Newsletter

16th February, 2023

Newport Lakes Primary School

Principal: David Moss **Assistant Principal: Carly Bannon**

40 Elizabeth Street Newport Vic 3015

Email: newport.lakes.ps@education.vic.gov.au www.newportlakesps.vic.edu.au

Phone: (03) 9391 8942

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.

- Principal's Message
- School Council
- Icy Pole Days
- Parent Club News
- Schools Privacy Policy
- Parking Around the School
- 2023 Staff
- Birthday Celebrations
- Calendar of Events
- Community News/Events

Dear Parents,

Our five new Foundation (Prep) classes had an excellent start to school last week with much excitement and just the occasional tear (and they were mostly from the exiting parents). Overall, it was one of the best Prep beginnings to a school year I have experienced – congratulations to all the parents and the local pre-schools in doing such an excellent job preparing the children for primary school.

Every year it seems the children are becoming more resilient and confident to take on the challenge of beginning school. Our Prep teachers have also done an amazing job in engaging the children and they have already made an excellent beginning to their teaching and learning journey. I am always astonished at how these superb educational practitioners settle the children so efficiently into a classroom learning environment. I look forward to witnessing another cohort of children develop and progress through their high-level learning at Newport Lakes Primary School.

Maths Night It was excellent to see so many parents take the opportunity of attending the information evening conducted last week on you how you can assist your child at home with maths. Michael Minas from the 'Love Maths' group gave a 60-minute presentation on why it is important that parents are involved in their child's maths education and provided a host of hints, activities, and professional suggestions on why it is important to help your child with maths and how every parent can easily do this at home.

Later this term, we will be conducting another parent information session at the school by well-regarded child behaviour expert, Chrissie Davies. This event will be available for all NLPS parents.
The presentation will be conducted on the evening of **Tuesday 28th March at 7:30pm** in the school's Multi -Purpose room. Information on how you can register for attendance to this presentation will be included in the next newsletter.

Involving Parents in their Child's Education at NLPS With the (hopeful) ending of Covid restrictions, we are inviting parents to come back into our school to be part of your child's education. As well as the two parent information evenings (Maths & Neurodiversity/Wellbeing) in Term 1 there are also a number of other activities planned for the near future.

Parent Information Sessions & Open Classrooms In the week February 20-24, a series of online year level parent information sessions will be conducted. This will be followed up by an 'Open Classroom' afternoon session in mid March where parents can visit their child's classroom, view their schoolwork, and meet the teacher.

The Parent information Sessions will be conducted between 6-7pm for the following year levels:

Prep:	Monday 20 February
Yr.1 & Yr.2:	Wednesday 22 February
Yr. 3 & Yr 4:	Tuesday 21 February
Yr. 5 & 6	Thursday 23 February

The information sessions will be conducted online via the Webex platform and all classroom teachers will be presenting. The sessions will give an overview of your child's school day as well as a summary of the Maths, English, BQT (Big Question Time), Specialist Subjects (Art, Music, PE, Auslan, Library) and other activities relevant to your child's year level.

These information sessions will then be followed up with an 'Open Classroom' session between 3.30-4.15pm on Thursday 16th March (Yr.1-6) where parents are invited to visit the classrooms to meet their child's teacher and view their schoolwork.

The Prep Open Classroom will be conducted on the evening of Thursday 2nd March to coincide with Prep Picnic.

Parent Teacher Interviews The *'Meet the Teacher'* interviews will be conducted for all grades from 2-7pm on Thursday 9th March 2023.

Parents have the option of attending these sessions to meet the teacher either 'face to face' or online. Being the beginning of a new school year, we recommend that parents come along to the school for a face-to-face discussion with the teacher but we also realise that it may be difficult or inconvenient to attend for some families so an online interview would be preferred – the option is up to each parent.

Further information and details of booking your 'Meet the Teacher' interview will be sent out to all parents next week on Compass.

Lunch Orders (& Sustainable Cutlery) The school's excellent lunch order program resumed last week providing our parents and students a weekly opportunity of ordering a nutritious & healthy lunch order delivered to your child's classroom on a Thursday lunchtime.

With the Government's introduction of banning the supply of single use plastic spoons and forks in schools, the school trialled an 'opt in' bamboo cutlery to be included with the student lunches. Unfortunately, there were many administrative problems and negative feedback from parents, students and the school office so it has been decided to cease the optional alternative and simply include a bamboo fork/spoon in all lunch items requiring cutlery.

From this week, a sustainable sourced spoon/fork will be included in lunches requiring cutlery and there will be additional cost of 20c per lunch order included in the purchase price. Children may choose to take the cutlery home with them to re-use at home if they so desire.

