Dear Parents and Students,

**Morning Tea with State MP**

Our school captains and vice captains were invited to State Parliament yesterday as guests of Mr Matt Kean MP. The students were accompanied by their parents and Mrs Liston. Our school leaders were very fortunate to also meet the Premier, Hon. Barry O’Farrell MP and the Minister for Education, Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP. We are extremely grateful for the hospitality offered by Mr Kean and his staff. The captains were further treated to a visit to parliament’s new television control room thanks to our very own Mr Pendleton. I believe this is the first delegation of school students ever to be allowed access this area of parliament. I commend the students, Chloe Moltzen, Hayden Tumeth, Justine Wallis and Kata Curtin, on their exemplary conduct in representing our great school.

**Harmony ’Orange’ Day**

Next Thursday 21 March, we are celebrating Harmony Day. This is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home, from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day we become aware and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it. Classes will spend a
portion of the day learning about multicultural Australia. We encourage the students to wear mufti clothes with orange a preference as it is the colour of Harmony Day. The theme for this year’s Harmony Day is: ‘Many Stories – One Australia’. There is not a cost for wearing casual clothes on the day.

**Zone and Area Sport Trials**
Over recent weeks several Beecroft Zone and Sydney North Area carnivals and trials for a variety of sports have taken place. Our school has been well represented through the talents of: Tennis - Lia Woods, Swimming - Jonathan Friend and Curtis Gray, Basketball - Emma Vandervelde, Soccer - Jonathan Friend and Jordan Fullagar, Cricket - Nick Blunt and Jordan Fullager, AFL - Nick Blunt, Jack Edwards, Nicolas Aliaga, Sean McLagan and Braiden Wolhoff. More Zone and Area representative opportunities will come throughout the year.

**Year 7 in 2014**
A reminder to Year 6 families, your Expression of Interest forms for High School next year need to be returned by 20 March for your preferences to be considered. At the end of the newsletter are some upcoming open nights at some local high schools.

Best wishes for a deserved outcome to those students who sat the selective high school test at Normanhurst Boys High School today.

**Knockout Cricket**
The boys’ cricket team was unsuccessful in round two of the state knockout competition against Hornsby North. Well done to our competitive team under the leadership of captain, Joshua Stead. We also thank Mr Pinchbeck for coaching the boys.

**National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence**
Tomorrow is National Day of Action Against Bullying. Classes will be involved in activities that strengthen our everyday message that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time and the importance of speaking out against violence.

The school is committed to ensuring it remains a safe place for students to learn and teachers to teach. Bullying is a complex issue for the whole community and addressing this issue requires constant vigilance by the whole community. The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence 2013 aims to encourage parents and families to take a stand together to recognise the important role everyone plays in the drive to stop bullying and violence. There are activities and resources available to support this important message on the new Bullying No Way! website [www.bullyingnoway.com.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au).

**Newsletter Surveys**
Families yet to offer feedback about the school newsletter still have until tomorrow to submit the survey attached to last week’s newsletter. If you have misplaced the survey please request a copy from the office.

**School Development Days**
Please note that next term all NSW public schools have two school development days. This is because we are introducing a National Curriculum over the next four years and our staff will be devoting time to the new English Syllabus. Your child will therefore begin Term 2 on Wednesday 1 May.

**Cyber Safety**
I have had a report from a colleague in another school that it is becoming too common for children to visit online chat rooms and then give sufficient information for people to work out where children, live, play sport or visit. This is an obviously concerning practice as we are seeing an increase in the number of online stalkers and bullies. Two good sites for parents to look at with your children and discuss the issues surrounding cyber bullying and stalking:


**Thought of the Week**
"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen."

*Michael Jordan*

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**Greg McLaren**
Principal
Parenting Ideas by Michael Grose
Attached to this newsletter is an article titled ‘Wielding ‘soft power’ at Home’.

Facts about Tutors
Private tutoring to give children a helping hand in their schooling is a growing business. However, it’s also an area where parents can be vulnerable to bogus offers and misleading advertising. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/facts-about-tutors

Public Speaking
Does your child suffer glossophobia? Fear of public speaking is common. Try creating opportunities for your child to present speeches to the family, without putting pressure on them to perform. Here are some tried and true tips to make your child’s next speech a success.

Science Starters
Did humans live with dinosaurs? Does the moon disappear in the day? Children love to know the answers to life’s mysteries but there are a few facts they often answer incorrectly in the name of science. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/other-subjects-and-projects/science/10-scientific-facts-your-child-needs-to-know

Have You Received the SchoolKids Bonus?
Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?
If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.
The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions. Check your eligibility by visiting www.australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink by calling 132 468.

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
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 ____________

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CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL – WE NEED 20 MORE HELPERS!

Thank you so much to those who have already volunteered.

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

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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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P&C HAPPENINGS
The school community is invited to the P&C Annual General Meeting, 19th March 2013, 7.45pm at the OOSH rooms. The AGM will be followed directly afterward by the general meeting.

