Dear Parents,

Welcome back for another exciting year at Newport Gardens. I hope you all had a very restful break full of fun and festivities and are now ready for all that the year has in store for us. Here at school we have been very busy over the break. We took possession of our new portable buildings the week before school commenced and are now in the process of installing blinds, garden beds, office furniture and so on. They are very impressive and a great improvement on the portables that were here during our school’s construction. It will take several weeks to have all aspects of the buildings functioning, however this is for the most part cosmetic and will not detract from the teaching and learning in the classrooms. We’ve also had a range of maintenance issues resolved, and Day-Glo paint placed around many aspects of the school to assist in preventing students hurting themselves. I’m sure you’ll agree, the school looks great for the start of the year!

A major focus for our school this year will be to improve the attendance rate for our students, and their punctuality. Last year, with an enrollment of 305 students, collectively our students missed 3,511 days of school and were late to school 1,883 times. Our aim is for a 90% attendance rate for all students with minimal lateness, and we will be working very hard this year to try and achieve this. Your assistance will be greatly relied upon for the benefit of your children’s long term education.

Over the coming weeks, you will hear of, or notice, a range of adjustments to some school operations to accommodate our growth in enrolments. Last year we had just over 300 students; this year we are closer to 400. Parents who were at assembly today will have noticed the first of these adjustments. With the increase in enrolments we do ask that parents make their way to the back of the hall and avoid standing along the sides to allow sufficient room for the students to sit. We will adjust the seating to provide as much room as possible, and this will take a few weeks as we see how things go and adjust accordingly.

We have also added an additional bell to our timetable. As you will know, the yard is supervised from 8:40 am each morning with the music going a little before 8:50am. From tomorrow, a bell will sound at 8:45am at which point students in the Middle and Senior School may enter their rooms and place their netbook away before returning outside. Students in prep and the Junior School do not need to enter the building until asked to do so by their classroom teacher. We do ask that parents support this by not entering the buildings until this bell if they have Middle or Senior students, and if they have Junior or preps, please wait outside until asked to come in. This way we ensure adequate supervision of the students in the buildings.

The grade 3 students saw the netbook model they will be receiving at assembly today and were quite excited. These netbooks will be imaged and sent home to students this week. Parents must pick these up and sign an agreement before they can go home. Students will not be able to take the netbook home in the first instance without this agreement being signed. Students new to our school in grades 4, 5 and 6 will also have a netbook to take home this week, and again an agreement must be signed first. We will let you know this week when they are ready to be picked up via email.

Simon McGlade
Principal

www.newportgardensps.vic.edu.au : email: newport.gardens.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Ph : 93912168 : Fax : 9391 8979
Newport Gardens Dress Code

Dear Parents,

We have a very smart uniform at Newport Gardens and it is expected that students will be in full school uniform each day. If for some reason your child is not in uniform on any given day, please provide a note explaining why. To ensure parents are familiar with the uniform requirements, below are some reminders for you. We trust these help in ensuring all students are in school uniform each day.

- The school shall offer graduation tops that may be purchased by students in grade 6. The design of these tops will be influenced by student discussion with the final design being approved by the principal or their representative. These tops will be ordered no later than March of any given year.
- Stud earrings or sleepers, worn in the ears, watches and discreet necklaces are the only jewellery to be worn. If students have jewellery that is religiously or culturally significant, parents are asked to fill in an exemption form prior to the jewellery being worn. These forms are available on the school’s website or can be obtained from the school office.
- Students are able to wear runners or leather school shoes of their choice. All shoes must be closed toe. Sandals, thongs, high heel shoes or high leg boots are not acceptable.
- Students are to have natural hair colours. Outlandish hairstyles or colours are not permitted except for approved school activities. It is highly recommended that long hair be tied back using sensible hair ties or scrunchies to prevent the spread of head lice. We encourage hair accessories such as clips, headbands, scrunchies and elastics to be in navy, turquoise or white.
- Make up must not be worn by students at the school except for approved school activities.
- Headscarves worn by students must be either navy blue, turquoise, orange or white.
- If students wear tights to school, these must be white in colour.
- School sports tops are available for students in the Middle and Senior School and must only be worn for physical education, inter/intra-school sport, or when representing the school at sports carnivals.
- Whilst recommended, sports tops are not compulsory and student participation in these events or activities will not be affected in any way if students do not have the optional sports top.
- Parents may purchase items of uniform that do not have the school logo from other sources, so long as there is a direct match in colour and style. All other items must be purchased through the school’s supplier. Logos must be present on all tops, jumpers, windcheaters, jackets and hats.
- Students are welcome to wear a raincoat of their choice on top of their school uniform, however they must not wear it in place of their school uniform.
- The school bag with logo is highly recommended as it is specifically designed for comfort, back safety and durability. Parents choosing not to purchase the school bag may purchase a plain navy blue bag instead.
- During terms 1 & 4, students must wear the approved school hat when outside.
- During casual clothes days, students must still cover their shoulders and mid-riff, wear closed toe footwear, be Sunsmart in terms 1 and 4 and not have any offensive material on their clothing.
- Students out of uniform will be asked to explain the reasons why, and those constantly out of uniform will have further consequences should this be deemed necessary.

