A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

As you will no doubt be aware, last week our school was the victim of an automated hoax phone call threatening the staff and students at the school. The staff on this day did an outstanding job of ensuring student safety, remaining calm and following our Emergency Management Plan. We did have close to 200 students en route, or at the pool at the time of the call which caused considerable disruption to our program. As mentioned in the Compass bulletin, the Victoria Police were in attendance to ensure all was okay. In addition, the Department of Education and Training’s Security Division was notified. Clearly the drills we perform throughout the year put us in good stead as our plan worked very well. Thank you to the families who offered their support for our role in ensuring the safety of all.

With a little over two weeks until the end of the school year there is still much happening here at school. Tomorrow our students spend four hours in the year level they will be in next year with many of the teachers they will have in 2017. Some of our new staff will be joining us, however we are still in the final stages of appointing staff to fill all positions, so not all of our 2017 staff will be in attendance. Please remember the students are in cohort groups tomorrow, and these groupings do not necessarily correlate to teachers and grades at this stage. Students will find out their teacher on the final day of school.

Thank you to those families who have returned their Bush-Wah-Zee forms. Bush-Wah-Zee is fast approaching and we hope to see all families come along and enjoy the night. For those who remember the weather last time we held this event, you will glad to know we have booked Bayside College’s hall should the weather be unpleasant. If you are yet to return your form, please do so as soon as possible. Please remember, as with all school events, this event is alcohol free, and parents must be in attendance with their child.

Today we commence week two of our swimming program, and being half way through I would love to be able to tell you that all has been smooth sailing, unfortunately however that is not the case. Thank you to those parents who have provided us with some really constructive feedback about the program, student groupings and pool staff. We too see room for improvement and have been discussing our concerns with the management team at the pool. We will be trying very hard today and tomorrow to sort all of the issues parents have shared with us to ensure the remainder of the program is a positive and rewarding experience for our students. Please understand the issues are with the centre, not with the staff at our school.

A reminder to parents that the 5% discount on school fees lasts only until the end of next week. Thank you to those parents who have already paid. As with all payments, if finances are concerning please discuss this with myself or Janelle Evans to see where we can assist. We would like to see the bulk of these payments made this year so we can finalise book box orders ready for the commencement of the school year.

Simon McGlade
Principal

5th December 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER

Prep Transition Dates:
Session 4|6th December

Tuesday 6th December
Whole School Transition Day

Tuesday 13th December
Grade 6 Graduation

Thursday 15th December
Bush-Wah-Zee

Monday 19th December
Grade 6 Fun Day

TUESDAY 20th DECEMBER
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2016
FINISH TIME 1.30PM

NEWPORT GARDENS PS SCHOOL COUNCILLORS 2016

Simon McGlade
David Grubits
Janelle Evans
Marielle Caruana
Justine Flaherty
Amanda Elmer
Emma Driscoll
Marina Kopcalic
Abbey Lee
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Marley Barry, Aspen Bosnjakovic, Xavier William, Edward Wright, Joshua Casement, Tijana Velevski, Gabrielle Simmons, Thomas Battye, Izzah Barakat & Cooper Sharp.

WE HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY

PARENTS CLUB

Newport Gardens Primary School Parent Club News
President – Fiona Kay: bfrirvine@yahoo.com, 0418572807
Treasurer – Penny Lewis, Secretary – Nicole Polson

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 5/12/16</th>
<th>Tues 6/12/16</th>
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| Mon 19/12/16 | Tues 20/12 | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Christmas Raffle drawn | LAST DAY OF YEAR |
| Library shelving | 2pm-3 |

TERM 4 ACTIVITIES

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
Please see attached flyer. Donations are now required for the Christmas raffle hampers. Items can include: Toys, wine, chocolates. Books, art and craft supplies, Vouchers. Please place them on the table near the front office. Thanks
REMINDER

PARENT HELPERS’ MORNING TEA

MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER
10.40AM UNTIL 11.20AM
PLEASE COME AND JOIN US IN THE STAFFROOM

Merry Christmas
Due to a recent cancellation, we are looking for **ONE MORE** host family to host a Japanese student. Please help us out by filling out the details below and sending it to the office.

