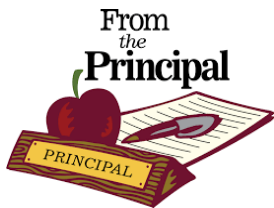


# HILLTOP NEWS

*Week Four, Term Four, Tuesday, 20 October 2020 - Edition Three Hundred and Forty*



With only approximately 35 days of school left for the year, we have a lot to fit in. Even though this has been a different type of year without

major school events, we have managed to fill it with jam-packed learning and teaching every day.

Last Friday 30 October was World Teachers' Day; a time to celebrate and thank your child's teacher. What a year it has been for teachers the world over. We have adapted, changed, innovated, redesigned and consistently looked for opportunities so that our students keep learning and growing during a global pandemic. Our NEPS teachers go above and beyond each day, it's what makes them so special and connected to our students and community.

I want to impress upon parents that all our students are doing very well with the independence of coming into school, being organised for the day, connecting with friends and being ok. We have increased our presence of teachers at gates and on duty. This allows for those connections to be made. This is certainly something that we look to continue in the future as it has really allowed each child to be independent, focussed and think for themselves, all things we encourage for their own personal growth and development. And there is no better place to practise this than in the safe environment of their school yard with people who know and care for them.

Mick McCann

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

## Thought for the Week



## Transition to Kindergarten Program

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.

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

**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.

### **Parent helpers in class**

We have had a chance to review the way we doing some things at school in light of the very low COVID numbers and the advice and guidelines provided by DET. Having parent readers in the classroom has been a long-held tradition at most schools, and it is part of our usual practice. However, this year we haven't been able to accommodate this due to COVID restrictions.

Unfortunately, after reviewing what we do, how we might be able to have parent helpers and the time left this year, we are unable to have parents coming into classrooms to help. We hope that this will change in 2021 and we can welcome parents back on site.

### **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.

### **Year 6 Parent Gathering**

The parents of year 6 are planning a NEPS year 6 get together after clap out on Wednesday December 16th.

This is an invitation to all parents, carers, year 6 students (and siblings), teachers, school community (OOSH) to meet for a BYO covid safe get together at Centennial Park at Cooks Hill straight after school.

We encourage you to bring your own drinks, snacks, picnic rugs, chairs, cricket sets, soccer balls etc and have some fun. Our Year 6 kids have had a rough ride this year and we want them to have some fun and let off some steam in a safe & happy way. We want them to celebrate their journey at NEPS.

If you wish to, you can order take away food from Lowlands Bowling club to make life simple and easy.

We will be operating a covid safe event and ensuring that group numbers meet requirements. From a practical sense that may mean we may have to have a few separate groups set up in Lowlands.

If there are further COVID restrictions or in the unlikely event that we have to cancel the event or if there is a weather event that means we may have to change venues we will update accordingly.

We hope that you can come along, have some fun and celebrate with our Year 6 kids.

Please contact **Jodie McGuire** or **Kelly Wyman** for more details.

### 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.

### Attendance Matters

When we look through student attendance I can see that some students regularly have Monday off. There are definite patterns happening. It is so important your child attends school every day. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children. Parents and carers can help foster positive attendance habits by:

- helping their child learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- ensuring their child arrives on time from the start of the school day, ready to participate in learning
- reducing disruption to learning where possible, by planning any necessary appointments outside of school time
- promptly communicating any absence to the school (within 7 days of the first day of any absence)
- working with the school to encourage and support regular attendance.

### 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.



### Award Winners

KM Zara T & Mia T

K1/1H	Mia Dorehill & Ziggy R
1/2P	Harper H & Ellen M
1/2T	Timothy B & Finn B
2/3B	Sigrid D & Michael B
3/4R	Charles W & Luke B
3/4T	Chloe S & Alice W
4/5R	Cian W & Kate S
5/6P	Lincoln L & Mei O
5/6 D	Aktıl D & Mrnika N

### NADIOC Celebrations

To help celebrate NADIOC week students are encouraged to come out of uniform in either in red, black and yellow (the Aboriginal flag) or green, white and blue (the Torres Strait Islander flag). It is asked that all students bring a gold coin as a donation. The monies will be donated to the Indigenous Reading Project.

Our celebrations will be held on **Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of November** with an assembly run by our Indigenous students at 11:05am. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to have parents on the school premises, however, if you would like to watch you are welcome to view from the top of the COLA (maintain social distancing rules).

Kind regards

NEPS Team

### Year 6 Parent Gathering

The parents of year 6 are planning a NEPS year 6 get together after clap out on Wednesday December 16th.

This is an invitation to all parents, carers, year 6 students (and siblings), teachers, school community (OOSH) to meet for a BYO covid safe get together at Centennial Park at Cooks Hill straight after school.

We encourage you to bring your own drinks, snacks, picnic rugs, chairs, cricket sets, soccer balls etc and have some fun. Our Year 6 kids have had a rough ride this year and we want them to have some fun and let off some steam in a safe & happy way. We want them to celebrate their journey at NEPS.

If you wish to, you can order take away food from Lowlands Bowling club to make life simple and easy.

We will be operating a covid safe event and ensuring that group numbers meet requirements. From a practical sense that may mean we may have to have a few separate groups set up in Lowlands.

If there are further COVID restrictions or in the unlikely event that we have to cancel the event or if there is a weather event that means we may have to change venues we will update accordingly.

We hope that you can come along, have some fun and celebrate with our Year 6 kids.

Please contact Jodie McGuire or Kellie Wyman for more details.

	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 Clap out (TBC)	Staff Development Day No Students	Staff Development Day No Students	Summer Holidays – Student return <b>Wednesday 27 Jan</b>



Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

POP Receipt: \_\_\_\_\_

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	