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 2015. 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 5.45pm. 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.

Learning and Support Team Information
At our school we have a very strong and professional Learning and Support Team (L&ST). The purpose of this team is to ensure all students are receiving the help and support they need to achieve their maximum learning outcomes. This includes those students needing extension programs. A key feature of the learning support team is the facilitation of collaborative planning between teachers, support staff, parents and students. The L&ST committee is chaired by myself, as Principal and includes another executive staff member, Learning and Support Teacher (LaST) - Mrs Rekha Rajvanshi, K-6 Support Teacher Learning Assistance (STLA) –Mrs Lisa Ward and School Counsellor – Mrs Meredith O'Neill.

The L&ST team meets fortnightly during each term to review the learning programs of students who have been referred. These children are those identified as gifted and talented, needing further numeracy and literacy support as well as others in need of additional learning support. The L&ST also reviews students who are being funded through various State or Commonwealth programs. Both teachers and parents can refer a student to the L&ST. Referrals to the L&ST may be for reasons related to gifted and talented...
opportunities or support for learning difficulties. If a teacher refers a child, the parent is informed. Conversely, if parents would like to refer their child, I would hope that the parent would have met with the class teacher to discuss the reasons for the referral and then jointly complete the referral forms. In some circumstances, the parent does not want the teacher informed. If that is the case, referral forms can be obtained from the school office, completed and returned to me to take to the L&ST meeting.

**Learning and Support Teacher (LaST)**

With the implementation of Every Student, Every School, the Department of Education and Communities (DEC) has made changes to the way students can receive additional support with their learning. As part of the framework the position of a Learning and Support Teacher (LaST) was been established. The DEC filled that position and appointed Mrs Rajvanshi to our school.

The role of the LaST is to improve outcomes for students with additional learning and support needs. Students require different levels of support which can be given to them in a variety of ways to suit their needs. Working collaboratively with the classroom teacher, planning teaching programs, modelling best classroom practice, providing specialist advice and assisting teachers with Professional Learning are a few strategies the LaST teacher can apply when assisting our students and staff.

**Communication from Parents to School via Email**

Home and school communication is vital in meeting the individual learning and developmental needs of our wonderful children. Many parents consult private providers or other government agencies for their child. This may be for speech therapy, child counselling, occupational therapy or tuition etc. For the school to be more aware of your child’s needs and to follow protocol all correspondence using email should be directed to the school’s email account normanhurst-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au and not to a teacher’s email account. By doing this it makes, me as the Principal, informed of all at-hand aspects of your child’s educational needs. This is also extremely important for the abovementioned Learning and Support Team (L&ST) to have knowledge and understanding of each student throughout their years at Normanhurst West. A hard copy of all assessments and reports from all outside-of-school support services relevant to your child’s schooling should be forwarded to me as the Principal. Upon your consent all information will be shared with the L&ST and your child’s teacher.

**Picking up Students**

If there is a need to pick up your child early from school (ie for a Drs appointment) then please go first to the front office so a leave slip can be completed which is then handed to the class teacher. Please do not go to the classroom first. A leave slip must be received from the office first.

If you are waiting near classrooms in the afternoon, please be mindful that our classes run right to 2.50pm and if you have other children with you who are running around being noisy or if there are groups of parents talking, this may create a disturbance for students who are still trying to complete work.

A growing number of families are walking their children through the staff carpark directly after school. This has never been encouraged because of the several blind spots, especially for children. In accessing 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.

Thank you to parents for demonstrating safe and appropriate movement around our school. It is particularly busy around finishing time and it is important for all of us to maintain very strong vigilance when driving, parking and moving generally, to avoid accidents.

**Attendance Information (New for NSW Dept. of Education schools)**

In the past, when a family has an extended absence from school due to a number of reasons, they have been able to apply for an exemption, which allowed for the child to be away from school but it did not affect the child’s attendance results.

Due to the National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting and the recommendations for the Department’s Audit Directorate this has been changed.