By the way, it is Autumn in Japan now and the colours are absolutely amazing, have a look through this website à [http://www.japan-guide.com/blog/koyo16/](http://www.japan-guide.com/blog/koyo16/)

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**Host Family Wanted!**

**Japanese University students visit your school 2017**

They are studying Child Education at Nagoya Women’s University in Japan. They will visit your children’s school/kindergarten to observe classes and introduce Japanese culture.

**Duration:** 10th Feb (Sun) to 7th March (Tue) 2017 for 16 nights.

**How many:** One student per family

**Homestay fee:** Payment of $600 for your expenses.

Please provide 3 meals a day. (Breakfast, packed lunch & dinner)

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Midori:

On 03-9572-3381 / 0418-540-865 or E-mail: midori@japan-link.com.au

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**Application form**

Your all children’s name and age/gender __________________________

Parents (other house hold)name/gender __________________________

E-mail address: __________________________

Telephone No. __________________________

Address: __________________________

Pet/s: __________________________ Method of transport to school: __________________________

*Please return this form to your school/kindergarten office.

Thank you for your cooperation.
REMINDERS

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2016

TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

FINISH TIME 1.30PM
WESLEY MISSION FOOD FOR FAMILIES APPEAL

This year Newport Gardens Primary School is again giving back to the Community by participating in the Wesley Mission Food for Families Appeal.

We need your help to collect food and toiletries to assist those in need over the Christmas period.

SUGGESTED DONATION LIST

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS:

- Tinned tuna, salmon, sardines and ham
- Jars and bottles of pasta sauces and pasta
- UHT (long-life milk)
- Breakfast cereal, muesli bars, breakfast bars
- Tinned and ready to eat meals e.g., Spaghetti
- Baked beans, soup, curries etc. (non-perishable)
- Biscuits
- Teabags, instant coffee, milo
- Tinned fruit and vegetables
- Rice
- Two-minute noodles, instant noodles in a cup/bowl
- Baby food
- Small jars of vegemite, honey
- Peanut butter, Nutella & jam

Toiletries:

- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Toilet paper
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Small bottles of shampoo & conditioner
- Face washers
- Nappies

It is extremely important that items donated are not past their use by dates, and have a reasonable amount of time before they expire, as the aim of this appeal is to provide these items to those in need throughout 2017.
NGPS Christmas Raffle

Drawn at final assembly Monday 19th December

Tickets to be returned by Wednesday 14th December

Donations for hampers gladly accepted on the table by the office.

Examples of things to donate include: chocolates, toys, beauty products, wine, etc.

www.newportgardensps.vic.edu.au | newport.gardens.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
FREE COME & TRY SESSION DATES
HOBSONS BAY PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SESSION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>13th Nov 2016</td>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Williamstown Cricket Club Ground, Morris St</td>
<td>FREE COME &amp; TRY</td>
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MILO T20 Blast is a fun and safe program to allow boys & girls (Aged 7-12 years) the opportunity to play modified cricket matches in a T20 atmosphere.

MILO T20 Blast is the perfect progression for all who have participated in the MILO In2CRICKET program, or new to the game that want to develop their skills further playing real games before joining traditional junior club cricket.

The format allows parents and coaches to interact with participants throughout, ensuring the skills of the game are taught in an explosive, fun, safe, action-packed 90 minutes. A skill session will be run before playing a game each week. All equipment supplied.

This is a great way to play with your friends or make new ones. Coordinated and delivered by trained Cricket Victoria staff.

You will also receive a FUN family pass (4 tickets to a BBL game) and also go into the draw to win great prizes from the Melbourne Renegades.

Register at your local club www.playcricket.com.au

ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT

Darren Driscoll – 0414 689 045 darren.driscoll@cricket.com.au

www.newportgardensps.vic.edu.au | newport.gardens.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
This year Gellibrand CC will be conducting 2 sessions a week for the MILO in2CRICKET participants from Newport Garden Primary school, you can participate in both or just one.

