Dear Parents and Students,

Cross Country
Our annual school cross country carnival will be held next Tuesday 9 April at Fagan Park, Galston. The day promises to be a fun day with activities for all students K-6. The K-2 students have their own races organised while the 3-6 participate in the official cross country races. The top runners in each senior age group then represent Normanhurst West at the Beecroft Zone PSSA carnival to be held early next term. Parents are encouraged to attend the day, if available. If you would like to assist with monitoring a station on the course, please contact Mrs McAuliffe well before the carnival.

We can never predict the weather for these carnivals, whether it be cold or hot on the day. A good supply of water for your child is highly recommended. As students react to certain brands of sunscreen, the school cannot supply all types of sunscreen for the students. To support sun safety, I ask all parents to ensure their child applies sunscreen in the morning before coming to school and to have sunscreen in their bag to access for reapplication during the day.

Year 6 Mufti Day for All Students
Twice a year the Year 6 students are invited to lead a mini fete for all other students. Year 6 and their teachers place a lot of effort in organising stalls, games and overall fun for the rest of the students. This is an opportunity for them to raise money for the parting gift to the school at the end of term 4. Next Monday, 8 April, your child is welcome to wear mufti (neat casual) clothing to school and offer a gold coin donation to the Year 6 cause. Parents are also asked to give their
child coins (up to $10) to purchase eg. yummy cakes and to be part of exciting activities. The mufti day is entirely for the students and during a portion of the school day.

**Mufti Day Barbeque**
Directly after the mini fete, students are invited to enjoy a sausage sandwich for $2.00 each. The monies raised will offer some support to parents with the cost of the Year 5 and 6 camp to Canberra and the Snowy Mountains in Term 3.

**ANZAC Memorial Service**
The school will respectfully remember those courageous men and women who made a major contribution representing and defending our great nation. The ceremony will take place at 1.30pm Thursday 11 April. All parents and grandparents are welcome to attend. Mr Paul Johnston (father of Hannah 6J) has arranged for the local army cadets to attend and lead our service as they capably did last year and the year prior. ANZAC Day holiday is in the second week of the school holidays, on Thursday 25 April.

**Early Arrival at School**
Over the last couple of weeks we have had a number of students arrive at school before 8:35 am. As a working parent myself, I understand how difficult drop off and pick up times can be, however, students are not to be at school prior to 8:35 am due to absence of teacher supervision. Parents are kindly asked to make alternative arrangements for their children to ensure their own child’s safety and wellbeing. While there are always teachers at school well before 8:35 am they are not on playground duty until 8:35 am. I appreciate your support regarding this matter, as the safety of your children is most important. Parents are also reminded there is before school care service onsite (OOSH) run by the Normanhurst West P&C.

**School Development Days**
This year the Department of Education and Communities has again nominated universal dates for School Development Days in all state schools. The first School Development Day was held on Friday 29 January at the beginning of Term 1. The second School Development Day will be held on Monday 29 April, the first day of Term 2. On this day all staff at Normanhurst West will take part in a professional development. The third School Development Day will be held on Tuesday 30 April, the second day of Term 2. This day has been scheduled statewide to allow for intensive professional development of staff on the new syllabus documents to be implemented in 2014. These dates are pupil free days. Please mark these dates in your diaries, you may wish to consider deferring your return trip from holidays. School resumes for all students in Term 2 on Wednesday 1 May. There will be two further School Development Days at the end of Term 4, 19 & 20 December.

**2013 NAPLaN**
Students in Year 3 and Year 5 will be sitting the annual National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLaN). Please endeavour to ensure that each child is at school. The test schedule is set out below. Language conventions will include spelling, grammar and punctuation. The dates for Year 3 and Year 5 NAPLaN are: Tuesday 14 May- Language Conventions and Writing; Wednesday 15 May- Reading; Thursday 16 May – Numeracy; Friday 17 May - Catch Up Day. Test results will be sent to parents from the NSW Board of Studies in September or October.

**Thought of the Week**
“The individual who says it is not possible should move out of the way of those doing it.”

*Tricia Cunningham*

**Greg McLaren**
Principal
For your information

Parenting Ideas by Michael Grose
Attached to this newsletter is an article titled “Helping Kids Be Brave”.

Parent Forum - reminder
Ms Lauren Reinhardt, a well-known speech pathologist and director of North Shore Speech Therapy will be presenting a workshop at the school 6pm, Thursday, 16 May.
The workshop aims are:
1) Help parents understand what is typical communication development.
2) How to spot a child is having difficulties with speech, language and learning.
3) Focus is on language rich ideas and games for the home to build comprehension and vocabulary.
4) Discussion of ‘Screen Time’ in detail, including: how much is too much, how parents can limit it and what to do instead of screen time.

All material is based on current research and is clinically and evidence based. The workshop runs for 1.5 hours with parent question time at the end. This proposal received overwhelming support at a recent P&C meeting. I am grateful to the P&C for deciding to cover the cost of this forum. It will be free to all parents of Normanhurst West PS. Further information about the parent forum is found later in this newsletter. I recommend that you set aside this date and commit to attending.

School Calendar
What’s on when? Stay on top of school holiday, term and state examination dates across NSW.
http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/calendar/?do=setViewPeriod&categoryid=2&viewType=yearView

April School Holidays
Have you got April school holidays organised yet? It’s not too late to book for a Sport and Recreation Kids’ Camp. Watch the video to see how much fun these children are having.

Buying an e-Reader or Tablet
E-readers may be a good way to get reluctant readers into books, plus they let you carry your library around with you wherever you go. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/using-technology/e-book-re-kindle-love-of-reading

CROSS COUNTRY
Thank you to all those who have offered to help at the cross country carnival. Unfortunately we are still short 5 helpers for the 2 primary courses. If you are able to help on either the lower or upper primary courses, please see Mrs McAuliffe as soon as possible.

BAND NEWS
8pm Monday 6th May meeting for band camp parent volunteers at Cath Simes house- 36 Dartford Rd.

Please plan to attend as there will some last minute detail and planning to run through.

Cath Simes
We sincerely thank our advertisers for their support of our school. The NSW Department of Education and Training and Normanhurst West Public School do not endorse these companies or their services and products.

Thornleigh Inflatable Soccer, Rugby Union & Netball Clinics - Thursday 18th April

Rugby Union Clinic Includes: passing skills & drills, attacking & defensive play, positional play, backline moves, tackling technique session on tackle bags, rucks & mauls & fun games of touch footy & oz tag!

Soccer Clinic Includes: passing skills & drills, kicking technique session, attacking & defensive play, positional play, fun games of soccer inside the inflatable soccer field & mini world cup tournament!

Netball Clinic Includes: passing, footwork, goal shooting & movement drills, positional play, attacking & defensive play & fun games of netball!

Bookings: Email your child's name, age, club, school, parents name & contact number to soccerclinics@live.com.au / netballclinics@live.com.au / rugbyclinics@live.com.au or call Greg 0448 619 543.