Dear Parents and Students,

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

By now families should have received a form to nominate times to meet with your child’s teacher in the last two weeks of this term. Please ensure that you complete and return the form to your child’s teacher as soon as possible. A confirmation note will be sent home on Friday 22 March, once the teachers have assigned a time from your preferences and where possible, scheduled siblings around the same time. If you did not receive a parent and teacher meeting form please contact the school office.

**Zone Swimming**

On Monday a squad of seventeen Normanhurst West students represented the school at the zone swimming carnival held at the Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre in Homebush. Miss Smith and Mrs Steggles returned to school to speak highly of all competitors. We wish Curtis Gray and Jonathan Friend who will represent the twenty one schools in the zone at the Sydney North Area Swimming Carnival on 18 March, the best of luck.
Knockout Cricket
Congratulations to our boys state knockout cricket team. The team convincingly beat Normanhurst Public School in round one of the competition. Their coach, Mr Pinchbeck, was very pleased with not only the skills but the sportsmanship displayed by our students. The boys will play Hornsby North PS in round two. We look forward to Mr Pinchbeck doing one better than he did a few years ago in making our school the state runners-up for cricket.

Principal’s Gold Book
Often during the week students are sent to my office to share in their learning achievements and quality work. To share with staff and special visitors to the school, I have recorded these names in my Gold Book. The book includes the names of clever mathematicians, writers, artists, scientists, general self-improvers and well-mannered students etc. A Principal’s sticker is also presented for each ‘gold’ winning performance.

Staff Appreciation
For many reasons the school is constantly grateful to Mrs Sharpe. On this occasion it was for being an effective relieving Assistant Principal over the last few weeks whilst Mrs Liston was on leave. It is also wonderful to have competent temporary teachers in the form of Mrs Pendleton and Mrs Warland who maintain the programs in the library and computer lab when necessary.

Student Lunches
Just a reminder about the importance of students having healthy food provided for both recess and lunch. As teachers do their playground duty it’s easy to observe the types of food children have available to them. We are amazed at the ‘love’ placed in preparing the children’s food. It’s encouraging to see, in most cases, that lunch boxes have a variety of healthy food. At school we encourage students to eat as much of the food provided, encouraging them to return home any food which is uneaten. This allows parents to monitor the amount of food eaten. Students are also discouraged to swap food with others.

Fruit Break
Over the coming weeks your child’s class will participate in a ‘fruit’ break usually in the two hour morning session before recess. Research has claimed that the gap between a child having breakfast and morning tea is too lengthy. Children are engaging in a long session of concentration at school with a need for nourishment. Parents are asked to pack a little pre-cut fruit or vegetable snack which is separate from recess and lunch. Please note that this initiative is encouraged but not mandatory. Your child’s teacher may provide you with further information about fruit break.

Staff Car park
A growing number of families are walking their children through the staff car park directly after school. This has never been encouraged because of the several blind spots, especially for children. In assessing the area at that busy time of the day it would be in the best interest of your child to stay away. It is advised that you walk through the office entrance as an alternative.

Newsletter Survey
Find attached to this newsletter a survey to allow the school to obtain feedback about our primary form of communication to the community. We do encourage you to spend some time completing the form. A large survey sample returned will offer the school greater direction and preferences from parents. The survey is due to the school office or your child’s teacher by Friday, 15 March.

Stewart House
The NSW Department of Education’s Stewart House has been in operation for over 80 years. It makes a difference in the lives of many public school children from across NSW and the ACT. Each year 1,800 public school children in need come to Stewart House. During their stay, they are given free optometric, dental and medical treatment as well as emotional support and education to boost their self-esteem and to promote a healthier lifestyle.

The NSW Department of Education and Communities provides infrastructure and staffing support for this school, with all others costs met by donations. Stewart House is one of Normanhurst West PS charities and needs your support to ensure continued services to needy children. For more information: www.stewarthouse.org.au. Thank you to those generous Normanhurst West families who were able to donate clothing to Stewart House in recent weeks.
Grandparents Day
This year’s Grandparents’ Day will be on Thursday 30 May (Term 2 week 5). This is a very special day for the school community. We always look forward to this day of sharing our wonderful school with our grandparents. The Year 6 coffee shop, an assembly full of performances and open classrooms are the features of the day.

Thought of the Week
“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. Nelson Mandela

Greg McLaren
Principal

For your information
Parenting Ideas by Michael Grose
Attached to this newsletter is an article titled ‘Swimming Against the Parent Tide’.

