7th March 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Today at assembly we welcomed our newest student leaders and wished them well for their role this year. We also thanked all those who applied for the positions, as this required them to step outside their comfort zone, try their hardest and utilise the leadership skills they have been developing this term. Congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent our school for the 2016 school year:

School Captains—Thomas Loughlin and Hanan Baarini
School Vice Captains—Lachlan Prideaux and Haylee Hua

House Captains:
Melba House - Kayne Fowler and Amelia Butcher-Eyers
Hollows House—Aidan Loughlin and Monique Goldsworthy
Bradman House—Dylan Grubits and Chloe Robinson
Anderson House—Golbar Mir-Hosseini and Mietta Williams

Last week we said farewell to Mrs. McGlade as she commenced a new role at a neighbouring school. Tracey Thain will be the teacher for grade 5A from term two onwards with Peter Zaitzev covering the class until then. If parents have any queries in relation to these changes, they are welcome to have a conversation with myself, Janelle Evans or Richard Buckingham.

This week, we are holding our grade 1, grade 2 and grade 3 information evenings; grade 1 on Tuesday night, grade 2 on Wednesday night and grade 3 on Thursday night. We encourage as many parents as possible to come along to hear how their child’s learning community is operating this year and to ask any general questions of the team. More specific questions related to individual students can be addressed by making an appointment to see your child’s classroom teacher. Both of these evenings commence at 6pm in the main building.

On the 22nd of March, students from grades 3-6 will be taking part in cross-country trials with a team to represent our school at Cherry Lake on the 3rd of May. We wish all competitors well. Parents please make sure you mark the 19th of April in your diary, as this will be when we hold our annual athletics carnival at the Newport Athletics Track. All students at the school take part in the day’s events and parents are very welcome to come along and join in the fun.

A reminder to all that next Monday is a public holiday and Tuesday is a pupil free day giving our students a four day weekend.

Simon McGlade
Principal
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

GROWTH: Lavanya Senthil Kumar, Angus Doumtsis, Darcy Taylor, William Awadalla, Edward Wright, Anastasia Papadopoulos, Xander Jones, Elena Papadopoulos, Austin Andrew, Shaya Quilty, Manasvi Joshi, Olivia Claughton, Sahara Ranjeetkar, Jack Duggan.


HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

Thanh-Dat Vo Nguyen, Maximus Andrew, Archer Barr, Scout Maddy, Vivien Nguyen, Natasha Rourke & Lana Rigby-Jaafar.

We hope you all have a wonderful day.
**BOOKCLUB ISSUE 2**

**Book Club Issue 2**

Issue 2 orders can be placed either online at Scholastic Australia or via completing and returning the Book Club Order form found in the brochure to the Office.

**ALL Orders are to be placed by Friday, 11th March at 9:00am**

If your order is a present for a special occasion, please write or advise the Office that you require a "Special" delivery. Your order will await your collection at the Office and will not be distributed to your child's classroom as per usual.

Thank you and Happy Reading!!

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**JAPANESE CORNER**

In Japanese schools, children have two pairs of shoes: Outside shoes for play time and inside shoes (uwabaki) for class time.
On Thursday the 3rd of March we had our fantastic Japanese Culture Day! It was an exciting day starting with the parade and then non stop fun with the Japanese student’s activities. I was amazed at the all the children’s costumes – they really did a wonderful job this year! I would like to thank the Japanese students for organising and running their activities, the teachers and specialists for helping and making sure the day ran smoothly, and of course the parents club for organising and disturbing the sushi lunches – we couldn’t have done it without you! I hope everyone enjoyed the day, and get ready because we will be doing it all again next year!

Jerabek 先生
JAPANESE CULTURAL DAY
Thank you to the parents who turned up to our parents club meeting on Wednesday night. There were some great ideas and I think 2016 will be filled with fun activities and wonderful fundraising ideas to help fund an upgrade for the Library and continue our fantastic Fresh Fruit Friday Program.

Thursday was the always enjoyable Japanese Cultural Day and I heard that once again the day was a big success. The sushi lunch went well and all the children thoroughly enjoyed it, so a big thank you to Bec Bohnsack, Deb Warne and the team of sushi packers for making this happen.

**Easter Raffle:** On Friday the eldest child of each family at the school received an envelope containing raffle tickets for our Easter raffle. Please see the flyer below which contains all the information.

