

Newcastle Middle School

Newsletter



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Term 3 - Week 3

Friday, 2 August 2013

Principal's Message



It's great to be back! Working in Sydney testing the new DEC software was an interesting adventure into the corporate DEC world and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to "play" with the software before we have to use it in real terms.

I would like to thank Judy for her excellent leadership of the school in my absence, and to the staff for supporting her in this role.

New Staff

Please be advised that Kirsty Thornton (Rm 2VK) will be leaving us to complete her studies and Camille Jolly will be filling in until the end of the year in Room 2VK. Camille has worked extensively in special education, and here at NMS, and we welcome her aboard.

Student Absences

To ensure our records are accurate please phone the school or write in your child's communication book the reason for being away. It is a DEC requirement that all absences are "explained" and we appreciate your assistance in keep our records up to date.

Camp

Next week is our **senior camp** (Myuna Bay Sport and Rec) and I am looking forward to supporting staff and students over the two days. This camp is an excellent opportunity for transitioning students to meet and interact with senior school students prior to their move in 2014. Thank you to Judy, Lenore and Simone for giving up your time to support the success of this overnight camp.

Volunteers Required

If you or anyone you know might be able to assist with our **Bunnings BBQ's** please contact the school ASAP. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Diary Dates - Term 3

Week 4

Thursday, August 8th	Myuna Bay Transition Camp with Senior Students. (overnight)
Friday, August 9th	Senior Students return from camp.

Week 5

Saturday, August 17th	Bunnings BBQ at Kotara.
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Week 6

All Week	Daffodil Day fundraiser - yellow day.
Friday, August 23rd	Excursion to Senior School for performance "RUBBISH". Presenter makes puppets from recyclable materials.

Week 7

Saturday, August 31st	Bunnings BBQ at Belmont
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Week 9

Monday, September 9th	Immunisations
Wednesday, September 11th	Jamo Jamo Drum Performance
Thursday, September 12th	Myuna Bay Camp with Junior Students (overnight).
Friday, September 13th	Junior Students return
Friday, September 13th	Asia Pacific Games" theme Combined SSPs Sports Day at Maitland.

Week 10

Friday, September 20th	Last Day of Term 3
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Parent Representative

Our vacant Assistant Principal position will be going to advertisement shortly and we require a parent representative to put forward for possible selection on the panel. No experience required, training given if necessary and we need to know no later than Monday 5th August at 4pm.

NDIS and Educational Pathways

I have also attached an information sheet on the new National Disability Insurance Scheme.

If you would like to attend please return the form to school ASAP.

Regards

Belinda Ryan

Principal

Friends News

Donation of Quilt



Thank you so much to Hilary who is Aidan Budge from Room 1KR grandmother for the donation of a beautiful handmade quilt. Hilary, along with other local quilters and patchworkers contributed sections of the quilt which was then joined together to create a wonderful finished product. We are very proud

to be able to present the quilt as a raffle prize at our inaugural Charity Golf Day at Merewether Golf Club in November (see below). Thank you so much Hilary and members of the quilting and patchwork maker group!

Bunnings BBQ

We will be holding BBQs at Kotara Bunnings on Saturday 17th August and Saturday 26th October and also at Belmont Bunnings on Saturday 31st August.

We would love you to come along and say hi and hopefully buy a sausage sandwich!

All money raised will go directly to helping buy a new school bus.

If you are able to help on any of the days, please let your child's teacher know.

Charity Golf Day at Merewether Golf Club – Calling all Golfers

We will be holding our inaugural charity golf day at Merewether Golf Club on Friday 1st November, 2013.

If you are a golfer or just like a hit and you would like to join us, please let your child's teacher know. Flyers will be sent home very shortly with details of the day.

Chocolate Drive

Still 12 boxes left if anyone would like more to sell. Just ring school and a box can be sent home.

Thank you again for your continual support.

Friends Committee

Office News

Entertainment Books

We are down to our **final book** if you would like to purchase it please see the office. We have also attached an updated brochure, take note of the free delivery extension.

Free School Uniforms

Please find an order form attached. We would like to place an order on the 6th September so that uniforms will be back in time for Term 4, therefore orders are due back to school on 4th September.

We currently have a small amount of stock available but if the sizes that you require are out of stock we will need to place an order unfortunately our supplier requires us to order a minimum of 10 items of stock with the school logo per order, therefore there may be a small wait for some orders.

Regards

Susan and Kristy

Planet Ark National Tree Day

Last Friday the students at Newcastle Middle school participated in a variety of activities to celebrate National Tree Day. It was wonderful to see our students finding out about the environment and connecting with the amazing trees that make up our beautiful world.



6PL - Leaf Rubbings



3LB - Examined Parts of a Tree and Made a Diorama



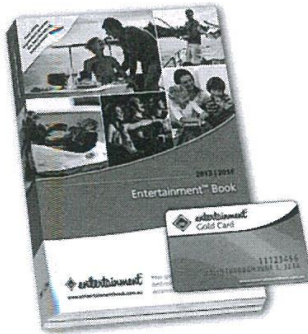
2VK – Tree Collages



5JM - Making Pictures using Tree Components

Thank you to all the classes who participated in this very important day here at Newcastle Middle School.

Lenore Hanney



Thank you for supporting
Newcastle Middle School
So far \$300 has been raised!

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<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/3467f8>
(Free Delivery lasts until 9th August or until stocks run out)

Newcastle Middle School

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NDIS and Educational Pathways

From July 2013, the new National Disability Insurance Scheme will be introduced to all eligible residents of Newcastle. The scheme will be administered by the new DisabilityCare service. To coincide with this, and because of our commitment to forging quality educational pathways for all of our students, we are also introducing our new Student Educational Pathways Schedule (StEPS) for all of our students in Term 3 this year.

The NDIS will bring an entirely new way of empowering participants and their carers in planning, determining and managing services and resources available to people with disabilities, including children. Our school's StEPS scheme will introduce a new way of using longer-term planning to determine the content of students' individual learning programs. We believe that students and carers involvement in our StEPS approach will provide valuable assistance to students and carers as they become increasingly involved in a higher level of self-management and self-determination through NDIS (DisabilityCare).

To assist with informing all parents and other carers about both new schemes, we will conduct a seminar for parents and other carers in Term 3 2013. The seminar will include information about DisabilityCare – how it operates and how it can be accessed, and StEPS – how it will operate and its purpose. Disability Care will present their material and be available to answer questions during and after the seminar. Newcastle School personnel will present our StEPS material and also be available to assist and answer questions during and after the seminar. We hope that all parents and other carers will attend this important event.

To ensure that we give all parents and carers the opportunity to attend this important seminar, we need to know when to hold the seminar and how many people will attend. We would therefore be grateful if you would return the slip below to help us with our planning. You are also welcome to discuss any ideas you have for this seminar by contacting **Rick Frost** on 49853122.

I would like the NDIS and StEPS seminar to be held at: *(please circle)*

10 am to 12 noon

1 pm to 3 pm

4 pm to 6 pm

6 pm to 8 pm

Please provide your name _____

and the number of people who attend from your family or organisation _____

Please return this slip to your school as soon as possible