Students who are away for an extended absence; say for example, due to a family holiday that cannot be taken during school holiday time will now be marked as leave and this will affect their attendance results.

An exemption is now only granted for:

- Exceptional circumstances of the child’s health
- The child being prevented from attending school because of a direction under the Public Health Act 2010 (infectious disease—The parent is not required to complete an application for exemption)
- Employment in the entertaining industry—refer to children’s employment,
- Participation in elite arts and elite sporting events.
We strongly encourage you to speak with your child’s teacher in regards to their absences and as always, please send a note in with your child after they have returned from an absence.

School Swimming Carnival
Next Wednesday is the school’s swimming carnival at the new Hornsby Pool, 203 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby, opposite the police station. All parents of Years 3-6 children are encouraged to attend, if it is possible. Thanks to those parents able to assist as officials on the day. This year’s coordinators, Mrs Barrett, Mrs Sharpe and Mr Vaughan have been working to make sure the children enjoy the day. The eligible children from our carnival will then swim against twenty other schools at the Beecroft Zone PSSA carnival held at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, Homebush.

Welcome Barbeque
There was a great turnout for the new families and Kindy families breakfast last Friday. Thank you to the teaching staff for taking on roles such as cooks and servers. 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. Mr Pendleton did a marvellous job at the barbeque.

Child Protection — Volunteer Helpers
The Working with Children Check (WWCC) has commenced. In accordance with the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 and the Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013, ALL SCHOOL PARENTS & SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY ASAP.
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, 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-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or send in a copy of the form to the school office for our records.

Scripture & Ethics Classes
Scripture classes commenced today for 2015. The school has Catholic, Hindu and Protestant scripture classes as well as Ethics classes available to all students. We are grateful to the volunteers who provide these messages to our students as request by parents. Those students that do not attend a scripture class will attend non-scripture classes where work will be provided for them.

Uniform - Shoes
I’ve been asked by parents about black shoes as a part of our school uniform. Yes, they are a part of our uniform and always have been. My response is as long as the shoe is predominately black that is ok. Nowadays it is sometimes difficult to buy completely black shoes that are suitable particularly for older students in a variety of different activities. If you have a black sneaker shoe, that will be perfectly okay. As long as the shoe is black in colour it will be acceptable. Sport shoes for sport uniform days, preferably, should be predominately white.
Bullying Advice
Two copies of school’s anti bullying agreement will be sent home tomorrow, Friday 20 February. I encourage you to read the brochure carefully with your child and return the blue copy once signed. The white copy can be retained at home as a reference.

Normanhurst West PS like every other school has a zero tolerance of bullying. You may discover as your child gets older that with mobile devices such as phones and laptops, bullying can follow children past the school playground. Get the lowdown on bullying from School A to Z: the signs to look for, what to do if your child is being bullied and how you can help your child. There are expert articles to read and videos to watch. www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/behaviour.


Grandparents Day
This year’s Grandparents’ Day will be on Tuesday, 9 June (T2 wk6), the day after the Queen’s Birthday long weekend. 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
“If you believe you can make a difference, then you will make a difference. Believe in yourself, your family and your community and you will win.”

Lindsay Fox

Greg McLaren
Principal

For your information

Maths Questions
Are you in search of an educational game to sharpen your child’s maths skills and recall? Maths Monkey’s Quest features maths questions on topics ranging from addition and subtraction to ratios and percentages. It’s aimed at children from Years 3 to 8. http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/math-monkey-s-quest

The Brave Program
Need help managing stress or anxiety?
If your child or teen has difficulties with anxiety or just seems to have too many worries, we would like to introduce you to Brave Self-Help – an interactive, online program for the prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent anxiety. It was developed by a group of researchers from the University of Queensland and now, with the support of Beyondblue, this program is now freely available to all young people aged 8 -17 years old who are living in Australia. Brave Self-Help provides strategies for children and teenagers to better cope with their worries. There are 4 programs available, one for children aged 8-12 years, one for teenagers aged 12-17 years and one for parents of children at these ages respectively. The program can be accessed as often as you like, from the comfort of your own home. For more information, or to register for the program, please visit www.brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au.

