

HILLTOP NEWS

Week Three, Term One, Tuesday, February 9th, 2016. Edition One Hundred and Sixty-two

An Historic Weekend

Thank you to everyone who made the events of our Bicentennial weekend so effective and so special. We estimate that over one thousand people attended our three major functions, the sculpture unveiling, the book launch and the dinner. Everything took place in an atmosphere of warm regard for our old school, and apart from the formal events, lots of informal meetings and re-unions happened all around us. It was very pleasing to see Mr Hall, Principal at our 150th celebrations in 1966, there to wave to his ex-students, and certainly some people travelled long distances to be with us for the weekend.

At the Town Hall dinner, 330 were entertained by Ms Gillard and Justice Kirby, who both mounted strong cases for public education. Each speaker had given time freely, and had made considerable sacrifice to be with us. Mr Kirby flew in from New York, non-stop, to be at the dinner, while Ms Gillard flew from Adelaide, then flew out again early Sunday morning for her honorary work in Africa.

Our parents and volunteers must be thanked effusively, for the work that they put in to provide catering and refreshments for each event, and our P and C had a profitable time. Our staff, teachers, office staff, and Brett our super GA, all gave up their weekend to be here for the Bicentenary, plus many hours in the lead-up to it, and my sincere thanks to them for making everything work so smoothly.

Our school seems to create in people a special warmth for it, and it has been my fortunate privilege to work with these people at this most significant time in our history. And it's not all over yet. We have planned a full-scale production, later in Term Two, involving each and every one of our students, in a drama which sets our school's main events in their correct historical setting, with music, dance, and dialogue. Each scene will be workshopped by a class, under the direction of Mrs Edge, and the script worked on by a staff committee.



The national significance of the Bicentennial of Newcastle East Public School cannot be overstated. As Ms Gillard said at the launch of our school history, To Climb The Hill, before 1816 illiteracy in the Australian colony was almost universal, and the path from there to today's highly advanced, skilled Australian democratic society has been paved by public schools. When education was the privilege of the few wealthy, only the children of the wealthy were deemed worth teaching. Now, to learn is a basic right for all children. It's an honour for us to know that our school played a part.

Buying To Climb The Hill

Looking to buy a copy of our school book, but can't drop into the School Office? We can post books to any address within Australia for \$15 postage and handling, making the overall cost \$55 all inclusive. This might be handy for our former students who were not able to get to the school, and the book might make an excellent gift for friends and family living away from Newcastle. Please ring 49292911 to arrange.



Collecting Images and Articles of the Bicentenary Celebrations

To make a place to keep records of everything that has happened over our Bicentennial Weekend, Miss Hicks has purchased some digital storage in the Cloud, into which we hope to place every article, image, and video. Knowing how useful it was to refer back to the 150th celebrations records, we hope to make it easier for future generations, by keeping everything in one place, where everyone can look at it. Miss Gillard has given us copies of her speeches, but did anyone have a full video of Michael Kirby's speech at the Dinner? It would be wonderful to store everything, for the future, but also for those who couldn't be here for the events.

If you would like to share your memories please email melanie.hicks@det.nsw.edu.au

Parent Information Night

In our Benson Library, next Tuesday at 6pm, you can hear an outline of the school's priorities and plans for 2016, then spend time with your child's teacher, to see classroom requirements, equipment needs, etc. Kindergarten parents already have this information, so get a night off.

Seeking Teacher Warren Tennant

During his inspiring talk on Saturday night, Justice Kirby referred to his old teacher, Warren Tennant, and he wondered if anyone had any information about him. If you know any members of the late Mr Tennnant's family, please contact me on 49292911, john.beach@det.nsw.edu.au

Band Starts This Week – Miss Dickinson's Room, from 3 till 4 Wednesday

School Voluntary Contribution and Text Book Levy

There has been no increase in our school fees for 2016, but I have added a discounted price for our school history publication, just for families of children currently attending the school. We have already sold approximately 400 copies of our book at \$40 per copy, in the two days since its launch on Saturday. Please note that financial hardship is certainly grounds for exemption from paying these fees, and you need only contact me to discuss. Fees for 2016 are set as follows: -

Voluntary contribution	\$40
Text Book Levy	\$45
Purchase of School History Book	\$35