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**Easter Raffle**

Thanks for your support selling tickets, buying tickets and donating to our raffle prizes, raising funds for our school. Tickets are only $1.

- Books & money can be returned to class teachers anytime before Friday 18th March.
- Donations are welcomed and can be placed on our Easter raffle display, near the front office. Donation ideas: Hamper baskets; Chocolates (Easter eggs, bunnies, boxes of chocolates); wine; Easter craft activities and colouring books; Easter soft toys.

**For information or to volunteer please contact:**

Holly Melisi - hollymelisi@customerrevolution.net.au
SCHOOL CAPTAINS, VICE CAPTAINS AND HOUSE CAPTAINS

SCHOOL CAPTAINS, VICE CAPTAINS
Thomas Loughlin and Hanan Baarini
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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

News for Term 1, 2016

Welcome! Educational Leader update  
The Parents Advisory Group (PAG)  
Services at our Centre

Welcome to all our new and returning families for 2016!

We hope this proves to be a happy and educational year for us all, as we travel along learning new things together during your child/ren’s time here at NGYC. For all our new families, here is a little summary of who we are in the leadership and administration area of the service.

Sue Zacharias, that’s me, and Leonie Hede, form our current Leadership Team. We also have Julie Kiernan working with the leadership team as our centre support officer. Our doors are always open, so if ever you have a discussion, concern or query, please just pop in or a call or email is fine too.

We have some new members to our great staff team at NGYC in 2016 and hope soon to have their photos included at the photo station in the foyer—a great place to read about “Who’s who in the zoo”!

Just a few items for you to be aware of:

Our interesting car park—please take care at all times as it can get crazy busy. Holding children’s hands, checking always when reversing and watching out for others are ways to help make this a safe space. As we do have limited space we respectfully ask NGPS families not to park in the car park unless dropping off/collection children from our service, attending MCH or Yooralla appointments or visiting Toy Library.

We ask our Educational Care families not to bring ANY food items with their children and as there are children in the service with Anaphylaxis and allergies we ask our sessional kindergarten families to be mindful of nut products in children’s lunch boxes. NGYC is a service that actively promotes healthy eating and physical activities for children so healthy snacks are great snacks!

We would also like to draw your attention to an exciting change we have made at the service: we now have sessional kindergarten groups and long day care groups, or “Educational Care” as we now refer to it, spread over both sides of the service. There is already the embedded mentoring and learning practices within our staff team, but now this is in more of a day-to-day practical focus. There is now more opportunity for the team to role model, share, support and learn from each other, both teachers and educators alike. This will further develop the education outcomes for children and also strengthen and close the gap between sessional kindergarten vs long day care views within our community.

At NGYC we are “one centre” and “one team”.

Sue
Senior Centre Director

Educational Leader Update

At NGYC, the educational program delivered is based on PLAY! Children engage in open ended play experiences where they explore, investigate, work alone or in groups. Play allows children to develop social relationships, enhances curiosity and concentration and encourages connections between prior experiences and new learning.

Programming and learning encompasses all interactions, experiences, routines and events that occur within the early childhood setting. The role of teachers and educators is to plan and implement learning experiences based on children’s interests, developmental stages and intentional experiences to challenge and extend children.
NOTICES

There are two Curriculum documents that guide our practice:
The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia-Belonging, Being and Becoming (https://www.education.gov.au/early-years-learning-framework) and

Storypark is an online system that we use for documenting children’s learning. Teachers invite parents to be part of Storypark via email and, once the invitation has been accepted, parents can login and view learning that is happening for their child, with the opportunity to invite grandparents, aunts and uncles to become part of your circle.

Looking forward to a creative, challenging and engaging year of learning for children, families and educators!

Leonie
Kindergarten Coordinator & Educational Leader

PAG – the Parents Advisory Group

The PAG will continue to support and work with the Leadership and Staff teams at NGEYC in 2016 in organising a mixture of fun, social and fundraising events and activities to engage everyone and offer our local community the chance to both contribute and meet new people.

We sincerely thank our departing PAG members Stephanie Davey, Nancy Joseph, Isabelle Sawtell and Tania Sabbadin for their generous involvement and participation in activities during the first two years of the PAG, and we look forward to building on the 2015 ‘strengthening year’ with our continuing members, Jane Stacey and Tonia Bainbridge and the new members being appointed.

