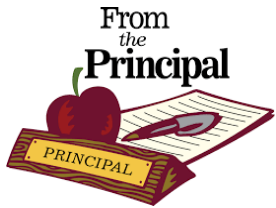


# HILLTOP NEWS

*Week Two, Term Four, Tuesday, 20 October 2020 - Edition Three Hundred and Thirty-Nine*



We are underway with a flurry of planning activity. Year 6 students are preparing some fun fundraisers to raise money for an end of year gift. The kindy team are madly preparing to open their doors to our new 2021 kindy students for their orientation program. Our teachers are planning some events to engage our students in some of the missed opportunities from this year, and every day kids continue to impress us with their skills, achievements and attitudes toward learning.

This year has restricted many different activities we would normally be able to provide our students and our community. We are looking at how we support our students in 2021 and the Department of Education has changed the start days to allow an extra day of staff planning before students attend school.

There will now be staff planning on **Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 January**. This will mean the first day of school for all students in Grades 1-6 is Friday 29 January. Our 2021 Kindergarten students will commence on **Wednesday 3 February** following their Best Start Assessments.

Mick McCann

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

## Thought for the Week



## Transition to Kindergarten Program

We have posted home our 2021 transition information package to the families who have indicated they are starting at NEPS in 2021.

Our transition to kindergarten program offers families and 2021 kindergarten students' opportunities to familiarise themselves with our school and prepare for a successful and happy start to kindergarten. Planned lessons will happen in the current kinder rooms.

Our 2021 kinder parents will meet sign in and drop off outside the office.

**Thursday 29 October – 9.00-10.30am**

**Thursday 5 November - 9.00-10.30am**

**Thursday 12 November - 9.00-10.30am**

## Organising Classes for 2021

Term 4 is slipping by and next month the process of organising students into classes for next year will begin. If there are significant issues we need to be aware of when allocating your child to a class, please make sure they have been made known to your classroom teacher, Assistant Principals or myself. Teachers are meeting soon to begin sorting children into classes. It is not our intention to provide parents with the opportunity to select a teacher of choice. We have developed a very strong teaching team and parents can be confident the needs of their child will be met by any member of our team.

Developing well-balanced classes is best for everyone and that can be made difficult if there are large numbers of requests – as such, it is important that placement requests be founded on significant reasons and not related to specific teachers.

We try to accommodate parent requests with regard to student placements, but as you will understand, this is not always possible. It is also important when we come to organise classes that we know of students who will not be at our school next year.

If your family is moving on, please let us know as soon as possible on the “Intention to Enrol 2021” sheet.

## Information for Parents

Don't forget to keep up with the latest advice from the Department of Education about COVID-19 and schools. The latest information was updated on the 8th of October. It can be found at [www.education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19](http://www.education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19)

## Parents Teacher Interviews

We had hoped to be able to have face to face whole school parent teacher interviews this term. However due to COVID restrictions and other limitations, we won't be able to go ahead with

these. If you wish to see your child's class teacher, please contact them to arrange an interview time. We will be holding interviews in the office area.

## 2021 Kinder Parent Information

The *'Helping your child with literacy and numeracy at home'* booklet has been created for parents, carers and families of children in the early years of school. The activities in the booklet are designed for parents to support their child's first year of learning at school. They are fun and engaging and are linked to key foundational early learning skills. The activities cover the areas that are assessed in the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment. When conducting feedback sessions with parents after the assessment, specific activities can be suggested to engage and support students at home.

Practical games are included in the following areas:

- Speaking and listening
- Reading
- Drawing and writing
- Numbers and counting
- Adding and subtracting
- Identifying and creating patterns.

Information can be found using this link <https://bit.ly/3dK3u5o>

## Debating

Last week our Year 6 Premier's debating team competed in the first knock-out round of debates against Wilberforce Public School via Zoom. The topic was *'That reality TV shows should be banned for people under 18'*. NEPS were on the affirmative side and pleasingly came away with a win. Congratulations to Mathilda, Niamh, Sophie and Luca. The team will now go through to the next round and will debate against Blaxland Public

School next week. We are wishing the team the best of luck for this upcoming debate.

