

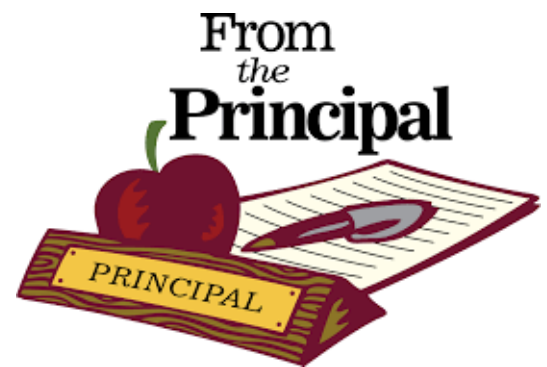
HILLTOP NEWS

Week Six, Term Three, Tuesday, 23rd August 2016 Edition One Hundred and Eighty Six

John Hattie

I'm sure that you would have heard something about John Hattie and his work around Education Reforms and how to engage students in learning and extend the ability of teachers to be better teachers. Professor John Hattie, from the University of Melbourne's Graduate School of Education, says a good school will have teachers like this:

"It's the teacher that walks in to a classroom and says my job here today is to understand my impact. Those are the ones that make the difference. Who are constantly monitoring what they are doing, whether it is working, who it is working on, are they getting that sufficient change, those are the teachers that make the difference."



I believe the NEPS is well along this path but with all things there is always room for improvement and change. This is where our wonderful parent community can play their part. Professor John Hattie says this is what you really should be asking your kids about their school day ... Most of us ask the same old thing 'How was school today?' And get the same response "Good." And there the conversation ends ...

Professor Hattie has four children who are now in their 20's. Here he tells us what he always asked them about their school day *"Right through their schooling I asked them the same question every night. Which is, 'What feedback did you get from your teachers today?' The research on feedback says that it is not how much you give; it is how much you receive. I wanted them to be open to listening to what teachers said about their work. I challenge you to try that because it will take you four or five months before you start to get an answer from them, because kids are humans. They don't hear feedback ... and if they do hear it, often it means they have to do more work, or change. So what I wanted to do with my kids is say, well, just what was your interaction today with the teacher? I am sure it got to the point where they listened during the day, they got some feedback, and they thought well, that will shut up the old bummer tonight so we can move on! But it's really interesting that they struggle to answer that question.*

That is the reason they go to school, to get that interaction. So don't ask them what have they learnt, or what was the best thing about it. Ask them about that interaction and that feedback because you want your kids to be more attentive to that.

NAPLAN Results

Our NAPLAN results arrived this week and parents should have received their individual reports. I would like to give you a more comprehensive summary of our strengths and areas for development in next week's newsletter, but I must say that the results reflect a very strong showing and demonstrate the success of our students and the programs that are being presented to our students. Our teachers are immensely proud of the results.

Kinder Enrolment 2017

The school is busy finalising our 2017 kinder enrolments. Information letters have been sent home to families who have already indicated they intend to start in 2017. The number of available places is filling quickly, so if you are a parent in our enrolment area who hasn't already enrolled or know of families who may be starting at NEPS in 2017, please contact the school to secure your spot for 2017 ASAP. As you may be aware, we are in a position to accept ONLY siblings from outside of our catchment zone until the end of 2018. After which time, these enrolments are not guaranteed to continue. Please contact the school if you have any further questions.

Whole School Enrolment Form – The Yellow Note

All students would have received a yellow 2017 enrolment intention note this week. This form is critical to help the school accurately develop classes for 2017. If possible can these notes be returned to class teacher by the end of the week and no later than **16th of September**. After this date there may be difficulties in accommodating any requests.

Playground Damage

We have been trying to improve our school playground and gardens recently by cleaning up overgrown areas and trimming low hanging branches. Unfortunately, it has come to attention that students and community members using our playgrounds out of school hours have contributed to the damage of trees and misuse of playground areas. Mrs Miller had to remove a potential fire risk, where small logs and branches had been piled up near the water tanks. A contractor needed to be called to remove a large tree limb that had been partially broken and was in danger of falling. Taps had also been turned on in the playground, causing erosion and water wastage. Regrettably, these costs add up and take resources away from other learning areas. All students are reminded that the same playground rules apply when you are here on the weekends or after school with parents.

