Important Dates to put in the diary........

Monday 13th February  
Grade 5 & 6 Netbook Parent Information Sessions

Wednesday 15th February  
Parent Meet & Greet Interviews

Monday 20th February  
Japanese Students arrive

Thursday 23rd February  
New Families picnic 5—7pm

Monday 27th February  
Parent Club Meeting 7.30 pm

Wednesday 28th February  
Japanese Cultural Day

Happy Birthday to

Zack, Prep D  
Chloe, 1/2L

Tara, 1/2R  
Noah, 6J

Max, 6J  
Imogen, 1/2D

Lily, 5A  
Jay, 1/2B

April, 1/2L  
Levi, 1/2B

Mohamed, 5A  
Anna, 5A

Macy, 1/2D  
Kafa, 4W

Bill, Prep S  
Rayan, 1/2G

Mackenzie, Prep M  
Zali, Prep M

Preston, Prep D  
Ahmed, Prep M

Aiden, 4W  
Findley, 1/2D

Noah, 3M

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION: Newsletters will be published on the website each fortnight and if you would prefer to receive a hard copy you will need to advise the office.

6 WEEKS TO GO
Dear Families,

Welcome back! We trust you had a rejuvenating break. The students have all arrived back at school full of excitement and enthusiasm for learning, as have the teachers and staff!

We welcome our new Prep students too! They all look so smart and grown up in their uniforms and have settled into school routines beautifully.

We are also delighted to have some new faces join our teaching team at Newport Lakes. They are: Jeanette Finegan - Acting Assistant Principal, James Munro – Year 6, Amanda Elmer and Bec Grieve Year 5, Amy O'Dowd – Year 4, Laura D'Agostino and Leisha Liddell – Year 1/2 and we welcome back Tarsh Nicholson – drama and Sarah Hatcher to Prep.

Many thanks to the teachers for such a great start to the year! We appreciate the effort made to come into school over the holidays, to set up classrooms in readiness for the start of 2012.

**Teacher professional learning:** On Wednesday 1st February teachers officially started back at school and we had a very productive day, part of which involved planning our curriculum for term one. Our focus this year is to develop a ‘Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum’ for our students throughout the school. This is in line with initiatives outlined in the Victorian Department of Education and Western Metropolitan Region Blueprints. We will work on developing curriculum materials that support teachers to deliver high quality teaching and best practise across the curriculum. It will involve:

- Identifying and communicating the content considered essential for all students.
- Ensuring that the essential content can be addressed in the amount of time available for instruction.
- Ensuring that teachers address the essential content.

Protecting the instructional time available to teachers.

Research shows that having a **guaranteed and viable curriculum**—identifying what content is essential for all students, sequencing it in a way that gives students ample opportunity to learn it, and ensuring teachers address the content in their classrooms—is one of the most important things schools can do to raise student achievement.

This work will be continued throughout the year and during our staff meetings and future pupil-free days. We are very excited about undertaking this next level of work and will keep you informed of our progress along the journey.

**Changes aplenty:** There have been numerous changes made to our buildings and grounds over the holiday break. Some of these are:

- The resurfacing of our basketball court area, which looks amazing! Already we are noticing a large reduction in the number of grazed knees etc. having to be tended to. **Many thanks to all those who helped to fundraise in order to pay for this terrific new playing area. Our students LOVE it!**
- New music and LOTE rooms located in the old multi-purpose room.
- New staffroom and meeting room in the old art room.
- Replastering of the ceilings of the Year 5 and 6 classrooms and Laura’s Year 1/2 room.

New Prep room where our old staffroom was located.

You will probably be able to spot many more...
District Swimming Sports

The District Swimming Sports are coming up on Wednesday 29th February, 2012. In preparation, a training group will commence at the Footscray Park Aquatic and Fitness Centre. Students from Grade 3—6 who have registered to participate are advised that training will be held on the following dates.

- Tuesday 14th February
- Thursday 16th February
- Tuesday 21st February
- Thursday 23rd February

From the principal (continued)....

School procedures:

Starting the school day - All students in Years 1 – 6 are asked to move into their classrooms each morning at 8:55 am when they hear the music play. This allows students time to hang up their bags, organise water bottles, take home book bags, etc. to be taken into the classroom and be ready for learning promptly at 9:00 am.

Prep students are asked to line up in front of the multi-purpose room each morning at 8:55, where their teachers will meet them and walk them into their classrooms. At the end of the day teachers will walk Prep classes out to the same area to be collected by parents or carers.

Arrive on time: Due to a limited amount of parking around the school we advise those who drive students to school to please allow a little extra time by leaving home a few minutes earlier, just in case you have to park a distance away. The start of the day is very important, as routines are established and the school day is outlined to students in the first few minutes. Students who arrive late miss out on a very important part of their learning.

Teachers supervise the schoolyard from 8:45 each morning and this is a perfect time to arrive at school as it allows students to meet friends and expend a little energy before starting the day in their classrooms.

Safety: We have noticed quite a number of students and siblings removing their shoes and socks after school to play on the new surface. This poses a genuine injury risk, so we ask that parents encourage their children to keep shoes and socks on at school at all times.

Assemblies: Weekly assemblies are held on Monday mornings in the multi-purpose room. They begin at 9:00 and usually run for approximately half an hour. All are most welcome!

Handyman wanted: We have lots of odd jobs that require attention, including mowing the nature strip and oval, weeding, erecting shelving, painting, ongoing maintenance, etc. If you know of a skilled semi-retired or retired person looking for work for one day a week please let us know at the office.

