6th February 2017
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

To all in our community welcome back from what I hope was a relaxing and restful period for you all. To those new to our community, welcome to what is a very special learning community at Newport Gardens Primary School. A community where parents and staff work together to provide a learning environment that nurtures our students to achieve continual growth, improvement and inclusion—our three core school values.

We have several new staff to our school this year: Ms. Davies in Grade 1B, Ms Casalbuono in Grade 3A, Ms Chandler in Grade 3D, Mr. Cole teaching Physical Education, Mr. Morgan our Technology teacher and Ms. Watts our Performing Arts teacher. In addition, we welcome back both Mrs. Bobel and Mrs. McGlade teaching Grade Prep C and Grade 1A respectively. These staff, along with all staff moving forward, are addressed by their surname as this is a change we have been slowly adopting over years, and have now reached a critical mass where it has become a school wide change. Your support in making this change a success is appreciated.

This year, in an effort to have our students ready to commence classes closer to 8:50am, we are opening the doors to all classes from 8:45am. The music will now sound a few minutes before 8:45am prompting students to come in, put their bags and netbooks away, put lunchorders in the tub and be ready to commence class at 8:50am. This small measure will add precious learning time to each day for all. Rest assured our start time is still 8:50am, it is just that we are letting students into rooms earlier. It would be great to see all students at school ready for this to occur.

Since our last newsletter there have been some staff changes. Katy Carmichael, who was due to return and teach Science informed us late last year that she was resigning her position. In addition, and as parents of grade 2 students will know, Sabrina Roberts also resigned shortly before school resumed. During the recruitment phase Mrs. Gray will be teaching Science for students in grades P-2, and Mr. Johns will be teaching Grade 2A. We anticipate filling these positions in the coming weeks and thank Chloe and Troy for their valuable assistance.

No doubt you will have seen the artificial turn installed over the holidays, thanks to a very generous donation by our Parents’ Club. In addition, the area outside the art room is growing steadily with the orange fencing coming down in the coming weeks. We have three additional water tanks being installed in the coming weeks and, as I’m sure your children have told you, we also installed a rather large sandpit which is proving to be a huge hit! Thank you to all involved in these projects.

Today we welcomed our preps for their first day. They spent part of their day with their buddies which was special. With our preps here on site, our school population is just under 500. Quite a difference to the 212 students here when our grade 6 students were in prep in 2011.

Further into the newsletter I have placed a number of Child Safety reminders. It does seem to be a list of what not to do, however it is intended to make sure child safety is our number one priority.

Simon McGlade
Principal

www.newportgardensps.vic.edu.au | newport.gardens.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Amelia Cassar, Jake Stoimenovski, Finley Martin, Logan Parry, Wil Martin, Oliver Fraser, Oliver Watt, Niven McFadyen, Crystal Wilson, Holly Gopali, Isabella Zubiri, Rubie McNair, Willow O'Neill, Amy Polson, Dina Barakat, Hugo Wallert, Camaro Base, Madalena Mok, Xander Jones, Alice Perry, Javier Clack, Ezzat Taleb, Sadiya Nur, Jocelyn Sutton, Poppy Wickham, Tom McClelland, Finn Cahill, Mihaela Ninkovic, Nina Best, Lincoln Haley, Stella Henstridge, Freya Harris, Rania Sfetkas, Penelope Nicholls, Siyam Youssuf, Kiera Bradfield, Michael Barlow, Seth Godley, Yasmin Abdou, Sailor Dawson, Coco Cummins, Alexis Bosnjakovic, Finnian Grogan, Emily Kosmeyer, Cooper Sutton, Evan Jones, Yorsa Saoud, Hady Dib, Tyler Smith, Ryan Hancox, Bradley Wickham, Rachid Abdou, Enya Dupont Martinez, Brock Hogan & Boyd Kenny.

WE HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY

STUDENT BANKING

SCHOOL BANKING WILL BEGIN

WEDNESDAY MARCH 1st.

For information please contact the front office.
**Child Safety Statement**

Newport Gardens Primary School is committed to a zero tolerance of child abuse and creating an inclusive school culture that promotes child safety. Our vision of *Nurturing Our Future* supports our focus of including people of all abilities, and promotes the cultural safety of individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Below are a list of reminders designed to keep our students safe on their way to and from school and whilst they are here at school. Your cooperation with these would be greatly appreciated.