Time in Lieu Arrangements – *school camps* Late last year the Department of Education and the AEU negotiated a new Workplace Agreement for all Victorian state Schools.

One of the new items listed included in the Agreement was *Time in Lieu* arrangement for all teachers involved in out of school activities such as parent-teacher evenings, parent information sessions, Graduation, and school camps. Although this inclusion was welcomed by schools, unfortunately the *Time in Lieu* arrangement was an *unfunded* item, leaving each individual Principal having to make the agreement work within their own school using their own resources.

For 'after school' events such as Parent Teacher Interviews & Parent Information Sessions, schools can generally make *Time in Lieu* arrangements by cancelling their weekly meetings and professional learning sessions to make up the time teachers have submitted to the after-school event. Although it is not ideal, as the school uses these times to further teacher training and school performance, it can be managed.

When teachers attend a school camp, the additional hours of duty are much greater than what can be redeemed in after school meetings. In these situations, it will be necessary to provide the attending teachers with full day replacements for their *Time in Lieu* for attending school camp.

To ensure that Newport Lakes Primary School can continue planning and providing a school camp program for our Yr.3-6 children our intention is to provide a day's replacement from teaching for every night a teacher attends a school camp. We believe this is a fair and equitable means of anaging Time in Lieu for camps.

As all of the NLPS school camps are 3 days and 2 nights in duration (Mon-Wed), a teacher attending a camp will be entitled to 2 days' time in lieu. One of these days will be directly after the camp (Thursday) and a further day to be negotiated between the teacher and the principal.

As the children are always very tired after attending a school camp, the day immediately after the camp (Thursday) is always a recovery day and although supervision will always be provided, no teaching lessons are planned or conducted on this day. We encourage parents to allow their child to have a quiet day at home, when this is possible, to allow them to rest and recover which is always warranted. If this is not possible, of course children are able to attend school.

With a reduced number of children attending school on the Thursday we can provide the required supervision from within the school resources allowing the teachers that went on camp to have their first of two *Time in Lieu* days. A second day of *Time in Lieu* can be funded from the school's staffing budget.

There will be no additional charge made to the camp fee for teachers wages for *Time in Lieu* as this would make the camp fee too great for many families and there is a likelihood that some children may not attend due to the cost of the camp. It is very important the camp fee is always as low as possible and school camps at NLPS should always be accessible for all children.

When it is possible and parents can assist with the supervision of their children at home on the day after the camp, this would assist greatly in ensuring that camps remain an important event in every child's time at school at Newport Lakes PS.

Parents Club At NLPS we are very fortunate that we have an active Parents Club. In 2022, the Parents Club was instrumental in the organisation of the School Fete but there is also many other activities and events conducted by the Parents Club for our students and families. Some of these include the 'Icy Pole Days' in term 1 & 4, the family before school breakfasts in terms 2 & 4, the Fresh Fruit Mondays for the P-2 children, the parent information evenings, and now that Covid has passed, we can consider the return of the parent social events.

But these events do not just magically occur – they require an effective and energetic Parents Club to get them organised. Many schools have disbanded their Parents Club due to lack of interest and insufficient parent members. The Newport Lakes Primary Parents Club is 'just hanging in there' and unless there is an increase in parent numbers it may also fail to continue in the future.

All you require to be a member of the NLPS Parents Club is to be a parent (or family member) of the school, prepared to give up a very small amount of time throughout the year (how much time is entirely up to you), have an interest in making Newport Lakes the best school it can be for your child and have, or obtain, a Working With Children's Check (and we can assist you in obtaining this if required).

By being a Parents Club member, you will receive much more in return than you give – get to know other parents, show your own child an interest in their school, put many smiles on children's faces and know that you are contributing to a lot of fun and enjoyment to your child's time at school.

But we need new members to stay active, especially parents in Years P-2 (our missing Covid years).
So PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE consider being part of the school's Parents Club in 2023- we desperately need you!!!!

The first meeting is to be conducted in the schools Multi-Purpose Room on the evening of Tuesday 28th February beginning at 7pm.
Come along, have a listen, ask some questions and see what you think – bring a friend if that helps but just, please come along to the meeting.

I hope you all have a good week.

David Moss

Principal

School Council Elections

At the closing date for nominations for School Council, the number of nominations was equal to the number of vacancies in the membership category of parent member and school employee member. A ballot will **not** be required.