Have a great week everyone,

Janet Gill
Acting Principal.

WATERPROOF/RAIN JACKET—UPDATE

We would like to apologise to families that placed orders for waterproof jackets late last year. There has been a delay in delivery and it is anticipated that we will receive them by the end of February.

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM

If anyone has any good quality second hand uniform they no longer need, donations can be left at the office. A second hand uniform stall will be held at the fete.
Welcome to all families and staff that are new to Newport Lakes and welcome back to the "old" ones!

Parents’ Club have lots of exciting events planned for this year and you can read about our first major one below. We encourage all families to get involved where they can, every little bit helps.

We are currently asking for volunteers to be the parent representatives for their class, please refer to the separate note that went home about this.

Parents’ Club formed 4 years ago, and we meet once a month (usually the last Monday night of the month, but there are day meetings) to discuss areas that we can help the school with. It is a great way to see how the school works together for the benefit of the children. The next meeting will be on Monday 27th February at 7:30 pm at the school. Children are most welcome, and we hope to see you there.

The AGM for Parents’ Club will be held on Monday 26th March at 7:30 at the school. The positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer will be vacated and we are asking people to consider taking these role on for the future of Parents’ Club. Please speak to the relevant people if you are interested in these roles.

Until next time...
Lorey

Fete News

Friday March 23rd 3:30 – 8:30

As of Thursday 9th February, there are only 43 sleeps until the Fete!!!

If you haven’t been to our fete before, it is a great opportunity to showcase our school and the many varied talents that we have, from baking, to craft, to hair styles and makeup, to singing and acting – and even getting slimed!

Each year level have been allocated stalls and the co-ordinators will be asking people to volunteer for setting up, working the stall and packing away. We will also be asking people to be general “groundskeepers” and “decorators” on the day.

We will be asking people to donate second hand goods and books next week.

Watch this space and check your child’s bag for more information every week as the date gets closer.
WILLY FESTIVAL

We look forward to informing you soon about a great new concept for this year’s event & how your child/family may become involved both at school and at the festival on Saturday, April 28th. This date is early in Term 2 but note it on your calendar now.

MOOMBA ALLSTARS

Drumming in the Moomba Parade on Monday March 12th
Justin O’Dwyer a drumming legend & coordinator of schools participating in the parade invited children in grades 4-6 from NLPS to be involved.
On Monday next, Feb 13th all children in these grade levels will attend a drumming demonstration conducted at school by Justin. At the conclusion, all children will receive a letter outlining a proposal to parents which explains the process for children who are keen to become involved and who have family support. To proceed further children are required to return a signed agreement of participation. Then two upcoming workshops at school will prepare these children for 2 x Saturday combined rehearsals with other schools. Parents are responsible to arrange for their child to attend these weekend rehearsals.
Then, the Moomba Parade!
What a proud moment it will be to see our NLPS children in the Moomba parade.

PICNIC AT SCHOOL FOR ALL NEW NLPS FAMILIES

Thursday, February 23rd 5-7pm  At school - playground at the back.
All Prep & other new families - Come along & meet the staff from NLPS as well as other families
Bring along a picnic rug or chair & BYO food & drink

THE SPOTSWOOD RSL

On Sunday, February 19th at 11am, three NLPS children have been invited to attend an informal service to mark the 42nd anniversary of the Bombing Of Darwin. They will place rosemary on a community monument & plaques.
If your child (from grades 3-6) is available on that day & you would like them to take part please let Nola Wilson know ( or leave message at office).
You could research the topic with your child & find some books written for children & set in that time.
The RSL is in Melbourne Rd Spotswood. All are welcome to attend.

NAGOYA WOMENS’ UNIVERSITY

Each year NLPS agrees to host students from this university who are studying to become Primary teachers. Other schools & kindergartens in our area also host groups of students. We have 8 students arriving on Sunday, 19th Feb and staying until Tuesday, March 6th. School families provide "home stay" for these students.

At school each Japanese student will be assigned to a class & work with the teachers and children. A focus during their time at NLPS will be to prepare a lesson & deliver this to a variety of grades. This will take place on Japanese Cultural Day, Monday March 27th.
Bec Grieve, one of our staff members will conduct English classes for the Japanese students between 9-11 am each day in the 1st week of their stay.
It is always an exciting time for our school community and we know that you will all welcome the girls & make their stay in Australia a great experience

A Japanese Cultural Day will be held on Wednesday, Feb 29th. On this day we encourage all children to dress in a Japanese costume or similar. The colours of the Japanese flag could be worn. A parade is usually held (weather permitting) at the beginning of this day & parents are welcome to come along.
Opening accounts for School Banking – great news!

Don’t forget that **Monday** is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit each Monday.

School Banking accounts can now be opened at any Commonwealth Bank branch. You no longer need to complete application forms and return them to school. Just go into any branch and ask to open a Youth-saver account for School Banking.

Remember to take in identification for you and your child (such as driver’s license and birth certificate), you will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book on the spot and be able to start banking on the next business day – it is that easy!

If you are a Commonwealth Bank customer with NetBank you have the option to open the account online as well!

**NEW! School Banking accounts for Siblings**

In 2012, Newport Lakes PS will also offer School Banking for siblings of current students, so just send their deposit books along with their brother/sister.

From January 2012 when children make their first deposit they will get their first token and our school will also receive $5 commission. Thank you for supporting our school and teaching your child good savings skills.

If you have any questions, please contact the School Banking Co-ordinator, Allana Arapakis on 0400 113 333.