Welcome Back

We trust that your family enjoyed some relaxation time over the Spring vacation, and return to school this week refreshed and healthy. As usual, maintenance work was completed over the vacation at the school, including efforts to get the grounds in top shape for the Colonial Fair. Term Four takes us to well into December this year, till the 17th, and it’s an eleven week term, finishing with academic reports, Presentation Day, and our Christmas Concert. More information about key dates this term is included in the Planner attached to this Newsletter, but our Facebook site has current information and can be checked at any time.

This term also provides an opportunity to have your say into the school’s future direction, as we consult with our community about strategic directions. Your views are welcome at any time, by email, in writing, or just for a chat, but to make it a little more formal, we will be organising some focus groups this term, to get a feeling for parents’ expectations and ambitions for the school over the next three-year planning cycle, and for our future generally. Please give some thought, have a family chat, about what improvements we could make to the school, and where you would like to see the school heading in future years.

Schools are fertile fields for rumours! During the vacation I was asked if it was true that the school would soon be closing, to allow the site to be sold off. This particular furphy started on that most disreputable of sources, Facebook. There is absolutely no chance of the school closing, moving, or being sold, particularly in the face of the major population growth in the city centre, and the fact that there is no alternative school.

Keep Your Hat On!

Sadly, our nation has the world’s highest incidence of skin cancer, and our life-style leaves us exposed to the sun more hours daily than almost any other country. This term we are marking the start of warmer weather, with a “hat blitz”. Please ensure that:

- Your child comes to school with a hat
- That hat has a name in it!
- Perhaps think about giving the hat a small distinguishing mark, to track it if lost
- No hat, no play will be enforced in the Library
Getting Ready for the Colonial Fair
Just two weeks to go, and this is our big fund-raiser! Can you help?

- **Raffle Tickets** – please sell these quickly and return to the office. More books are available, and the prizes really are fantastic! Each week a ticket seller’s prize is drawn at Assembly. Follow this link to discover the full details of the Diamond Beach Holiday prize on offer: [http://www.hallidayspointholidays.com/accommodation/5051](http://www.hallidayspointholidays.com/accommodation/5051)
- Don’t forget – invite everyone! Grandparents might like to buy kids’ craft items; neighbours might enjoy coffee and cake, or some exotic tasty food. To be successful, we need as many visitors as possible.
- No trash and treasure stall – please don’t send in items which fall under that heading—we simply have no stall to sell trash and treasure, but second hand clothes and toys are welcome next week please.
- Ride-all-day Bands- these can be purchased at the School Office now, and picked up on the day. They give unlimited rides all day at the Fair, and are an excellent bargain at just $20 if purchased before the Fair.
- Missing banner - at the conclusion to our last Colonial Fair, three years ago, in the frantic packing up session, we have misplaced our big vinyl banner, which runs along our Tyrrell Street fence. If you know where it is, please let me know.
- We still need lots of little gifts to make up prize packs for the Chocolate Wheel. Small bottles of gourmet foods or bottles of wine, jars of fine condiments or jams, all are ideal “basket fillers”. You could ask your favourite hair-dresser, restaurant or coffee shop for a gift voucher!
- Cake Box Decorating Competition – each family will receive a white cake box this Friday. A big part of the Colonial Fair is the competition for the best decorated cake box, with all entries displayed in the Staff Room at the Fair. We have great prizes for the best decorated senior and junior boy and girl cake boxes. Please return the cake box, decorated, and with a cake in it, on the day of the Fair.

Bicentenary Update

- Our School Album (History) Committee meets this week to review progress, with our deadlines for printing March next year. If you would like to be involved please contact me.
- Fund-raising for our commemorative sculpture continues, with some great donations coming in from our alumni groups, the Old Boys’ and Girls’ Ex-students Union. Can you help?

Newcastle Basketball Champions
Kaden Dubé and Jude Jennings shown, catching their breath, after winning the Newcastle Hunter Basketball Grand Final in the week before the vacation. Both boys play well, spend a lot of time on court, and train hard. Congratulations boys!
Scripture Classes at NEPS, Privacy, and Some Unwanted Publicity
During the vacation I was alerted to the use of unauthorised video footage of our students, on a site promoting evangelical scripture programs in schools. The Scripture at School site shows our students, filmed during the time of construction of our Library/Classroom Block C, around four years ago. Since no permission was given by parents for that action, I have asked that the site be taken down immediately. At this time, I’ve had no response. This seems to be a serious breach of DEC Privacy provisions, and is being investigated by our Legal Branch.

