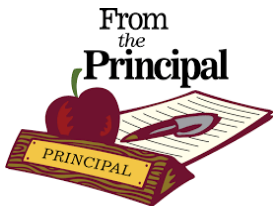


HILLTOP NEWS

Week Nine, Term Four, Tuesday, 8 December 2020 - Edition Three Hundred and Forty-Five



From
the
Principal

I am aware that 2020 has been a year like none of us have ever known and there are always signals that the end of the year is upon us.

The emergence of jacaranda blossom, the warmth of the days, the Christmas soundtracks in shopping centres, and all the other seasonal reminders are evident. At school, there is a mingled sense of relief and excitement at the prospect of the summer break that is felt by students and staff alike. This relief and excitement is also shot through this year with a deep sense of weariness, and we are looking forward to a rest. There are, of course, a number of 'end-of-year' features at NEPS that occur at this time.

I am the first to acknowledge that our students have missed out on many activities that were taken for granted in previous years. I do feel sorry for all of our students, but especially our Year 6, the last year at primary school should be full of wonderful memories as they get ready to begin the next phase of their education journey. We are trying our best to make the final term of 2020 as close as possible to previous years. We want our students, especially Year 6, to at least remember Term 4 2020 as being an enjoyable and happy time. We are going to try to make these occasions as special as we can for our students given the circumstances.

Mick McCann

Michael.mccann@det.nsw.edu.au

Thought for the Week



Information for Parents

Don't forget to keep up with the latest advice from the Department of Education about COVID-19 and schools. The department has released the latest COVID guidelines, effective from Thursday 12 November. They can be accessed from the link below.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

Wonderful but Sad news

As you would know, Linda Thomas has been a staff member at NEPS for the past 11 years. Linda has taught across all grades, run sport and our Tournament of Minds program for many years. She has decided that 2020 will be her final year teaching fulltime here as she embarks on her retirement journey. We wish her well in the next part of her journey.

One of the challenges the school faces each year, is finding amazing temporary classroom teachers and we have been very fortunate in doing so over the last few years, with Erin Reedy taking on this role. She has been in key roles across the school

and developed her capacity to take on additional roles and responsibilities and, ultimately a fulltime teaching position. Erin has been able to gain a fulltime teaching position at St. Charbels in Sydney. We wish her well as she embarks on this important next stage of her teaching career.

New Teacher for NEPS in 2021

Over the past 8 weeks, the school has moved through the process of employing a new permanent classroom teacher to fill the spot Julie Jardim held. Julie was a teacher here at NEPS for a number of years before passing away about 3 years ago. We have been able to maintain some flexibility with our staff and there hasn't been the need to fill this with a fulltime person until this year.

Last week, **Mrs. Ruth Clements** successfully interviewed, was offered and accepted the full-time teaching position at NEPS. Mrs. Clements is currently teaching a 4/5 class at Belair Public School and will join our staff as on day 1 next year, *pending the 10-day appeal process*. Please join me in welcoming Ruth to the NEPS team.

COVID Summer Student Pack

As we come closer to the end of the school year, we'd like to extend our thanks to you, our parent community, for demonstrating so much resilience and patience towards the circumstances we faced together. We strived together to get the best outcomes for our students despite the pandemic and you have stayed by our side the entire time. Thank you again.

We will be sending a COVID-safe summer pack to each student before the year ends. The contents of the pack will help students maintain healthy hygiene practices and to stay COVID-safe during the school holidays.

Here are some quick tips to help you and your families stay COVID-safe during the school holidays:

- Encourage your children to use their packs whenever they leave the house
- Meet outdoors whenever possible and wear sunscreen
- Meet in small groups
- Encourage good hand hygiene practices and remind your children to cough and sneeze into their elbow
- Keep up-to-date with the latest health information by monitoring the [NSW Government website](#)^{External link}

Basketball Court Access

A number of parents have asked about access to the basketball court after school and over the summer break. OOSH has exclusive access until 6.00pm each school day and when they are on site during their vacation programs.

On weekends and after these times, the court is a community facility and can be used. There are signs up about trespass and CCTV, but these are legal responsibility. We want our families using these facilities. It enables our families to have a safe play space and gives the school passive security.

Award Winners

KH	Heath S & Scarlett F
KM	Luan O & Bruno C
K1H	Catriona B & Georgia B
12P	Eden P & Benjamin B
23B	Arlo S & Manav N
34R	Ratu L & Connor L
56D	Akira M & Ruby G

56P Hypatia A & Hugo C

Presentation Day

At today's presentation day, we announced the student leaders for 2021. Our captains are:

Hugo Cabalzar-Lampert and Kate Sulzberger

Our vice captains are:

Xavier Kennedy and Hannah Holmes

Our DUX for 2020 is **Callum Beattie**

Congratulations to all these major award winners and those who received recognition at our other presentation day assemblies.

