Dear Parents and Students,

**Parent & Teacher Interview**

Next week I will be sending out a letter inviting all parents to meet with their child’s teacher. This meeting is a two way meeting for the sharing of information from not only the teacher but parents too. It is still early in the year but the meeting should reveal information and direction which will benefit your child’s learning progress for the remainder of 2013. I encourage you to nominate your four preferred times and return that information to your child’s teacher as soon as possible. Meeting times will vary from teacher to teacher depending on their availability which is usually before or after school hours. I have capped the last interview time at 6pm. An additional note will be sent home to confirm your time and date to meet. Let me stress that this is only a fifteen minute interview. Please seek an additional time and date if you require more time to discuss your child’s education.

**Supporting Volunteers of Extra Curricula Programs**

Our school thrives by providing opportunities for students to participate beyond the classroom experience. The extra curricula activities include dance groups, PSSA and knockout sport, choirs, bands, carnivals, chess club, library monitors and coffee shops together with academic related activities such as UNSW competition, public speaking and debating, French lessons, Premiers Reading Challenge and the peer reading program. Most of our extra curricula programs rely solely on a volunteering teacher or parent to coach, choreograph or coordinate the activity. We need to acknowledge that these volunteers go beyond what is expected within their job expectation as a teacher and role as a parent. Often these volunteers don’t have any formal qualifications in coordinating an activity but do it solely for the children’s enjoyment. Their goal is to be inclusive of all students as much as possible. I encourage you to support these tremendous volunteers to enable the continuation of each activity.

**Welcome Barbeque**

It was a marvellous turnout for last Thursday’s breakfast to welcome new families of children in kindergarten and other grades. It was great that so many dads and mums were able to attend. Its purpose
was to provide an opportunity for parents of our keen Kindies and other new students to meet families from this wonderful school and I believe we achieved that goal. It also provided an opportunity for parents to meet our school’s teaching staff as well. A special thank you is offered to Mr Chalker-Holz who assisted me with the setup from 6am, with Mr Pinchbeck arriving soon after that time. A couple of hundred sausages and bacon shortcuts were cooked. I congratulate the staff serving at the refreshment and food tables who displayed talents which I am sure also impressed the new students and their parents.

Chess Club
The popular chess club will start for the year after school today. Initiated by Mrs Gower a few years ago, chess club has attracted enough interest to have a waiting list of students keen to join. Hopefully these students will maintain their chess skills and an opportunity may arise for them to join in. We are grateful to Mrs Gower who offers her personal time to oversee this program.

Farewell Mr Chalker-Holz
This is Mr Stephen Chalker-Holz’s last day at the school. He proved to be a worthy relieving general assistant through his obliging manner to keep our school looking beautiful and well maintained. Mr Pendleton had set a high standard within that role. Mr Pendleton will return from leave on Monday. We wish Mr Chalker-Holz the very best and appreciate his efforts at the school.

Voluntary School Contribution
At the start of each year we ask for a voluntary school contribution to enhance our educational programs. Your prompt payment with this request is welcomed. We also welcome additional donations to the school.

We try to keep any additional costs to a minimum and may be able to assist families who are having financial difficulty paying schooling costs.

School Invoices
School invoices will be sent by post tomorrow. Please read the document carefully. Different grades will have varying costs for textbooks and other resources your child will use for their learning progress. The differences are a result of professional judgements for each grade. It is an intention of the school to begin to reduce the use of textbooks in 2014.

Local Traffic Accident
Many people may have been inconvenienced by the traffic accident along Sefton Road on mid-morning on Tuesday. The school was not provided on the day or since Thursday midday, information from any agency on the incident or any potential hazards. We have since been advised by parents that the area was inaccessible to several students who normally use that route home after school. The school education director has been informed by me on this matter. The school is in discussions with the Ku-ring-gai police commander about communication, if in the event a similar incident should happen again. The school has procedures in place for evacuation and lockdown, which are regularly reviewed.

Whether an ‘incident’ should happen directly outside the school or elsewhere, parents are encouraged to discuss safety options with their children. A recommendation is to return to school if another option is not available to the child.

Tumpinyeri
Mr Alan Blissett (Poppy to Chloe 6J) kindly volunteers his time on Tuesdays to toil in Tumpinyeri. Tumpinyeri is a heritage listed area of dedicated bushland located within the Dartford corner of the school grounds. The aim of Tumpinyeri is to encourage children to have respect and responsibility for the environment and an appreciation of nature study. ‘Poppy’ works with Hornsby Council to cultivate native flora in Tumpinyeri. Alan and Tumpinyeri are great assets for the school.

Thought of the Week
“The human person finds his and her perfection in seeking and loving what is true and good.”

Pope Benedict XVI

Greg McLaren
Principal
For your information

When Children Struggle with Reading

All About Apostrophes
Not knowing where to place apostrophes can haunt people for their entire lives. Here’s an easy guide to help your child understand what they mean, how to use them and get them right, now. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z/english_glossary/8Qum/551/apostrophe+denoting+ownership](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-a-to-z/english_glossary/8Qum/551/apostrophe+denoting+ownership)

Multiplication Times Tables

Sorting Fact from Fiction

Avoiding injuries

SCHOOL WEB SITE
At the present time there are problems uploading to the school web site. We are moving to a new web service and hope that the problems will soon be rectified.

