Welcome to Another Great Year of Quality Education

The summer holidays are now behind us and it is time to focus on another year of quality learning and progress at Normanhurst West Public School. I hope all families had an opportunity to relax and enjoy time together before starting another busy year.

As I have been recorded previously saying, this is not just any school. Normanhurst West always stands out for the right reasons in our wider community. Quoting a wise old Principal, "Normanhurst West is not a good school, it is a great school". At the assembly each morning it is fantastic to see the keen and eager faces and thank you very much for ensuring your child is in full school uniform. Valuing an education begins with showing respect for the school and being in full uniform demonstrates this belief.

Classes for 2015

Our dedicated staff has put considerable work into placing students in the most appropriate class environment for the new school year and the support of the community with this is greatly appreciated. Last Friday, after a few days of ‘number crunching’, we finally moved to our 2015 classes. Currently, we have 500 students, spread across 21 classes (including the Early Intervention Class). Our 2015 teaching staff members are listed below:
### 2015 Teaching Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KM</th>
<th>Miss Holly Ryan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KP</td>
<td>Mrs Robyn Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>Mrs Christine Cook</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1G | Mrs Helen Georgiou*  
   - Assistant Principal |
| 2JD | Miss Nicole Jones (M-T)  
   / Miss Clare Daly (W-F) |
| 2D | Miss Lauren Duncan |
| 3VG | Mrs Kelly-Anne Voss (M-W)  
   / Mrs Rosemary Gower (Th-F) |
| 4N | Miss Barbara Noglik |
| 5V | Mr Damien Vaughan |
| 6P | Mr Matt Pinchbeck*  
   - Assistant Principal |
| Library | Mrs Gill Liston*  
   - Assistant Principal  
   / Mrs Marni Warland (M&F) |
| Early Intervention | Mrs Tita Leach |
| Itinerant Hearing | Mrs Gillian Yates |
| Gifted & Talented Ed. | TBC |
| School Counsellor | Mrs Meredith O'Neill |
| KT | Mrs Adelle Tootell |
| KR | Miss Alex Redford |
| 1SB | Mrs Anne Bretherton (M-W)  
   / Mrs Georgina Saliba (Th-F) |
| 1M | Mrs Christine McAuliffe |
| 2S | Mrs Robyn Steggles (M-T & 2nd W)  
   / Ms Amy Shelverton (2nd W & Th-F) |
| 3K | Miss Steph Keevy |
| 3/4P | Mrs Janelle Pearce*  
   - Assistant Principal |
| 4S | Miss Rochelle Searle |
| 5BM | Mrs Robyn Barrett (M-W)  
   / Mrs Rebecca McNaughtan (Th-F) |
| 6M | Miss Tanya Moggian |
| Technology | Mrs Irene Sharpe |
| Learning | Mrs Rekha Rajvanshi (M-T & 2nd Fri)  
   & Supp. | Mrs Lisa Ward (Tue) |
| K-1 Fundamental Skills | TBC |
| EALD (English) | Mrs Jeanette Ward |
| Principal | Mr Greg McLaren* |

I urge parents who would like to speak individually with a teacher to make an appointment. Teachers cannot easily talk to parents when they are supervising students during, before or after school. Many parents say "I only want a few minutes..." but multiply that by up to 30 and the time adds up! Teachers at this school are happy to talk with parents face to face or over the phone but it is a courtesy to our hard working teachers that the time is mutually agreed. Class teachers should be the first port of call, followed by the relevant Assistant Principal. If needed, the issue will then be escalated to me. It is important to state the nature of your enquiry at the office when you request an appointment as it will speed up the resolution if the teacher is made aware of your concern. Not providing details usually results in more time before a resolution can be achieved.

**Staff News**

Congratulations to Miss Tanya Moggian on being selected to be a permanent teacher at our school. Thank you to Mrs Georgiou and Mr Dave Ferguson (P&C President) for their support on the merit selection panel. Miss Lauren Duncan was appointed to Normanhurst West under the targeted graduate program. Miss Duncan received the highest grade in that State wide selection process.
NORMANHURST WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

Miss Rochelle Searle and Miss Clare Daly were both successful in their application to fill temporary teaching positions at the school in 2015. We welcome all new teachers to Normanhurst West PS. I would also like to acknowledge the many teacher applicants throughout the State for both the merit selection position and temporary positions at the school. It is a great learning environment to teach.

Meet the Teacher Evening
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.