Your Child’s Resilience
Next time your child is furrowing their brow and staring off into space, ask them whether they’re thinking dolphin or shark thoughts. That’s the advice from resilience specialist Andrew Fuller on helping your child to recognise the positive or negative approaches they may be taking on life issues.

"Dolphin thinking can help you out and shark thinking can eat you up. It doesn't matter how old your kids are, they can still understand it," Andrew says.

"The things that are most important are teaching children what a good life is, how to live life well, how to extract pleasure out of things and how to turn things around when they’re tough," he states.

Top tips on building resilience:

- Teach your child to experience success by supporting them in something they like doing whether it's a sporting, academic or artistic endeavour.
Help them develop skills to be successful at school, such as good concentration and memory by playing card games and puzzles.

Play games with your child by predicting what sort of day a person walking down the street may have had. Being able to read people’s emotions is powerfully predictive of how well children can get on with people at school.

Be aware of the ‘yuk and yum’ factor - some things will make your child feel good and other things will make them feel bad. The idea is for them to gather things around them that cheer them up if they’ve had a bad day.

Keep things in perspective - explain to a grumpy child their circumstances are not the worst possible and that others have been through similar situations. Walk beside them as they handle the situation. This helps them to build hope and the belief they can handle problems when they come up.

Skills in resilience are promoted at Normanhurst West PS because through them children fare well in life. Research shows children with good resilience perform better at school and are less susceptible to risky behaviour, particularly as they enter the teenage years.

A former education department principal psychologist, Ron Balderston, describes resilience as a shock absorber for the potholes of life.

"Resilient children know how to cope and have developed skills that enable them to flex so they can manage life’s blows when they happen without them getting too down, stuck on ways that aren’t helping or giving up,” Ron asserts.

Helping Your Child with Homework

Jargon Buster
Wondering why your children talk about playing under the school COLA? Baffled at parent-teacher discussions about KLA’s? This list of common abbreviations or terms will help you to become familiar with the world inside school. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/school-jargon-busters](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/school-jargon-busters)

Avoiding Injuries

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**CLEAN UP SCHOOLS DAY**
Since 1992, school communities across Australia have demonstrated their support for caring for the environment through participating in ‘Schools Clean Up Day’. On Friday 27th February, NWPS will be participating in ‘Schools Clean Up Day’. Students will need to bring gardening gloves as classes will be given specific areas to clean up within the school grounds. Only Year 6 will clean up along the school perimeter along Dartford Road. For this they will need to return the permission note to their class teacher.

Miss B Noglik
Coordinator.

**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 ____________________

________________________________________________________

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 _____________
PRIMARY ETHICS CLASSES
Children that have opted out of scripture have the opportunity to participate in ethics classes at NWPS. These classes are provided by parent and community volunteers according to a curriculum developed and managed by Primary Ethics (see: www.primaryethics.com.au/<http://www.primaryethics.com.au/>)

Ethics classes have been running at NWPS now for three years. Depending on the numbers that choose this, for the first time this year we may now be able to offer ethics classes for all non-scripture children in years K through to 6.

We are limited by class room space and the number of volunteer teachers (we now have four!), but we’d like to encourage all parents of non-scripture children to consider nominating this as an option for their child. We’ll send an 'opt-in' note with non-scripture children this week to help with our class allocations and counting.

Note that we are always on the look-out for more volunteers, both teachers and for the coordinator role!

Please see the Primary Ethics website for more information, or contact me directly:
Paul Mackie, Primary Ethics Coordinator for NWPS,
paul@upbeatpromotions.com.au<mailto:paul@upbeatpromotions.com.au>, 0412 388 804

NORMO NIBBLES
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Thank you to those who have already volunteered for canteen for 2015. I’m sure your children will be very excited to see you and receive “free food” as my girls like to say.
Friday is our busiest day in the canteen and therefore we require additional help for these shifts. We still require 4 more volunteers to fill our roster and would love for you join a friendly bunch of parents.