Kinder Veranda

As our kinder and year one parents have discovered, we have had to close the Tyrell St veranda and gates due to some loose roof tiles. This area will remain closed until the repair works can be completed. This could be several weeks and I will keep you updated.

Afternoon's at OOSH

Please remember that OOSH operates each afternoon for parents requiring after school care. It is not a spot where parents should be asking their children to wait until they are picked up. OOSH students need to sign in and those 'just waiting' to be collected need to wait on the bench at the front of the school. If you require casual days at OOSH, please contact them directly.

Sticky Beak Tours

The school will be hosting 'Sticky Beak Tours,' where families with a child starting Kindergarten in 2017 are invited to go on a guided tour through the school with the new principal, Mr Mick McCann. These tours will be held on the following Thursdays.

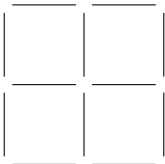
You can call the school office on 492911 to book your place.

Sticky Beak Tour Dates: Thursday, September 1st – 9.00 – 10.00am
Thursday, September 8th – 9.00 – 10.00am
Thursday, September 22nd – 9.00 – 10.00am
Thursday, October 13th – 9.00 – 10.00am

Toothpick Challenge

These are slowly getting harder. If you think you can solve it, please let me know.

Move four toothpicks to make only three squares.



Thanks

Mick McCann

michael.mccann@det.nsw.edu.au

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

2017 Enrolment Intentions (The Yellow Note)

Coffee cart needed - Can you help?

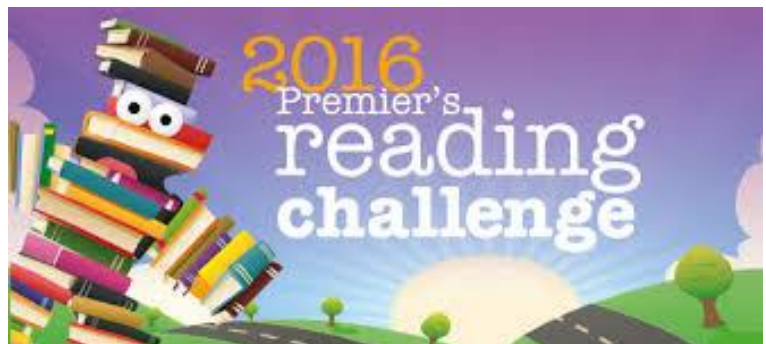


3/4H is looking to hire a coffee machine and barista for the Bicentennial Fair cafe. Do you know someone who can help? Please contact Miss Hicks (melanie.hicks@det.nsw.edu.au) for more details.

Premier's Reading Challenge Update

How are you progressing with this year's challenge? Time to complete the challenge this year is rapidly running out.

Online reading records need to be complete by 19th August. To find out more, go to the Premier's Reading Challenge website and use your school log on details to record books read. Your class teacher or our librarian, Mrs Mason, can direct you to books from the Premier's Reading Challenge booklists.





Book Week Activities 2016

Monday 22nd August – Years 2 – 6 have a visit from illustrator Liz Anelli – Cost \$3.50 per student.

Tuesday 23rd August – Book Character Parade 8.45am under the COLA. Book Fair – purchasing books in the school

library 8.25am – 3.30pm. Year 6 students “Be the Teacher” in classroom reading lessons

Afternoon Chess

The last two weeks the P & C have run a special chess afternoon each Wednesday. We purchased twelve new chess sets and arranged for some expert tutoring from Mr Beach and also ex-students Tasman Fell and Anneliese Menday. The afternoons were very successful with good attendance and lots of fun was had by all students. Tasman and Anneliese mentored the students who already had an existing knowledge of chess while Mr Beach worked with the students who were new to the game. The students learned about the movements and strengths of each piece, opening and closing strategies, and also the ‘En Passant’ move. Tasman and Anneliese proved very popular with the students and were great at providing individual tips to all of the students. We really appreciate Mr Beach, Tasman and Anneliese giving their time to teach the students. We will look at doing Afternoon Chess again in Term 4 with Anneliese excited to continue. Unfortunately, Tasman will be unable to continue as he leaves this Thursday for the United States on a scholarship at Columbia University. We wish him good luck on his new adventure.



