Dear Parents and Students,

**The Arrival of Kindergarten**

Our school is not complete without our valued kindergarten students. We affectionately welcome our new kindergarten students to ‘big school’. They all appeared to have survived Best Start, ready for thirteen years of formal education. The teachers look forward to using the Best Start assessment to promptly plan for the specific learning needs of this cohort of kindergarten. Last year, the school was very fortunate to have appointed Mrs Meagan Rose to help with this process. Mrs Rose is a Best Start Literacy and Numeracy Leader for the Northern Sydney Region based at Normanhurst West PS. Mrs Rose will also provide professional learning and support to all teaching staff.

**Meet the Teacher Evening –Tuesday 19 February**

The ‘Meet the Teacher’ evening provides a perfect opportunity for you to learn more about what is happening in your child’s school experience. It is also a chance to meet with other parents in the school. I will be available during the sessions so please stop to say hello.

Parents of children in Kindergarten to Year 2 will meet in their child’s classroom at 5.30-6.15pm. Parents of children in Years 3-6 will meet in their child’s classroom at 6.30-7.15pm. I recommend all available parents attend. The teachers fully understand that parents may need to move around the school if they have more than one classroom to attend in a session.

Our planned parent and teacher meeting to discuss your child’s progress will be held towards the end of term 1. Please remember that you do not have to wait until that time to discuss your child’s progress.

**2013 Classes**

By now, your child has been placed in their 2013 class. Thank you for your understanding in allowing us to attend to our organisational responsibilities. I did receive an unexpected amount of class placement requests from parents. Although we can empathise with your needs and wishes, our school is not big enough to accommodate all of these requests. Our professional teachers have spent a great deal of time forming the classes in the interest of all students. Overleaf is a list of our school executive, class teachers and support teachers.
Swimming Carnival
It was a day where summer chose a different course. We did not have too many sunburnt students on the day due to cloud coverage and windy conditions. Many girls and boys confidently entered heats in the different swimming strokes during the carnival. Several students will represent our school at the Beecroft Zone PSSA carnival at Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre early next month. Special mention goes to Greg Gurtata who broke the school’s senior medley record and Eva Gurtata who broke the school breaststroke record. Congratulations to all of our house captains and vice captains for your important input. We must thank Mrs Steggles and Mrs Gower for the huge responsibility in convening the carnival. It was again a fantastic opportunity for parents and teachers to work together for our amazing students.

New Community Members
The new school year has brought new families to the school from Kindergarten to Year 6. A welcome barbeque will soon be scheduled for our kindergarten and new families.

We warmly welcome the following families under their child’s surname and grade (siblings list the family more than once): In Year 1 the Lane-Humphries and Xu families; In Year 2 the Bayford, Eddison, Clifton, Thomas, Mathew and Dowling families; In Year 3 the Daji and Harris families; In Year 4 the Reilly, Mathew, Dowling, Bayford, Duncan, Lane-Humphries families; In Year 5 the Thomas and Sanderson families; & in Year 6 the Croasdale and Frankish families.

In Kindergarten the Pant, Thwaites, Grindon-Ekins, Davidson, Robinson, Holden, Spinner, Downing, Mackie, Moon, Rea, Gaunt, Browne, D’Souza, Simpson, Farache, Gumey, Eccles, Gorman, Lovell, Floyd, Couper, Day, Le Gresley, Foley, Stennett, Wellenberg, Harris, Tam, Moon, Clark, Duncan, Sawtell, Phegan and Mathew families. We hope a family was not left off the list.

We congratulate the arrival of new babies to our school community. Congratulations to the Lowe family on the birth of baby Thomas (Ethan 1M). Congratulations to the Heppell family on the birth of baby Thomas (William 1M). Congratulations to the D’sa family on the birth of baby Joshua (Isabelle 1M).
We also congratulate Mrs Sharpe on becoming a grandmother for the second time with the birth of baby Joseph. Please continue to inform the school’s office of the exciting news of a new baby brother or sister for any of our students.

**Peanut Allergy**

Several of our students have a severe, life threatening reaction to peanuts and nut products. Though they are very careful about not eating other students’ food, there is always the possibility of accidentally ingesting some transferred peanut product. For that reason I need to remind parents to take steps to ensure that peanuts and peanut products are not included in children’s lunch boxes.

This is a voluntary arrangement but your support is crucial to providing a safe school environment for these children. Support from parents so far has been fantastic. Other measures have been put in place within the classrooms and canteen.