The elected school council members for the term 2023- 2025 are:
Parent category: Leah Campbell, Kim Gilson, Murray Hall, Steph Viljoen
Teacher category: Mat Williamson

The continuing (2022-2024) members of the school council are:
Parent: Lauren Sammartino, Kristy Clucas, Veronica Barbetta, Jo Sutton

---

Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to read our school's collection notice, found on our website (Schools Payment Policy). We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education] safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education], please contact the school. For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents. This information is also available in ten community languages:

* Amharic,* Arabic, * Dari, * Gujarati, * Mandarin, * Somali, * Sudanese, * Turkish, * Urdu, * Vietnamese

---

Icy Pole Days

Icy pole days are back!
Icy pole days are held each fortnight on a Friday in 1st and 4th terms. Students can purchase an icy pole at lunch time for 50c. Please place your child's money in a safe place in their bag. There will be staff to assist the preps with purchasing icy poles.

We are always looking for helpers, if you can assist with icy pole days please let the office know. A reminder that all parent helpers must hold a current Working with children's card.

Dates for icy pole days this term are:

Friday 17th February
Friday 3rd March
Friday 17th March
Friday 31st March

PARENT CLUB NEWS

2023 here we go!

At Parents Club our aim is to bring the NLPS community together while having some fun. We are lucky enough to run events such as icy pole days, community breakfasts, Parent info nights, social gatherings and anything else people can think of!

One of our first “jobs” for a new year is the friendship lists, which are now up and running. There are QR codes scattered around the school, info on Compass and also links on our Facebook page. We are recruiting a parent liaison for each class. These lists are shared among your class only and super helpful for setting up class catch ups, reminders upcoming events and other things happening with your classes or around school.

Parents Club rely on many helping hands to get these events up and going, and we are currently running a little low on volunteers. This group isn't as official and scary as people may think and the time and effort you can give it is totally up to you…but EVERY little bit counts.

Our first event for the year is always a favourite amongst the little people…Icy Pole Day!!...which will commence tomorrow.

We are holding our first meeting for 2023 on February 28th @ 7pm in the Multipurpose Room (we will kick off the night with our very very brief AGM) and would be delighted to see some friendly new faces.

We hope everyone has a wonderful first term and look forward to meeting many folk throughout the year.

PARKING AROUND SCHOOL

Parking for the purpose of dropping off and picking up students is always a major problem around most schools and Newport Lakes PS is no exception. But if ALL parents abide by the local road rules, demonstrate some compassion and show some common sense we can considerably reduce the congestion , improve the traffic flow and make it safer for everyone in the community.

When used correctly, we have very successful 'Pick up & Drop off only' zones outside the school entrances in Elizabeth and Ross St. with the distinguishable blue lines and new signage.

In these areas 'No Parking' means that you can stop your car and get out to help your kids in and out of the car (and kiss them goodbye – if they let you). However, the driver cannot move more than 3 metres from the car. In most instances this will allow you to help them onto the adjacent footpath, but no further.

Generally, No Parking signs don't have a specified time on them. In this case, the Road Rules allow you to stop for up to 2 minutes, and 2 minutes ONLY. Any longer and you can be fined and you are taking up a parking space for another parent to drop off/ pick up their child.

By having a different line colouring, it is believed that this will make it easier for drivers to distinguish these parking areas. Please make it easier for everyone by abiding with these important traffic management rules.

School Council strongly recommends when picking up your child from school, park in one of the surrounding side streets, walk a few minutes to school, pick up your child upon dismissal (with a smile) and then enjoy a casual walk back to your car and have a talk with them about their day at school. This is far more relaxing, much more rewarding and keeps you out of the 'traffic chaos' around the school.
It also 'frees up' some parking space for those less abled such as the elderly or the parent that maybe struggling with younger siblings and a baby.

Drop Off and Pick-Up Zones

- Designated by blue ground line markings
- Drivers must stay within 3 metres of their car

(this allows driver to help their children onto and off footpath but no further)

-Driver not to leave car unattended-

- Parking in this zone is for 2 minutes only

Newport Lakes Primary School

2023 STAFF

PRINCIPAL	David Moss
A/PRINCIPAL	Carly Bannon
TEACHERS	
Prep DS	Diana Stefanovic
Prep HW	Hannah Whitaker
Prep SS	Sarah Smith/Lisa Richards
Prep MW	Mitchell Webster
Prep EM	Erin Meade
1AO	Amy O'Dowd
1IJ	Isabell Jack
1EB	Emma Barger
1SR	Shayne Robson
2MM	Mike Morell
2DO	Denise O'Shea
2EO	Emma O'Loughlin/Heidi James
3JM	James Munro
3OF	Olivia Flanagan
3TC	Tammi Cordell
4AD	Ann-Maree Dawson
4TN	Tarsh Nicholson
4TD	Tracy Doherty
56M	Mat Williamson/Trami Hoang
56E	Eliza Warne
56L	Lucinda Porter
56A	Alanna Maguire
56J	Jill Kelly