New Community Members
The new school year has brought new families to the school from Kindergarten to Year 6 with one hundred new students. We warmly welcome the following families under their child’s surname and grade (siblings list the family more than once & some families have siblings transferring to NWPS): In Year 1 the Yun, Sams and Nyachhion families; In Year 2 the Roehrs and Agarwal families; In Year 3 the Cook, Hunt, Batten and Roehrs families; In Year 4 the Badger, Aggarwal and Kelly families. In Year 5 the Feldman, Roehrs and Batten families; & In Year 6 the Patene and Haarsma families.

In Kindergarten we welcome the Caddy, Chen, Daly, Fiddes, Khare, Mayer, Bradey, Cook, Hitchiner, McLaren, Packman, Archer, Barroeta-Sarris, Bickerstaff, Kim, Roberts, Wu, Andrew, Barnes, Huang, Ledwidge, Ng, Nightingale, O’Keeffe, Smith, Baxter, McCarthy, Raward, Soalheiro, Taylor, Willems, Adams, Carswell, Chiswick, Mance, Mason, Mebberson, Stephen-Edwards, Burke, Hill, Shejale and Tamse families. We hope a family was not left off the list.

We congratulate Mrs Johnson on becoming a mother. Baby Aiden, mum and dad are all doing well. Please continue to inform the school’s office of the exciting news of a new baby brother or sister for any of our students.

Welcome To Normanhurst West PS Barbeque
Next Friday, 13 February, the staff will be hosting our annual ‘Welcome to School BBQ’ to welcome all kindergarten and new families into the school. It will commence at 7.45am and there will be a free sausage sizzle (with bacon and eggs), as well as refreshments. It will be a fun-filled way to start the day and will provide a fabulous opportunity for you to meet other families in the school. An invitation will be sent to the new and kindergarten families.

Electronic Newsletter
The school newsletter is available to all families each Thursday. In these tech savvy times, sending our newsletter to families via email is long overdue. We are looking to setting up an e-newsletter group and send the newsletter home to families via email soon rather than the mass publication of previous paper copies.

Please complete the survey found later in this email and return it to your child’s teacher. If you indicate ‘YES’ and provide 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. Mrs Sharpe kindly loads the newsletter onto the school’s website. The school website option assists with links to various educational websites often referred to in each newsletter. The school website continues to receive a great deal of praise from our parents and their families as well as other schools. We look forward to your feedback about the website’s effectiveness.

School App
Last year we trialled the use of a school app to maintain an up-to-date calendar and the ability to send notifications out when activities like PSSA or carnivals are cancelled due to wet weather. Parents have indicated that this was a positive initiative and we have decided to continue with the app. Please let us know if you have any feedback or suggestions for the app. There are a number of positive initiatives that
should be released this year, including the ability to report absences electronically and hopefully organise parent-teacher meetings. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the school app, it 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

Morning Routines
Thank you for your assistance in helping our school to get off to a great start. Most children, especially our Kindergarten children, are settling well into the school routine. We would now ask that parents say goodbye quickly and leave their children ready to line up when the bell goes. This makes it much easier for the children to be settled and the staff to convey messages. Also, a reminder that no-one is to be in a classroom before school. Children are to hang up their bags and go directly into the playground where they are supervised from 8.35am.

New Year Reminders
As we start back for the new school year it may be timely to have some reminders regarding school procedures:-
☑ Please label all uniforms, drink bottles, lunch boxes etc
☑ All notes and money (including sick notes) are either handed in directly to the school office or to your child’s teacher. Money days are Tuesdays and Thursdays
☑ Please ensure that all medications that are administered by office staff have a valid use by date
☑ Uniforms may be ordered through the P&C and will be delivered to your child’s class or collected from the Uniform Shop.
☑ Car park is for staff only from 8am-4pm school days. Thank you to OOSH parents for observing this rule during the specified time.

Peanut Allergy
Several of our students have a severe, life threatening reaction to peanuts and nut products. Though they are very careful about not eating other students’ food, there is always the possibility of accidentally ingesting some transferred peanut product. For that reason I need to remind parents to take steps to ensure that peanuts and peanut products are not included in children’s lunch boxes. This is a voluntary arrangement but your support is crucial to providing a safe school environment for these children. Support from parents so far has been fantastic. Other measures have been put in place within the classrooms and canteen.

Child’s Health Notification
Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops. Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the Principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing. Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts. We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.

Swimming Carnival
Notes have been sent home outlining details of the upcoming swimming carnival for Years 3-6 on Wednesday 25 February. Whilst this is a Yr 3-6 carnival, there is an opportunity for highly competitive swimmers in Yr 2, who turn 8 this year, to compete. Parents who wish to have their Yr 2, 8 year old considered, are asked to contact the school office in writing outlining the swimming prowess of their child. The purpose of the carnival is to ascertain which students can qualify for the Zone Carnival. We endeavour to maximise participation if time permits.

