Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all parents and students from what was hopefully a very restful and enjoyable holiday period. For families new to Newport Gardens welcome to our school community, a community I trust you will become an active part of in whatever form you can over the coming months and years.

Thankfully we went through the school holiday period relatively unscathed in terms of school damage with only some minor graffiti on some walls which has been painted over already. Thank you to the parents who kept an eye on the school for us over the break to ensure we returned to a very well maintained school free of the damage we received last year. For those who came past last week, you may have noticed a small army of tradespeople preparing our school for the school year, and I’m sure you’ll agree the school looks very impressive at the moment. Several inches of rain have even greened up the ovals just in time for interschool sport which commences soon.

Last week, our grades 1-6 students settled in very easily to the new ‘straight grade’ format. It was wonderful to see so many happy and smiling faces on the first day of school for the year, and that was just the parents! The students also had smiles on their faces which was great to see. We have many new staff at school this year, and further into the newsletter you will see a full staff list showing where each staff member is working this year, the respective Team Leaders for each year level, specialist teachers and support staff. If you have time, please pop in and say ‘hi’ as it always nice to establish the home-school partnership as early in the year as possible.

Later this week, our prep students will join us having spent the past four school days meeting one on one with their teachers. No doubt this will be a very exciting time for parents and students and we look forward to seeing all 440 students from Wednesday onwards. This week our grades 5 and 6 students are on camp so our grade 3 and 4 students will assist in showing the prep students around and making sure they are well taken care of in the school yard.

The grades 5 and 6 students made their way to the Victoria Police Bike Camp in Maldon today for a week of leadership, adventure and bike-riding activities. This camp is situated right in the town of Maldon and the students have a great time testing their riding ability, getting to know each other and developing leadership skills ready for the year ahead. As always, we thank the staff who have kindly volunteered their time for the week, which at this time of year is a big ask, and one we appreciate deeply. Mr. Buckingham, Mrs. Evans, Mr. Maisey and I will all be attending the camp throughout the week, touching base with weary staff and very excited students. If your child has attended this camp, a ‘thank you’ to the staff at the end of the week goes a very long way as a show of appreciation.

Simon McGlade
Principal
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to the following students:

Amelia Cassar, Jake Stoimenovski, Courtney Reid, Finley Martin, Kaitlyn Sexton, Wil Martin, Finn Coghlan, Oliver Fraser, Oliver Watt, Judd Alkourashi, Niven McFadyen, Crystal Wilson, Erika Rohman, Rubie McNair, Willow O’Neill, Amy Polson, Dina Barakat, Camaro Base, Madalena Mok, Xander Jones, Alice Perry, Javier Clack, Ezzat Taleb, Jocelyn Sutton, Manasvi Joshi, Poppy Wickham, Tom McClelland, Finn Cahill, Nina Best, Lincoln Haley, Stella Henstridge, Freya Harris, Penelope Nicholls, Siyam Youssuf, Kiera Bradfield, Yasmin Abdou, Abhinav Chilla, Owen Griffin, Coco Cummins, Finnian Grogan, Jack Hotere-Moana, Emily Kosmeyer, Evan Jones, Copper Sutton, Hady Dib, Tyler Smith, Ryan Hancox, Bradley Wickham, Boyd Kenny, Brock Hogan, Enya Dupont Martinez, Keanu Mihaka & Ella Cahill.

We hope you all have a wonderful day.

JAPANESE CORNER

Jerabek 先生の日本のコーナー！

Welcome to Jerabek-sensei’s Japanese Corner! It will be appearing in the weekly newsletter this year, so watch this spot every week for News, information about Japan, and words that can be used at home!
FROM THE PARENTS’ CLUB

Prep parents morning tea: 9am Wednesday in the Library.

Come and enjoy a coffee and a chat after you drop off your little one on their first day of school.

Parent Club AGM & committee member elections: Monday 7th February after assembly.

Please join us to go over the success of last year as well as elect this year’s committee members.

Many thanks
Fiona Kay
Parent Club President

NOTICES

Learn music here at school
Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, guitar, violin, singing, here at Newport Gardens Primary School.

Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.

Small group classes or one-to-one lessons of up to 30 minutes give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.

Tuition costs from $16.20 per lesson and enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in term 1, 2016.