At the AGM, "all office bearer positions are declared vacant and therefore, available for election at each AGM...Only financial P&C members are eligible to stand for position". To know if you are a financial member I also quote “Any person eligible for membership may become a member or renew membership by paying the required membership of $1.00 to the Secretary at any general meeting. Membership shall commence at the end of the General Meeting at which the payment was made and remain current until the close of the first General Meeting of the next calendar year.” This information is from the P&C Federation.

Ms Jacqui Gill has resigned from the role of Treasurer due to her child leaving the school, and we would love to hear from anyone interested in this position. I would encourage the community to become involved with the P&C, it is a great way to become involved in your child’s school and meet some amazing people as a bonus.

The P&C Executive have met and voted on the following school funding requests:
1. $2,000 to upgrade guided readers.
2. $26,000 for the school’s learning support program.
3. $4,500 to upgrade home readers.
4. $1,200 for new bookshelves.
5. $500 for Peer Tutoring (language based resources).
6. $2,000 for office support.
7. $2,000 for air conditioning maintenance.
8. $1,000 allowance for teaching staff (student praise purposes).
9. $2,000 for playground equipment.

The P&C always holds $10,000 in reserve for the running of our sub-committees and encourage further school funding requests to be presented.

The P&C would like to congratulate Mrs Jacqueline McCarthy (Noah 2R) on the wonderful effort she and her family have made preparing the vegetable garden for the students. The original containers were a gift to the school from Mr Pinchbeck’s Yr 6 2010, and along with a further donation from Bunnings Thornleigh our students have plenty of room to provide healthy vegetables to the canteen. Mrs McCarthy is teaching interested students one lunch time each week on how to plant and care for the vegetables. She is a quiet achiever who deserves our sincere thanks for providing another wonderful school asset and interest for our children.

Kate Griffin

NORMO NIBBLES
We will again be offering our Easter hot cross bun recess snack pack this year. If your child would like a hot cross bun and a drink for recess on Wednesday 27th March, please complete and return the order form from this newsletter by Friday 22nd March. Please ensure that two bags are included with the order form (one for drink and one for hot cross bun).

CANTEEN AGM
Our AGM will be held on Friday, 15th March at 1:45pm. It will be held in the canteen and all are welcome to attend. If you interested in joining the committee, please let me know, my email is jane_barnwell@hotmail.com

Jane Barnwell
Canteen Convenor

BAND NEWS
A reminder that all three bands have a WORKSHOP on Saturday the 23rd of March.
Registration open from 12pm, with the 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 5:15pm.
NORMANHURST WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

Band members have been catered for, but if additional family members would like a sausage sandwich, they will need to put $5 pp in an envelope in the band box with name by Friday 15th March...

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

UNIFORM POOL

Closing?
We need your help! Our coordinator, Amanda Buzacott, needs to step down as uniform pool coordinator as her two year tenure is up. This means we need to find a uniform pool coordinator between now and the AGM on Friday, 22nd March. Please contact Amanda on uniformpool.nwps@gmail.com if you think you might be interested in this position or would like an outline of the role description. It is not a difficult role. The position could be shared by two people. If we are unable to find a coordinator, Friday 12 April will be the LAST day of the Uniform Pool at Normanhurst West. All families will be affected by this closure.

Winter Uniform
Winter Uniform must be worn from the start of Term 2. Don't leave ordering your winter uniform needs to the last minute. Ordering via the Uniform Pool order form or via flexischools.com.au is the best option for both the Uniform Pool and for you, as you will be saved standing in a long queue on a Friday morning.

Boys winter uniform
- long grey trousers
- a long sleeve white shirt
- grey socks and school shoes.

Girls winter uniform
- long sleeve white shirt (Peter Pan collar)
- either green check tunic and black tights or green check pants with white socks.

Jumpers for both boys and girls are either the green sloppy-Joe or polar fleece (with school emblem).

Uniform Pool AGM
Don't forget our AGM on Friday, 22nd March at 9.45am. It is held in the Uniform Pool and all are welcome.

2nd Hand Uniforms
We have a large quantity of 2nd hand uniforms on our racks. Come, have a look and see what you could grab for winter. Over the next few weeks Amanda will open the shop extra mornings to give you a chance to hunt down a 2nd hand bargain.

Extra hours for the Uniform Shop from 9-9.30am, Wed 13/3, Mon 18/3 and Tue 26/3.

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 WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

Easter Recess Snack Pack – Wednesday 27 March 2013

(Will be delivered to classrooms in time for recess) - please complete 1 form per child and attach to TWO lunch bags (one bag for drink, one for bun)

N.B. RETURN FORM(S) TO CANTEEN BY FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2013

<table>
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<th>Class :</th>
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Recess snack pack consists of : (please circle choices)

- **1 Hot-x-bun**
  - *fruit
  - *fruitless
  - *buttered / unbuttered

- **Drink - either**
  - * milk - either :  
    - * plain
    - *choc
    - *strawberry
  
  OR
  
  *fruit juice - either :  
    - *apple
    - *orange
  
  OR
  
  * 600 ml plain springwater

**Total : $3.00**