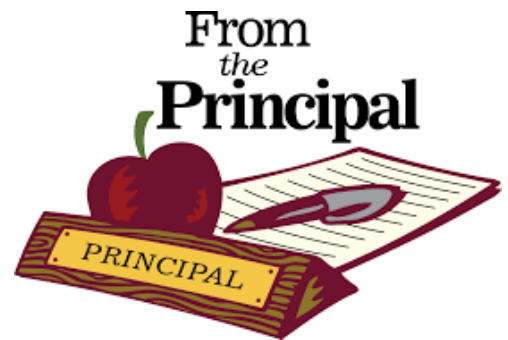


HILLTOP NEWS

Week Seven, Term Three, Tuesday, 30th August 2016 Edition One Hundred and Eighty Seven

The impact of parent engagement on learner success

Parents are a major influence on a child's success in life. While the quality of schools and the nature of the child's peer group matter significantly, it is from the home that young people derive lasting effects on their character, mindset and attainment.



We should not be surprised that parents have an influential role in the education of their children. They are after all a child's first teacher well before the formal world of education is encountered. And while estimates vary, somewhere between 75% and 85% of a child's waking hours are spent outside the influence of school.

Parent engagement in the educational development of their children improves attainment more than any other single factor. Parents can help their child most by having regular and meaningful conversations with them, by setting high aspirations and by demonstrating their own interest in and support of learning at home and at school. While research shows a clear relationship between levels of parent engagement and levels of student achievement, it does not yet adequately describe exactly why certain kinds of parent or school-initiated engagement work best. As yet there is no handbook of parent engagement.

NAPLAN Results

Last week we received our 2016 NAPLAN results and as in previous years our students have performed with distinction and effort. While these results are nothing more than a snapshot of our student's understandings and skill acquisition of the Literacy and Numeracy syllabi, it is still very satisfying to know that our teaching and learning programs are successful in assisting our students with their learning needs and that our educational goals are being advanced upon.

Grade Three

- 77% of our student placed in the top two bands (bands 5 & 6) for Reading - state average 55%
- 69% of our student placed in the top two bands (bands 5 & 6) for Spelling - state average 55%
- 54% of our student placed in the top two bands (bands 5 & 6) for Numeracy – state average 36%

Grade Five

- 43% of our student placed in the top two bands (bands 7 & 8) for Writing – state average 19%
- 71% of our student placed in the top two bands (bands 7 & 8) for Grammar – state average 41%

There are many reasons for these pleasing results, including the commitment of our staff to our students and our continued focus on improving teaching practice through collaborative planning; professional development; peer observation; coaching and performance review processes. 'Teaching quality' is the most significant school-based factor that influences student achievement. Further as I have stated in past Bulletins, our learning support program identifies students requiring extra support and provides this through a team of quality teacher aides and support personnel. We will continue to work for the benefit of all our students who come to us with varying academic, emotional and social needs. Over time, this focused, multi –faceted approach makes a difference and this difference is reflected by our comprehensive NAPLAN 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.

Dogs at School

The issue of dogs in the school playground has been raised by a number of parents. Under *Section 14 of the Companion Animals Act (1998)* dogs are prohibited on school grounds except where the Principal gives permission. It has been a long-standing tradition that permission has been given to allow dogs on the grounds of Newcastle East Public School. Now that we have many more students and families, and therefore many more dogs in our playground each day, it is important that we maintain a balance between the benefits of having family pets up at the school and important safety and hygiene considerations, if this permission is to continue. I would therefore ask that the following guidelines be closely adhered to:

FOR THOSE PARENTS/CARERS WHO BRING THEIR DOGS INTO THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

- *Only bring your dog on some occasions, rather than daily, to reduce the number of dogs at any one time.*
- *Keep your dog on a leash and closely supervised at all times.*
- *Do not bring your dog inside the school buildings.*
- *Do not leave your dog tied up and unattended.*
- *Be vigilant about your dog not urinating or defecating in the school grounds. Should this happen it is essential that you speak to school staff so that it can be cleaned up immediately.*

FOR ALL OTHER PARENTS/CARERS

- *Supervise your children closely around the dogs in the playground.*

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 September**. After this date there may be difficulties in accommodating any requests.

Afternoons 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. Be quick as spots are filling fast. 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

Premier's Debating News

Congratulations to our year 6 Premier's debating team consisting of Asha. O, Emily. M, Sadie. F and Elizabeth. W. They debated against Hamilton Public School last week and won that debate, which means that they are now in the knockouts of the Premier's debating challenge. This knockout round consists of the final sixteen teams in the Hunter-Central Coast Region, what an amazing result! They are debating again this Thursday at Kahibah Public School and we wish them all the best of luck.



100+ Acts of Kindness

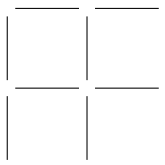
Earlier this term K/1B celebrated the 100th day of school. We had been keeping a tally of the days since the beginning of the year. On our 100th day celebration we did activities relating to the number 100. It was on this day that we decided to do 100 acts of kindness. So we set ourselves the challenge of collecting 100 food cans to donate to the Samaritan Charity foundation. K/1B was proud that we went beyond our goal and raised 110 cans. We also inspired 2K who helped our final total along. In the end we were able to donate 175 cans! Penny Harnett came to the K-2 assembly to present our school with a certificate of thanks and collect the cans for us. Thank you to all the teachers and families who kindly donated to share in our (over!) 100 acts of kindness.



Penny Harnett from the Samaritans presenting Lewis (K/1B) and Marley (2K) with a certificate of thanks at our assembly. K/1B with all their cans!

Toothpick Challenge

These are slowly getting harder. If you think you can solve it, please let me know.
Move four toothpicks to make only four triangles and only two squares.



Thanks

Mick McCann

michael.mccann@det.nsw.edu.au

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

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 29 – Week 7 3-4 Sydney Excursion payment due - \$220	30 Aunty Peach Show	31 Dance to Be Fit	September 1 Sticky Beak Tour – 2017 Kinder Parents	2 Year 3-4 Sport @KEP Regional Athletics Carnival
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- Mr Daniels Mayfield Magic Skipping Team Visit
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 Dance to Be Fit -Special Assembly Milo Cricket Gala Day	20	21 End of Term -Super Strike @ Mayfield for Years 3-6 12.30-2.15pm	22 P&C Thank You Disco Sticky Beak Tour – 2017 Kinder Parents	23 Last Day of Term 3 – students return MONDAY10th October



Touch Gala Success

56 NEPS students enjoyed the Touch Gala Day at Newcastle Harness Racing Track, last Friday 19th August.

The weather was brilliant, the grounds were huge and the teams, spirited. Students have been learning the finer points of the game all this term at King Edward Park under the expertise of enthusiasts Bevan and Rebecca Fleming. These dedicated parents also attended the gala, firing the students to perform at their best in every game. Students have also played touch at King Edward Park for After-School Sport this term, with coach Roger, so they were armed with some skill on the day.

After 5 games, a lot of running, catching, throwing and tipping, each of our 6 teams finished with some wins, draws and losses. It was a wonderful day and everyone played with fine sportsmanship. Well done!





BREAKFAST



IT'S FREE!



Don't go
bacon anyone's
hearts Dads

WHEN? 2nd September 2016
WHERE? N.E.P.S COLA
TIME? 7:30 - 8:30

(Don't forget
there's catchup)

**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!