

HILLTOP NEWS

Newcastle East Public School – Australia's Oldest School

Week Five Term One, Tuesday February 24th, 2015

Edition One Hundred and Twenty-six

Working Bee Sunday

If you can make it this Sunday, we will be holding a Working Bee to do some gardening chores around the school grounds. No noisy or dangerous machinery will be used, so it's safe for the children to come along and help too. We will be working on our vegetable garden, trimming shrubs, weeding around the L-shaped garden, and generally sprucing up before we host the state election in March. To celebrate our morning, there will be a free sausage sizzle, for vegetarians too, and we need volunteers to help with that as well. Even if you can come along but briefly, this is a great way to meet other parents and families. Bring some tools, but it's wise to put your name on them!



Scripture / Ethics

Confusion surrounds this area, so here are the facts: -

- Students at NEPS are offered Christian Special Religious Education (SRE) classes.
- If a parent chooses to “opt out” of SRE, we offer an alternative Ethics program, or, for those who do not choose either SRE or Ethics, other meaningful non-curriculum activities under minimal supervision.
- Please ensure that you have made your choice clear and in writing, with the School Office. If you are unsure whether you have complied with this indication of your preference, our office staff is very happy to discuss by phone on 49292911.

Keeping Kids Safe Around Dogs

I have had several complaints about small children being scared by dogs in our school grounds, or out the front of the school. Please remember that all animals must be kept under very tight control at school at all times. If your dog makes a mess, please clean it up.

Return of the Quiz

After a long absence, it's back! Your answers can be submitted by email only please, to john.beach@det.nsw.edu.au. This week it's a word puzzle. Parents can help too!

Using only these letters, make the name of a part of our school.

E E E U O S H R T



Science Club

Last week it was geology time with lots of exciting fossils embedded in shale rock, which had been given to us by Mr Rattray. We had fun with a hammer and chisel, which had been carefully blunted, splitting the plates apart to reveal some beautiful leaf fossils, and a few delicate insect wings. It was fun!

Sailing – Some Action Shots



Tom Grimshaw at the helm during our exciting race yesterday on the Harbour, and Drew Randall concentrating on reaching the next mark, during the same race, with Cruising Yacht Club's John Searle helping.



Restoring Our Old Fretwork Timber

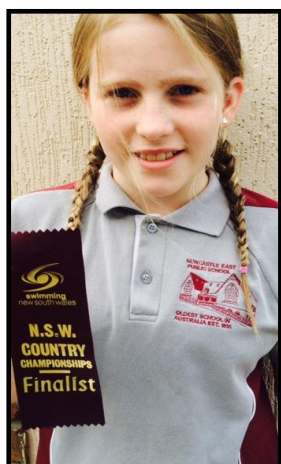
It's taken hundreds of hours of carpentry and painting, but the end is in sight. With just a few minor "fixes", the heritage restoration of our Brown Street and Tyrrell Street verandas is all but complete. Colours are the original colours from the construction in the 1870's, and it looks beautiful, ready for the Bicentenary in just eleven months.

Bullying Brochure

All students have today received a copy of a pamphlet outlining our approach to combatting bullying, both at school and at home. With Cyber-bullying becoming more prevalent, and other forms of bullying still around, it is important that you find a minute or two to go through the brochure with your family. Our strategy is based on education, and “outing” a bully, so procedures for notification are included.

**SPEAK
OUT
It's OK to
tell!**

Zone Swimming



After several NEPS students competed well at the New South Wales Country Championships in Sydney at the weekend, and in local Surf Carnivals, our Zone Team is very well prepared for tomorrow's Newcastle Zone Meeting.

Adelaide & Luciana formed 1/2 of the winning team for the u 10 girls' beach sprint relay for the 3rd time in a row at the Hunter Age Branch Nippers Championships on the weekend. The same team also came in 4th in the u10 girls' ocean swim. The girls also competed in individual events including, swim, sprints & flags. Well done to Averil Jones as well, after several Personal Best times at Country, and a strong swim in the Hunter Relay team. Great swimming, Zone team!



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>

Buzz Book

A parent has suggested a book of parent contact details, to be sold by our P and C, making contact with other families easier. It might contain children's names, their parents, and contact details. If you would be interested in helping to prepare such a publication, please email me.

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.



Canteen

Canteen

The revised 2015 Canteen menu, Donation and Volunteer rosters are available on the school website and via the Skoolbag app.

Donations: Cheese Slices

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 5: Mitchell, Robins, Guernier, Guihot, Habeler, Handley, Foggo, Cherry, Beattie, Jennings, Johnson, Jones, Parker, Katzmarski, Kauter

Volunteers: training. 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 5	23rd February Susan Crawford	25th February Katrina Kana	27th February Lisa Marshall Helen Cossettini
Week 6	2nd March Michelle Lott	4th March Teval Guner	6th March Vanessa Atkins Ingrid Beavis

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 put healthy treats in your kid's lunch.

This delicious **Blueberry + Banana bread recipe** is fruit-filled and tasty!

Ingredients

olive or canola oil spray
3 ripe bananas, peeled
¼ cup raw sugar (60g)
½ cup reduced-fat milk
2 eggs
2 cups self-raising flour
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 cup frozen blueberries



Method

Preheat oven to 220°C and spray a 20 x 10cm loaf tin with oil - line base and sides with non-stick baking paper. Mash bananas in a large bowl. Add sugar, milk and eggs and mix with a fork until well combined. Sift flours and cinnamon on top of mixture. Mix ingredients together until just combined, taking care not to over-mix, then gently fold through blueberries. Spoon mixture into prepared loaf tin and smooth the surface. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until a skewer comes out clean from the middle.

Hint

When cool, slice and freeze individual pieces in snap lock bags and keep for up to 3 months. Send to school as a healthy treat!

For more information visit

www.eatittobeatit.com.au

or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit