Dear Parents and Students,

School Assembly
Next term the school will trial a Kindergarten to Year 2 assembly and a separate Years 3-6 assembly on alternate Thursday afternoons. Many would recall in 2012 the crowded conditions during whole school assemblies and this year's induction of school leaders ceremony proved even worse. Our school farewelled a small group of Year 6 students last year and gained nearly an additional thirty students for 2013. Last week we held a whole school assembly and could not fit a single row of chairs for parents. The plan is to make the students more comfortable and encourage the parents to attend in greater numbers.

Another consideration was the safety of students if an evacuation ever occurred. The school will come together on a Thursday afternoon for the Principal Award and Principal Medallion assemblies each term. These assemblies may be under the COLA.

The merit certificate procedure currently in place will also need modification. Through assessing the draft timetable for terms 2-4, the Years 3-6 assemblies will have four merit certificates awarded per class. Kindergarten-Year 2 will still have three merit certificates awarded per class. The aim is to enable students to earn the required number of certificates which may lead to attaining a Principal's Award and thus progressing to a Principal's Medallion.
P&C Executive
Thank you to those families who attended the P&C AGM on Tuesday. On behalf of the school, a big thank you is extended to the 2012 P&C executive and sub committees. When you do the many special things around the school the first consideration has always been and should always continue to be for the benefit of the children. Your contribution reaches every child in the school. Thank you to all outgoing members who held a position on the executive or subcommittee during 2012 and are unavailable to serve this year.

I would like to especially thank the president, Mrs Kate Griffin, for her positive leadership throughout her first term. It was not an easy year for Kate as she was required to learn many new things relating to the school, Department of Education and P&C operations. I appreciate her commitment to the community and ability to work in harmony with all.

Harmony Day
Harmony Day is managed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It is a day of cultural respect, widely celebrated across most schools.

At Normanhurst West we celebrated Harmony Day today with a splash of colours, predominantly orange as the day’s official colour. “The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. In 2013 the theme is: Many Stories – One Australia. Our Australian Story is diverse. We come from many countries around the world. We each make up the pages of the bigger Australia story we share today. From the Dreamtime to the Eureka to the Snowy River, from the outback to the city, in wartime and in peace, our stories may be heart wrenching but also inspirational.” We took the time today to celebrate our diversity, “to go beyond the cover of the book and wander through the pages of each other's story, so that we can learn and understand”.

Visiting Principals
Yesterday our school hosted a meeting for seven visiting Primary Principals from Northern Sydney and Western Sydney regions. It was an honour to showcase the unique qualities of the school. All the Principals acknowledged the friendliness of students as they witnessed them actively learning in their class. Another observation by the visitors was the attractive appearance of the school as a learning environment. It made me not only proud as the Principal but a fortunate person to be a member of Normanhurst West school community.

Community of Schools
Last week I attended community of schools network meeting for 2013. This group included the Principals from Waitara PS, Normanhurst PS, Hornsby South PS and Clarke Road SSP. The theme was related to learning styles. We looked at current theory and research showing that an individual’s brain needs to be in an appropriate state (i.e. an optimal state of alertness) in order for learning to take place. Every day, information is presented to students amid a number of different Key Learning Areas. For some students the ability to process the number of external sensations that assail them each day can be very daunting. The community of schools is currently applying for a grant to accommodate the delivery of learning to varying learning styles in each classroom.

Gardening at Normanhurst West
Our school vegetable garden is looking great. A team of students from 5M has been busy and patient assisting with the preparations in the gardens. Thanks to the efforts of Mrs Jacqueline McCarthy (Noah 2R) we will taste our own grown fresh produce very soon.

Earth Hour
Tomorrow the students and staff will be extra vigilant in saving electricity. Mrs Macnaughtan is coordinating Earth Hour and has provided the teachers with numerous sources for teaching and learning activities. The website states, “Earth Hour – the phenomenon that was started in Australia and embraced by the world - is returning at 8.30pm on Saturday, 23 March”. Since Earth Hour is observed on the weekend, the school has included it in our environmental education program on the day prior. We encourage the community to consider turning off lights and electrical appliances on Saturday night.

Cross Country
The school cross country will be held on Tuesday, 9 April at Fagan Park, Galston. All children will be required to arrive at school in the morning and travel to the venue by bus.

Parent helpers are needed to assist the teachers with checkpoint positions. Thank you to those who have already offered their services but many more volunteers are needed. The carnival cannot safely proceed
without parents or grandparents offering their time to help. Please contact the office or Mrs McAuliffe if you are available.

**Jewellery at School**
A number of students are wearing pieces of jewellery to school. Please be aware the only jewellery allowed at school are pierced ear sleepers, small studs and signet rings.

**Thought of the Week**
“ Harmony makes small things grow; lack of it makes great things decay”.  *Sallust*

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**Parenting Ideas by Michael Grose**
Attached to this newsletter is an article titled “The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks”.

**Sounding Out Aloud**
Make phonics fun by helping your child learn to read by sounding out their words. Find some tips to help your child gain confidence reading:  

**Facts about Fractions**
If you’ve forgotten 3/5 of primary school maths and 7/8 of high school maths, what’s left? Ah ha! Children need help learning how to add fractions too. The only thing left is to print the fact sheets from: 

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**CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL**
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**WE NEED 10 MORE HELPERS – Upper Primary Checkpoints.**  
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
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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PSSA KNOCK-OUT CRICKET

On Monday 11th March the Normanhurst West boys’ cricket team played against Hornsby North Primary School. At the start the team all decided if we win the toss we would bowl. Unfortunately we lost the toss and the opposition decided to field. So we batted first. We weren’t looking so good with the score 2 for 8, until Jordan started to pile on some runs. Nick and Taj helped add some runs to our score. But unfortunately the team only managed to score 75 runs. Jordan made almost half of our runs with an excellent score of 35 runs.

Now it was our turn to bowl. Jordan opened the bowling and on his third over he got one of the batters out, which was a great. Then Joshua bowled and he also got a wicket. Then Hornsby North put on a very good partnership that scored 39 runs that sealed their victory. The boys played very well but they were too good on that day.

I want to thank Mr Pinchbeck and the parents who helped us get to Normanhurst Oval and to the boys which are Sean, Jordan, Daniel, Robert, Nick, Taj, Brian, Mark, Jonathan, Luke and Matt.

I wish you all the best in your future cricket.

By Joshua Stead.

“This is the one.” Laurie pointed the torch beam at the door directly in front of us. “You open it, Sam.”

I shrank back, almost toppling down the stairs. “I… I can’t, Laurie. You open it.”

She laughed then. It was a thin cackle that made my whole body feel cold. Finally, she spoke. “No, Sam. You have to open it. It’s part of the dare.

“No it wasn’t, you only said to enter the evil man’s house!” I shouted. “Well… if you don’t open the door I will tell your parents that you stole the old man’s favourite painting!” said Laurie. “Fine, but if something happens to me YOUR DEAD!” I said in fear and anger at the same time.
I slowly walked to the door and pulled the door knob and opened it, the air was cold and unwelcoming. Inside I saw a golden skull. Laurie ran straight in while pushing me out of the way. She ran over to the skull and she was about to touch it when I shouted, “DON’T TOUCH IT!” but it was too late. She had already grabbed the skull and suddenly the room was filled with an unholy power. “This is bad. This is really really bad!” I shouted. Suddenly I heard a groaning noise. Then there was a noise coming from down stairs. “Uh-oh…” we both said at the same time.

I looked at the darkness outside the door, I noticed two white eyes staring at me. It started to emerge from the darkness and what I saw was a tall man with cuts all over himself, his skin was paler than whipped cream. “ZOMBIE!!” Laurie and I screamed. We were so scared and desperate that we didn’t notice all his intestines all over the floor. We jumped out the window. Luckily I landed in a pool. “But I don’t know where Laurie is.” I thought. Just then I saw Laurie, her leg was bleeding badly. I thought for a second and then it came to me. I was running towards Laurie but I tripped and fell right in front of a group of zombies. “AAAAHHHH!!!” I screamed as they viciously grabbed me.