The NSW Junior Chess League is also having a tournament at the Newcastle PCYC on Monday 5th September. The tournament is free and requires students to have knowledge of chess rules and competitive play. We are currently looking at any Stage 2 or Stage 3 students who would be interested to test their skills against students from other schools. If you are interested please see Mrs Thompson.

Adrian Thompson
P & C Vice President

The Partners in Learning parent feedback survey

This Term, our school will be participating in the Partners in Learning parent survey, another part of the Tell Them From Me suite of surveys (student and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 22 August and 21 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>



Reminders

- DEC Policy requires late students to be required to be signed in by a parent/guardian

Canteen Roster Term 3 2016

We would like to thank all of our volunteers for supporting the canteen we now have filled all the spots and following is the roster for the remainder of the term

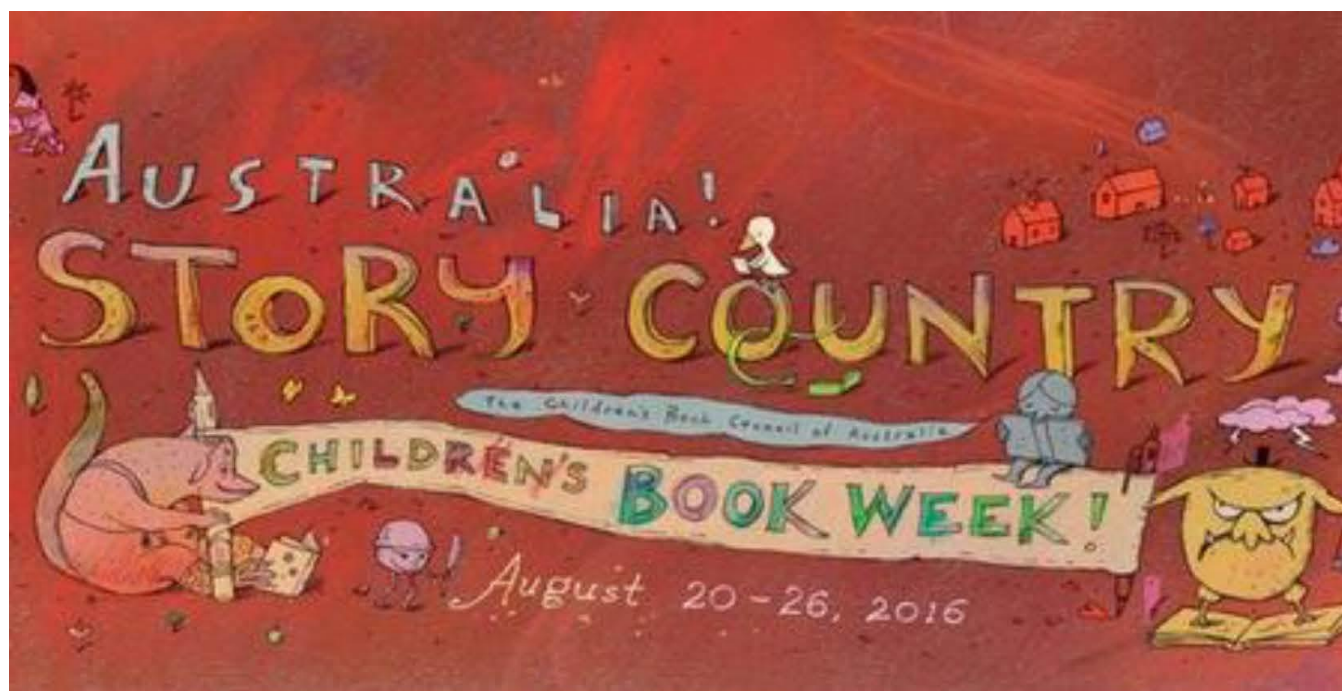
Monday Date	Volunteers	Friday Date	Volunteers
22 Aug	Shaun Olson	26 Aug	Sonya Anderson & Heidi Walpole
29 Aug	Pip Strachan	2 Sept	Lou Porter & Felicia
5 Sept	Anne Wiseman	9 Sept	Michelle Crawford & Brooke Smith
12 Sept	Jo Giles	16 Sept	Robyn Hetherington & Helena Hooi
19 Sept	Michelle Lott	23 Sept	Simone Pengally & pending confirmation