Apologies for the inconvenience.

Irene Sharpe
Computer Coordinator.

SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL TEST
Year 6 students who applied for Year 7 placement in a selective high school in 2014 are required to take the Selective High School Placement Test to be held from 9.00am to 1.15pm on Thursday 14 March 2013 at:

Normanhurst Boys High School
Pennant Hills Rd
NORMANHURST NSW 2076

Parents are responsible for taking their child to and from the test centre.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2013
NWPS will again be giving all students the opportunity to participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. To find out more, go to the website by ‘googling’ Premier’s Reading Challenge. On this website you will find the rules, the number of books required to be read and the complete booklists by grade.

Children can begin reading towards their target now although online registration does not open until early March. Remember to write down the books read so they can be added online once this is available.
NORMANHURST WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

A more comprehensive note will be in the newsletter during March with a tear-off slip to be returned so I can register each participating student online.

It is a great incentive for the children to ‘get into books’ with very comprehensive lists provided of suitable books for children from Kindergarten right through to high school. Books may be borrowed from the school library but it is up to the children to find their own books from the Challenge lists. Another great source are the local libraries which have, in the past, had listed books set aside for easier location. So start reading now and experience the joys of ‘getting lost in a book’!

Mrs Rosemary Gower
4VG Teacher and PRC Co-ordinator

NORMANHURST WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL – REP SHIRTS

When a student is selected to be a part of one of the school’s representative teams (such as knockout cricket or zone swimming) they will be loaned a school ‘Rep (Representative) Shirt or Singlet’ to wear to the event.

When the carnival or competition is finished, please wash the shirt and have your child return it in a plastic bag to 4VG classroom. Please make sure that your child’s name is in the bag with the shirt so we can maintain the records of our stock.

To ensure Rep Shirts are available for all competitors when needed please return the washed shirts about a week after the carnival or when the competition is complete.

Mrs KA Voss & Mrs R Gower
(4VG teachers and Rep Shirt co-ordinators)

NOMRO’S NIBBLES –
ROSTER 2013 KICKING OFF TOMORROW, FRIDAY 1 MARCH - ALL SHIFTS FULL !!!

Thanks again to our great team of 80+ volunteers who have volunteered their time this year in the Canteen. As can be seen from the attached copy, all shifts are "FULL". Just a reminder, volunteers rostered on for tomorrow and next week are:

Friday 1/3 8.30-11.30am Mark Langford, Sharon Aliaga, Merran Phagan and Penny Eccles
11.00-2.00pm Nicky Binet, Helen Howse, Sandra Murphy and Susan Humphries

Monday 4/3 8.30-11.30am Di Sarelius and Jacqueline McCarthy
11.00-2.00pm Cath Simes and Sarah Kelly

Wed 6/3 8.30-11.30am Clodagh O’Grady, Alison Davis and Inga Rosenberg
11.00-2.00pm Gen Campbell and Tania Simmons

Fri 8/3 8.30-11.30am Kathryn Benham, Jo Swain, Bec Chen and Caroline Baine
11.00-2.00pm Jane Barnwell, Skye Penfold, Anne Frith and Kylie Windever

All volunteers will be emailed a copy of the Roster, the contact list and other important Canteen information shortly. In the meantime, please call Jules on 0433 879 006 (after 4.30pm please) or email her at tccabling57@optusnet.com with any queries or problems.

Signed: Happy Old Duck

UNIFORM POOL CONVENOR NEEDED

At the end of Term 1, Amanda will be vacating the position of Uniform Pool Convenor. We thank Amanda for her hard work and dedication to the Uniform Pool for the last two years. If the Uniform Pool is to continue operating, this position must be filled. The role is not a difficult one and has been made much less time consuming with our new computer system. Please contact Amanda at uniformpool.nwps@gmail.com if you would like to discuss the role.
ORDERING
Save yourself time on a Friday by ordering via our order form or through flexischools.com.au. You will avoid standing in a queue as orders are sent home with your child once filled.

DR SHOE
Dr Shoe will be at school, outside the school hall for school shoe and sand-shoe purchases next Friday, 8th March.

Jo Gee
Uniform Pool secretary

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.

Cultural Fun Day Out! Hornsby Greek Festival invites members of the community to explore Greek culture, music, dancing and delicious food in a family friendly atmosphere. Loads of entertainment including dodgem cars, camel rides, and a jumping castle. Everyone welcome!

Where: Greenway Park, Shepherds Drive, Cherrybrook
When: Sunday 10th March – 11am to 7pm.
Free admission.

FOR SALE
Drum kit complete. Includes stools, sticks, extra symbols and skins, single & double bass pedals. Percussion instruments including maracas, triangle, tambourine, cow bell etc.
For information please phone Annette on 9457 8027 or 0419 978 033