVIE NIGHT!**



PLUS!
**GIANT POOL
INFLATABLE**
(7:30PM - 8:15PM)

ICE AGE 4

FRIDAY 20 FEB

7:30PM TO 10:00PM

ADULTS: \$8.00 CHILDREN: \$6.00 FAMILY (2 ADULTS + 2 CHILDREN): \$20.00
FULL AQUA CAFE OPERATING ALL NIGHT!



Lane 4 Aquatics

Lifestyle. Health. Well-being.



Proudly part of
Lane Four
Management Group