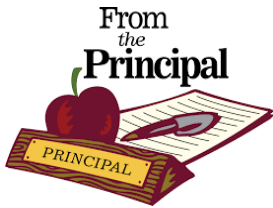


HILLTOP NEWS

Week Five, Term Four, Tuesday, 10 November 2020 - Edition Three Hundred and Forty-One



From
the
Principal

As we look to finishing the year 2020 strongly, we are also busy preparing for 2021. Thank you to everyone who have already returned their enrolment for 2021 note. The information gained from these assists staff as they work to form classes for next year. The school staff will begin the process of class structure and class placement over the next few weeks. We hope to have this structure out to parents before the holidays but as with previous years, it will depend on our total enrolment numbers. At this stage, we are looking at have 11 classes with a mix of straight and composite classes.

Research, the experience of teachers and school administrators as well as data about student performance suggests that there is no significant difference when it comes to analysing the outcomes of student learning between being placed in a 'straight' class or a multi-aged class. Whichever way a school is organised, the most important factor in ensuring successful learning is a focus on identifying and addressing the individual needs of each student

In order to support students to make a successful move to their new classes, we have a number of transition opportunities planned during term 4.

Our kinder orientation program will continue and our year 5 buddies will play their part next week. The current yr6 students have an upcoming high

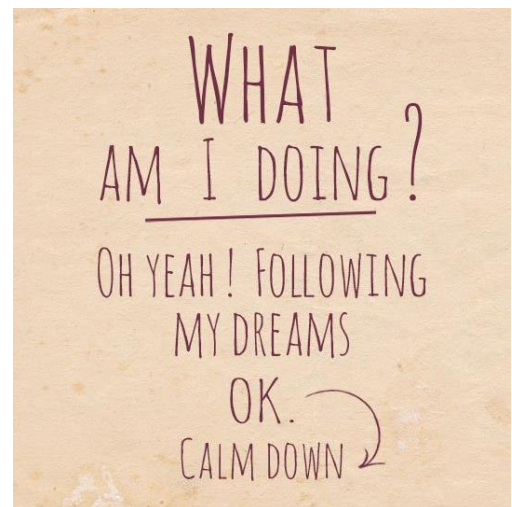
school orientation day and more information will be sent home when available.

Around the school, students have been working hard to achieve their personal best in learning. Being term 4, students have begun undergoing assessment tasks across all areas of learning which help to inform teachers as they write Semester Two reports.

Mick McCann

Michael.mccann@det.nsw.edu.au

Thought for the Week



Class Structure 2021

While some schools have made it school policy to have all classes as straight or composite classes (for educational and philosophical reasons) this is not the case at NEPS. The reasoning behind the composite classes here is due to student numbers and the need for the school to work within industrial and financial constraints. In 2021, we are likely to have a number of composite classes.

Studies here and overseas show that children in composite classes are often more confident, cooperate better, work better in team situations, are assertive, show more initiative, are more independent learners and better problem solvers. They tend to more easily make friends outside their peer group. The school must cater for any student, within the school boundaries, who wishes to enrol. While the school numbers and cohort sizes vary from year to year, class structures will vary from year to year, to meet those needs.

The school will do its best for all students, while working within the realities of population variance, finances and industrial agreements. Some years we have very few split classes, other years, we may have more. Different year levels have different industrial requirements in terms of maximum numbers. So, a Kindergarten class can have 22 students while Year 1-3 classes can have 24. A Year 3/4 class can have 28 but Year 4-6 classes can have 32 although, if it is split, it can only have 31. This makes the process quite complicated.

Additionally, we have to leave space for students that may enrol later in the year within our school boundaries. Late withdrawals are also a fact of life with jobs taking families elsewhere with little notice. Restructuring or juggling students between classes can sometimes be a necessity just prior to the start of a school year. This is the reason we don't publish the class lists and class structure until school starts.

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.

Remembrance Day

Unfortunately, COVID restrictions will prevent us from gathering as a school community this year to commemorate Remembrance Day. However, classes will still stop their learning at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11 month to honour those serving, those who have served and those who have fallen. To assist with their understanding of the day our School Leaders will conduct a short ceremonial presentation at this moment

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

Award Winners

| | |
|-------|-----------------------|
| KH | Scarlett F & Sophia C |
| KM | Edith G & Kade J |
| K1/1H | Bede M & Freya C |
| 1/2P | Matisse G & Matilda A |
| 1/2T | |
| 2/3B | |
| 3/4R | Joshua B & Baden A |
| 3/4T | Elena R & Jin H |
| 4/5R | Charlie D & Imogen B |
| 5/6P | |
| 5/6 D | |

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 9 November and Sunday 29th November 2020** work will include:

- Complete the new boundary fencing
- Installing new play areas and equipment, including the new cricket pitch
- Installing the new astroturf
- Landscaping

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.

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 were held today 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).