If you are able to help in **Term 4** please let us know by emailing nepscanteen@gmail.com or phone Cherry on 0409 927 006.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
August 22 – Week 6 Book Week – all week Book Fair – Library Illustrator Visit- Liz Anelli	23 Book Fair – Library Book Parade – 9.00 - COLA	24 Book Fair – Library Aunty Peach Incursion Dance to Be Fit Jnr Sport @ School	25	26 Snr Sport @ KEP
August 29 – Week 7 3-4 Sydney Excursion payment due - \$220	30	31 Dance to Be Fit Aunty Peach Visit	September 1 Sticky Beak Tour – 2017 Kinder Parents	2
September 5 – Week 8 CAPA Camp- All Week	6 Yr6 Science / Engineering Challenge	7 Dance to Be Fit	8 Sticky Beak Tour – 2017 Kinder Parents	9 Dance to Be Fit T-20 Cricket Gala
September 12 – Week 9 Dance to be Fit	13 3-4 Sydney Excursion	14 3-4 Sydney Excursion Regional Spelling Bee Final Hamilton South P.S	15 Jump Rope K-2 Gala Day	16 Jump Rope 3-6 Gala Day Gardner memorial – Choir – Mrs Edge
September 19 – Week 10 Milo cricket Gala Day - Mrs Thomas / Mr Daniels	20	21 Dance to Be Fit	22P&C Thank You disco Sticky Beak Tour – 2017 Kinder Parents	23



2016



Celebrate Book Week at Newcastle Region Library

Digital Story Making

Mon 22 Aug at 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Wallsend District Library

Tue 23 Aug at 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

City Library

Thurs 25 Aug at 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

New Lambton Library

Create your own picture book using the Storybird app, with local author Katrina McKelvey there to help create amazing stories.

Suitable for students 8-12 years.

**Free
events**

Australia: story country - The Play

Wed 24 Aug at 4:00 PM

Wallsend District Library

Fun for the family! Book Week stories presented using drama, humour and song. Come dressed in your favourite Book Week costume.

Suitable for children 4-9 years.

For enquiries please call 4974 5300

Bookings essential via Eventbrite

www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/Library/What-s-On



CAN YOU HELP?

NEPS Bicentenary Fair

October 22nd 2016

10.00am – 3.00pm

Your help is urgently needed!

Class teachers are seeking donations of the following items to help make the 2016 Bicentenary Fair a success.



If you can donate any of these things, please send them into classroom teachers ASAP!



- * Quality second-hand books and DVDs – Mrs Mason (Library)
- * Plants / Pots/ Seeds/ Potting mix – Mrs Miller KM
- * Handmade Craft items ready for sale – Miss Varagnolo 1/2V
- * Baskets – of all sizes for prize baskets – Mrs Thompson 5/6T
- * Wool + Material – no denim – cool retro designs – Miss Kerr 2K
- * Quality second-hand clothes, shoes, handbags, hats and accessories. Clothing racks. Coat hangers – Mrs Edge 6E



Thanks!

The simplest way

...to answer fruit & veg FAQs.

Can we eat more fruit to make up for not eating five serves of veg?

This is a frequently asked question from parents in *Eat It To Beat It* sessions and workshops.



The answer is no. Fruit and veg contain different combinations of vitamins and minerals, which is why there are different recommendations for each.

For more FAQs on fruit, veg, meat and dairy go to the “for parents” section of our website eatittobeatit.com.au.

In the meantime, just remember that the simplest way to ensure you and your family are getting the dietary nutrients you need is to eat a rainbow of different coloured fruit and veg every day!

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