Good Number Sense
Maths is a numbers game but for some students and parents, the figures don't add up. Here are some strategies to help your child work out sums in their heads in a way that makes sense to them. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/mathss-a-to-z/-/maths_glossary/RId5/141/mental%20strategy

Reading with Your Child at Home
Article I. When your child observes you reading and writing in everyday life, whether reading for pleasure, sharing a story with them or making a shopping list, it teaches them that they are useful skills. Here are some things you can do at home to help your child with reading. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/en/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/reading-with-your-child-at-home

Article II. Removing Head Lice and Nits
Mention head lice and most of us instantly develop an itch. While head lice and nits, (the eggs of head lice) are certainly annoying and persistent, they're not dangerous. Here's everything you need to know to rid your child of head lice and nits. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/removing-head-lice-and-nits

PSSA STATE KNOCKOUT CRICKET
On the 29/2/2013 the Normanhurst West boy's cricket team went to Normanhurst Oval to play a game against Normanhurst Public School. Normanhurst West won the toss and the captain Joshua Stead elected to field first. We bowled really well with Jordan Fullagar claiming the first wicket. Jordan ended up taking 3 wickets and they only scored 1 run of his bowling. Joshua took 2 wickets and they only scored 7 runs of his bowling. Altogether Normanhurst Public scored 7 for 65 runs.

When we batted Nick and Joshua opened the innings. Nick unfortunately got out in the second over and Joshua got out soon after. Jordan came in after Nick and Daniel filled in Joshua's spot. Daniel and Jordan were a very strong partnership. Daniel scored 18 not out and Jordan scored 28 not out. Altogether we scored 2 for 65 runs.

Our next match in the competition is against Hornsby North Public School.
By Joshua Stead

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2013
Again this year, your child can enter the Premier’s Reading Challenge through the school, by returning the note below to Mrs Gower in 4VG. I will then send home a note with some of the rules of the challenge and a Reading Log sheet. I will register them on the website so they can begin to fill in their reading log online. The challenge finishes on 1st September. The website has all the details but please feel free to see me if you need any clarification.
To log on to the website ('Google': Premiers Reading Challenge) in order to enter their books, the children need to enter the DET username and then the password which they use on the school computers. I will include Kindergarten and Year 1 students’ usernames & passwords on the information note. (If your child isn’t sure about the password, please ask Mrs Sharpe or Mrs Gower.)

Please be aware that although our school library has an extensive range of books which are on the various lists, it does not have multiple copies, so it may be advantageous to source particular books from the local library as well. (Some titles in the library are identified as Premier’s Reading Challenge books.) This is a wonderful way to encourage the love of reading and to expand the children’s range of suitable literature.

Participation in the Challenge has the support of the Principal.

Mrs Rosemary Gower
4VG Teacher & Premier’s Reading Challenge Co-ordinator

Return to class teacher who will pass it on to Mrs Gower

I would like my child/ren ________________________________ of class/es ________________ to participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge 2013. I agree to assist them in filling out their reading log at home.

Signed ________________________________ (Parent/ Guardian)     Date ____________

CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL – HELPERS NEEDED

After a great day last year, our annual Cross Country Carnival will be held once again at Fagan Park. It will be held on Tuesday 9th April, 2013 with the backup date being Tuesday May 7, 2013.

It is a wonderful day in a picnic atmosphere, with all children participating from Kindergarten to Year 6.

At this stage we are looking for many parent / grandparent volunteers to supervise the course. It is not an onerous task. All you have to do is sit in a chair in a particular part of the course and point the children in the right direction.

Fagan Park is a big area therefore we really need your help. The more volunteers we get the more we can rotate around so that everyone gets to see their children run. Please encourage each other to share a duty.

Without volunteers to man the checkpoints this activity cannot take place.

If you are able to assist us on the day please complete the form below and return to class teacher by Friday 22nd March, 2013.

You will receive further notification regarding your checkpoints once all volunteer forms have been collated.

Thanking you in anticipation.

M. Bardwell,  G. Saliba, C. McAuliffe. Cross Country Coordinators
I / WE _______________________________________________ am / are able to help with duties at the Cross Country Carnival on Tuesday April 2013.

I / WE _______________________________________________ am / are able to help with duties at the Cross Country Carnival on the backup date of Tuesday 7th May, 2013.

Please list the name of your child / children and age they are turning this year and their class.

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SCHOOL SMS SYSTEM
NWPS uses an SMS messaging system where parents can choose to be sent an SMS message to their mobile phone to remind them of special events and notices such as athletics / swimming carnivals, postponement of sporting events, parent teacher evenings, P&C meetings etc. Parents who do not wish to be contacted via an SMS message to their mobile phone will receive the information in the usual form ie letter home via their child.

We have now updated to a 2013 contact list for SMS messages to parents. It is important that you let the school know if you change your mobile phone number or if you want a different mobile number to be the one that receives the SMS message. Please let the school know of any changes as soon as possible.

Sue Shears
Administration Manager

BAND
A reminder that all three bands have a BAND WORKSHOP on Saturday the 23rd March. Registration opens at 12pm, with workshops commencing at 12.30pm sharp. All BAND MEMBERS are expected to attend.

Please send your child along with a PLATE OF AFTERNOON TEA TO SHARE.
The afternoon concludes with a FAMILY BBQ from 4.30pm.

