

# HILLTOP NEWS

*Week Six, Term Four, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 Edition One Hundred and Ninety Five.*

## What age should my kids be before I let them use Instagram, Facebook, and other social media services?

How old your kid should be before he or she starts using social media with your permission is really up to you. Most social media websites and apps require that kids be 13 to sign up. Rather than create an environment that protects kids from data tracking, Facebook and other websites and apps choose to restrict access to those under 13.

Aside from this, 13 is generally the age when kids start developing a broader understanding of the world around them and, along with that, a better sense of what's appropriate to share online. As young teens, kids also are developing a desire to control more of their activities as well as the maturity to handle that control.

If your kid is expressing interest in joining a social network, discuss the pros and cons and do your own research so you fully understand the implications of joining a particular network. If you want your child to wait to sign up, consider pointing him or her toward more age-appropriate sites such as Yoursphere or Fanlala. Kuddle is also a quality Instagram substitute. It's also possible you can rally your kids' friends' parents to restrict their kids from Facebook, so you won't get that "but everyone is on it!" argument.

If your child does end up joining a social network -- whether she's 10 or 16 -- here are some ground rules that work for many parents:

**Use privacy settings.** Privacy settings aren't foolproof, but they can be helpful. Take the time to learn how privacy settings work on your child's favourite sites and apps, and teach your children how to control the information they make public or private. Encourage them to check privacy settings regularly, since sites' policies often change.

**Tell your kids to think before they post.** Remind them that everything can be seen by a vast, invisible audience (otherwise known as friends-of-friends-of-friends), and, once something's online, it's hard to take back.

**Be a friend and follower.** Each family will have different rules, but, especially for younger kids, it's a good idea for parents to have access to their kids' pages, at least at first, to be sure that what's being posted is appropriate. Parents can help keep their children from doing something they'll regret later.

**Keep private information private.** Don't share your home address or other sensitive information online.

**Be respectful of others.** Kids may use social media to act out because they feel anonymous and that their actions are consequence-free. Make sure they understand that the Internet is a giant community that works best when everyone respects each other.

## Year 6

Finally, this term our students have worked hard to consolidate their achievement grades and we are now working towards the celebration of another school year. It is of course also the last term of primary school for our Year 6 students. They have their Graduation Night in the last week of school and I am beginning to see both sad and yet excited looks on their faces as they contemplate the end of their time at Newcastle East and their transition to high school life. The staff and myself are very proud of all our students and what they have achieved this year, especially our Year 6 students. Their leadership across the school has been outstanding and they have set a high standard for our new seniors in 2017.

Thanks

Mick McCann

[michael.mccann@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:michael.mccann@det.nsw.edu.au)

**Notes home this week.** – All notes will also be sent via the SkoolBag App

*Years 3-6 movie day permission note to see 'Sing' on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December*

*Year 5 Newcastle High School Sports Gala Day on 24<sup>th</sup> November*

*Year 6 farewell replies and payment*

## Selective High Application 2018

Application for Year 7 Selective High School Placement in 2018 Applications opened online on the 11th October 2016 for those parents wishing to apply for their child to sit the selective high school placement test for 2018. This online process closed on the 14th November 2016. There will be no paper application forms printed. All applicants are required to sit the Selective High School Placement Test to be held on Thursday 9th March 2017.

**Big Bash Cricket** - *This invitation is open to all NEPS parents and children*

Event: **Big Bash 20/20 Cricket Match**

Where: **Spotless Stadium, Sydney**

Teams: **Sydney Thunder vs Sydney Sixers**

Time: **7:40 p.m.**

Date: **Tuesday 20th December 2016**

Cost: Gold Tickets are \$38 for adults, \$16 for children and a family pass (2 adults and 2 children) is \$86 There are also silver and general admission tickets which are maybe half the price of gold.

If you are interested please message or phone Adrian Thompson. Mobile: 0404 493270  
The tickets are selling fast so I need to have numbers by the close of business on Thursday 17th November.

## IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS FOR YEAR 5 STUDENTS

Year 5 students and parents should be aware of a number of important dates.

- NHS Year 5 Sport Gala for **all Year 5 students**- November 24<sup>th</sup> at National Park
- **Now- registrations** for Selective High School Test for placement at Merewether High in 2018.  
Parents need to register their own child or children online for this.

## BICENTENARY FAIR RIDE PASSES

If you purchased a ride pass for the fair and have not yet collected your refund, please do so by the end of this week. Any money not collected will be donated to the Bicentenary Fair.

## SENIOR CHOIR

The senior school choir was asked to perform at this years' Remembrance Day ceremony in civic Park on the 11th of November. The choir performed a number of songs and they received high praise from all who attended. Congratulations on a fine performance.



## SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

Oliver was successful in making it to the State Spelling Bee in Sydney last Wednesday. Oliver was placed in the top 25 of the state. He made it to round two and was knocked out with the word 'pelagic'. Congratulations Oliver



## SWIMMING CHAMPION

Averil didn't get to enjoy the Colonial Fair, as she swam in the 2.5km Nepean Open Water Swim at the Sydney International Regatta Centre, on Sat 22 Oct. Averil came 1st in her 12 years age group, by almost 3 minutes in a time of 35.3 minutes, winning a gold medal and 2nd overall, winning prize money. Congratulations on an outstanding effort Averil.



