Dear Parents and Students,

2013 Classes
I am proud of all our students for being able to settle so quickly into the new school year. It is very pleasing to witness the amazing progress our clever Kindergarten children have already made. Everyone of us has our own uniqueness but I have seen a mass display of positive traits including caring, politeness, enthusiasm, goodwill, self-discipline, responsibility and effort-taking. Noticeable is the exceptional leadership displayed by our senior students to our younger and new students.

Home & School Communication Options
We are all extremely fortunate to be part of Normanhurst West Public School community. Our primary goal is not only to present ourselves as an effective and cohesive school community but ‘Aim High’ to make it even better. Home and school communication is essential in assisting our school's children with the best possible academic and social development. Parents are always encouraged to support their child’s school life through making regular contact with the school.

It is also very important to communicate with the best person to help solve your questions. Teachers need to be informed of relevant information about the academic, social and developmental aspects of your child. This has to work the other way too, for teachers to inform parents. Often our teachers will not be available for a lengthy meeting without it being scheduled. I recommend that when delivering your child to school in the morning is not always the best time to approach a teacher for an interview, unless it is a welfare issue. All parents are encouraged to negotiate an appointment time with your child’s teacher or through our administration office. Alternatively, you may use the school’s email address normanhurw-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

The following is our current school practice and will give you some direction.

- **Classroom Teacher:** is always the first and best professional person with whom to speak regarding academic progress, social or behavioural concerns, class policy and procedures.
- **Assistant Principals:** If the question relates to a specific issue that is outside of the classroom, any questions regarding specific grade or department programs, issues relating to discipline /
bullying, concerns that have not been resolved by speaking with the classroom teacher or queries relating to teaching and learning within the classroom.

Assistant Principal K-6, especially Kindy-Yr 2: Mrs Georgiou
Assistant Principal K-6, especially Years 3-4: Mr Pinchbeck
Assistant Principal K-6, especially Years 5-6: Miss Smith
Assistant Principal K-6, especially Supp.Tchrs: Mrs Liston (Mrs Sharpe until 4/3/13)

1. **Administration and Finance:** Mrs Shears

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

At the beginning of each year the teachers introduce themselves and provide information to parents in regards to school life and classroom practice /routines. Next Tuesday is the ‘Meet the Teacher’ information evening. I recommend all available parents attend. It is also a chance to meet with other parents in the school.

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. 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.

**Staff Car Park**

The safety of our students is paramount in our regulations about parking. The school car park is available for staff cars only during certain times. We now have two car parks, one area near the back of the administration building and the other behind the hall. Parents are requested to park outside the school and to observe local parking regulations at all times. The rule has not changed with parents unable to park in the school grounds between 8am and 4pm. This should avoid a vehicle collision with entering and exiting staff members. Children are not allowed to walk through the car park unsupervised and parents are strongly requested to support this rule. If any parent has a R&MS (RTA) mobility parking permit please contact me to discuss your options.

Although my authority finishes at the school gate we need to be aware of our precious children entering and leaving school each day. Quite often parents and neighbours have raised concerns about illegal parking and other vehicle infringements directly outside the school grounds by parents of our students. Please respect the law and assist with keeping our children safe.

**All Parents are Welcome to the Parents & Citizens Meeting**

The first 2013 Parent & Citizens (P&C) meeting will be held next Tuesday night at 7.45pm in the school's OOSH / preschool building (entry via the staff car park). It is a great opportunity for new families to the school to be part of the important roles the school's P&C undertakes. The P&C Federation states “Crucially, P&C Associations are a window on a child’s education. Participation in the education process is one of the best expressions of support you can give your child. It has the greatest impact on children’s engagement with schooling and educational success”.

The school has a proud tradition of enjoying the efforts of an active P&C through organising community special events, operating the canteen, fundraising, overseeing French classes, uniform merchandising, overseeing extra curricula activities, working bees and providing an OOSH for tens of families each working day, having a diligent executive, to name just a few. The school is extremely grateful to Mrs Kate Griffin for her continued leadership as P&C president in 2012/13.

I look forward to seeing at next week’s P&C meeting.

**Thought of the Week**

“If you are never scared, embarrassed, or hurt, it means you never take chances”. *Julia Soul*

*Greg McLaren*

Principal
For your information

Jargon Buster
Wondering why your child talks about playing under the school COLA? Baffled at parent-teacher discussions about KLA's? This list of common abbreviations or terms will help you to become familiar with the world inside school. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/school-jargon-busters

Avoiding Injuries
Have you ever wondered if your child may be suffering physically from using a computer for schoolwork? Or if carrying their school bag may be causing them pain? Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/ways-to-keep-your-childs-back-and-posture-healthy

Maths Questions
Are you in search of an educational game to sharpen your child’s maths skills and recall? Maths Monkey’s Quest features maths questions on topics ranging from addition and subtraction to ratios and percentages. It’s aimed at children from Years 3 to 8. http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/maths-monkeys-quest

Helping Your Child with Homework
How do you help your child while allowing them to develop independence? Teachers talk about how parents can help children take responsibility for their homework and avoid Thursday night meltdowns. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/helping-your-primary-school-child-with-homework

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 __________________________________________________________________________
FROM THE OFFICE

- Our sincere thanks to the parents who have donated underwear for sick bay. We have plenty to see us through the year now.
- Please let the office know of any changes to your emergency contacts or your address and/or telephone numbers.
- Stewart House bags will be coming home with this newsletter. Please return them to school (to the lost property room at the top of the staffroom stairs) by Friday 1st March.

Sue Shears
School Administration Manager

P&C NEWS
We would like to welcome everyone to our first meeting of the year on Tuesday, 19th February, 7.45pm at the OOSH rooms.

This month we shall be voting on the sub-committee budgets and calling for nominations for 3 positions on the Executive committee, including Treasurer. Members who join on the night (fee of $1) are entitled to nominate for the Executive positions, but may not vote until the following month under P&C Federation rules.

P&C is a great way of finding out everything that happens in your child’s school and we would love to have your company. Please contact Kate 0401 678 or griffin246@hotmail.com or any other member as listed on our website to have a chat about P&C and how you can become more involved. We look forward to seeing many new faces on Tuesday night.

Kate Griffin
P&C President

NORMO’S NIBBLES - ROSTER 2013: LOOKING PRETTY GOOD, EXCEPT FOR FRIDAYS
Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to help in the Canteen this year. Your contribution is very much appreciated by all.

With only a couple of weeks to go before Roster 2013 kicks in, we still need to fill eight vacancies. For the Canteen to run efficiently all shifts need to be fully staffed, particularly on Fridays - the busiest Canteen day each week.

Please check the attached Roster, and if you can fill one of these vacancies, Jules Curtin would love to hear from you on 0433 879 006 (after 4.30 pm) or tccabling57@optusnet.com.au asap. Also, if you spot an error on the Roster (has been known to happen!), please let her know.

It would be great to have the Roster finalised and distributed to all volunteers before the end of the month.

Signed: The Duck

UNIFORM SHOP
You can place an order for the uniform shop by completing an order form and returning it to the office or to the uniform pool, or by ordering 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.