**School Newsletter**

The school newsletter is distributed to all families each Thursday. A copy may be obtained from the administration office. A school community survey revealed that the majority of responding families still prefer a hardcopy (paper) version each week. Mrs Sharpe kindly loads the newsletter onto the school’s website as well. The school website option may assist with links to various educational websites often referred to in each newsletter. At present the school website is under reconstruction. We look forward to your feedback when it is finished.

**Thought of the Week**

“There is nothing impossible to him or her who will try”.

*Alexander the Great*

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**For your information**

**Getting Off to a Good Start**

Wondering how to help your child do well at home and at school this year? The Department’s parent resource School A to Z has a webcast full of expert tips for you to help your child have a more successful year.

The ‘getting off to a great start webcast’ has a number of chapters on how to motivate children for learning, advice on peer relationships and how to handle bullying, communicating with children and the importance of strong home-school relationships.


**We’ve Got School Covered**

Practical help for parents is available online at the School A to Z site. Created by the Department of Education and Communities, this is a thriving online community with comprehensive homework and school life support for parents that are easy to use, relevant and engaging. There are free apps to download, informative podcasts, videos and articles by experts in the field. View it and save it to your favourites: [www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au)

**Anaphylaxis Information**

If your child is diagnosed at risk of a severe allergic reaction, particularly anaphylaxis, the Anaphylaxis Procedures contain information for schools and parents designed to minimise the risk to students. If your child has an allergy it is important to let us know – see Action Steps for Parents. Find out more on the following website: [http://www.schoollns.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/anaphylaxis/index.php](http://www.schoollns.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/anaphylaxis/index.php)
Dear Parents,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new Kindergarten families. Week one of school has been very exciting and full of anticipation for both parents and students. I am pleased to say that all children have had a smooth transition into “Big School” and have settled in well. Thank you to the Kindergarten teachers and the Year Six buddies for making this such a positive experience for all. I look forward to meeting you at the school “Welcome Barbecue” breakfast later this term.

I hope you all have a wonderful year,
Helen Georgiou
Assistant Principal

FROM THE OFFICE
Welcome back! Just a few things that would very much help the start of year organisation:

- Please inform the office (in writing) of any change in contact details, including address, emergency contacts which may have happened over the holidays.
- If your child needs to take medication at school, please see the office on the morning to complete the necessary paperwork. Medication will be kept in the office and the child will come to the office at the allotted time to take it.
- If your child has medication stored at school, please come to check that it is still in date and that it is the right medication.
- The office is very short on (emergency) supplies of little girls and little boys’ undies. Any contributions gladly accepted.

Sue Shears
Administration Manager

YEAR 3-6 GYMNASTICS
Our Term 1 sport program will include the gymnastic program, facilitated by ‘Be Skilled Be Fit’. Lessons will be held each Friday, commencing in Week 2 (8th February) through to Week 11. There will be an extra lesson to be advised before the end of term. For your information the timetable for each class is below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 – 9:30</td>
<td>3B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:00</td>
<td>3S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:30</td>
<td>4VG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11am</td>
<td>4P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20 – 11:55</td>
<td>5B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:55 – 12:30</td>
<td>5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Lunch time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:25 – 2:00</td>
<td>6S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 – 2:35</td>
<td>6J</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children will need to remove watches and jewellery and girls need to tie back their long hair.

Rosemary Gower
Organising Teacher
CHESS CLUB 2013

Chess Club will recommence Thursday, 28th February, 2013 (Week 5) for students in Years 2 – 6. Chess Club will run on Thursday afternoons from 3pm to 3.45pm and is supervised by Mrs Rosemary Gower (my apologies if the change of day to last year causes any inconvenience). The students need to understand the basic rules and be able to play simple games. Whilst no lessons are provided, the children participate in Round Robin matches against each other providing an opportunity for them to practise and improve their skills and game strategies. The cost of $8 for the year will appear on Term 2 invoices and this activity has the approval of the Principal.

If your child is interested in joining, please complete the expression of interest note below and return it to the class teacher, or to Mrs Voss or Mrs Gower in 4VG. A more explicit note will then be sent home with your child which will indicate if there is a place available or if they are on the waiting list. Since Chess Club was full last year, if your child is interested, please return this note promptly.

Mrs Rosemary Gower
Supervising teacher

Return this ‘expression of interest’ to class teacher, or Mrs Voss or Mrs Gower by Friday, 16th February

My child of class is interested in joining Chess Club in 2013 to be held after school on Thursday afternoons from 3pm – 3.45pm. They have my permission to be involved in this activity and I agree to pay the yearly fee of $8 which will appear on the Term 2 invoice. I am aware that my child will need to be collected at 3.45pm or I will provide a note permitting them to go to OOSH, walk home or be collected by someone else.