Debating news

Last Wednesday our year 6 Premier's debating team debated against Blaxland Public School in the round of 64. The topic for the debate was, *That we should ban all sports involving animals*. We were on the negative side and the debaters were: Mathilda, Niamh, Callum and Bella. Pleasingly we won the debate! This now means that we have made it to the round of 32, meaning that we are in the top 32 teams in the state. What an amazing achievement. On Wednesday we will debate against Spring Ridge Public School. We wish our team all the best the upcoming debate.

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.

Paint The Sky Competition Success

Students in classes 2/3B, 3/4R, 3/4T, 4/5R and 5/6P have been learning about Aboriginal astronomy. They learnt how First Nations People used the stars and they have also listened to many Dreaming stories related to astronomy. As part of the 'Paint The Sky' competition, all students completed an artwork to represent what they learnt about Aboriginal astronomy. There were over 800 entries from across Australia and judges selected 20 national winners. Congratulations to the following 4 students who were selected as national winners.

Lola S 4/5R, Marley S 5/6P, Niamh C 5/6P, Mei O 5/6P

Congratulations are also extended to the following students who received an 'honourable mention' prize.

Zoe T 4/5R, Tata S 5/6P, Adam H 5/6P, Mia H 5/6P, Atticus K 5/6P, Sadie P 5/6P

Winners will receive an impressive prize pack and all winners and honourable mention recipients will have their art work displayed at the COSPAR-K free Space STEM event at the International Convention Centre, Sydney, between 29th January and 2nd February, 2021.

It was wonderful to have so much success in this competition, but most importantly the children who participated in the program learnt a lot about Aboriginal astronomy and teachers were able to embed Aboriginal perspectives into science, art and literature lessons.

Thank you to the teachers who made this opportunity available to their students.

GREAT WORK N.E.P.S!



Book Week Celebrations

Last week we celebrated Book Week with a wonderful book parade and a Scholastic book fair.

The students looked amazing on the parade day so I thank you all for supporting this wonderful celebration of books and encouraging our love of reading. Congratulations to the following students from each class who won best dressed and therefore won a book prize. It really was a very tough decision with so many incredible costumes to choose from.

KH- Felix, KM- Nina, K/1H- Mia, 1/2P- Rebecca, 1/2T- Ester, 2/3B- MJ, 3/4R- Ryrie, 3/4T- Isobel, 4/5R- Arlen, 5/6D, Ella & Alice. N, 5/6P- Niamh, Teacher- Mrs Thompson.

Thank you also to everyone who supported our Book Fair. Due to your support the school library now has over \$1000 worth of scholastic reward points to spend on new books for the library over the next year. We feel very lucky to have such a generous parent community.



Uniform Update

Our uniforms are coming in now the only item I am waiting on are the Skorts. I have had some feedback in regards to the new unisex shorts with the colour this has now been rectified. I am keeping a small supply of shorts and polos in the office. Again, I would like to thank you all for your patience during this period of transitioning to our new supplier.

Many Thanks

Jenelle



| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Wk1 | | | | | | |
| Wk2 | School Photos Book Week | | | | | AFL / NRL Grand Finals |
| Wk3 26/10/2020 – 30/10/2020 | | P&C – SC Meeting | | #1 Kinder Orientation Day | | |
| Wk4 02/11/2020 – 06/11/2020 | Book Fair | Book Fair | Book Fair | #2 Kinder Orientation Day | | |
| Wk5 09/11/2020 – 13/11/2020 | | | | #3 Kinder Orientation Day | | |
| Wk6 16/11/2020 – 20/11/2020 | Yr2 Swim School | Yr2 Swim School | Yr2 Swim School | Yr2 Swim School | Yr2 Swim School | |
| Wk7 23/11/2020 – 27/11/2020 | Yr2 Swim School | Yr2 Swim School | Yr2 Swim School | Yr2 Swim School | Yr2 Swim School | |
| Wk8 30/11/2020 – 04/12/2020 | | P&C – SC Meeting Y6 /7 Orientation Day | | | | |
| Wk9 07/12/2020 – 11/12/2020 | | Presentation Day (TBC) | Yr6 Farewell (TBC) | Reports Home | | |
| Wk10 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 Friday 29 Jan |



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 | |

NEWCASTLE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL OOSH – VACATION CARE PROGRAM – DECEMBER 2020/ JANUARY 2021 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