Funds raised during 2015 are being put towards bush garden and playground enhancements, and a Bush Garden Working Bee is schedule for Saturday 19th March.

It is hoped that NGEYC & NGPS relations will grow during 2016, with PAG representation at the NGPS Parents’ Club meetings.

Services at NGEYC

Hobsons Bay Toy Library will celebrate its 40th year in 2016!

Easter closure: The Toy Library will be closed on Easter Saturday, 26th March

Follow HBTL on Facebook and stay up to date with activities https://www.facebook.com/Hobsonsbaytoylibrary, or the website www.hobsonsbaytoylibrary.org.au

Maternal & Child Health Services

Kangatraining

Wednesdays, 9.30am

Facebook: Kangatraining Melbourne Email: kylie@kangatraining.com.au

KIDDYROCK

Music and Art Workshops
Mondays, 1.00-2.00pm

Music with percussion instruments, ukuleles and drums, dancing with scarves and pom poms, a craft activity, story time and games and FUN!

For further information, please contact Asha on ashatownsend@gmail.com or 0434 635 345 www.kiddyrocks.com.au
INSIGHTS

Parenting ideas

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Social skills for children

School brings different types of learning, including social interactions and how to make friends. Parents can lay the foundations at home by teaching their kids these 7 important social skills.

Children who are able to form friendships when they start school are happier at school and also learn better.

More significantly, positive friendships have long-term implications for social and indirectly academic success.

Friendships skills are generally developmental, but they don't develop in isolation. Kids acquire these skills when they play with their siblings and interact with children and adults outside their family.

Today's children grow up with fewer siblings, fewer opportunities for unstructured play and less freedom to explore friendships than children of even ten years ago.

Parents can help kids develop important social competences by teaching them sociable behaviours at home, being good role models and providing opportunities for kids to play with each other in a variety of situations.

Here are 7 important social skills to help children to develop:

1. Ask for what you want
   Help children ask for what they want. It means they don't throw tantrums, whinge, and sulk or expect parents to guess what's on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we need also to give older children the chance and opportunity to ask for what they want. Sometimes we need to ignore shrieks and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour, as well as a basic human skill.

2. Good manners
   Teach kids good manners, in particular the three 'power words'. These words are very persuasive because they have a way of breaking down barriers and people's defences. These three words are: your name, please, thank you. These terms are the basis of good manners, and, when used, will increase the likelihood of getting what you want.

3. Sharing
   Sharing is a basic social skill. Developmentally, very young children like to keep their possessions to themselves. As they get older and move into Pre School and beyond the notion of sharing becomes a pre-requisite for playing with and forming relationships with others. Other children like to play and be with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people's feelings.

4. Holding a conversation
   Holding conversations with others is a lifetime friendship skill. Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Many children forget that good conversations are two-way events, and tend to focus solely on themselves.

   Children within conversations need to learn to ask good or interesting questions; to take turns when speaking and to show you are listening by making eye contact and not interrupting.

5. Winning and losing well
   Kids need to learn to win without rubbing others noses in it, and lose gracefully without throwing tantrums and making excuses.

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

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... Social skills for children ...

Wanting to win is natural, but they need to do so in a way that they maintain a relationship with other players so they will play again. Losing may make kids feel sad, but kids need to control their negative feelings so that others will play with them again.

Approaching and joining a group

The ability to approach strangers in social situations is a valuable skill that opens up many doors, both friendship-wise and business-wise. These skills can be learned and practised during childhood, so that it becomes second nature in adulthood.

Handling fights and disagreements

Disagreements happen in families and among friends. The key is to make sure disagreements don’t lead to the breakdown of friendships. It’s important to get across to kids that having an argument or disagreement doesn’t mean that a friendship is over. Strong friendships, like strong family relationships, withstand disagreements. In fact, they only serve to strengthen friendships.

The results of a number of studies indicate that children can be taught friendships skills. The strategies are simple and revolve around teaching children a range of friendly behaviours such as talking with others while playing, showing an interest in others, smiling, offering help and encouragement when needed, a willingness to share and learning how to enter a game or social situation.

As parents we often focus on the development of children’s academic skills and quite easily neglect the development of important social skills, which contribute so much to children’s happiness and wellbeing.