### Assessment and Reporting

This term teachers will be conducting final assessments in preparation for the end of year student reports. Students will be assessed against state-wide syllabus outcomes and standards using a five point achievement scale. Students will be assessed as to where they are achieving in relation to grade levels.

A common misconception made by parents is that students are assessed against the other students in their grade at this school and if they are at the top of their grade, they should be assessed as 'Well Above Target Level'. This is not the case. Students are assessed against statewide syllabus standards, not school standards. Student reports will be sent home on Thursday 10 December.

### Interrelate

Interrelate will be taking place on Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 December this term. The program 'Amazing Me' will be facilitated by Interrelate staff and will involve all Year 5 and Year 6 students. Further information, cost and notes will be sent out via Skoolbag and Sentral in the coming weeks

### Building Work - Playground Upgrade

Between Monday 26 October 2020 and Sunday 8 November 2020 work will include:

- Finishing the stormwater improvement works and some drainage works
- Preparing and installing new play areas and equipment, including the new cricket pitch
- Preparing to install the new astroturf
- Installing new boundary fencing.

Works will typically take place from 7:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday and from 8:00am to 5:00pm Saturdays, unless otherwise notified.

### Refurbishment of block A (heritage building)

Work is underway on the additional refurbishment to block A. During the upcoming week, the contractor will continue internal painting, installing new carpets, carpentry and electrical work.

### Waste Free Wednesdays

One of the many plans we had for this year was to reduce the amount of waste we have here at school.



Class teachers have done this by reducing the amount of paper used in room and we are hoping to reduce the amount of waste students have in

their lunch boxes with extra wrappers. We are continuing to ask families to think about the products being placed into lunch boxes. *What can you do to reduce any of the packaging in my child's lunchbox?* In time, we are hoping to run this across all days of the week.

### P&C – SC Meeting

P&C Meeting will be held via a teleconference. Details are as follows and agenda is attached.

Dial in Number: 1800 062 923

Guest Pin Number 776327328142

### Uniform Update

Our new uniforms are starting to come in and they will be handed out to the students. Please double check in school bags to see if their new uniform has arrived. At this stage I don't have control what is arriving. Thank you for your patience.

### Swim School – Year 2 Students

Our two week intensive swimming program starts on November 16. If you would like your year 2 student to participate, please complete permission note at back of this newsletter.

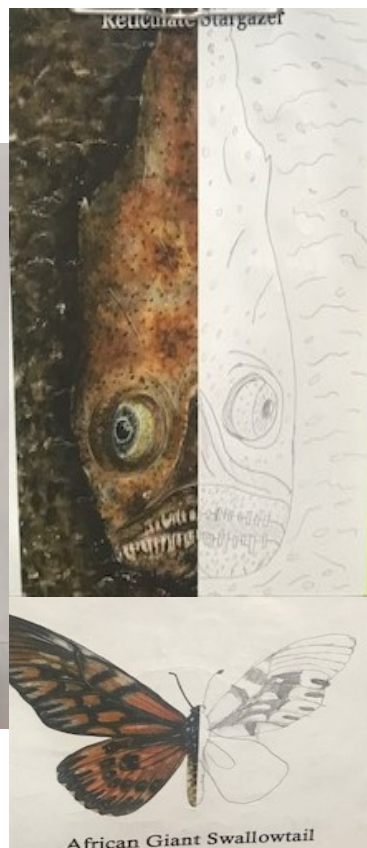
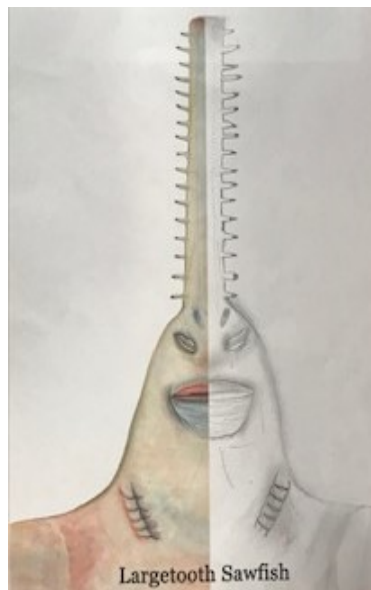
## Illustrator visit with Sami Bayly