| Thursday 17 th December | Friday 18 th December | <p>NEPSOOSH will return on the 11th January 2021</p> <p>Please always send your child wearing closed in shoes, with a drink bottle, hat and a towel for water play</p> | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| Excursion Revolution  <p>Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority</p> <p>Leaving centre at 9.30am</p> | Excursion Movies TBA  <p>Followed by Xmas party</p> <p>Christmas Lunch at 1pm</p> | | | |
| Arts and Craft Colour your own Xmas Stocking | Arts and Craft Rocky Road Christmas Tree | | | |
| Monday 11 th January | Tuesday 12 th January | Wednesday 13 th January | Thursday 14 th January | Friday 15 th January |
| Excursion Stockton pool  <p>Swimmers, Rashies, Closed in Shoes, Hats and Drinking Water are a Priority</p> <p>Leaving centre at 9.15am</p> | Excursion Ninia Park  <p>Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority</p> <p>Leaving centre at 9.30am</p> | Excursion The Base Make, create, perform  <p>Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority</p> <p>Leaving centre at 9.30am</p> | Inursion Teddy Bears Picnic King Edward Park Prizes Galore  <p>Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority</p> <p>Leaving centre at 10am</p> | Excursion Newcastle Baths  <p>Swimmers, Rashies, Closed in Shoes, Hats and Drinking Water are a Priority</p> <p>Leaving centre at 9.30am</p> |
| Arts and Craft Floating fish in slime | Arts and Craft Acrobat man | Arts and Craft Unicorn dream catcher | Arts and Craft Paint your own Sun Hut | Arts and Craft Pool noodle sea monsters |

| Monday 18 th January | Tuesday 19 th January | Wednesday 20 th January | Thursday 21 st January | Friday 22 nd January |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Inursion Bop till you Drop Disco  | Excursion Oak Vale Farm  | Excursion Tree Tops Network  | Super Camps Outdoors Wet and Wild  SUPERCAMPS <small>OUTDOOR ADVENTURES</small> 10am to 12pm | Excursion Movies Croods 2  |
| Disco 10am to 12pm Make your own pizza | Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9am | Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9am | Closed in Shoes and Hats are a Priority | Leaving centre at 9am |
| Arts and Craft Glowing firefly | Arts and Craft Dancing Emu's | Arts and Craft Ball creatures | Arts and Craft Bubbles makers | Arts and Craft Clay stone tooth necklace |
| Monday 25th January Excursion Black Smiths Granny pool  | <h1>Public Holiday</h1> | | | <h1>Back to School</h1> |
| Swimmers, Rashies, Closed in Shoes, Hat and Drinking Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9am | | | | |
| Arts and Craft Mermaid hair clips | | | | |
| | | Excursion Dolphin Cruise  | Excursion Wetlands  | |
| | | Swimmers, Rashies, Closed in Shoes, Hat and Drinking Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9am | Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9.15am | |
| | | Arts and Craft Dolphin money boxes | Arts and Craft Felt frog toy | |

Vacation Care Booking Form – December 2020/January 2021 Holidays

NEPS OOSH VACATION CARE AIM: To promote a friendly community based vacation care option for parents

Proposed Vacation Care Program for December 2020/January 2021 School Holidays:

- First week of the school holidays: Thursday 17th and Friday 18th Dec
- January - Weeks January 11th – January 28th

Bookings are essential & close on 11th December 2020 for December /January holidays

Please complete the following details for your booking, an email will be sent to you on booking as a confirmation of your booking/s

Parent Name _____ Contact number _____

Email contact _____

Child/ Children's names _____

Please note any special dietary requirements & tick the box on the appropriate day/s you wish your child/children to attend

| Week 1 December | Thursday 17 th | Friday 18 th | January 27 th Pupil Free Day | January 27 th Pupil Free Day |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| Week 2 January | Monday 11 th | Tuesday 12 th | Wednesday 13 th | Thursday 14 th |
| Week 3 January | Monday 18 th | Tuesday 19 th | Wednesday 20 th | Thursday 21 st |
| Week 4 January | Monday 25 th | Tuesday 26 th | Wednesday 27 th | Thursday 28 th |
| | | Public Holiday | | School Returns |

Points to Remember

- Cost for the day is \$65. All fees will need to be paid before vacation care
- All lunches and afternoon teas are supplied by NEPS OOSH. A menu will be advertised on 11th December at the centre. Special dietary needs will be catered for so please inform staff prior to attending.
- Bring in a piece of fruit each day attended.

IMPORTANT TO PLEASE NOTE:

- There will be no cancellation of days after the 11th of December.
- Activity availability & daily options are subject to the number of children booked & may change BUT we will notify of any changes and make every attempt to follow the program that has been set down.

NEPS OOSH Vacation Care Family Information

Operating Hours: 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday

Please contact Tracey with any questions on:

Phone: 49291550 or email:

nepsoosh16@gmail.com

Daily Program

7.30am: Centre Opens

Free time

Games and craft

9 am: Morning program includes excursion start time

10.30am Morning tea

11.00am Program continues

12.30pm Lunch and free time may include movies or games

2.00pm Afternoon program

3.30pm Afternoon tea

5.00pm Pack away and tidy up and free play

6.00pm Centre close

Electronic games are available for the children's enjoyment during restricted times. Children can bring their own devices but they will need to be responsible for their own devices.

MENU

All morning teas, lunches and afternoon teas will be catered for by NEPS OOSH.

Lunch menu include, salad wraps, toasted sandwiches, sausage sizzle, pasta bake, tacos & much more.

Gluten free, vegetarian and eggless options available.

Morning tea

Please bring in 1 piece of fruit so we can share in fruit Platters

Afternoon tea

The children will have the opportunity to create the afternoon teas in the morning. Cooking will be a part of the morning program when at the centre