

HILLTOP NEWS

Week Seven, Term Four, Tuesday 22nd November 2016 Edition One Hundred and Ninety Six.

Flexible learning spaces

Flexible learning spaces are designed to be multidisciplinary and communal spaces, which can be configured in a number of ways for specific learning experiences. This means they provide opportunities for people to work together in new ways.

How do relationships work in flexible learning spaces?

Flexible spaces have given teachers choices in the ways they interact with students. Some classes have room that have operable walls so they've got the flexibility of having large groups and more teachers in a room, or small groups if that's what they choose, depending on what they're teaching at the time. Teachers have a stronger sense of what the students are learning and how to make richer connections between different learning areas. Open spaces in classrooms are something quite unique. Every class brings 'aha' moments which are different 'aha' moments from other teaching experiences. Students are very energising in what happens between each group, and students and teachers, and teachers and teachers in these spaces.

What type of learning do you value and want to encourage?

21st century learning encourages the use of a variety of teaching methods to meet the individual needs of students. What spaces and resources will you need to do the following:

• *Social and collaborative learning?* • *Integrated curriculum?* • *Student-directed/ teacher-directed learning?* • *Independent learning?* • *Project work?* • *Direct instruction?*

The design of individual spaces within an educational building needs to be:

• flexible to accommodate current and evolving pedagogies; • future proofed to enable space to be re-allocated and reconfigured; • looking beyond tried and tested technologies and pedagogies; • creative to energise and inspire learners and tutors; • supportive to develop the potential of all learners; and • enterprising to make each space capable of supporting different purposes.

A more focused and learner centred approach to the design of facilities includes:

• designing learning spaces around people; • supporting multiple types of learning activities; • enabling connections, inside and out; • accommodating information technology; • comfort, safety and functionality; and • reflection of institutional values.

Seven guiding principles to augment rather than replace existing design principles are:

- design space for multiple use concurrently and consecutively;
- design to maximise the inherent flexibility within each space;
- design to make use of the vertical dimension of facilities;
- design to integrate previously discrete campus functions;
- design features and functions to maximise teacher and student control;
- design to maximise the alignment of different curricular activities; and
- design to maximise student access to and use/ownership of the learning environment.

A great example can be found here. I know that it is an American school, look at the high engagement the students have in class.

<https://www.edutopia.org/practice/flexible-classrooms-providing-learning-environment-kids-need>

Enrolment Newcastle East Public

We are at the time of the year when we are trying to finalise class numbers for next year – which is always an interesting challenge. If you know of any families residing in our zone who intend to come to our school next year and have not made contact with the school – please ask them to do so fairly quickly, thank you. There will be no additional non-local enrolments for our school for next year or the foreseeable future as we are over our 'enrolment ceiling' for the permanent accommodation we have on site. We expect to have the same number of classes for next year as we do this year. Staffing will be determined according to our enrolment – but we do not know the exact personnel we will have next year either – so we are unable to discuss this aspect with parents in regard to class placements.

Parking Issues around Our School

Thank you to the majority of our school community who manage to obey the road safety rules and park safely around our school. It is always going to be busy around drop off and pick up times but we need to be very careful to ensure our precious children are protected. I have noticed many instances of people parking in 'No Stopping' zones, which attracts a fine of \$304 and 2 demerit points from your licence. Please respect parking rules around our school and help to keep our children safe.

Mick McCann

michael.mccann@det.nsw.edu.au

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

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

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

Teams: **Sydney Thunder vs Sydney Sixers**

Date: **Tuesday 20th December 2016**

Where: **Spotless Stadium, Sydney**

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

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 24th 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.

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>

Kinder Orientation

A big thank you to the new buddies for 2017. Our new students were very excited to meet you.



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
	5 Dec		9 Dec
9	Volunteer needed		2x volunteers needed
10	12 Dec		16 Dec
	Liz Walker		Lou Porter Felicia



Auditions for New Junior Vocal Group

Vocalists up to the age of 12 are needed to form a new Glee Club style contemporary ensemble. Students will benefit from tuition in vocal technique, harmony, movement, microphone technique and performance.

Classes will be held from 4:30pm – 5:30pm on Wednesday afternoons in the Community Music Conservatorium Term 2017. Please email Lisa Kinna to organise an audition Lisa.Kinna@newcastle.edu.au

Auditions will take place on **Saturday 3rd December from 10:00am** at the Conservatorium of Music.

CONTACT

Lisa Kinna

T +61 2 4921 8900

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			



**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

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 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.