Signed Parent/Guardian Date

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB AT NORMANHURST WEST

Welcome Back to school! Hopefully by now we are all settling into our new classes :)

At Normanhurst West we "do" the Scholastic Book Club orders once every term, so you will get the chance 4 times this year to purchase some great books from Scholastic!

Remember that every order we place entitles our school to FREE books, which we donate to the school Library. Your orders help to put more books into our school library :) every term.

The Scholastic Book Club brochures came home this week.

The last date for returning your orders for Term 1 is Friday 15th February 2013.

****This year we are changing to a NO CASH system, so please remember to pay for your order by credit card or cheque****

Happy Reading!
UNIFORM POOL
- Dr Shoe will be at school on 8th March. Look for them outside the school hall for school shoe / sand-shoe purchases.

- Sports House T-Shirts which were ordered with orientation packs will be sent home via your child's teacher and child by the end of this week. Please keep an eye out for these. If there are any problems please come to see us at the uniform pool as soon as possible.

- Uniform order placement can be done using any of the following options:

  Complete an order form and return it to the office or to the uniform pool, or order on line via the FlexiSchools site.

Order forms can be downloaded from the school website or obtained from the office or uniform pool. Orders will be sent home with your child once filled. You can nominate to pick up prepaid orders from the uniform pool if you wish.

To order on line at FlexiSchools go to http://www.flexischools.com.au and click “Register Now”. You will be sent an email with further instructions on how to complete the registration. Once registered, you can start ordering immediately.

NORMO NIBLES - ROSTER 2013 - VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED
Welcome back for another busy, but fun-filled year in the Canteen. Thank you to all those who have volunteered their services in the Canteen this year. Roster 2013 is looking pretty good with all Monday and Wednesday shifts full with the exception of the 5th week.

Friday shifts, on the other hand, are a bit "patchy" with several shifts still to be filled. Could those "Friday" volunteers from last year's Roster who wish to remain on the same shift this year, please confirm this with Jules asap. Otherwise, all those shifts will be presumed to be vacant (which is around 13 vacancies!!) and that is a little distressing.

There is always a lot of juggling getting the Roster in place, and this year is no exception. It is almost impossible to accommodate everybody’s first choice of shift, but Jules does her best, and we all certainly appreciate your offers of help.

A copy of Roster 2013 will appear in next week’s Newsletter - hopefully, there won't be too many vacancies appearing!! But, if there are, please consider helping out. The Canteen is a great place to meet other parents, and your kids love seeing you helping out at School!!

If you would like to volunteer, or need more information about the Roster, please contact Jules Curtin, Roster Clerk, on 0433 879 006 (after 4.30 pm) or email her at tccabling57@optusnet.com.au.
Signed: The Duck
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.

Normanhurst Eagles Football Club REGISTRATION FOR 2013 NOW OPEN!!!
U6’s and upward boys and girls welcome to join, come have some fun!
Come register this Sunday 10th February at Thornleigh Oval 10am - 3pm.
Visit www.normoeagles.com.au for online registration details, email us at enquiries@normoeagles.com.au or call Scott on 0417 222 062 for any enquiries.
GRADING for U8 Blues to under 16’s THIS Sunday at Thornleigh Oval (please see website for details).

FREE TWILIGHT TEEBALL OPEN DAYS
Come and try Teeball for the 1st time or get in a little pre-season practice if you’ve played before!
3 x Monday twilight sessions
Mon Feb 18, Mon Feb 25, Mon Mar 4
5:00 pm - 7:00pm
Auluba Sports Oval, South Turramurra
Grab a friend or your whole school team and join us for some teeball fun!
This is a fun and totally free teeball camp where the girls will have the opportunity to learn or enhance their basic softball skills as well as the philosophies around teamwork, sportsmanship and friendship in sport. The camp is run by the Kissing Point Softball Club and the girls will be coached by many of our district, state and national representative players and coaches.
All equipment will be supplied.
For more information or to register please contact: Laura Ovens
Mobile: 0404 486 032 Email: lauraovens@optusnet.com.au

Good news if you’re in year 3-6! Kids Club is back at Normanhurst Uniting Church this week! From 3:30-6pm every Friday during school term, Kids Club will be filled with fun games, lots of great friends and fantastic stories about an amazing God. With afternoon tea thrown in, just $3 each week is an absolute bargain! BUT… Our first week in 2013 is FREE.

For more information contact the church’s youth minister, Graham Baldock on 0402 462 590.
See you Friday!!!
If there are any questions then please don't hesitate to get in contact.