School fees are now able to be paid online through the NEPS website. Not all sports or excursions can be paid online. Please check your permission note as to whether online payment is available. Accounts will be sent home with the students by the end of the week. Detailed instruction on how to make online payment in the following link:

https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/finance/schools/banking/Parent_Instructions.pdf

Theft at NEPS

During our Monday Assembly, while we were reflecting on our wonderful weekend of celebrations, a thief was working through the classrooms stealing teachers' bags. It seems that he/she came in off Tyrrell Street, entered along the verandah, then entered our K and K/1 classrooms. Rather than frighten our children, we've taken a low-key approach, and Police are investigating. This as a clear reminder to us all that not everyone in our community is honest, and that we need to be careful.

Construction of Cricket Pitch Underway

Work has begun on our new cricket pitch, on our lower playground, and should be finished in around three weeks. Students have been reminded about the need for caution, with trucks entering the grounds, though great caution is taken, with at least two men accompanying each vehicle movement. It's exciting! A new area for cricket, which can also be used for handball! Our thanks to Anne, from our P and C, for organising this grant from Cricket NSW.

Congratulations House Captains for our 200th Year

	Ross	Fraser	Eckford	Murphy
Captains:	Luciana Clews Jude Jennings	Ben Dennis Eliza Mowatt	Averil Jones Alex Marceau	Luke Springett Marina Squires
Vice Captains:	Paola James Hunter Pidcock	Angus Chamberlain Daniel Saunders	Matilda Guernier Alvin Craig	Laura Kwok Alara Guner

ICAS Tests

These are voluntary tests, administered by University of New South Wales, covering areas of Reading, Maths, Computer Skills, Science, Writing and Spelling. There is a charge for entering each tests, participation is available from Grade Two (for Reading and maths only) through to Grade Six. The tests provide parents with good information about their child's progress relative to others, across Australia, and a letter with more information will go home later this week.

OOSH

I would like to introduce myself to you all. My name is Tracey Hutchins and I am the new Coordinator for the OOSH. I have been working in the OOSH community for nearly 23 years and have seen many changes within all for the betterment of care for your children. NEPS OOSH this term will be concentrating on getting to know each other and the people in our community. Our program does have a homework club for 20 minutes with help from staff. After homework we serve delicious seasonal fruit followed by a healthy (as much as possible) but very tasty snack. The emphasis at the centre is FUN. The children have a broad choice of activities to choose from i.e. craft sport toys and imaginative play. This week we are learning about the Chinese new year.

Just a friendly reminder to parents that use the service that I need to informed of absences prior to 10am the day of absence. This can be by a phone call or leaving an email at nepsoosh16@gmail.com Thank you to the school community for making me feel very welcome.

Cheers Tracey

Nutrition Snippet

The simplest way

...to save time packing lunches.

We know parents are eager to pack healthy, nutritious lunches.



But doing it five times a week, and getting the kids keen on healthy options such as fruit and vegetables, can feel like a chore.

Plan ahead to get organised and save time:

- Make sandwiches at the beginning of the week and freeze, then add fresh salad on the day.
- Cook extra at dinner and use leftovers for lunches - baked veg, stir fry, pasta and rice work well.
- Chop up sticks of carrot, capsicum, celery or cucumber and store in a container in the fridge until ready to use.

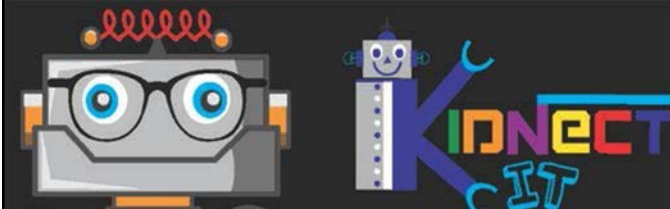
Let the kids help prepare and select, saving you time and getting them interested.