Kindergarten Orientation Dates
We have a record number of Kindergarten students starting next year, with around forty expected. Parents whose applications have been successful (that is, those living in our school zone, or with an older sibling already at the school) will receive a letter this week from me, detailing the Orientation dates and times. The Orientation runs over five weeks, beginning with a Wednesday 29th October Information Evening for Parents, to be held in the Benson library. All dates are shown on the planner with this Newsletter. The aim of Orientation is to make new students and new parents feel comfortable and confident in the school environment. If you have a child beginning Kindergarten in 2015, and you do not receive my letter this week, please contact the school now.

NAPLAN Results
Our students in Grade Three and Grade Five have received their results letters from this national testing program, and they have done well. In most subject areas, such as Reading, Grammar, Writing, and the various strands of mathematics, our school average scores were around one standard deviation above national averages. Individual results varied, and teachers are very ready to discuss your child’s results with you if you have a concern or need further explanation.

On-line Only for This Week
Ooops! We have a photocopier malfunction, so for this week only, the Newsletter will be available only on the school app. or online via email alert. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Marble Runs
Congratulations to all students who took part in our Marble Run activity last term. We had fifteen entries, each marvellous in its ingenuity and design flair, and there was a lot of fun making each work efficiently. Thank you to all who entered, and to those parents who assisted. Here’s a sample of the clever work by kids:-
https://vimeo.com/34500563 (You might need to copy and paste it in your browser to make it work!)
Colonial Fair – Getting Ready

We are receiving lots of great donations from businesses and individuals alike and are most appreciative of all your efforts. **Following is a full list of our corporate sponsors to date. Please reciprocate their generosity by supporting their businesses.**

Australia Post Shop Newcastle
OPSM Newcastle
McGuigan Wines
House of Elliot
Mount Pleasant Estate
Villa Clone
Drayton’s Wines
Westpac Rescue Helicopter
Conversant Media
Peter Drayton Wines
Pigs Peake
Keith Tulloch Wines
Marsh Estate
Blueberry Hill
Woolworths Newcastle West
Tamburlaine
Winemakers Centre

- Reserve Wine Bar
- Priceline Pharmacy Hamilton
- Hunter Valley Gardens
- Balance City Newcastle
- Sharp Electronics
- Lotus Espresso
- Pilates for Life
- Chris Bramhill Chinese Herbalist
- Clarkesmart
- Hamilton Vet Clinic
- McWilliams Cellar Door
- Talulah
- One Penny Black
- Silo Restaurant and Lounge
- Donna’s Creative Image
- The Hood
- Om Shalom Hair and Make Up

- We are still in need of donations of bottles of wine and small gift prizes for our Chocolate Wheel and Balloon Stall baskets. Specifically gifts of new items for Primary aged children, Women and Men.
- If you have cuttings for our plant/produce stall please send them in only on the day before the Fair. We have nowhere to store them, and they may not be safe here!
- Don’t forget to ask friends, family, and workmates to come to the Fair. It is a great day out, with lots of activities and displays for all age ranges. Invite everyone! A big crowd makes a successful fund-raiser!
- Sub-Committee meetings are now held each **Wednesday afternoon 2:00-2:45 pm in the Staffroom.** All are welcome to come along.
- Make sure you have been in touch with your class teacher and/or get your name down on a roster.

Canteen

Donations: Cheese Slices

Families on the donation roster for this week are: Ramsey, Burman, Alexander-Meylan, Alexander, Alley, Anderson, Murphy, Bajric, Bardsley, Barnes, Snodgrass, Rivers-Beard, De Beer
Colonial Fair rides

$20
Ride All Day
9am - 2pm

Buy now and save!
Price on the day
$25 or $5 per run

Adrenaline Rush & Bungee Run
Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- School, free push notification alerts
- School events
- School newsletters
- School documents
- School RSS feeds
- School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

**iPhone & iPad Users**

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

**Android Users**

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook! 🎉 Like

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au
## Term 4 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Sat/ Sun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td></td>
<td>7 Lessons resume</td>
<td>8 12.30 Cancer Council visit</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>13 Bandfest/ P and C / School Council</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18/19 Colonial Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21 Choral Festival</td>
<td>22 Choral Festival</td>
<td>23 Choral Festival</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>27 Swim School</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29 Kindergarten Information Evening 6pm</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five</td>
<td>3 Swim School Kindy O</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six</td>
<td>10 Kindy O</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven</td>
<td>17 Kindy O</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>24 Kindy O</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 Scripture Christmas Concert 1.45</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 Kindy O BBQ 5.30</td>
<td>6/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleven</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 Last day of Term / Clap-out</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>