Dear Parents,

Since I last communicated with you, we received the results for the District Swimming which occurred some weeks ago. Overall our school came fourth in our district which in itself is a great achievement. However our district operates a handicap process due to the large variation in school enrolment sizes. Once this handicap is applied to the results, our school placed first! This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the enormous effort of all competitors on the day. Competitions like this are most definitely about trying your best, representing your school and working as a team, with anything extra considered a bonus for a job well done. So well done to all concerned, parents, staff and swimmers alike.

Thank you to those parents who have already cast their vote in the school council elections. If you are yet to do so, you have until 4pm this Thursday to place your sealed vote in the ballot box up at the office. The first council meeting of the new council will be held on March 15th, which will also be when the Annual Implementation Plan and Annual Report to the School Community will be tabled.

Last week, Janelle Evans, Michael Uzunovski and I interviewed candidates for the positions of school captain and vice-captain. We interviewed 11 students for these very special positions and all of those interviewed did an outstanding job. The process consists of a written application, an interview with a panel and referee checks. The successful candidates will be presented to our school community at next Monday’s assembly. In addition to School Captain nominations, students also applied for the position of house captain. These positions are filled based on a student’s application and referee check. The successful candidates for these positions will also be presented to our community next Monday. Well done to all who challenged themselves by submitting an application. That alone demonstrates you are beginning to demonstrate leadership qualities.

We have noticed over the past few days a number of students arriving very early to school, some as early as 8:00am. Students should not be in the school grounds without the supervision of an adult family member or guardian prior to 8:40am. If you require assistance with morning supervision, please contact OSHClub and investigate before school care. Staff from the school commence yard duty at 8:40am. Prior to this the yard is not supervised.

Hopefully everyone is prepared for Japanese Cultural Day this Thursday! Sushi orders have closed, lessons have been prepared and Jerabek Sensei has ordered nice weather for the day. Remember if your child chooses to wear a costume, they can be very simple and parents need not spend large sums of money. Our parade will commence from 9:10am in front of the outdoor stage.

Simon McGlade
Principal

www.newportgardensps.vic.edu.au    :   email: newport.gardens.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to the following students:


We hope you all have a wonderful day.

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We hope you all have a wonderful day.

JAPANESE CORNER

When leaving the house, the phrase ‘ittekimasu’ (pronounced ‘i-tte-ki-mas’) is used which literally means ‘I’m going and will come back’ or plainly, ‘I’m off!’ When someone uses this phrase, it must be answered back with ‘itterashai’ (pronounced ‘i-tte-rah-shy’) which means ‘go and come back’ or basically ‘have a safe trip!’. These phrases are used every day in all Japanese homes!

REMINDER - STUDENT BANKING

REMINDER

Student Banking is now available each Wednesday.

Commonwealth Bank
ART UPDATE

ARTIST ALERT!

So many wonderful artists working away in the art room this week. It has been wonderful to see our students take advantage of the art room being open at lunchtimes. It is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays if you would like to join us for some fun! The art room desperately needs newspapers. If you have any please drop them in.

Check out these artists below who have created outstanding pieces of art this week!

Grade four artists working on some beautiful windsock fish ready to be displayed on Japanese Cultural Day!

Grade two artists working on their entry to the 5x7 art prize.

Grade five artists have created some lovely fabric bowls during their textiles unit in art!

Grade one artist Logan Bullas with his Sidney Nolan inspired landscape painting.
TIMELY REMINDERS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

With so many families new to our school, and after a long summer break, it is probably a good time to remind our community of some of the processes of the school that help us all work together. Below is a list, and as you will see, most relate to student safety. Please read through the bullet points, and if you have any queries please ask your child’s classroom teacher.

♦ Our school car park is for staff only. Parents are kindly requested not to enter the car park or to use it as a thoroughfare. Students are not permitted in the car park at anytime. Parents picking up or dropping off are asked to use the pedestrian gate next to the car park.