SPECIALISTS	
PE	Terry Antoniadis/ Sharon Rodgers
Art	Laura Russell
Music	Tracey James
Drama	Michelle Sullivan
Intervention/ Tutoring	Bianca Egan Carol Martins
LOTE – AUSLAN	Priscilla Patterson
LIBRARY	Krissy Barr
Student Welfare Teacher	Samantha Meddis

Business Manager	Kellie Holdich
Office Assistant	Sue High
Office Assistant	Kayleen Meehan
First Aid/Support	Carolyn Brien
IT Support	Tri Dung Vu
IT Support	Alan Zhang
Education Support	Jacqui Quigley
Education Support	Helen Hayden
Education Support	Antonella Pappalardo
Education Support	Lleyton Lammardo
Education Support	Clare Hopkins
Education Support	Courtney Forrest
Education Support	Daniel Pantalleresco

Celebrating your child's birthday in the classroom

Birthdays are special and we know that many students at Newport Lakes Primary School love to celebrate their birthday with their classmates and some families may even choose to send along something from home.

For families wanting to bring a special treat to share, please provide small, individual treats for all class members eg. cup cakes, honey joys, chocolate crackles, fruit skewers. Please ensure that all treats are nut free.

Alternately, families may consider providing a small gift such as an item of stationery to reduce the amount of sugary food bought into the classroom eg. a sticker, eraser or pencil.

Please **DO NOT** bring in lollipops, lolly bags, ice-cream cakes or whole cakes that need to be cut up and distributed.

For families of children with allergies, please provide your child's teacher with a selection of small allergy friendly treats from home to be given to your child when a birthday is being celebrated.

Parents who do not want their child receiving food-based birthday treats must let their child's teacher know and also have the option of providing an alternate treat box for their child.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Month	Date/s	Time	Event
FEBRUARY			
	Thur 16th		Yr 5/6 Excursion to Sovereign Hill
	Fri 17th	**9am—11am**	Yr 5/6 Interschool Sport—Home
	Mon 20th	**6.00pm—7.00pm**	Prep Information Session On-line
	Tue 21st	**6.00pm—7.00pm**	Yr 3/4 Information Session On-line
	Wed 22nd	**6.00pm—7.00pm**	Yr 1/2 Information Session On-line
	Thur 23rd	**6.00pm—7.00pm**	Yr 5/6 Information Session On-line
	Fri 24th	**9am—11am**	Yr 5/6 Interschool Sport—Home
	Tue 28th	**7pm**	Parent Club Meeting in Multi Purpose Room
MARCH			
	Wed 1st		District Swimming Carnival
	Thur 2nd	**5.30pm –7.00pm**	Prep Picnic Prep Classrooms Open
	Fri 3rd	**9am—11.00am**	Yr 5/6 Interschool Sport @ Newport Gardens
	Tue 7th		School Photos
	Thur 9th	**2.00pm—7.00pm**	Meet the Teacher Interviews
	Fri 10th		Pupil Free Day—no students at school
	Thur 16th	**3.30pm—4.15pm**	Open Classrooms for parents
	Fri 17th	**9am—11am**	Yr 5/6 Interschool Sport @ home
	Mon 20th—Wed 22nd		Yr 6 Camp- Billabong Ranch
	Mon 27th—Wed 29th		Yr 5 Camp—Billabong Ranch
APRIL			
	Thur 6th	**2.30pm dismissal**	Last day of Term 1
	Fri 7th –Fri 21st		SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
	Mon 24th		First day of Term 2
	Tue 25th		Anzac Day—No School
MAY			
	Mon 1st—Wed 3rd		Yr 3/4 Camp—Lake Dewar
	Mon 22nd		Athletics Carnival
JUNE			
	Mon 12th		Public Holiday—No School
	Fri 23rd		Last day of term 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Month	Date/s	Time	Event
JUNE			
	Mon 26th June—- Fri 7th July		SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
AUGUST			
	Mon 21st		Book Week
SEPTEMBER			
	Fri 15th	**2.30pm dismissal**	Last day of term 3
	Mon 18th—Fri 29th		SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
NOVEMBER			
	Mon 6th		Pupil Free Day –no students at school
	Tue 7th		Public Holiday—No School
	Wed 8th—Fri 10th		Art Show
DECEMBER			
	Wed 20th	**1.30pm dismissal**	Last day of term 4

COMMUNITY NEWS/EVENTS