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



Term One Planner

Week	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1.		26 Australia Day	27	28 Kindergarten Best Start testing	29 Kindergarten Best Start testing	30	31
2.	Feb 1 First day for K K photos	2 Dance practice	3 Full Assembly	4	5 Sculpture Launch/ Bush Dance	6 Book Launch / Dinner	7 Cathedral Service / Open School
3.	8	9	10 School Band practice Stage Assembly	11	12 LMBR training JA	13	14
4.	15	16 Debating Workshop Parent Info Night	17 Swimming Carnival	18	19	20	21
5.	22	23 School photos	24 Zone Swimming Stage Assembly	25	26	27	28
6.	29	1	2 Full Assembly	3 Hansel and Gretel	4	5	6
7.	7 Return of the Bully	8	9 Stage Assembly	10	11	12	13
8.	14	15 LMBR training JA	16 Full Assembly	17	18	19	20
9.	21 Harmony Day	22 LMBR training LA	23 Stage Assembly	24	25 Good Friday	26	27
10.	28 Easter Monday	29 Parent/teacher interviews	30 LMBR training Full Assembly	31	1 LMBR training John	2	3
11.	4 Parent/teacher interviews	5	6 Stage Assembly	7 LMBR training LA	8 LMBR training LA		



WHO: Kindy - Yr 6
WHERE: NEPS library
WHEN: Week 4
DURATION: 1hr - 7 weeks
INVESTMENT: \$140.00
REGISTER: Online
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 Lego object to life. Sounds pretty cool, doesn't it?

Children work in pairs under the supervision of a fully trained DET 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).

Do you want your child to learn in a fun and engaging environment?

Do you want your child to use logic and reasoning to generate ideas?

Do you want to improve how your child critically thinks and problem solves?

Do you want to build self-confidence and independence in your child?

Do you want your child to be academically challenged?

If you answered YES book now!
 Online: www.kidnectit.com.au
 Email: kidnectit@gmail.com
 Phone: 0491 147 560

Do you want improve how your child interacts and communicates ideas with others?

Do you want your child to learn 21st century skills?

Discounts
 Refer a friend and you receive a \$20 discount. They receive a \$10 discount. * \$10 return discount

Love the weekly challenge
 It's so fun! (Max, Sam, Thomas etc.)
 Great value for money and educational
 It's my son's favourite part of school
 Wish I could do this everyday Harry, 8

Which club best suits your child?

Robot Builder (Grades 1-4)

Robot Builder is our core club, where students follow step-by-step on-screen instructions to build their robots, and then write suggested programs to get their robot working. After that, those who are ready write more complicated programs involving motion or tilt sensors, or improvise to make their robots achieve certain challenge. Students also have the chance to be creative by experimenting different ways to re-engineer robots or make aesthetic modifications.

Robot Explorer (Kindy)

Students learn about engineering concepts behind robots. They will learn how axles, pulleys and gears work, etc. As well as elementary concepts of computer programming. All in a super fun learning environment.

Robot Adventures (Grades 1 and 2)

Pre requisite: Robot Builder or Robot Explorer

Students build on skills introduced in Robot Builder, but with all new projects! This is a great club for students who loved robot builder and would like to further their programming skills.

Robot Challenge (Grades 3 and 4)

Pre requisite: Robot Builder if in year 3

This club is great for children who have attended our Robot Builder club and now want more of a challenge. Or for fourth grade students ready to launch into robotics with no previous club experience. In Robot Challenge students are set weekly challenges where they will have tothink! What piece could be used as a replacement? Is that piece aesthetic or mechanical? What kind of sensor would be best added? How should they build a sensor into the design? Students love this club as it gets their creative juices flowing.

Robot Extreme (Grades 5 and 6)

Students will have an awesome time building advanced Lego Mindstorm robots that can respond to a multitude of sensors. Students begin work with a rover robot which they must adapt design and programs to complete weekly task. Each weekly tasks has 3 levels that students progress through, this ensure no one gets bored and no one gets left behind.

	Monday	Thursday	Friday
2.50pm - 3.50pm	Robot Adventures		Robot Challenger
3.50 pm - 4.50pm	Robot Explorer	Robot Builder	Robot Extreme

Our promise to you. If your child does not love our club after the first week we will refund your registration fee back no questions asked.

*Refer a friend discount only applies if the friend is new to Kidnect IT.

COOKS HILL PRE-SCHOOL



Cooks Hill Preschool currently has limited spots available for a child who will turn at least 4 before the 31st July, 2016. The available positions are in our Senior Group (which attends on Wednesday/Thursday & Fridays during the school term). For further information please phone Tash on 49264464 or email cookshillpreschool@live.com.au