1. Please do not use the car park as a thoroughfare. The pedestrian gate just next to the car park is opened by OSHClub first thing in the morning and the cleaners lock that of an evening. Please use that gate to avoid bringing children into the car park.

2. Visitors to the school during the day must come through the office and sign in, which includes parents and grandparents. All volunteers must have a valid Working with Children Check and this must be presented to the office prior to volunteering.

3. Adults are not permitted to use the student toilets under any circumstances. If toilets are required by adults, they can use the staff toilets located next to the staffroom. If parents need to accompany toddlers to the toilet they are most welcome to use the all access toilet near the front office.

4. The school yard is supervised from 8:40am until school commences. Parents are most welcome to supervise their children at school prior to 8:40am, however students should not be dropped off prior to this as there is no adult supervision in the yard prior to 8:40am.

5. Newport Gardens Primary School is a non-smoking environment which includes e-cigarettes. Smoking cigarettes is not permitted on the school site or within 5 metres of the entrances.

6. Other than assistance dogs, pets are not permitted on school grounds.

7. Bringing several hundred children into and out of the buildings each day is very busy, as such we kindly ask that parents wait outside the building to avoid congestion in the mornings and afternoons. Please avoid using the front doors as a walkway as the administration area can be quite busy at these times.

8. With parental permission, students are permitted to ride bikes or scooters to school provided they wear a helmet. Helmets must be worn until students enter the school gate, and must be securely fastened prior to leaving. We do ask parents not to allow toddlers to ride bikes or scooters in the yard. As with all personal belongings, the school does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to bikes or scooters.

9. School hats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. We enforce a strict ‘No Hat—No play’ policy at the school. Students without hats will be required to sit in a designated area in the shade. The only hats to be worn are broad-brimmed school hats with our school logo.

10. If parents have any queries or concerns, the best person to talk to in the first instance is your child’s classroom teacher. They should be able to address the issue themselves, or direct you to the most appropriate person.

10. As per our Child Safety Commitment, if parents observe any behaviour they believe jeopardises student safety, in particular behaviour in relation to child abuse, they must contact the first available staff member to discuss these concerns as a priority.
Hi everyone,

I hope everybody had a great break!

I have decided to stop publishing ‘Jerabek-sensei’s Japanese Corner’ in the weekly newsletter. Instead, I have created a website that will include everything that is happening in the Japanese Specialist Program – weekly updates, resources for students – for school or for at home, videos, pictures, you name it – everything Japanese related will be here on this site.

I will put the address to this website in the newsletter permanently so you can check it every week – and I will also add a message on the newsletter to let you know of any major updates to the site. The address to the website is:

http://ngpsjapanese.global2.vic.edu.au/

**The password to enter the website is:** japan

Looking forward to having another amazing year in Japanese!

Thanks!

Jerabek Sensai

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**P.E. - SPORTS UPDATE**

Dear parents, School Sport Victoria have a new website address. This is the state governing body website where parents can access a variety of school sports information, register their child for State trials, and locate major competition details. Please note the local ADSSA fixtures will be placed on Compass when fully confirmed.

www.ssv.vic.edu.au

**Swimming Team**

Congratulations to students who successfully trialled and were selected to represent the school Swimming Team. We have two training sessions planned before our District Championships on Tuesday 14th February at Werribee Outdoor Pool. Good luck everyone!

**Hockey**

This week students in grades 1,2 and 3 have enjoyed a "Hookin2 Hockey" session, run by coaches from Footscray Hockey Club, McIvor Reserve, Yarraville.

There is a free come and try session on Wednesday 15th February. Under 6 and Under 8 5.15-6.00pm, under 10 and 12 6.00 - 6.45pm.

Please contact Nicole on 0424132715.

Wes Coles   -   PE Coordinator
UPDATED ROUTLEYS LUNCH ORDER PRICE LIST

Lunch orders will start as of tomorrow 7th February - Please remember that there are **NO LUNCH ORDERS ON MONDAYS**.

