Election Barbeque
Lots of volunteers Saturday helped to make this another successful fund-raising event for our P and C, with 1500 people voting, and almost that amount (around $1400) raised through sales of bacon and egg rolls, sausage sandwiches, cakes, books and craft items. We are very grateful to all those who helped on a hot morning. My particular appreciation goes to staff members who gave up their Saturday, especially since it followed so closely after the Colonial Fair. And a special mention to Ben D, who worked so successfully and with marketing flair on the book stall. The realities of school funding mean that provision of the “extras” for our students, such as electronic equipment, science apparatus, and sporting equipment, all rely very much on our own ability to raise funds, and in the last few weeks we’ve seen that our school community is very good at it. This link shows just how hard our volunteers worked! http://www.theherald.com.au/story/2650572/photos-all-the-colour-and-action-from-voting-day/#slide=18
Parent Telephone Survey
Parents who are members of our School Council might be ringing you, over the next few weeks, to conduct our annual survey of parent attitudes to NEPS. The survey has been run for many years now, and School Council has access to good long-term data about how our school is seen by its community. If you do get a call, please try to find the time to cooperate, and of course, be open and frank. All discussions are totally confidential, and your comments are taken very seriously.

The survey is especially important this year, as our school moves into its strategic planning for the next three years of its operation. We are always looking for ways to improve our performance, and this year as part of the survey, you will be asked to suggest some areas in which the school might do better. That could be moving in a totally new direction, with an innovative program which you see as worthy, or it could be just refining or extending something that we already do at NEPS. Whatever it is, it would be wise to think a little about this before you get a call!

Kindergarten Information Evening
Parents of Kindergarten 2015 are invited to the Benson library this Wednesday at 6pm for the first stage of getting used to school life. We do expect to have two K classes next year, and we know that their teachers will be two early-childhood experts, Mrs Miller and Mrs Thompson. Both these teachers will speak at Wednesday’s meeting, which will give you a good introduction to our school, and how the Orientation works. I have offered a place in K 2015 to all in-zone families and to younger brothers and sisters of children already enrolled here, but you must inform the School Office of your intention to take up this offer please.

Swimming School
Over the next two weeks, our younger students will travel each day to Mayfield Pool for lessons in water safety, survival in the water, swimming basics, endurance and stroke correction. Mr Hutchison will be the accompanying teacher, with expert teachers at the Pool taking each group, at the appropriate level. With warm days predicted, parents are advised to put sun-screen in the bag each morning.

2H – Published Authors
While we were celebrating Tasmanian author Richard Flanagan’s wonderful victory in the Man Booker Prize for a novel (The Long Narrow Road North), class 2H students were quietly going about crafting their own brilliant work of fiction, The Perilous Adventure of the Pilfered Penguin.

With help from the incredibly talented Nina, 2H has professionally written, illustrated and printed this book, just in time for Christmas gift-giving. It’s a perfect gift to send overseas too, light, compact, and very personal. Mr Hutchison might even arrange for the authors to sign some copies for you! Sales at the Office.
Students at Macquarie Uni Workshop
Eighteen students with a special interest in technology yesterday attended a workshop in Sydney, on the use of “augmented reality” with portable devices. Thanks to the support of the Newcastle Now organisation, a feature of our 200th celebrations will be a history walk around the various sites which our school has occupied over its two centuries of teaching. As the observer approaches each location, an actor (one of our students, in costume) will appear on the tablet, to explain just how the school came to be there, what it was like, who the headmaster was, what the kids wore to school, etc. It will be a great social history, and give our students next year the chance to do some research into aspects of the school’s past. Thanks to parents who have supported their children in this workshop. As the picture shows, we were engrossed in our tasks for the entire day.

Mrs Edge and The Neptunes
Many were amazed by the performance of our Choir at our Colonial Fair, with its varied repertoire of songs and styles, and last week they impressed again at Choral Fest, held at Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre on Tuesday. Mrs Edge has built the Choir into a very cohesive unit, its members obviously enjoying their singing, and they just keep getting better. Thanks to Mrs Edge and the parents who helped with transport.

Return of the Quiz, At Last
After a break of several weeks to pause for breath, the quiz is back, and it’s harder than ever! History is the topic this week. Our old Gothic-inspired school building dates back to the 1870’s, but who was the architect? Answers by email to john.beach@det.nsw.edu.au

AASC Cancellations
Please note that Ado Thompson’s After School Sport groups: European Handball and Junior Girl’s Sport Skills will be cancelled for this week and recommence Week 5. The Tuesday Basketball and Wednesday Surfing will go ahead as the weather allows.
Canteen

Halloween Special

This Friday 31st October the canteen will be selling Zombie ice blocks for $1 each. Children can choose between two flavours Guts and Snot!

Staffing Crisis

It was very unfortunate and disappointing for many students, that the Canteen was unable to open last Friday due to a lack of volunteers. If you can spare even a day a term, your help will make all the difference. Currently we have a small band of helpers who are carrying the load and this is unsustainable. To prevent further closures please contact Cherry: 0409 927 006 to offer your help.

Volunteer Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>27th October</th>
<th>29th October</th>
<th>31st October</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chris Baker</td>
<td>Liane Dunford</td>
<td>Teval Guner</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Volunteer Needed</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>3rd November</th>
<th>5th November</th>
<th>7th November</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Susan Crawford</td>
<td>Cherie Guernier</td>
<td>Ziva Westley</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Randi Steine</td>
<td>Michelle Crawford</td>
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Donations: Margarine

Families on the donation roster for this week are: Mee, Menday, Osborne, Parsons, Payne, Prickett, Springthorpe, Suters, Taylor, Dyson, McGregor, and Garness

Skoolbag

Please note that the Skoolbag app is undergoing system maintenance and may not be sending through push notifications with reliability. We received the following message from the providers of our school app. We are unsure as yet how wide spread the implications will be in the immediate future however we will work with Skoolbag to solve any issues that become apparent:

Just a note to let you know that with Apples latest iOS 8 update they have managed to break various functions in the Skoolbag app. We are aware of these issues including push notifications not working, and to rectify this we are currently updating the apps with a new version. Please note that the issue does not effect users who are still running iOS 7. For current Skoolbag customers your app will be upgraded to 2.6.0 version. Updates are being submitted daily to Apple who then take around 5 - 7 days to approve them. You can expect the update will be ready for download within the next 2 - 4 weeks. We thank you for your patience in this matter, as this was an issue that was beyond our control.
<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>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Bandfest/ P and C / School Council</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>27 Swim School</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29 Kindergarten Information Evening 6pm</td>
<td>30 Year 5 Gala</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 Musica Viva 1:45 pm</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>
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<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>24 Kindy O RSVP Year 6 Dinner</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29/30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nine</td>
<td>1 Captains’ Speech Assembly</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 Year Six Dinner</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eleven</td>
<td>15 Presentation Day</td>
<td>16 Class Party Day</td>
<td>17 Last day of Term / Clap-out</td>
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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