**REMININDER THAT WE START THIS Wednesday at 3.15pm on the Oval.**

If your child is attending OSH they will need a release letter to say you are happy for me to collect and drop back after program.

For more information please contact Darren Driscoll 0414 689 045 or darren.driscoll@cricket.com.au

To register please visit [www.playcricket.com.au](http://www.playcricket.com.au)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newport Gardens Primary School (3.15pm - 4.15pm)</th>
<th>Gellibrand Cricket Club (5.30pm - 6.30pm)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session 1</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 12th Oct 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Session 2</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 19th Oct 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Session 3</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 26th Oct 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Session 4</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Session 9</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 7th Dec 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Session 10</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday 14th Dec 2016</td>
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**Break for XMAS**

| **Session 11** | Friday 4th Feb 2017 |
| **Session 12** | Friday 11th Feb 2017 |
| **Session 13** | Friday 18th Feb 2017 |
| **Session 14** | Friday 25th Feb 2017 |
Goodbye primary school, hello secondary

The end of primary school is a significant milestone in children’s lives. They’ve spent half their lives in primary school, in many cases in the same school, which is significant.

Developmentally, they’ve come a long way from those skinny little kids who lined up for class on the first day holding a parent’s or carer’s hand. Now entering puberty, most are taller than their mothers and the only people they’ll hold hands with are ‘special friends’, but not in public. Those displays of affection will come later in the secondary school years.

Changing from primary to secondary brings a mixture of emotions in kids such as excitement, apprehension, pride and, in many cases, sadness about leaving friends and familiar surroundings behind.

Parents often go through the same range of emotions as children at this time so we need to acknowledge those feelings in ourselves, just as we should in our children.

1. Let’s celebrate
   Primary school graduation ceremonies play an important part in the primary school life, as they mark the end of an era and the start of a new part of their lives. We need to be careful that the meaning doesn’t become lost as graduations become increasingly lavish, even to the point where some students are transported to their graduation in a stretch limo. Keep them simple and keep them close to the school’s values.

2. Show gratitude
   As a former teacher, I know how much a simple thank you can mean from students at the end of the year. So make sure your kids take the time to thank their final year teacher and as well as seek out to thank other teachers who contributed to their education over their primary school journey. Gratitude costs nothing but has a great impact.

3. Enjoy friendships
   Encourage your kids to be open and friendly at this time of the year, and steer clear of cliques and fellow students who want to exclude others from their groups. The end of primary school can be tricky to navigate, particularly when early matures stick together and ostracise certain classmates. This is the time for friendly behaviour and inclusiveness.

LOOKING AHEAD

When primary school is finished and the holidays are coming to an end, it’s time to focus on the new experiences of secondary school. Some kids take secondary school in their stride but it is natural to experience some difficulty.

If your eldest is starting, then secondary school will be a relatively new experience for you too. It will take some time for you to adjust to the school’s culture and communication methods.

Your attitude as a parent can help your child quickly adjust. Here are three ideas for you to help kids make a smooth adjustment.

more on page 2

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.

parentingideas.com.au

© 2015 Michael Grose
... Goodbye primary school, hello secondary school ...

1. **Promote friendships**
   The quicker kids form new friendships the sooner they’ll feel comfortable in their secondary school surroundings. Encourage your young person to be open to forming friendships with all sorts of kids; to be accepting of others who may be different to them; to take social risks by joining in activities even though they may feel uncomfortable; and to be friendly, approachable and positive.

2. **Be ready to listen**
   Patience and understanding in the early weeks is essential. Brush up on your listening skills as you help your young person adjust. Talk to your young person about change and reassure them that it’s normal to feel unsure or nervous in new circumstances. Let them know that many difficulties they face will be temporary.

3. **Keep your attitude positive**
   Confidence is catching so make sure you see this transition time as an exciting challenge that your child can handle rather than an event to be feared. Ask them about the new subjects or interesting activities they are doing, and try to shift their focus to the positive aspects of school. Discuss setting in issues with the appropriate person such as a year level coordinator, but give your young person time to handle them on their own before seeking help.

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