Important Dates to put in the diary

Friday 13th March
- Ride to School Day
- Parent Helper’s Induction Session 9.00—10.00 am in Library
- Sushi Lunch Day
- Trivia Night
- Grade 5/6 Hockey Competition

Sunday 15th March
- Newport Fiddle and Folk Bush Dance

Tuesday 17th March
- Last day for Somers Camp notes to be returned

Friday 20th March
- Icy Pole Day
- Grade 5/6 Summer Sports

Sunday 22nd March
- Prep Dance Party 2.00—3.30 pm in MPR

Tuesday 24th March
- Earth Hour - 11.30 am

Thursday 26th March
- 2016 Prep Tour

Friday 27th March
- Easter Hat Parade & Raffle 9.05 am
- Assembly—9.30 am
- Last day of Term 2.30 pm finish

TERM DATES
2015

Term 1
29/1—27/3

Term 2
13/4—26/6

Term 3
13/7—18/9

Term 4
5/10—18/12

Pupil Free Days

Friday 29th May
Thursday 27th Aug
Mon 2nd Nov

Yard Duty Supervision

8.45 to 9.00am and 3.30 to 3.45pm

We would like to wish the following students a very happy birthday.

Ahmed, 3/4M
Miranda, 3/4G
Ella, 5/6L
Ingrid, 1/2M
Adam, 3/4M
Sunday, Prep C
Jed, Prep C

Kiera, 3/4M
Alex, 3/4H
Sarah, 5/6W
Jack, 5/6M
Pat, 1/2L
Ritaj, Prep C
Aqualina, 1/2M

AWARDS

Congratulations to our award winners :-

Thomas, Prep S
Eden, Prep C
Lila, 1/2O
Sam, 1/2O
Elisabeth, 1/2R
Anna, 1/2M
Annelise, 1/2C
Amy, Prep S
Max, 5/6D
Rayanne, 5/6M
Elliott, 3/4G

Jensen, 5/6M
Aria, 3/4G
James, 3/4H
Emily, 3/4N
Noah, 5/6D
Daniel, 3/4O
Daniel, 5/6L
Ahmed, 3/4M
Luke, 5/6L
Inderpreet, 5/6W
Sophia, 1/2O

Tahir, 3/4M
Tara, 5/6W
Jasmine, Prep P
Ben, 3/4M
Matthew, 1/2L
Ruby, 5/6L
Maya, 3/4O
Nyeema, 1/2R
Oliver, 3/4N
Ryland, 1/2M
Dear Parents

Newport Lakes has two significant events planned for tomorrow, Friday 13th March! We begin the day with the National Ride2School Day where children are invited to ride, walk, scoot or skate to school as an alternate to travelling to school by car.

Last year we had over 200 children come to school via their own transport and we are hoping that even more children can ride, walk or scoot tomorrow. A registration desk will be available as children arrive to school where they will also receive a sticker and a piece of fruit to start the day in a healthy way. Traffic management is an important safety issue for our school and programs such ‘Ride2School Day’ demonstrate how we can all assist with this problem.

In the evening we have the NLPS Trivia Night. With this year’s theme being ‘Punk’ there may possibly be some ‘interesting outfits’ taking to our local streets. All is in preparation for a fantastic night of fun, laughter, trivia and we may even see a few not sighted since the 80’s. All money raised from the evening will go directly to the purchase of levelled literacy sets for the Yr. 3-6 classrooms and for further quality outdoor play equipment to be used by the children in the quiet yard areas of the school ground during lunchtime and recess.

**Divisional Swimming Success** – The school’s swimming team has had some wonderful success in recent events. After winning the local school swim sports, we had a group of 16 students representing our network at the divisional sports.

The U12 Boys freestyle team (Jacob, Henry M, Seb A and Max) came 1st, Jacob and Macayla both came 2nd in Backstroke and Macayla came 2nd in Breaststroke. All these students will proceed onto the Western Metropolitan regional swim championships to be conducted at Geelong on 24th March. Several students also received ribbons for 3rd placings. Congratulations to all the swimmers who represented the school. Thank you to all the parents that assisted with the training, travel and preparation of all our swimmers during term 1.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**— It was very pleasing to see so many parents in attendance at the parent teacher interviews conducted on Wednesday. These sessions are an invaluable source of information for both parents and teachers to ensure the ongoing progress of your children. If you were unable to make the interview, or would like further time to discuss an issue in regards to your child’s education, do not hesitate to contact the school’s office to organise a suitable day and time for an interview with your child’s teacher.

Contacting your Child’s Teacher (as per newsletter #1) – If you have any concerns or would like to discuss a matter in regards to your child it is very important that you arrange to meet with your child’s teacher. This can be done in a number of ways including;

- Dropping in to the classroom before school (8.50-9.00am) Only suitable for brief messages.
- Arranging a meeting at a time suitable for both parties. This can be done by sending a note to the teacher, emailing the school (place teachers name in subject box) or leaving a message and contact details at the school office for the class teacher to contact you.
- Emailing the teacher (as above).

It is very important to your child’s education that there is always clear and direct communication between school and home.
From the principal (continued)....

**Pupil Free Days**  Parental feedback informed us that as much prior notice as possible of upcoming pupil free days was important for many parents in planning supervision for their children. We now set these dates early in the year and have placed them on the front page of the newsletter. Unfortunately the date we have set for term 3 (Friday 21st Aug) has clashed with the recently decided District Athletics carnival. As we are usually one of the stronger schools in the district and many of our students qualify for this event we have decided to change the date of this Curriculum Day to the following Thursday 27th August rather than not participate in the sports. We were fortunate that Numeracy consultant and guest presenter, Michael Ymer, was able to accommodate the needs of the school and change his program to suit our needs. We apologise for any inconvenience the change in dates may have caused but we believe it would have been very disappointing to the children if we didn’t participate in the district sports.

**Easter Raffle, Easter Hat Parade and School Assembly** ~ A reminder that the traditional Easter raffle will once again be conducted this term. All families have been given a booklet of tickets to sell and if possible, families are asked to donate an Easter egg, small toy, etc. to make up the prizes. All money raised from the raffle will go towards the purchasing of more classroom library and take home books.

Additional raffle books are available from the office if required. We thank all families in assisting in this fund raising activity for our school.

On the morning of the last Friday of the term (Friday 27th March), we will be having an Easter Hat parade immediately followed by a school assembly. Apart from our usual awards and announcements we will also be drawing The Easter Raffle at the assembly. This will ensure that we are able to get all the prizes to the winners before we go on term holidays.

Please note that there will NO assembly conducted at the end of the day.

I hope you have an excellent week.

David Moss
Principal

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We would like to congratulate Paul Taylor and his wife Leonie on the recent arrival of their first child, Sydney Anne, weighing a very healthy 9lb.

This is also the grandchild of Adele, who worked with us last year.
EARTH HOUR AT NEWPORT LAKES

Earth Hour is a worldwide movement, uniting people to protect the planet. It first began in Sydney in 2007 as a lights-off event and is now celebrated annually by individuals and communities across the world.

This year, Newport Lakes will be joining in on Tuesday 24th March. At 11.30am we will have our own Power Off event by switching off lights, computers and so on in a bid to save energy and protect the environment.

On this day, students are invited to wear “a touch of green” and bring a gold coin donation for Greenfleet.

Greenfleet is a not-for-profit organisation who protect the environment by restoring forests and offsetting carbon emissions.
**Newport Fiddle and Folk Bush Dance**

It is that time of year to put on your dance shoes and come and enjoy an afternoon out! The Newport Fiddle and Folk Club are hosting their annual Bush Dance, where the Senior and Junior Choirs will be performing, as well as a string ensemble. It all starts at 3pm at the amphitheater at Newport Lakes Reserve, on Sunday the 15th of March. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the fun, so put on your best country outfit, and come along!

**The Performing Arts Department is Looking for Donations!**

Do you have any instruments, costumes, wardrobe accessories or props at home gathering dust? Ellen and Jackson are looking to build up resources and equipment for Performing Arts. This will help our students have a large variety of instruments to play on and increase costume possibilities! So have a dig around at home, and please let us know.

Thank you, and looking forward to making even more noise!

Ellen and Jackson

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**EASTER RAFFLE**

$1 tickets

**Easter Baskets to be won**

- **Comprising:** Chocolate and Easter Goodies...
- final number (approx. 15), make-up and value of prizes dependent on donations

**Drawn: Friday 27 March**

(after Easter Hat Parade at Assembly 9.30 am)

**Tickets:** Books of tickets sent home to the eldest child. Tickets available from the office before and after school 11 March - 27 March.

**Donations:** Chocolate or other new Easter goodies (eg. soft toys, stickers, decorations) are welcome to help make up Easter Baskets.

*Please leave donations at the office by Thursday, March 26.*
1/2C Gardening in the Quiet Yard

A huge thanks to Sue (Haydin's mum) for organising a planting session with 1/2C on Monday 2nd March. We planted bok choy, pak choy, a Hibiscus, two nectarine trees, 2 stevia, 2 pineapple sage plants, some parsley and rosemary. The children will be responsible for watering the plants each week and we are really excited to see how they grow.

A big thanks also to Bobby and Jess from Masters for helping out!!

Easter Hat Parade

An Easter Hat Parade will be conducted on the last day of term, Friday 27th March in front of the new portables. All hats need to be made at home. The parade will begin at 9.05am and all grades will be participating in the event. Parents are most welcome to remain when they drop off their children and watch the parade. An assembly will be held after the parade. The Easter raffle will be drawn at this time.
Students in Grades Prep, 1 and 2 have been trying something exciting at home to learn more about our school values: responsibility, resilience, critical thinking, compassion and respect. In each grade students are taking home a soft toy of some sort (bear, gorilla, etc.) with a book, to write about different ways that they have shown one of our values. Students have been very creative and are so excited to hear when it's their turn to have a go.

Below is Leo’s entry of the time that Guy the gorilla from 1/2O showed critical thinking recently in Echuca!

Dear 1/2O,
On the weekend me, my family and Guy went to Echuca! When we got there we were hungry, Guy especially wanted bananas. We went to the info centre to find out where to get bananas.

this shows critical thinking. From Leo.
Newport Lakes PS is a GRIN School

Getting Ready In Numeracy (GRIN)

We are very pleased to announce that Newport Lakes PS has introduced the GRIN program in 2015. This program provides support for students experiencing difficulties in mathematics. The program is primarily targeted at students beyond the early years of schooling. GRIN sessions are conducted in addition to, and before, the normal classroom mathematics lessons. The program is delivered by our own school tutors, who have been trained in the GRIN model of intervention.

How does GRIN work?

Our trained tutors conduct GRIN sessions with small groups of students, (ideally three), before the normal mathematics lesson. GRIN sessions are brief and focused – normally 15 to 25 minutes long. The key idea is for tutors to prepare the intervention students for the subsequent mathematics lesson.

GRIN sessions will:
- Familiarise students with the relevant language and terminology that they will hear during the classroom lesson
- Model what students can expect to see and/or do in the lesson
- Prepare intervention students for their subsequent mathematics lesson.

In some cases students might participate in GRIN sessions prior to the commencement of the school day. In another situation students might be withdrawn from other (non-mathematics) lessons to participate in GRIN sessions prior to mathematics lesson.

The program is in its early stages but already we have noticed a significant improvement in the participation levels and confidence shown in regular mathematics lessons by our GRIN students. We are confident that the program will continue to be of great benefit to students at Newport Lakes PS.
NEW PLAYERS WANTED

Altona Laverton Eagles is a friendly and family oriented Basketball Club.

If your child is aged from 4-17 and is interested in playing basketball then Altona Laverton Eagles would love to hear from you.

All levels of experience from beginners to experienced players are welcome.

The new Junior Winter 2015 Season is starting in May 2015 with all games held at the Altona Basketball Centre.

For all enquiries or to register please call Lisa on 0433 323 812

Have some fun, develop new skills and make new friends become an Eagle Player today.

The Williamstown Athletics Club is recruiting students in years 5 and 6 for the Cross Country season starting in April.

It is a fun way to keep active in the winter months and to socialise with other friendly students and athletes.

(For any enquiries please contact John on 0418322658 or Linda on 0468468761)