♦ School uniform is compulsory for all students. Please do not add items such as coloured tights to our very smart uniform. Everything from the waist up should have the school logo on it. This includes polo t-shirts, jumpers, windcheaters, jackets and hats. Students wearing headscarves are asked to wear the school colours of navy blue, turquoise, orange or white. Tights should be white or navy blue only. Students should not be wearing any form of make-up or have coloured or outlandish hairstyles and the only jewellery worn should be a watch and sleepers or stud ear-rings. If there is a cultural or religious significance to an item of jewellery, an exemption can be granted.

♦ Our bike enclosure is available for students bringing bikes or scooters to school. Students doing so must wear an approved helmet to and from school with the helmet clipped on before leaving the school grounds. Skate-boards, roller-blades, street shoes with wheels in them, or other wheeled devices are not to be brought to school. The bike enclosure is not locked after 3:00pm, so all bikes should be removed accordingly.

♦ At 8:45am a bell will sound alerting students in grades 4, 5 and 6 that they can bring their netbook into their classroom and place it away as per the expectations of their class. Students in grades Prep, 1, 2 and 3 are to remain outside until their teacher escorts them in at 8:50am. Parents are requested to remain outside of the main building and portables until the 8:50am bell in the mornings, and until the 3:00pm bell in the afternoons. We do aim to keep the hallways clear both in the mornings and the afternoon, and your cooperation is appreciated.

♦ This year, due to our increased enrolment, lunch orders will be available every day. However in an effort to avoid large numbers on any given day, we are requesting students in:
  - Grade 5 and 6 order their lunch on Monday;
  - Grade 3 and 4 order their lunch on Tuesday;
  - Grade 2 order their lunch on Wednesday;
  - Grade 1 order their lunch on Thursday; and
  - Preps order their lunch on Friday.

Of course if this doesn’t suit, you can always place an order on any day of the week and it will be filled. However if at all possible, and if it doesn’t make any difference to your home routine, please try and order on the days listed above to ensure your child’s lunch order is correct and delivered in a timely fashion.

♦ Homework goes out to students in the second week of each term. Homework is compulsory at Newport Gardens, and all students are expected to complete it. A homework matrix is devised by each team for every term reflecting the work being done in the classrooms. A letter explaining the general expectations for the school is also placed on the school’s website. Details regarding individual tasks should be directed to the classroom teacher.

♦ The yard is supervised from 8:40am each morning until school commences at 8:50am. The yard is also supervised from 3:00pm until 3:10pm each afternoon. Students should not be in the yard without an adult prior to, or after these times. Parents needing assistance outside of these times are encouraged to use OSH Club.

♦ From time to time, issues arise where parents seek clarification on certain issues or incidents The first port of call in these circumstances is always the classroom teacher. If parents are not satisfied with the outcome, they can discuss the issue with the Team Leader for their child’s grade level. If they are still concerned they can meet with one of the two Assistant Principals—Mr. Buckingham for issues relating to grades Prep-2, or Mrs. Evans for issues relating to grades 3-6 and specialists. Failing all of this, parents are welcome to make an appointment with the Principal to discuss the matter further.
Newport Gardens Primary School Parent Club News

President – Fiona Kay: bfirvine@yahoo.com, 0418572807
Treasurer – Penny Lewis
Secretary – Nicole Polson

<table>
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<th>Monday 29/2/16</th>
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Bring your ideas and join us to plan the fundraising events and activities for 2016 - 7pm Wednesday 2nd March at The Junction Hotel (back room).

Term 1 parent club activities: Volunteers needed!!

