Design Competition – History Corner

- Interested in planning spaces which work well and look beautiful?
- Have some great ideas for making our school look better?

For the next three weeks we’re running a design competition for our “history corner”, the small triangle of land around our school bell. It’s currently home for two vege gardens, which will be moved elsewhere, leaving a sharp, triangular corner, housing the refurbished school bell, which dates back to 1860. We plan to move our sun-dial into this space as well, after it has been repaired and correctly oriented. The sundial was a gift from the Old Boys’ of Newcastle High School on our 175th birthday. The idea is to bring these two elements together in a space which is compact, which draws attention to the school’s history, but is useful too. For example, it might contain some seating or planting.

If you’re interested – come on all parents who are artists, architects and designers – and contact me for more details. Of course, children’s entries are especially welcome, and partnerships are encouraged. Within this tiny space, right at the “cross-roads” of our school, the only limitation is your imagination!

Bully No More – Monday Next

If you’ve not already paid for this excellent show, which forms a centre-piece to our anti-bullying program, notes are available from the office. I expect all children to attend, and provision has been made for students when finances might prevent participation. Parents can watch the show too, free of charge.

Working Bee Sunday

Many thanks to the fifty people who spent Sunday morning working in our school grounds, to prune trees, weed gardens, and lop branches, then enjoyed a delicious barbequed lunch. In just three hours they made a huge difference to the quality of our school grounds, and we had fun. Thanks to teachers and students who attended too, making it an all-round effort.
Debating – Train-on Squad

We started with more than twenty very enthusiastic debaters, then over several lunchtimes of workshops, managed to whittle down to this squad of just seven. I am sorry to all who tried out, but even seven is a very big number for debating teams, so for those who didn’t make team, let’s wait for Public Speaking later this year.

Logan Crawford       Luka McCallum       Emily Miles
Asha Osborne         Elizabeth Wood     Jack Williams       Sadie Ferguson

Of these students, four have been selected randomly to attend a debating workshop, including Asha, Jack, Logan and Sadie.

Clean-up Australia

Mrs Thomas’ class spent some time on Friday doing Clean Up Australia activities in our school grounds, a registered CUA site. They found lots of litter, seven large bags in fact, and contributed to a cleaner world.

The picture shows them after they had finished, brandishing their litter bags proudly.

Laptops for Pentecost Island

Our involvement with the school in Vanuatu continues, and our current plan is to try to send to the students any old (working) lap-tops that we can find at school or in our community. If you have an old lap-top computer, please let me know so that I can arrange pick-up before the middle of next week.

Return of the Quiz – No Correct Answers Yet, A Prize To Be Won!

After a long absence, it’s back! Your answers can be submitted by email only please, to john.beach@det.nsw.edu.au. This week it’s a word puzzle. Parents can help too!

Using only these letters, make the name of a part of our school.

E E E U O S H R T
Newcastle Zone Swimming Carnival 2015.

Fifteen students from Years 2-6 proudly represented NEPS at the recent zone swimming carnival held at Lambton Swimming Centre. Many of our students finished in the top four places in their heats and swam personal best times in the fiercely competitive 50m races. The Newcastle Zone is one of the most competitive for swimming and consists of 25 inner city schools, so our students can be very proud of their efforts. Two swimmers advanced through to the Regional Swimming Carnival, to be held later this term at Maitland Pool. Congratulations to both Averil Jones and Heidi Schneider who continue to strive for excellence in swimming.

Buzz Book

A parent has suggested a book of parent contact details, to be sold by our P and C, making contact with other families easier. It might contain children’s names, their parents, and contact details. If you would be interested in helping to prepare such a publication, please email me.

Important Dates for Your Diary

More information next week, but mark these in your bookings:-

- School Cross-country Friday 20\textsuperscript{th} March – Foreshore Park
- Harmony Day Wednesday 25\textsuperscript{th} March, 12 noon
Newsletter Dissemination
During Term 1 of 2015 NEPS is transitioning all bulk school communication to the Skoolbag app. This supersedes SMS alerts and previous email distribution lists. Newsletters are being distributed electronically via the app and website. The electronic handout of newsletters has greatly decreased our costs and waste when it comes to printing and paper however hard copies are of course still available upon request from the office. Some students have been requesting printed copies and we are happy to oblige but to ensure that we are not reverting to old wasteful ways we ask that families make a one off request to the office and a printed newsletter will be sent home each week.