Custody Orders
If your child is covered by parenting agreements or custody orders can you please provide an updated copy to the school if they have expired or changed as soon as possible.
Student and Family Information
It is essential that information on our students and families is current, not only for purposes of communication and student welfare but also because it has implications for our funding under the new RAM (Resource Allocation Model). In 2012, the NSW Government announced its Local Schools, Local Decisions (LSLD) reform for NSW public schools. From 2014, all schools will receive funding based on the first two components of the RAM: the targeted (individual student) funding and the equity funding (low level adjustment for disability, Aboriginal background, English language proficiency and socio-economic background). If any of your details have changed, I ask that you update us as soon as possible. Please be assured that information on families is confidential and secure.

Thank you Mr Pendleton
Mr Phill Pendleton, our general assistant (GA), worked tirelessly throughout the school holidays. Many tasks on the whole school community’s behalf were achieved with thought and pride of workmanship. The obvious signs of his effort are the state of the school grounds with the oval looking spectacular and removal of unsafe trees. The students and staff will benefit from new furniture and repairs to school assets. We have completed just one month of the year, in my opinion Mr Pendleton would be leading ‘General Assistant of the Year’ in a field of nearly 2300 NSW GAs.

Thought of the Week
“The most influential of all educational factors is the conversation in a child's home”.
William Temple

Greg McLaren
Principal

For your information

Doing Well in Class
Our expert panel shares tips about how parents can help their younger and older kids reach their full potential at school and motivate them for learning. Watch the video.

Getting Off to a Good Start
Wondering how to help your child do well at home and at school this year? The Department’s parent resource School A to Z has a webcast full of expert tips for you to help your child have a more successful year. The ‘getting off to a great start webcast’ has a number of chapters on how to motivate children for learning, advice on peer relationships and how to handle bullying, communicating with children and the importance of strong home-school relationships. The expert panel features advice from a child psychologist, an experienced family doctor and the Department’s Deputy Secretary (Schools), Mr Greg Prior. Watch the webcast at: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/getting-off-to-a-good-start

Is Your Child in a New Class Without Their Friends?
At some stage in their school life your child is likely to find themselves in a class without their close friends. It’s normal for them to initially feel a little anxious about this, so how should you handle it? Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/new-class-without-their-friends

We’ve Got School Covered
Practical help for parents is available online at the School A to Z site. Created by the Department of Education and Communities, this is a thriving online community with comprehensive homework and school life support for parents that are easy to use, relevant and engaging. There are free apps to download, informative podcasts, videos and articles by experts in the field. View it and save it to your favourites: www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au

Anaphylaxis Information
All of our teaching and support staff are trained to respond to an anaphylaxis emergency. If your child is diagnosed at risk of a severe allergic reaction, particularly anaphylaxis, the Anaphylaxis Procedures contain
Crunch& SIP®

Crunch& SIP® is a break during class when students can refuel on fruit and veg and rehydrate on water. The break assists students with physical and mental performance, and concentration in the classroom. Last year, Normanhurst West started having Crunch& SIP® as part of their daily timetable. As it was such a success we look forward to continuing in 2015.

Crunch& SIP® encourages fruit and vegetable snacking and drinking water. Healthy eating behaviours are modelled in the classroom and reinforce the nutrition messages in the PD/ H/ PE curriculum. By making fruit and vegetable eating and water drinking normal in the classroom, healthy habits can be formed and continued into adolescence and adulthood.

The Crunch& SIP® break gives students the opportunity to eat the piece of fruit that might otherwise be left in their lunchbox. Students are also more likely to eat their fruit or vegetables and drink their water if their friends and peers are all doing it too!

Please make sure your child has a piece of fruit or vegetables in manageable or small pieces and small bottle of water each day. A mandarin, 5 cherry tomatoes in a container or an apple cut in half between siblings make a great Crunch& SIP® snack.

Miss H Ryan and Miss S Keevy. Crunch& SIP Coordinators

SPANS SURVEY

Some of you may have heard about the Schools Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey (SPANS) which involves over 100 schools in NSW. I am delighted to announce that our school has been invited to participate. This is a great opportunity for our students to be involved in helping health professionals better understand children’s lifestyles such as their physical activity, fitness, food habits and movement skills. A team of specially trained teachers will collect the information on almost 8,000 students from Years K, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10. The survey is being managed by a research team from the University of Sydney.