- **Sushi Lunch** Thursday 3rd March: help needed to pack sushi on the day from 12pm -1pm
  (Contact: Bec Bohnsack - becbohnsack@gmail.com)

- **Easter Raffle** drawn at Assembly 21st March: Donations for the Easter Raffle can be made from Monday 29th onto the table set up near the conference room. Help will be needed on Friday 18th March to wrap hampers (Contact: Holly Melisi - hollymelisi@customerrevolution.net.au)

**Donation ideas:**

*Wicker Hamper Baskets* all sizes
Chocolates (easter eggs, bunnies, boxes of chocolates)
Wine
Easter craft activities
Easter Colouring books
Easter soft toys

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NOTICES

**INFORMATION EVENINGS 6PM—7.30PM**

**GRADE 1:** Tuesday 8th March

**GRADE 2:** Wednesday 9th March

**GRADE 3:** Thursday 10th March

**GRADE 5/6:** Wednesday 16th March

**GRADE 4:** Thursday 17th March
NOTICES

Gilmore College for Girls
OPEN DAY
WED 9th March 10 - 11.30 am
THURS 10th March 5 - 6.30 pm

Newport Lakes Primary School
Twilight fete
Friday 18th March 2016
3.30 - 8.00 p.m.

Special guest appearance by Kai, a.k.a. Oddball the dog

Live music and entertainment by The Angelicats
Indonesian performers MAPA dancers
the TLPS choir Fernwood demo
and more....

Music & Entertainment,
Show Rides and Games,
‘Best in Show’ Competition,
Badge-making, Side Show Alley,
Face-painting, Kids’ craft activities,
Second-hand books, Art, Craft and Plants,
Fairy Floss, Cakes, Lollies, Falafels, Popcorn,
BBQ, Sushi, Indonesian food, Slushies,
Pop Tops, Beer & Wine (18+)

Parenting ideas
INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Fathering teenagers

Practical tips for fathers on how to shift parenting gears when kids move into adolescence.

Being a dad of primary-aged children is quite easy really. Most boys and girls want to have a close relationship with their dads during these years so a willingness to spend time with them, a sense of fun and a positive, caring attitude will go a long way with kids during this stage.

The parenting game changes in adolescence. As children they may have put you on a pedestal and held you in the highest regard, now as adolescents they go to great lengths to reveal your feet of clay. As kids they used to nag you to play with them. Now as teenagers they barely give you the time of day. And what’s worse, they don’t laugh at your jokes any more. You’re just not that funny!! Ouch! That hurts.

Shift parenting gears
Most parents have to shift parenting gears when their kids move into adolescence. Mothers often make the shift first as they are quicker to see the signs (such as being argumentative, displaying sly behaviour, spending more time alone) that their loving child has been replaced by a teenager. Some dads are constantly angry with their kids during early adolescence as for the first time they experience challenge (“How dare you say that to me!”). But many are sad at the loss of their loving and lovely child.

Once the shift is recognised and reconciled a dad can establish a new, deeper relationship with his teenager where he teaches, advises and inspires, at the same time giving them the space to make their own decisions.

As our attention is drawn towards young people’s schooling, particularly with their academic performance (or lack of it), it’s easy to forget that the developmental task for young people is to form relationships outside their family, with peers being the stepping stones to their own family. The job for a dad is to guide and assist teenage children to form meaningful relationships with others outside the family. This is best done by modelling healthy relationships with others; being a sounding board for young people’s concerns, and challenging some of their choices without threatening their self-esteem or sense of autonomy.

Be available
The real trick to successfully fathering young people is to be emotionally available. It’s not just being in their vicinity because you can be in the same room as a young person but never connect. It means having a shared interest such as a love of the same football team so you have a connecting point, and also a genuine willingness to take an interest in their life right now. Perhaps the most common complaint I hear from teenagers is that their fathers focus too much on what their young people should be in the future, rather than on what’s important in their life right now. Taking an interest in their interests may well be the most potent strategy in a father’s armoury.

Fathering sons
Many fathers and sons get locked into the old ram/young ram syndrome. The young ram, full of energy and verse locks horns with the old ram that is desperate to prove himself at the expense of his son. Two things need to happen during this stage. First, dad needs to engage his son in fun, safe ways such as sport, physical games or even verbal jousting. Second, boys need to form relationships with someone outside the family who may give the same message as you, but is more easily accepted. Sports coaches, neighbours, uncles, aunts, teachers, even older siblings can fill this important role. Dads need to make room for others, which can be difficult for some men.

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.