Last week we had our illustrator visit from local illustrator Sami Bayly. The children and teachers really enjoyed meeting

Sami and finding out about how she creates these incredible illustrations. Sami showed us many of the animals featured in her two books *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Ugly Animals* and *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Dangerous Animals*. In the past we have sent home order forms to make purchases of this book, however this year that was not possible. If anyone is wanting to get their hands on a copy of these beautiful books they are available at MacLean's Bookshop in Beaumont Street. Below are some photos of some of the pictures students created in the workshops. Thank



you to those who have made payment for this incursion.



## ICAS 2020

Last term over 60 students from Years 2 to 6 took part in the University of NSW ICAS assessments. The five assessments - science, English, digital technologies, spelling and mathematics were all conducted online and NEPS students achieved some amazing results. Congratulations to the students who received a certificate at assembly yesterday. These students received either a High Distinction (top 1% of participants) or a Distinction (next 10% of participants). All other award recipients will receive theirs in class. Special thanks to all of the class teachers who assisted in conducting the ICAS assessments.

	High Distinction	Distinction	Credit
Science		Rebecca Z Sachin K Heath B-H Phoenix D	Isabella P Arlo S-B Iggy B Teo B Charlie D Mike H Callum B Sam M Sophie R
English	Heath B-H Anjuli H	Sachin K Iggy B Charlie D	Jude B Manav N Rebecca Z

		Lola S-B Callum B	Alana d M Jasmine G Caleb R Phoenix D Xavier K Maya N Sam M Sophie R
Digital Technologies		Sachin K Anjuli H Sam M Sophie R	Teo B Kingsley R Caleb R Phoenix D Charlie D Mike H Bella W
Spelling	Callum B	Sachin K Iggy B Heath B-H Phoenix D Anjuli H	Jude B Manav N Alana d M Hugo B Faye V Sam M Sophie R
Mathematics		Manav N Sachin K Heath B-H Hugo B Alexa d M Phoenix D Charlie D Arlen M Callum B Sophie R	Jude B Lachlan M Isabella P Huxley R Ryrie C Alana d M Rose G Ben M Yuxuan S Jiacheng S Mike H Iggy B Teo B Imogen B Kingsley R Anjuli H Adam H

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Wk1</b>						
<b>Wk2</b>	School Photos Book Week					AFL / NRL Grand Finals
<b>Wk3</b> 26/10/2020 – 30/10/2020		P&C – SC Meeting		#1 Kinder Orientation Day		
<b>Wk4</b> 02/11/2020 – 06/11/2020	Book Fair	Book Fair	Book Fair	#2 Kinder Orientation Day		
<b>Wk5</b> 09/11/2020 – 13/11/2020	Yr2 Swim School (TBC)	Yr2 Swim School (TBC)	Yr2 Swim School (TBC)	#3 Kinder Orientation Day  Yr2 Swim School (TBC)	Yr2 Swim School (TBC)	
<b>Wk6</b> 16/11/2020 – 20/11/2020	Yr2 Swim School (TBC)	Yr2 Swim School (TBC)	Yr2 Swim School (TBC)	Yr2 Swim School (TBC)	Yr2 Swim School (TBC)	
<b>Wk7</b> 23/11/2020 – 27/11/2020						
<b>Wk8</b> 30/11/2020 – 04/12/2020		P&C – SC Meeting  Y6 /7 Orientation Day				
<b>Wk9</b> 07/12/2020 – 11/12/2020		Presentation Day (TBC)	Yr6 Farewell (TBC)	Reports Home		
<b>Wk10</b> 14/12/2020 – 18/12/2020	Class Moving Day	Class Moving Day	Class Moving Day	Staff Development Day No Students	Staff Development Day No Students	Summer Holidays – Student return <b>Wednesday 27 Jan</b>