Clap Out

One of the traditions we have for leaving and year 6 students is our clap out. The 2020 clap out is held on the last day of the school year – Wednesday 16 December from 2.15pm.

Due to COVID, we are unable to have parents on sight and will need to remain outside the school gates.

We are requesting that parents line up on Tyrrell St gate (near OOSH) and up the hill towards Brown St. The students will run through the tunnel after ringing the school bell for the last time.

Year 6 Parent Gathering

The planned after school gathering (Wednesday 16 December) for year 6 parents and families in Centennial Park has been cancelled on the advice from the organising parents. Please contact **Jodie McGuire** or **Kelly Wyman** for alternate arrangements.

New 824 Bus timetable

There are a number of families who use the 824-school bus service. From 13 December, there are

some changes. Please double check on this link that this service still works for your family.

<https://transportnsw.info/routes/details/hunter-buses-network/824/73824>

Building Work

Contaminated soils work this weekend

Work is required to install a new shade structure and play equipment in the playground at Newcastle East Public School. This work will involve drilling footings into grounds which potentially contain contaminated material. The work will be done in accordance with the Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan and SafeWork NSW regulations.

The work is scheduled to take place on Saturday 5 December 2020. All asbestos containing material will be removed outside of school hours. Air monitors will continue to be in place during this work. Testing will be completed to ensure the area has been fully remediated. We will keep you informed if further material is found which requires removal.

Playground Upgrade

Work to install some of the new playground equipment and astro-turf has been delayed due to shipping and supplier issues. As a result, the project is expected to be finished over the summer holidays and ready for Day 1 Term 1 2021.

Between Monday 7 December and Sunday 20 December 2020 work will include:

- installing a new shade structure and some new play areas and equipment, including the new cricket pitch
- landscaping and installing new astro-turf, pending supply of materials
- completion of boundary fencing.

Works will 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.

Yr.7 Entry into Selective High School 2022

Government schools use a range of strategies to meet the educational needs of gifted and talented students. One such strategy is selective high school placement which provides intellectual stimulation and an educationally enriched environment for gifted and talented students. If you

currently have a child in Year 5 and intend for your child to apply for selective high school placement in 2022 you must complete an application form online. Our local selective school is Merewether High School. Online applications have opened and must be completed by 16 November 2019. Detailed instructions on how to apply online is available at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7>

	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 in Library Y6 /7 High School Orientation Day				
Wk9 07/12/2020 – 11/12/2020		Presentation Day – At School	Yr6 Farewell	Reports Home	Movie Day K-6	
Wk10 14/12/2020 – 18/12/2020			Clap out 2.15	Staff Development Day No Students	Staff Development Day No Students	Summer Holidays – Students return Friday 29 Jan

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 	Excursion Movies TBA 			
Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9.30am	Followed by Xmas party Christmas Lunch at 1pm			
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 	Excursion Ninja Park 	Excursion The Base Make, create, perform 	Inursion Teddy Bears Picnic King Edward Park Prizes Galore 	Excursion Newcastle Baths 
Swimmers, Rashies, Closed in Shoes, Hats and Drinking Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9.15am	Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9.30am	Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9.30am	Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 10am	Swimmers, Rashies, Closed in Shoes, Hats and Drinking Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9.30am
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
<p>Inursion Bop till you Drop Disco</p> 	<p>Excursion Oak Vale Farm</p> 	<p>Excursion Tree Tops Network</p> 	<p>Super Camps Outdoors Wet and Wild</p>  SUPERCAMPS <small>OUTDOOR ADVENTURES</small> 10am to 12pm	<p>Excursion Movies Croods 2</p> 
<p>Disco 10am to 12pm Make your own pizza</p>	<p>Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9am</p>	<p>Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9am</p>	<p>Closed in Shoes and Hats are a Priority</p>	<p>Leaving centre at 9am</p>
<p>Arts and Craft Glowing firefly</p>	<p>Arts and Craft Dancing Emu's</p>	<p>Arts and Craft Ball creatures</p>	<p>Arts and Craft Bubbles makers</p>	<p>Arts and Craft Clay stone tooth necklace</p>
<p>Monday 25th January Excursion Black Smiths Granny pool</p> 	<p>Public Holiday</p>			<p>Friday 29th January</p>
<p>Swimmers, Rashies, Closed in Shoes, Hat and Drinking Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9am</p>	<p>Wednesday 27th January Excursion Dolphin Cruise</p> 	<p>Closed in Shoes, Hats and Water are a Priority Leaving centre at 9.15am</p>		
<p>Arts and Craft Mermaid hair clips</p>	<p>Arts and Craft Dolphin money boxes</p>	<p>Arts and Craft Felt frog toy</p>		
<p>Back to School</p>				

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



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	