## CANTEEN NEWS

NEPS canteen relies completely on volunteers and all proceeds go to our kids. All of our Monday/Friday volunteers who have given up their time have been so very appreciated and have done such an amazing job, particularly as it is a tiny space and a busy canteen. There are lots of unseen jobs-ranging from making hummus, to bagging pineapple rings, bringing in the milk, counting sushi orders, chopping veggies & more that help the service to run and for this, special thanks goes to Kellie Bohlsen, Jess, Cecilia, Wayne, Tracey & Kelly Wyman. Your time has been invaluable this year.

NEPS canteen is now stocking three artisan products from Bacco's Bakeries – Flatbread, Breadsticks and Cookies. The flatbread and breadsticks are made with certified organic wheat flour, extra virgin olive oil and have all natural flavourings with no preservatives. Cookies (triple chocolate and date & ginger) are made using organic flour, local fresh eggs and real butter.

Prices are:

Flatbread (pk 2) - \$3.00

Cookie - \$1.50

Breadsticks (pk 4) - \$2.00

### Canteen Roster Term 4 2016

Attention: If you are able to help out on any of the following dates where volunteers are needed please call Cherry on 0409927006

Week	Monday		Friday
6	14 Nov		18 Nov
	Pip Strachan		Robyn Hetherington Tanya Crawford
7	21 Nov		25 Nov
	Melissa Johnson		Ingrid Beavis Kellie Bohlsen
8	28 Nov		2 Dec
	Steph Clews Penny Coakes		Robyn Hetherington Volunteer needed
9	5 Dec		9 Dec
	Volunteer needed		2x volunteers needed
10	12 Dec		16 Dec
	Liz Walker		Lou Porter Felicia

## Term Planner

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
24 Yr2 Swim School Kinder orientation Parent Information 6pm Library	26 Yr2 Swim School	26 Yr2 Swim School Yr. Five Taster Lessons – NHS (Morning session) K-2 Sport 9.45-10.45	27 Yr2 Swim School	28 Yr2 Swim School 3-6 Sport - Mornings
31 Kinder orientation Morning- Library 10-10.45	1 NOVEMBER Stage One Transport Excursion	2 K-2 Sport 9.45-10.45	3	4 3-6 Sport - Mornings Let's build Our Hunter Art Installation Workshop- Civic Park-10.45am 4/5T, 5/6T, 6E
7 Kinder orientation Morning- Library 10-10.45	8	9 K-2 Sport 9.45-10.45	10	11 Remembrance Day Civic Park – School Choir Performance 11.00am  Remembrance Day Assembly at school 3-6 Sport – Mornings
14 8:45am 2017 school captain candidate speeches Kinder orientation Morning- Library 10-10.45	15	16 K-2 Sport 9.45-10.45	17	18 3-6 Sport - Mornings
21 Kinder orientation Morning- Library 10-10.45	22	23 K-2 Sport 9.45-10.45	24 NHS Year 5 Gala Day at National Park	25 3-6 Sport - Mornings
28	29	30 K-2 Sport 9.45-10.45	1 DECEMBER	2 3-6 Sport – Mornings Welcome Kinder BBQ 6.00
5	6	7 K-2 Sport 9.45-10.45	8	9 3-6 Sport - Mornings
12 Presentation Day Assembly	13	14 Yr6 Farewell Dinner – South Leagues	15	16 Last Day for Students
19 Staff Development Day	20 Staff Development Day			

## Become NEPS Primary Ethics Coordinator

Our current Ethics coordinator is leaving the position at the end of this term.

Ethics coordinators play a critical role in establishing and maintaining a successful ethics program in a school. Could you be one?

Primary Ethics coordinators become a vital part of the school community, liaising with school staff, parents and volunteers. Managing a school ethics program is a great opportunity for personal and professional development as well as for expanding your local network.



Ethics coordinators also recruit, manage and organise ethics teachers, ensuring that there are sufficient teachers to meet the needs of the school. Primary Ethics provide plenty of support to coordinators, offering assistance with recruitment and in communicating with schools as well as ongoing training and updates.

If you are interested in becoming NEPS ethics coordinator in 2017 please go to the following website <http://vms.primaryethics.com.au/jobs.php>



**Transport  
for NSW**

## **School Student Transport Scheme Applications open 10 October 2016**

From Monday 10 October 2016 parents, guardians and students over 16 years, will be able to apply for 2017 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) travel pass by visiting [www.transportnsw.info/school-students](http://www.transportnsw.info/school-students)

### **Information for parents and students**

School travel passes only need to be updated when a student:

- changes address, or
- changes school or campus.

A new application is required when:

- applying for an SSTS pass for the first time,
- enrolling in Kindergarten,
- progressing from Year 2 to Year 3,
- progressing from Year 6 to Year 7, or
- requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation.

For more information on planning your school travel, visit [www.transportnsw.info](http://www.transportnsw.info) or contact your local operator.

### **Passes for 2017 travel**

**Opal network:** Please remind ALL your students to keep their School Opal cards for travel in 2017. These cards will be automatically deactivated for school holidays and then reactivated for school travel in term one. Current School Opal card can be updated with changes of school, home address or operator.

**Rural and regional travel:** Student's travelling with operator issued passes will receive a new pass in the new school year.