## P&C Meeting

27 October 2020: 5.30-7.00pm

Conference call details:

Dial in Number: 1800 062 923

Guest Pin Number (Everyone else) 776327328142

### Agenda

1. Declaration of any conflict of interest
2. Minutes from last meeting
3. Principal's report, including 25 mins
4. P&C President's report, including 20 mins
  - a. OOSH update
  - b. Canteen update
  - c. Succession for 2021
  - d. Meeting day/dates for 2021
5. Treasurer's report & finance update 10 min
6. End of year activities 10 min
7. Fund raising activities including grants 5 mins
8. Other Business/Round the Table 10 mins

Next meeting: Week 8 Term 4 2020

# Good for Kids good for life

## EASY SWAPS IN THE LUNCHBOX

Packing healthy snacks in the lunchbox does not have to be time consuming. Swap from some of these common 'sometimes' lunchbox products to easy alternatives that add extra fibre and nutrition to your child's day:

- 🍎 Chips → Wholegrain rice cracker bites



- 🍎 Biscuit and cream cheese snack → carrot sticks and hummus



- 🍎 Muffin or muffin bar → pikelets



- 🍎 Tiny teddies → Whole grain fruity bites







Newcastle East Public School

## Two Week Intensive Swimming School for Year 2 Students

Dear Parents/Guardians,

<b>Event</b>	All Year 2 students are invited to attend a government subsidised Intensive Swimming School for two weeks in November 2020. Students are assessed by accredited swim instructors and placed in groups for lessons catered to their individual needs. The lessons are 1 hour long and students are assessed at the end of the two week period and awarded certificates for their achievements.
<b>Venue</b>	Arnolds Swim Centre , The Junction (this pool is indoors and heated)
<b>Dates</b>	Commences Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> November- Concludes Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> November (two weeks)
<b>Cost</b>	\$ see below for payment details
<b>Time</b>	Students depart NEPS at 11.30am and return at 1.30pm each school day
<b>Travel</b>	Travel to and from Arnolds Swim Centre is by bus
<b>Supervision</b>	Stage 1 teachers- Mrs Powell or Mrs Thomas
<b>Uniform/Equipment:</b>	Children are to <b>wear swimmers under their school uniform</b> each day in readiness for the lesson. This saves time getting students ready at the pool. Students <b>may wear sandals</b> to save time with dressing at the end of lessons. Students will need a swim bag, such as a large plastic bag (separate to their school bag) to carry a dry towel, <b>goggles</b> and a change of underwear each day. <b>Long hair must be tied back or students may wear a swim cap.</b>
<b>Important</b>	Please check and <b>adjust your child's goggles</b> each day for the right fit. Goggles are necessary in the chlorinated pool.

Linda Thomas  
Assistant Principal



### Permission and Medical Note

Year 2 Intensive Swimming School Term 4, 2020

I give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_ of class \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the two week Intensive Swimming School.

I give permission for my child to receive medial treatment in case of emergency.

**I understand students will be travelling by bus to and from Arnolds Swim Centre with a Stage 1 teacher**

Special needs of my child:

### Payment

The cost of the program is .....

I have paid online and in full for the program and my receipt number is .....

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Caregiver



Description	Size							Total Quantity	Unit Price	Amount
	4	6	8	10	12	14	16			
Skorts									\$20.00	
Unisex Shorts									\$20.00	
Unisex Polo									\$25.00	
Unisex Hoodie									\$50.00	
Tunic									\$50.00	
Hat	S-M			L-XL					\$15.00	
Backpack									\$50.00	
Library Bag									\$10.00	
									Inc. GST	