Each band will have an OPEN REHEARSAL where parents can hear the pieces their child has been practicing prior to the BBQ commencing. Further details regarding these times to be provided.
The BBQ is expected to conclude at around 6pm.

NORMO’S NIBBLES - ROSTER 2013 OFF TO FLYING START - THE DUCK’S GOT SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT!!
From all accounts, the Canteen has been running smoothly over the past week, thanks to our more than capable team of volunteers. Welcome to all our “new” mums, helping for the first time this year.
Volunteers rostered on for the following week are:

Friday 8 March 8.30 - 11.30 am Kathryn Benham, Jo Swain, Bec Chen and Caroline Bain
11.00am - 2.00pm Jane Barnwell, Skye Penfold and Anne Frith (VACANCY tomorrow - help needed)

Monday 11 March 8.30 - 11.30am Elizabeth Cook and Janina Shinfield
11.00am - 2.00pm Jenny Sorkovsky and Gaby Mueller
As can be seen, we have a vacancy on the 2nd Friday (TOMORROW), 11.00am to 2.00pm shift. If you have a couple of hours free tomorrow, I’m sure your help would be appreciated. If you are able to fill this vacancy for the year, please contact Jules on 0433 879 006 (after 4.30pm please) or email her at tccabling57@optusnet.com.au.

Hopefully, by this weekend, all volunteers should receive an email containing a contact list and other important Canteen information. Sorry for the delay, but Jules is a bit slack getting all the information together!!
Signed: The Duck

News from Normanhurst West OOSH (Out of School Hours Centre)
As very many Normanhurst West families will be aware, the P&C provides Before & After School Care and Vacation Care in the form of an on-site Out of School Hours Centre. The Centre is operated by a number of qualified staff and a volunteer management committee, a P&C subcommittee.

Although OOSH families have been informed, I would like to update the school community about some significant changes that have occurred this year. The first is that we have had to say goodbye to our two highly committed and caring co-coordinators, Alex Redford and Fiona Hall, as they pursue their chosen career paths. Both Alex (1 year’s service) and Fi (10 years’ service) provided outstanding programs and quality care to our children. We wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

We warmly welcome our new OOSH coordinator, Nicole Johnson, to Normanhurst West. Nicole comes to us with extensive experience in children's services, and in particular, Before & After School Care and Vacation Care. Nicole’s most recent role has been as OOSH Coordinator at Pacific Hills Christian School. To ensure a smooth transition, Nicole has been able to work a few shifts with Fi and Centre staff over the past couple of weeks and the children are already getting to know Nicole. Please extend a warm welcome to Nicole as we welcome her to the school community. Nicole is able to commence full-time work on Monday 25th March. In the intervening period, Nicole will supervise the majority of shifts and current OOSH staff member Sam Higgins will be supervising the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon shifts. The other significant change has been the substantial increase in the number of children attending OOSH. As a result, extra space has been provided to the OOSH Centre through usage of the resource room on certain afternoons and plans are underway for a more permanent, built solution.

Please note that OOSH management committee meetings are held at 7:00pm on Wednesday nights in the 3rd and 7th weeks of term in the OOSH Centre. Parents are most welcome to attend.

Jeannette Grant

UNIFORM POOL CONVENOR - STILL NEEDED
At the end of Term 1, Amanda will be vacating the position of Uniform Pool Convenor. If this position is not filled, the Uniform Shop will close on the last day of this term. The Uniform Shop is an invaluable service to all families. As well being a more convenient shopping experience for parents, the uniforms are much cheaper. All families will be affected if the Uniform Shop closes. The role of convenor 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.

UNIFORM POOL AGM
Our AGM will be held on Friday, 22nd March at 9.45am. It will be held at the Uniform Pool shop and all are welcome.
ORDERING
Thanks to all those who have ordered through our order form or through flexischools.com.au. This is a much better option for our system and for you.

DR SHOE
Dr Shoe will be at school, outside the school hall for school shoe and sand-shoe purchases this 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.

Canteen Manager
Expressions of interest are invited for the position of Canteen Manager at Pennant Hills Public School. The role is a 3 days a week position. The Manager is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Canteen, leading a team of enthusiastic volunteer parent helpers and is supported by the P&C Canteen Committee. For a duty statement and more information please contact Sarah Allen pandcpresident@gmail.com

RUNABOUT FOR SALE
Aluminium Savage Snipe 3.8 metre. Tiller steer Mercury 25hp two stroke outboard and Boeing tilt trailer.

Garaged all its life up until recently. Low operating hours but always maintained and started regularly.

Great condition. Suit fishing or family fun. Good for enclosed waters and limited offshore use. Will plane effortlessly with three adults and their gear. Fits in the garage and is light and easily manoeuvrable by one person. Inexpensive to own and run. Boat and trailer both fully registered. Ready to go!

Not getting enough use so it has to go … asking $2650.00 ONO.

Please call Mark to email photos or arrange an inspection: 0402 500 842.