Interested parents should call Samantha during office hours on 9818 2333

Creative Music
www.creativemusic.com.au
PARENTS PLEASE NOTE:
For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

CLOSING DATES:
PRENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO LODGE THE APPLICATION FORM BY 29TH FEBRUARY 2016.
FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE FRONT OFFICE.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Prep A</th>
<th>Prep B</th>
<th>Prep C</th>
<th>Prep D</th>
<th>Prep Support</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prep A</td>
<td>Virginia Thompson*</td>
<td>Piera Marzella</td>
<td>Lauren Masters</td>
<td>Maxine Beckman (Except Friday’s)</td>
<td>Tracey Thain (Friday only)</td>
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<td>Grade 1C</td>
<td>Grade 1D</td>
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<td>Prep B</td>
<td>Amanda Morgan*</td>
<td>Chloe Gray</td>
<td>Mark Galletti</td>
<td>Megan Jefford</td>
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<td>Grade 2A</td>
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<td>Prep C</td>
<td>Eve Hartley (Except Thursday)</td>
<td>Sabrina Roberts</td>
<td>Heidi James</td>
<td>Stephanie Mallia</td>
<td>Kate MacCubben (Thursday only)</td>
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<td>Grade 3A</td>
<td>Grade 3B</td>
<td>Assistant Principal P-2</td>
<td>Assistant Principal 3-6</td>
<td>Acting Leading Teacher—Student Welfare</td>
<td>Acting Leading Teacher—Intervention</td>
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<td>Prep D</td>
<td>Andrew Murphy*</td>
<td>Jill Matty</td>
<td>Richard Buckingham</td>
<td>Janelle Evans</td>
<td>Paul Maisey</td>
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<td>Grade 4A</td>
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<td>Administration Support</td>
<td>Technical Support</td>
<td>ICT Technician</td>
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<td>Grade 5B</td>
<td>Theodora McGlade*</td>
<td>Kathleen Gannon</td>
<td>Katy Carmichael</td>
<td>Marielle Caruana</td>
<td>Kate MacCubben</td>
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<td>Grade 6A</td>
<td>Michael Uzunovski*</td>
<td>Emilly Rose</td>
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<td>Grade 6B</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jo Keesmaat</td>
<td>Anna Basile</td>
<td>Vera Trezise</td>
<td>Maria Douglas</td>
<td>Ian Henderson</td>
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Parenting ideas

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Make this year your child’s best ever at school

A new school year means a clean slate for students. Here are 7 ideas to help you make the most of the fresh start and make this year your child’s best year ever at school:

1. **Commit to your child going to school every day on time**

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day and gets there on time. Kids spend more time asleep than at school, so we need to maximise every day to get full value.

2. **Help kids start each day well**

A good night’s sleep, a healthy breakfast and some words of encouragement from you will help set a positive tone for a day of learning. This may mean that you adjust your morning routine so that kids have plenty of time get up, eat and get ready for the day.

3. **Establish work & study habits**

The most successful students are those that develop regular study habits that suit their lifestyle, their study style and their school’s expectations. Find out the work expectations from your child’s or young person’s school and help them establish a work routine that matches.

4. **Make sure your child gets enough sleep**

Many children and young people are sleep-deprived, which impacts on their wellbeing and their learning. A good night’s sleep consolidates learning, as well as assisting future learning. Children need between 10-12 hours of sleep each day, while teens need a minimum of nine hours. Help kids get sufficient sleep by having a regular bedtime and get-up time each day. Have a 45-minute wind-down time each night, and remove screens and mobile phones from bedrooms.

5. **Insist kids exercise**

The old saying about ‘a healthy body and a healthy mind’ is so true. Exercise releases the chemicals needed for learning and wellbeing. Yet kids today get less exercise than those of past generations, which is an impediment to learning and mental health. Health professionals recommend a minimum of 60 minutes of exercise per day for kids of all ages. Encourage your child to play sport; promote free and active play and look for ways to make moving part of their daily lives.

6. **Focus on being friendly**

Schools are very social places requiring kids to negotiate many different social situations each day. Yet we often only focus on academic learning. There are strong links between social success and academic success and wellbeing. Encourage kids to be open and tolerant, to be friendly; to be sensitive to others; to be involved in plenty of activities and to be social risk-takers. These are all characteristics of socially successful kids. At the same time discourage anti-social behaviours such as over-competitiveness, self-centredness and lack of sharing.

7. **Develop self-help skills**

Successful students are often well organised, self-directed and self-motivated. Personal organisation seems to come more naturally to girls than boys, however both genders benefit from coaching in this important area. You can foster organisational skills and self-direction by developing simple, age-appropriate self-help skills related to their every day lives. Such skills as making lunches, packing school bags, and organising after school schedules can be great lessons that impact on how kids perform at school.

At the start of the school year kids are likely to adopt changes than at any other time. Make the most of the opportunity by focusing on two or three areas to really focus on and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place.

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.