If you have any queries regarding the school uniform, please do not hesitate to ask.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

JANUARY
Jake Stoimenovski, Courtney Reid, Finley Martin, Finn Coghlan, Wil Martin, Oliver Fraser, Judd Alkourshi, Kaitlyn Stathakis, Niven McFadyen, Erika Rohman, Willow Oneill, Amy Polson, Dina Barakat, Camaro Base, Madalena Mok, Ezzat Taleb, Jocelyn Sutton, Poppy Wickham, Tom McClelland, Finn Cahill, Nina Best, Stella Henstridge, Freya Harris, Penelope Nicholls, Siyam Youssuf, Ekkaphone Thanyakoson, Yasmin Abdou, Owen Griffin, Coco Cummins, Finnian Grogan, Jack Hotere-Moana.

This week -
Evan Jones, Cooper Sutton, Hady Dib, Tyler Smith, Ryan, Hancox, Bradley Wickham, Keanu Mihaka, Ella Cahill

We hope you all have a wonderful day.

TERM DATES FOR 2015

TERM 1 - Grade 1 - 6 start back 29th January - 27th March
Prep Students start back 4th February - 27th March

TERM 2 - 13th April - 26th June

TERM 3 - 13th July - 18th September

TERM 4 - 5th October - 18th December

STUDENT BANKING

Dear Parents,
Please Note that the Student Banking will resume this Wednesday 4th February.
Please remember Student Banking is on Wednesdays only.
Thank You
BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE

OSHCLUB NEWS THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday 7:00 - 9am / 3:00 - 6pm. If you would like to make a booking or would like any information on the After School Care Program please do not hesitate to call 0411 656 074

This Week’s Activities – BIG HERO 6 & CRICKET WEEK 2 (2-6 FEB 2015)

For more information, please contact Artee at Newport Oshclub on 0411 656 074 or book on www.oshclub.com.au

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BOOK CLUB

Welcome to Scholastic Book Club for 2015!

Supporting independent reading by providing ACCESS, CHOICE AND PRACTICE!

Did you know 91% of kids are more likely to finish books they choose themselves?

This year (school name) Primary School will be participating in Scholastic Book Club. Twice a term during the school year a Book Club catalogue will be sent home with a wide variety of books available. The Book Club catalogues provide quality, age appropriate titles from which children can select their own books.

All books available are carefully reviewed and leveled by a team of experts to ensure they appeal to a broad range of abilities and interests. Children improve their reading skills by READING so providing quality books they will WANT to read is a priority.

Every purchase made through Book Club generates ‘Rewards’ for our school, which we use to build our classroom resources so we continue to provide quality educational material for your children. There is no obligation to purchase.

A purchasing ‘help guide’ will be sent home with your child’s first book club. Orders will be due back ONE WEEK after the catalogues are taken home. We hope you enjoy developing your children’s home library whilst supporting our school.
Introducing

SCHOLASTIC

Book Clubs LOOP
for Parents

NOW AVAILABLE AS AN APP!

LOOP is the NEW Scholastic Book Clubs Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for Parents.

If you want to pay by credit card for your online Book Club order, our new platform makes it easy! It eliminates the need for paper order forms plus your online order is submitted to the school safe and sound.

Log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download our NEW iPhone and iPad app from the App Store!

- For a quick start, just click on ORDER in the top menu or REGISTER first to save your details for next time
- Select your school and your child's class
- Add your child's first name and last initial (so the school knows who the book is for)
- Enter the item number from the Book Club brochure
- You can order for multiple children at once if they attend the same school
- All orders are linked directly to the school for submission to Scholastic. Books will still be delivered to your child's classroom if you order by the close date
- There's no need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to your school!

For a quick how-to-order video, log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP and click on HELP in the top menu.
Dear Parent,

The best gift any parent can give a child is the love of good books and the joy and benefits of good reading. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school.

Our class is participating in Scholastic Book Clubs this year. Twice a term during the school year I will send home a Club Catalogue with a different selection of age appropriate books.

You’ll find award-winning books, as well as old and new favourites. I recommend them because the books span a wide range of children’s reading levels and interests and because they are inexpensive (some books cost as little as $1-$2).

It is easy to order. The current issue is attached. Just look over the catalogue with your child, select the books you want, mark them on the order form on the back of the catalogue, and return the order form in an envelope to me with payment by ________.

Alternatively you can download the new Scholastic LOOP App (Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents) from the Apple Store and place your child’s order online and pay by credit card! The books will arrive around two weeks after I send the class order to Scholastic.

Owning your own books is something special! I hope that you will encourage your child to order books this year. Each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for our classroom, however there is never any obligation to order. I know of no better way to encourage reading than to allow children to choose the books they want to read.

Sincerely,

Your Child’s Teacher

PS: For more information about the books in this offer, you can visit the Scholastic Book Clubs Web site at www.scholastic.com.au. You will also find great activities and resources for you and your child.
COMMUNITY NOTICES

KARATE KIDS
Have the Edge!

YOU ARE INVITED!

2015 OPEN DAY
SUNDAY - FEB. 8, 2015
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
CONTACT 0416 339 119
FOR A FREE KARATE UNIFORM!

YOU WILL ENJOY THE FOLLOWING:
FREE Introductory Classes Every 15 Minutes | FREE UNIFORM When You Sign Up
Jumping Castle | Special Demonstrations | Sausage Sizzle
Raffle with Great Prizes

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-on-one lessons 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, 2015.

Interested parents should call Samantha during office hours on 9818 2333

www.creativemusic.com.au