Please make sure that you use the 2017 Price List as per below, also a hard copy of the price list is being sent home with your child today.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hot Pastries</th>
<th>Cakes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Party Pies</td>
<td>Baby custard tarts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gluten Free Pie</td>
<td>Choc or pink cupcakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7.50</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinach &amp; Ricotta Roll</td>
<td>Pink yoghurt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3.80</td>
<td>$2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sausage Roll</td>
<td>Coffee/Apple scrolls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3.80</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain Pie</td>
<td>Fruit muffins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4.20</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetable Pastie</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>$4.20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat Pastie</td>
<td>All cakes are nut free</td>
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<tr>
<td>$4.20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Make your own Sandwich/Roll/Wrap**

- Cheese or Vegemite or Peanut Butter: $3.20
- Cheese & Vegemite or Cheese & tomato: $3.70
- Chicken: $5.20
- Ham: $4.60
- Roast Beef: $4.60
- Salad: $4.60
- Extra 50 cents each: $4.60

**Gluten free bread available**

- $2.20
- $2.50

**CSEF— CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND REMINDER**

**REMINDER** - Any parent who holds a Centrelink Health Care Card that is valid on the first day of school (31st January 2017) are eligible to apply for the CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund). If you wish to apply for this fund, please fill out the form at the office and produce your Centrelink Card.
WELCOME to all the new families who have joined Newport Gardens Primary School this year, I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer holiday.

The Parent’s Club AGM and voting of Executive members will take place Monday 13th February after assembly in the Library. It would be great to see old and new faces there to recap on the events of 2016 and work on planning events and activities for 2017.

The Role of The Parent’s Club is to:

- provide support, in various forms, for the school, its students and community
- work in co-operation with the principal, staff and school council in building effective partnerships between home and school.

Benefits of becoming a member:

- Develop friendships and work collaboratively with other parents interested in supporting the school.
- Gain a firsthand understanding of how schools operate and the rhythm of school life.
- Have a forum to discuss issues, share and exchange information
- Make a positive impact on the school community

Activities

Parent club members provide invaluable support and organisational input to the school in a number of ways, including:

- establishing valuable links between teachers and parents
- working in consultation and agreement with the principal
- organising information and welcome events for new students and parents at the school
- helping with school events and functions such as the school disco, school concerts/art shows and fun lunch days
- organising fundraising activities
- channelling parent views to school council

TERM 1 Activities so far

Japanese Cultural Day + Sushi Lunch order - Thursday 2nd March
Weekly public speaking & drama program for children aged 6 - 15

✓ Leading curriculum
✓ Small class sizes
✓ Great teachers
✓ Loads of fun!

ENROL NOW
Glen Iris, Chadstone, Ivanhoe East, Rowville, Canterbury, Doncaster, Essendon, Thornbury, Altona Meadows, & Glen Waverley

9572 5249
info@SuperSpeak.com.au
Four parenting priorities for 2017

By Michael Grose

Like the earth’s crust the parenting landscape is constantly shifting always bringing new challenges for parents. Not only are children and young people constantly growing and developing but societal trends evolve and change at such rapid rates that it’s hard to keep up. It’s also hard to differentiate between the significant and the frivolous when it comes to trends and changes.

The following four priorities are both current and significant, deserving to be top of mind for parents as the 2017 school year begins.

1. Time to tackle technology
Want to travel along Parenting Easy Street? That’s easy. Make tackling this parenting game-changer your priority. It’s no point being all doom and gloom about technology because tablets, mobile phones and smartphones are here to stay. They connect us, educate us and entertain us like nothing has before.

But the jury is still out on the impact of digital devices on children and young people. Currently there are studies being conducted on the effects of technology on children’s brains, as well as studies on gaming addiction, social media addiction, attention-related issues, obesity, decision-making, hand–eye coordination and sleep to name a few.

The technology genie maybe out of the bottle, but we need to bring some sanity into the area. Children and teenagers, (and yes technology, primary school and secondary school kids can be mentioned in the same sentence as first-time smartphone users become younger by the day) who use communication technology need constant parent vigilance and diligence, a flexible approach and the ability to say a loud and clear “NO you can’t have/use that now.”

It takes a lot of parental backbone to swim against the current all-encompassing technology tide. You can’t hold it back, but you can slow it down. You can suggest it sits on the metaphorical shelf for a while or at least while you eat dinner together. You can insist that social media isn’t the only way to stay in touch with friends and show them that Dr. Google may be clever but he/she only knows so much and that accurate and current information can be found offline. When it comes to kids and technology, don’t be an onlooker. Make this a year for getting in the game with kids, tech boots on and all.