Children in some classes will bring home information about the study and a consent form. The classes involved are KR, KM, 2S, 2D, 3/4P, 4N, 6M and 6P. If you receive this package, please read carefully the information statement; if you agree to allow your child to participate, please complete the consent form, and send it back to school (using the envelope provided) as soon as possible. The survey will take place at our school on Monday, 9th February 2015. Students from the classes involved, please wear your sport uniform on this day.

Holly Ryan. Live Life Well At School coordinator
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 smartphone, 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.normanhurst-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
NORMANHURST WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL
PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE CERTIFICATES
The children should receive their certificates by the end of this week. Congratulations to Annika Anson for receiving a Platinum Award after completing the challenge for seven years. Well done to the following students who received a Gold Award for completing the challenge for four years: Martin Aliaga, Emma Baker, Jack Baker, Mirabrook Bennett, Nick Blunt, Maximus Brisot, Jack Buzacott, Joshua Goddard, Sophie Greer, Michael Hibbard, Sophia Jennings, Rianna Schwarzl and Ananya Sharma. Remember the books you read now can count towards next year’s challenge. Just keep a record of them for when the website opens at the end of March next year.

Mrs Rosemary Gower, PRC 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 ____________________________

Be Skilled Be Fit Gymnastics Timetable
Years 3 – 6  Term 1, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
<th>Fridays: with a make-up lesson to be advised (due to Good Friday in Week 10)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td><strong>Class</strong></td>
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<td>9 – 9:40</td>
<td>5V</td>
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<td>10:20 – 11 am</td>
<td>6P</td>
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Recycling used printing and toner cartridges
Thank you to all those who have in the past brought in their printing cartridges (inkjet or laser printer cartridges, toner bottles, drum units or fuser kits, from printers, photocopiers or fax machines) to the box in the office foyer for recycling. Close the Loop® is a Melbourne based hi-tech resource Recovery Company providing a FREE collection and recycling program for imaging print consumables. Their program is jointly run with Planet Ark as well as Lexmark, Hewlett Packard, Brother, Konica Minolta, Panasonic, Epson and Canon. They are recycled into products such as eWood, rulers & EnviroLiner pens.

Mrs Rosemary Gower. Program Co-ordinator

FROM THE UNIFORM POOL

Happy New Year from the Uniform Pool and welcome to all new families.

The Uniform pool is open each Monday morning from 8.45-9.30am, selling new and second hand uniform items.

Placing an order

The most efficient and our preferred way for sales is to make an order via flexischools (www.flexischools.com.au) or to complete an order form (downloaded from the P&C website or from the office). Once processed, your order can be picked up from the shop window or sent home with your child. Avoid the queue, save time and make the most of your day!

If you are buying at the shop window, our preference is credit card or eftpos.

Flexischools

Flexischools is an easy option. To order online at FlexiSchools:

- go to http://www.flexischools.com.au
- click "Register Now"
- you will be sent an email with further instructions on how to complete the registration
- once registered, you can start ordering immediately

Refund/Exchange Policy

Any return items or items for exchange must be in new condition, have labels attached and a receipt is needed.

Second hand clothing

Please note, items sold from the second hand rack cannot be exchanged or returned. Please check items carefully and check sizing before purchasing.

Our Uniform Pool is run by volunteers and we thank them in advance for their time in 2015.

Jo Gee. Uniform Pool secretary
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.

PRAYER GATHERING

All are welcome to join us for prayer for our school community on Thursday 12 February as soon as morning lines are finished (ie just before 9am).

Please contact Juliette for more info 9945 1302 or hackettx5@optusnet.com.au 0426 211702

NORMO NIBBLES

The canteen will re-open for trading on Monday 9th February. Please remember that the 2014 volunteer roster is still going until March.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Attached to this newsletter is the canteen volunteer form for 2015. If you would like to help in the canteen this year please complete this form and hand it in to the office or the canteen as soon as possible. You can also email Meredith your preferred date and time for a canteen shift at speirs_m@yahoo.com.au

We really need some more volunteers for the Friday and Monday morning shifts.

Convenor needed

My turn as canteen convenor is coming to an end. I have been convenor for three years now and sadly I cannot continue in the role. We are therefore looking for a new convenor or two. This role can be split between two people. **If the role is not filled shortly the canteen will be closed until a convenor can be found.**

If you are interested in this position, please let me know either by email jane_barnwell@hotmail.com or by phone 0410637211.

Thank you.
Jane Barnwell – canteen convenor