Canteen
Donations: Paper lunch bags
If you are able to donate during the week you are rostered it would be greatly appreciated as these donations help to keep canteen prices low.
Families on the donation roster Week 6: Keating, Kennedy, Kwok, Lambert, White, Garness, Lee, Li, Lopez, Shi, Lyons, De Malmanche, Marceau, Marhaba, Marosszeky, Mattsson

Volunteers: Volunteering in the canteen is a fun way to be involved in your child's school. You get a chance to meet their friends and get to know the other children and staff at NEPS. We only need you once per term and if you haven't volunteered in the canteen before then we will roster you on with another parent for training. Text Cherry on 0409927006 if you're keen.

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<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>2nd March</th>
<th>4th March</th>
<th>6th March</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michelle Lott</td>
<td>Teval Guner</td>
<td>Vanessa Atkins, Ingrid Beavis</td>
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<th>Week 7</th>
<th>9th March</th>
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<td>Kate McClelland</td>
<td>Simone Pengally, Hollie Murdoch</td>
<td>Sonya Anderson, Heidi Walpole, Ingrid Beavis</td>
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Lost
Selasi Awagah, from KT, has lost from her school bag a new school tunic (labelled with her name). It was in a plain shopping bag, and was lost last week. If found please return to the office or Mrs Thompson.

NHS Years 5&6 Information Session
Newcastle High School has an information evening tonight, 3rd March from 6pm- 7.30. It is aimed at both year 5 and year 6 students, who may be interested in having a look at our facilities in an informal manner. Staff will give a brief welcome, and then a tour of the school will be guided by SRC and School Leaders.
Coastal Trek

NEPS parents Victoria Grigor, Allison Garrett, Kate Newman and Jodie McGuire are doing Coastrek this Friday, March 6th, to support Fred Hollows Foundation in its efforts to fight unnecessary blindness. The event is called "wild women on top" and the team name is the very ironic “a walk in the park”. The team members have built up their training; we have completed quite a few 10 &12 km walks, 26km & recently a 40km training session that was from North Narrabeen through to Balmoral, part of the official course. They expect that they will take twelve hours to walk the distance plus stops, so complete in roughly 14 hours. James Sulzberger will be our support person; he will be an asset to our team on the day. The Wild Women On Top Sydney Coastrek is a team trekking challenge to help restore sight to needlessly blind people, by supporting the work of The Fred Hollows Foundation. Some facts which might blind-side you: -

- An operation to restore sight can cost as little as $25!
- 4 out of 5 blind people don't need to be
- Over 60% of the world's blind people are women and children
- For 2015, our goal is to raise money to help The Fred Hollows Foundation
- To donate, follow this link: -

The FUN way to learn another language!

- Mandarin for 5-12 year olds starting every Wednesday from 3.00 to 4.00pm at Newcastle East PS
- Fun after-school program
- Lots of fun activities, drama, music & games
- Experienced and enthusiastic teacher
- Supported by fantastic activities online with Chinese Buddy

Call Sandra on 0402818034
sandra.peachey@lcfclubs.com.au
www.lcfclubs.com.au
## Term One Planner

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<td>Drama – Bully No More</td>
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<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews this week</td>
<td>Inter-relate Evening</td>
<td>Harmony Day 12pm</td>
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<td>Zone Cross Country</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
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<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews this week</td>
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<td>Disco</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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2014-2015
Family Energy Rebate

Apply before Midnight 16 June 2015

$150 TOWARDS ENERGY BILLS
2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM
* eligibility criteria apply

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- Up to $150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
- Up to $165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST:

- Be a NSW resident; and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year, and have received an FTB payment in respect of that eligibility; and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?
Before you apply, here’s a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-2014 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

HOW TO APPLY

- ONLINE – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au
The simplest way...

to stay healthy in summer.

Here's some fun ways to get your kids eating more fruit + veg this summer...

- freeze fruit or mint leaves into ice cubes to chill + flavour water
- add vegie sticks whenever you have a dip
- throw some veg on the BBQ – e.g. capsicum, tomato + zucchini
- keep a tray of fruit pieces like orange wedges or melon slices in the fridge for quick snacks
- freeze bananas, peeled and wrapped in gladwrap, your kids will love the icecream taste
- make easy smoothies with frozen fruit + reduced-fat milk.

*Remember: try to eat fruit + veg at every meal!*

For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit