



Newport Lakes
Primary School

Newsletter

26th May, 2022

Principal: David Moss

Assistant Principal: Carly Bannon

40 Elizabeth Street Newport Vic 3015

Acknowledgement of Country

Newport Lakes Primary School acknowledges the Yalukit-Willam people of the Bunurong in the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the lands of the school. We pay our respect to the Elders past, present and emerging. As we share our knowledge, teaching and practices, may we also pay respect to the knowledge embedded forever within the Aboriginal custodianship of the country.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

- [Principal's Message](#)
 - [Friendship Bus Stop](#)
 - [Parents Club News](#)
 - [Election BBQ & Cake Stall](#)
 - [Tabloid Sports Day](#)
 - [Calendar of Events](#)
 - [Community News](#)
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Principal's Message

Dear Parents

Regardless of the outcome of the last Saturday's federal election, there is no doubting that the *Democracy Sausage Sizzle and Cake Stall* was the standout winner at the Newport Lakes Primary School Polling Place.

An enormous thanks to the excellent work of the Parents Club for arranging and conducting this event and also to all those parents that either worked on the BBQ throughout the day or contributed with the supply of those wonderful cakes and goodies for the stall.

Fundraising an amount in excess of \$3800 profit for the day is amazing within itself, but the other huge benefit achieved on the day was the enormous community feel it gave to all those that attended the school on that special day when Australians are able to partake in their democratic right to vote for their government.

A great effort by all those involved.

Student and Teacher Absences

It was very pleasing to complete a full term of school at the completion of Term 1 and we now draw closer to the completion of a full semester. Students going on their first ever excursion, visiting other schools for interschool sport, being able to hop on a bus, having special visitors come to school, and allowing parents inside our school buildings, were once all normal activities but now we see as special events.

School is gradually returning to normal, but we still live within a Pandemic, an Influenza outbreak is upon us and Covid still remains to have a huge impact on our school.

Our current student absences per day is significantly higher than in pre-Covid times. Apart from children having the Covid virus (ranges from 2-8 cases per day) and requiring to isolate, there is also a significant amount of other illness (colds, coughs, flu like symptoms and gastro) around the community at this present time. We are currently averaging 100-110 students absent per day – this is close to 20% of the student population.

We also have on average 2-4 teachers having the virus each week requiring them to isolate for 7 days, myself being one of those teachers at this present time. Replacement of our teachers is often very difficult due to the state-wide shortage of CRT's (casual relief teachers) that we are currently experiencing.

In most circumstances we have been able to successfully replace our teachers with a supply of local CRT's that work directly with the school or from a teacher agency but unfortunately, we are increasingly finding that replacement is not possible, and we have had to either drop some of the specialist lessons, leadership covers classes, or, when no other option is available, the class is required to be split for the day, half day or session amongst the other grades in their year levels. This is certainly not our preferred option but sometimes the strategy is required to be actioned to keep us operating and our children attending school.

This is not just a problem that Newport Lakes PS is experiencing but certainly a system wide concern. In fact, I believe we are possibly coping better than most schools and I very am pleased to report that there has been strong support and understanding shown by the majority of our community to our staff during this challenging period.

Student Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews

At the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2, parents will receive a written report on their child's social and academic progress. Teachers are currently assessing the students in many areas of the curriculum and will soon begin the process of writing the reports to be distributed at the end of this term.

Students are assessed on what we term as KAI's (Key Assessment Indicators). Due to the high number of absences of many children during this term caused by illness, it may not be possible to fairly assess the child's performance / gather enough evidence of learning and they will receive a N/A (Not Assessed) for these indicators. The number of N/A assessments received, if any, will differ with each child in accordance with what the child has or hasn't been assessed upon. Parents should note that a N/A does not mean that the child has failed the assessments indicator but simply means that the teacher was unable to fairly evaluate the student's capability or understanding of the skill at the time of writing the report as they were not able to collect enough evidence from the student around that particular KAI. Note that all students will still be able to be awarded a Victorian Curriculum Progression Point in all the areas of English and Mathematics.

Student reports will be available on the Compass parent portal from Thursday 23rd June. As Term 2 was shorter in duration than usual (only 9 weeks) it was decided to conduct the mid-year parent teacher interviews early in Term 3 on Wednesday 20th July.

This year we are allowing the P-Yr. 4 parents the opportunity to choose to have their parent teacher interview either face to face or online via Webex. Obviously, it is essential that we need to keep to strict time schedules, but we believe some parents want to meet in person with their child's teacher, whilst others would prefer the convenience of an online interview – the choice will be yours.

As the Yr.5/6 students will be having a 3-way conference (student, parent and teacher) these meetings will need to be conducted face to face in the classroom. Further details and booking information will be sent home to parents very early in Term 3 but for now, parents may want to place the date in their calendars.

Did you know?! (*a new segment in the newsletter giving parents updates on some of the many special things that occur at your school which you may not even know about*)

Almost every day there will 1-2 students that have no lunch at school. Most often, the lunch has been left on the bench in the kitchen, dropped out of the bag whilst in the car, was with the older sibling that has gone off to an excursion or the lunch order failed to be confirmed on the Qkr app.

Sometimes the school is able to contact the parent and a drop off is arranged, but other times the parents are at work, or it is simply not practical to have the lunch brought up the school. On these circumstances, the child is given an *emergency lunch pack* to get them through the day consisting of a cheese/ biscuit pack, small box of sultanas, diced fruit cup and a packet of popcorn. These emergency lunch packs are put together by the school's office staff and funded by the Parents Club.

A little pack of food and kindness goes a long way and ensures every child at NLPS has a lunch every day.

I hope you have a wonderful week

Regards

David Moss
Principal

Friendship Bus Stop

At Newport Lakes Primary School, we have a very special place called 'The Friendship Bus Stop'. Approximately five years ago, Junior School Council representatives came up with this wonderful initiative. They even had a competition to design the sign!

The intention of the Bus Stop is to support the building of friendships in our community. If someone can't find their friend in the yard or would like to meet someone new, they are welcome to go and sit at the Bus Stop seat and wait for someone to come along and 'pick them up'.

We thought it was a good time to remind everyone about this wonderful place, and the fact that it could be a useful strategy for students to use, should they ever find themselves unintentionally on their own during break times.

Some students even make plans to meet at the Bus Stop if they have something else to do first at break times. In a big yard, it can sometimes be difficult to find friends, especially when everyone is in the same uniform!

If you haven't noticed it before, The Friendship Bus Stop is located at the big tree near the dumpers.



PARENT CLUB NEWS

Today, May 26th, we at Newport Lakes Parents Club, would like to acknowledge all First Nations Peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands, waterways and skies, of this land that we call Australia. We would like to acknowledge National Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week and the 30th anniversary of Mabo Day. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present, and thank them for their strength, resilience and determination to keep their cultures and identities strong. We recognise all First Peoples right to reconciliation and make our promise to walk beside them on their journey.

The sun shone all day, and we welcomed a steady flow of people ready to exercise their democratic right and get themselves a delicious bacon and egg roll while they waited. Only 2 weeks after our first (and very successful event) Parents Club were back at it and pleased to tick off another big event from our list for 2022.

Our first round of volunteers were at school before sun up and we had our famous cake stall and democracy sausages ready to roll as the booths opened. A big shout out to all the wonderful bakers of NLPS! We had cakes being delivered up until midday and they flew off the table as quick as we could re-stock (whoever made the fresh cinnamon scrolls...you are a baking angel...they were devine!)

Thank you to our resident relish maker, Sarah Pope from The Odd Spot, to Merlino's Fruit and Veg for the onions and Zahara's meats for the sausages. To Sue and Kellie for all their support and David for backing us with a smile always!

Dave Childs and Martin Foster...the BBQ legends! Thank you for all your help in getting the event organised and for spending your whole day flipping snags and serving hungry voters...we look forward to doing it all again in November!

Thank you to all the volunteers that came to meetings, set up, cooked, served, stayed longer than they planned and helped with the clean-up...we were a little short of helping hands in this still uncertain time, but the NLPS community rallied, and we made it through.

To the best VP ever, Sam Pierce...like always, thanks a bunch!

We're rapt to be back at school doing these fun events and raising a bit of money for the school while we do it. For our last 2 events we have raised over \$4700 which is amazing...all funds are heading towards upgrading our big kid's playground.

Our next parent club meeting will be held on Thursday June 9th at 7:30pm (venue to be confirmed closer to the day) Keep an eye on the compass reminders, newsletter calendar and your emails for any Parents Club updates.

Election BBQ & Cake Stall





TABLOID SPORTS DAY

On Wednesday the 4th of May 2022, students in P -2 participated in our annual Tabloid Sports Day. Children were excited to experience a range of fun activities that promoted collaboration, physical movement and critical thinking.

Following the activities, everyone enjoyed an icypole to celebrate the day. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who came to watch their child/ren participate in the day. It was great having our community together to cheer on our students!

2022 Calendar of events

Month	Date/s	Time	Event
MAY			
	Fri 27th		Yr 5/6 Interschool Sport home game V St Mary's
	Mon 30th		Yr 3 Science Incursion
JUNE			
	Thur 2nd	10.00am	Prep Tour
	Fri 3rd		Yr 5/6 Interschool Sport Home game V W'town Nth
	Fri 10th		Pupil Free Day—No School
	Mon 13th		Queen's Birthday Holiday—No School
	Mon 20th		Prep Excursion to Melbourne Zoo
	Fri 24th	2.30pm dismissal	End of Term 2
JULY			
	Mon 11th		Term 3 begins
	Wed 20th	2.00pm—7.00pm	Parent Teacher Interviews
AUGUST			
SEPTEMBER			
	Thur 8th	7pm—8pm	School Production
OCTOBER			
	Mon 3rd		Term 4 begins
	Mon 17th—Fri 28th		P-2 Swimming Program
	Mon 31st		Pupil Free Day—No School

Month	Date/s	Time	Event
NOVEMBER			
	Tues 1st		Melbourne Cup Holiday—No School
	Mon 7th—Wed 9th		Yr 5/6 Camp (Phillip Island)
	Fri 18th	3.30pm—9pm	School Twilight Fete
	Mon 21st—Wed 23rd		Yr 3/4 Camp (Lady Northcote)
	Sat 26th		Victorian election (Democracy Sausage sizzle)
DECEMBER			
	Mon 12th	6pm—8pm	Yr 6 Graduation
	Tue 20th	1.30pm dismissal	End of Term 4

Community News



NetSetGo for 2022



Our NetSetGo program is resuming for 2022 from Friday, April 29. The program will run for Terms 2, 3 and 4 for children aged from 5 to 8.

Who: Designed for kids aged 5-9 who are interested in playing Netball and want to develop their skills and meet some new friends.

What: NetSetGo is an introductory program to Netball where kids can learn and develop their skills. The participants will learn basic netball skills in a fun-filled environment with caring coaches.

When: Friday afternoons, 3.45pm - 4.30pm

Where: Williamstown High School Gym, Pascoe Street, Williamstown

How much: \$150 for the three terms (2, 3 and 4). Registration fee also includes a NetSetGo T-Shirt and ball.

Registration: [CLICK HERE](#)

Use NET if your child is aged 5-6
Use SET if your child is aged 7-8

If you have any questions, please contact Toni Hetherington (NetSetGo Coordinator)
E: netball@williamstownjuniornetballclub.com.au M: 0417 149 577



Autism Spectrum Disorder and Behaviour Support through the question of asking 'Why?'

+ Schooling Options for your Child



Children with autism can often communicate their needs, wants and thinking differently to their siblings and peers and this can be tricky for families, carers, school staff and the wider community to relate to, understand and support.

This online forum designed for parents and families with preschool aged children and early years primary students, offers an additional understanding about autism, practical strategies to build connections with autistic children and how to make an informed decision about schooling options.

Facilitated by Jo McIntryre, Leading Teacher of Transitions and Sam Hindes, Assistant Principal at Western Autistic School.

When: Wednesday 8 June 2022

Where: Online via WebEx

Time: 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Cost: FREE

RSVP: earlyyears@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or call 1300 179 944

WESTERN
AUTISTIC
SCHOOL

