Dear Parents and Students,

Leader Induction Ceremony
School captains and prefects were joined by house captains in being presented with their badge at today’s assembly. Today we recognised a representative from each class who will be part of our Student Representative Council. This group will be influential in formulating ideas to improve the school and raising money for charity. Congratulations to all 48 student leaders:

School Captains: Emma D & Oliver S
Vice Captains: Jess D & Curtis F
House Captains: Koalas: Sarah P & Jesse D  
Kookaburras: Charlotte L & Ben Y  Kangaroos: Hannah R & Ben G
House Vice Captains: Koalas: Molly M & James B
Kookaburras: Emma D & Matt B  Kangaroos: Brielle T & Calin D

SCHOOL APP: (PC) - http://www.myauschools.com or smart phone just search for Normanhurst West P S
Username is community  Password is normanhurstwps
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. 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.

1. **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.

1. **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: Mrs Pearce
   - Assistant Principal K-6, especially Years 5-6: Mr Pinchbeck
   - Assistant Principal K-6, especially Supp.Prog: Mrs Liston (Mrs Sharpe Mondays & Fridays)

1. **Administration and Finance:**

   - Mrs Shears

1. **Principal:** Any issues that relate to the whole school, child protection and student welfare, governance and management, financial and budgeting, community, concerns relating to teachers, issues that have not been resolved first through discussions with the classroom teacher and /or the Assistant Principal.

All Parents are Welcome to the Parents & Citizens Meeting

The first 2015 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 Mr David Ferguson for his continued leadership as P&C president in 2014/15.

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

Meet the Teacher Evening – Next Week

This year we have planned our ‘Meet the Teacher’ talks for the evening of Tuesday 17
February. The objective is for parents to meet with your child’s teacher to hear about plans for the year ahead. Parents of children in Kindergarten-Year 2 classes’ timeslot will be 5.45-6.30pm, Year 3-6 classes’ timeslot will be 6.45-7.30pm. The venue is your child’s classroom.

These sessions are not for individual parent teacher meetings, but a more general information session about expectations, requirements and events for the year. However, you are most welcome to make an appointment to see your class teacher if you have any concerns. For the parents that cannot make the session, please request an information handout to be sent home.

Child Protection — Volunteer Helpers

Following are our current Child Protection procedures:
The new, online Working With Children Check (WWCC) will be phased in and volunteers at the school (in classrooms, canteen, excursions, etc) will be required to do this new working with children check. It is free because you are volunteers and at the same time you will receive a clearance for 5 years. That means you can get involved in any volunteer activities at our school as well as any other school in NSW or any child related workplace. The NSW Government’s Office of Children’s Guardian has encouraged all volunteers in the school to obtain this clearance to work with children regardless of categories of exemptions. A brochure is included later in this newsletter.

How to apply to complete WWCC

**STEP 1**
Fill in an online application form at [http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/Working-with-children/Working-With-Children-Check/apply/apply](http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/Working-with-children/Working-With-Children-Check/apply/apply), if you cannot access the online system, call a customer Support Officer for assistance on (02) 9286 7219. When you complete the application, you will receive an application number. This application number cannot be used for the online verification process until you completed **STEP 2**.

**STEP 2**
Take your application number and proof of your identity to a NSW motor registry. This check remains free for volunteers. Once your application has been processed, you will receive the outcome by email (or post if you do not have an email address). Most applications will be processed within 48 hours. You then forward this email to normanhurw-school@det.nsw.edu.au or send in a copy of the form to the school office for our records.

Morning Assembly
A reminder, the purpose of morning assembly is to settle students and allow them to receive information as school time has commenced. We would again ask that parents say goodbye quickly and leave their children ready to line up when the bell sounds. Parents are requested not to stand and observe the assembly as this has proven to be of distraction.

Electronic Newsletter
Next week, the school newsletter will not be sent home in the paper format unless you have requested it. Please complete the survey found later in this newsletter and return it to your child's teacher. If you indicate ‘YES’ and provided your email to which you would like it addressed, we will soon set up the group and provide your newsletter accordingly. You might prefer it go to a work address rather than a personal email. The choice is yours. If you do not wish to do this at this time then we can still send it home in hard copy. It will continue to be placed on the website in PDF format.

School App
All parents are encouraged to use the ‘school App’. Please let us know if you have any feedback or suggestions for the app. The school app is available free of charge for Apple and
Android devices at their respective app stores. If you search for Normanhurst West Public School in either store, you should find the app. Once downloaded you will need to use the username: community and password: normanhurstwps

NRL Visit
Part of the North Sydney Community Carnival was for the NRL to visit our Years 5 & 6 students to encourage participation in sport and to make sensible choices. Nathan Merritt (recently retired mighty South Sydney Rabbitohs player and NSW State of Origin Rep), Sam Hammond (from the Australian Women’s Rugby League team) and a few junior players from NRL clubs engaged our students in activities and spoke about health and nutrition. We appreciated the visit and the positive way the messages were delivered.

Presentation Evening Survey
A survey to evaluate the annual presentation ceremony is attached to this newsletter. We would appreciate your feedback. The survey is due on or before next Friday, 20 February.

Thought of the Week
“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success”.

Henry Ford

Greg McLaren
Principal

For your information

2015 Homework Planner
Children and families run more smoothly when there’s a plan. The 2015 homework and study calendar includes key dates and school holidays. You can print it out month by month, or by the whole year. Find out more http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips

Doing Well in Class
Our expert panel shares tips about how parents can help their younger and older children reach their full potential at school and motivate them for learning. Watch the video. Find our more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/getting-off-to-a-good-start/good-start-chapter-one

Eight Ways to get your Children Organised
Are you ready for morning madness, late assignments, yesterday’s half-eaten lunch sweating in the schoolbag? Just like adults, children cope much better if they can manage their time and their environment wisely. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/eight-great-ways-to-get-your-kids-organised-for-school

Smart Foods to Boost Learning
Mother Nature is full of foods that help us think and feel better. What do you give your child to help them think more clearly, and enhance concentration and memory? Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/smart-foods-to-boost-learning

Benefits of Team Sports
If you want your child to grow up to be a confident and well-adjusted adult, then team sports may well be the answer. Benefits include learning how to be more resilient, and being less likely to feel isolated.

Dear Parents,
I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new Kindergarten families. Week one of school has been very exciting and full of anticipation for both parents and students. I am pleased to say that all children have had a smooth transition into “Big School” and have settled in well. Thank you to the Kindergarten teachers and the Year Six buddies for making this such a positive experience for all. I look forward to meeting you at the school “Welcome Barbecue” breakfast.

I hope you all have a wonderful year,
Helen Georgiou
Assistant Principal

CHESS CLUB 2015

Chess Club will recommence Thursday, 26th February, 2015 (Week 5) for students in Years 2 – 6 who are interested. Chess Club runs on Thursday afternoons from 3pm to 3.45pm and is supervised by Mrs Rosemary Gower. 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 skills and game strategies. There is a cost of $8 for the year. 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 3VG. 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. As 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, 13th February

My child __________________________ of class __________________________ is interested in joining Chess Club in 2015 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 on the Term 2 invoice. I am aware that they will need to be collected at 3.45pm or I will provide a note permitting them to go to OOSH, to walk home or be collected by someone else.

Signed ______________________________ Parent/Guardian Date __________________________

WE’RE CHANGING THE WAY WE DELIVER OUR NEWSLETTER
We are pleased to inform you that you can now subscribe to receive newsletters via email and also access school newsletters via our app from your smart phone, iPhone or PC.

We would prefer you to receive the newsletter electronically. There are many advantages including:

- Reduced photocopying costs to the school
- Saving in paper costs and administration time
- Supporting our environmental initiatives
- Your child can’t forget or lose the newsletter, and
- Access to the newsletter if your child is absent from school.

Please note that any saving to the school is money that can be better used on classroom resources or for improving your child’s school environment.

Please return this form to the school office by Friday 13th February, 2015.

Subscribe for email updates

Youngest Child’s Name: _____________________________ Class: ___________

☐ I would like to receive the school newsletter via email. My email address is:
______________________________ (please print clearly)

OR

☐ I would like to keep receiving a paper copy of the newsletter

OR

☐ I am happy to download / read the newsletter via the app or website and I do not require an email version or paper copy.

Get the school newsletter via our app or via our website
Download the app from the app store via your smartphone. Search Normanhurst West and download. It’s free.

APP SIGN IN via PC
- go to http://www.myauschools.com/
- Find NWPS App (go to N)
- Username is community and password is normanhurstwps
- You can then subscribe to ‘all’ or tailor the information your receive by setting up for specific years and groups
- Press menu icon to navigate around the app

WEBSITE www.normanhurw-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2015
Again this year, your child can enter the Premier’s Reading Challenge through the school. Students in Years 2-6 can return the note below to Mrs Gower in 3VG and students in Kinder and Year 1 can return it to Mrs Power in KP. We will then send home a note with some of the rules of the challenge and a Reading Log sheet. We will register them on the website so they can begin to fill in their reading log online after 2nd March. The challenge finishes on 21st August. The website has all the details but please feel free to see Mrs Gower 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. Kindergarten and Year 1 students’ usernames & passwords will be included on the information note. Year 2’s password will also be on the 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
3VG Teacher & Premier’s Reading Challenge Co-ordinator

Return to class teacher who will pass it on to Mrs Gower or Mrs Power. The PRC rules and paper log will then be sent home.

I would like my child/ren _______________________________ of class/es ______________ to participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge 2015. I agree to assist them in filling out their online reading log at home.

Signed _____________________________ (Parent/ Guardian)   Date ____________

P&C MEETING NEXT WEEK

The first P&C meeting of the year will be held next Tuesday night at 7:45pm – right after the Meet the Teacher evening concludes. There are still opportunities for those who would like to volunteer this year and support one of the many activities that the P&C organises.

Everyone is welcome and there may even be snacks. Hope to see you there.

Dave Ferguson.

P&C President

NORMO NIBBLES
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Attached to this newsletter is the 2015 volunteer roster so far. As you can see we really need some more volunteers for the Monday and Friday shifts. If you can volunteer to fill one (or more) of the blank spaces on the roster this year please email Meredith with your preferred day/time as soon as possible at speirs_m@yahoo.com.au

Canteen Manager
For those that have worked in the canteen over the last eight years, I am sad to report that Lesley has resigned as canteen manager and will not be returning to the school. The canteen committee wishes Lesley all the best for the future. From next week there will be a farewell card in the canteen for Lesley if you wish to sign it. I am pleased to advise that Jenny Sorkovsky has been offered and has accepted the position of canteen manager.

Thank you.
Jane Barnwell – canteen convenor.

Uniform Pool - Dr Shoe
Dr Shoe will be outside the hall selling school and sport shoes next Monday, 16th February.

OOSH NEWS
The NWPS OOSH committee would like to welcome you to attend the AGM on Wednesday 11\textsuperscript{th} March at 7:00pm in the OOSH rooms.

We encourage all families using this facility to attend the AGM or to consider joining the committee to provide assistance in ensuring our children are well cared for and enjoy attending this essential service. General meetings are held on the 3\textsuperscript{rd} and 7\textsuperscript{th} Wednesday of the term and the meetings generally run for approximately 1.5 hours.

If you would like any further information regarding the committee please contact Kylie Le Lievre – kylielelievre@optusnet.com.au

We look forward to seeing you there.

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 Eagles Football Club: REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
Registrations open online for the 2015 Soccer season on January 1\textsuperscript{st} 2015. To register in person or make any enquiries we will be at Normanhurst West Public School on the 14\textsuperscript{th} February from 9am to 1pm. Registrations day will also include a FREE TRIAL including fun games for any kids who want to try before registering!

Visit www.normoeagles.com.au for online registration details, email us at enquiries@normoeagles.com.au or call Pierre on 0403 957 778 for any enquiries.