Suddenly I was at the bottom of the stairs in the old man’s house. Laurie was standing next to me. “You slipped in a puddle of water silly. Are you ok?” she giggled.

“I'm fine. It was just a dream.” I said. “Or was it?”

“HAHAHAHAHA!” Whispered a voice...

To Be Continued...

Written By Tom Murphy – 5M

P&C NEWS
Thanks to all who attended Tuesday night’s AGM followed by the usual monthly P&C meeting for March (always on the third Tuesday evening of the month in term time). We are extremely grateful to all those who have volunteered their time to fill the executive positions:

Kate Griffin – President
Jacqueline McCarthy – 1st Vice-President
Jen Temm – 2nd Vice-President
Merran Phegan – Treasurer
Juliette Hackett – Secretary
Atin Jain, Michelle Duncan-Nagy, Sally Lusher-Main, Miriam Mulcahy, Ian Shinfield and Jai Soupidis – Executive.

We still desperately need to fill the following roles:
· Uniform Pool Convenor
· Family Fun Day Convenor
· Webmaster/mistress
· Grounds Force Convenor
· Fundraising Convenor

Many of these roles would fit in very well around full time work, but are a great way to put back in to your child’s school. Without these roles filled, we will not have
· tens of thousands of fundraising dollars that provide vitally needed resources for our school,
· an accessible means of communicating heaps of useful information about the P&C,
· a cheap and convenient way to purchase your child’s school uniform,
· a fantastic day of fun that our kids all love and that brings our whole school community together and
· the pleasant grounds that we and our children enjoy.

If you think that even one of these jobs could be vaguely “you”, we’d love to hear from you J. None of us can do it all, but together we can all do a bit to contribute to our children’s education.
Speaking of money, at the general meeting, $42,000 was approved to be spent on school-requested projects, $40,000 on playground upgrade projects and $50,000 was earmarked for the OOSH deck project in 2013. For full minutes of the evening’s meetings, keep your eye on the P&C blog nwpspandc.wordpress.com.

Juliette Hackett. Secretary
NWPS P&C
hackettx5@optusnet.com.au

BOOK CLUB
We have received a Scholastic Clearance Sale catalogue with some special deals. The catalogue is available from the school office. Orders need to be placed by March 27th, 2013.

BAND CAMP FORMS
We are still missing a number of band camp permission forms. If you have not yet returned yours, please complete it and return it to the Band Box in the office ASAP.

With thanks,

Cath Simes. Band Camp Convenor 2013

NORMO NIBBLES
Tomorrow (Friday 22nd March) is your last chance to place your Easter hot cross bun recess snack pack order at the canteen. 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). Thank you.

UNIFORM POOL
Convenor - we are still looking!
We still need a convenor for the Uniform Pool. Friday 12th April will be the last day for Uniform Pool unless we have a new convenor before then. Please contact Amanda at uniformpool.nwps@gmail.com if you are interested in this role. It is a very worthwhile role and not a difficult one. The position could be shared by two people.

Opening hours
We have a large quantity of 2nd hand uniforms on our racks. It’s worth a look to see what bargains you can grab for winter. As well as our usual Friday opening hours (8.45 - 9.15am), the Uniform Pool shop will also be open on Tuesday 26th March, 9 - 9.30am.

Uniform pool meeting
Our meeting is tomorrow, Friday 22nd March at 9.45am in the Uniform Pool. We'd love to see you there.

Returns Policy
Items can be returned for exchange due to wrong size within 3 weeks of purchase. Such items must be in condition sold, with labels and packaging, and receipt as proof of sale. Items sold from the second hand rack cannot be returned. Please check items carefully and check sizing before purchasing.

Winter Uniforms
It's time to think about your child's winter uniform and order what is needed. Orders via the order form or FlexiSchool online ordering are preferred, as this saves waiting in line at the shop window.
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

Name:  
Class:  

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
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