We are also looking for parents to join the Canteen Committee. The committee meets about once a month to discuss upcoming events, the canteen menu and often get to eat a nice piece of cake at the meeting.

Please email Meredith Speirs at speirs_m@yahoo.com.au if you are interested in joining the canteen roster or committee.

Please note that the canteen will be closed on Wednesday 25th February, due to the swimming carnival.

Thank you.
Meredith Speirs – canteen roster co-ordinator.

BONJOUR CHERS PARENTS DE NORMANHURST WEST!
Our school’s extra-curricular French classes are in full swing for 2015. Classes are run by the P&C and are held on a Thursday from 3pm to 3.50pm. We welcome back our teachers, Madame Stott and Madame Pellet, both of whom are native French speakers.
Our existing French students, in both the beginner and intermediate classes, are progressing well and expanding their already sizeable vocabulary as well as practising their oral skills.
Learning French is fun but there is more to it than being able to order “un chocolat chaud et un croissant” at your favourite French bakery. Although that’s pretty impressive too!
Here are just some of the benefits of learning French:-
• Building awareness, acceptance and appreciation of cultural differences
• Developing an understanding of language generally and its component parts
• Improvement in English grammar as well as vocabulary. The list of English words derived from French is a long one!
•
So, if you are interested in your child joining in the fun, please contact Lara Hibbard, LOTE Co-ordinator at lara4rob@exemail.com.au. To ensure the children gain maximum benefit, class sizes are limited to 15 places.
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<td>Penny Eccles Pip Burns</td>
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<td>Sarah Kelly Tia Rea (T1 only)</td>
<td>27/3, 4/5, 1/6, 5/6, 7/9, 2/11, 7/12, 9/11, 7/12</td>
<td>Tania Simmons Gen Campbell</td>
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<td>Amy Stowe Penny Davies</td>
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<td>Kate Cassidy Meredith Speirs</td>
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<td>Regina Chan Sharon Aliaga</td>
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<td>Nikki Edwards Amanda Buzacott</td>
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<td>23/3, 27/4, 25/6, 22/6, 27/7, 24/8, 28/10, 23/11</td>
<td>Margie Kemmis (JS) Janelle Duncan (JS) Lisa Yapp (JS) Belinda Dunn (JS)</td>
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<td>Wendy Griffiths Kate Couper</td>
<td>25/4, 29/7</td>
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Oral Care accepted waste:
1. Toothpaste tubes and caps
2. Toothbrushes
3. Toothbrush and toothpaste tube outer packaging
4. Floss containers

What happens to our Colgate waste?

Please place the approved items in the box in the office foyer. (Don’t forget to recycle your ink & toner cartridges too but please remember to remove ALL packaging from ink & toner cartridges)

Mrs Rosemary Gower
Program co-ordinator
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OPEN NIGHT
Tuesday 3 March 2015
6.15pm for a 6.30pm start in the hall
with the official program,
followed by tours of the school and faculty displays.

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Phone: 9477 3508
Website: www.asquithboys.shs.nsw.edu.au

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- A fully integrated cross curricular Literacy and Numeracy Program, Years 7-10
- Opportunities for gifted and talented students with an academic enrichment class for Years 7 & 8
- International Soccer Tour & Language Tour

2016 Enrichment Class Examination
Asquith Boys High School is offering places in 2016 for a Year 7 Enrichment Class.
Entrance into this class for academically gifted students, is based on the results of a placement test.
The Enrichment Class placement test will be held on Saturday 7 March 2015.
Applications close Wednesday 4 March.

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Increases Fitness – IT'S FUN

Develop a “Yes, I can!” attitude which flows positively on to school work, social interaction, sport and general wellbeing

Wed- 6.30pm Thornleigh West PS
Thur- 6.30pm Werroonga PS

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