**Newport Lakes Primary School**

**THURSDAY 22ND MARCH, 2012**

Important Dates to put in the diary……..

**Friday 23rd March**  
Summer Sports Round Robin  
Twilight Fete—FREE DRESS DAY

**Monday 26th March**  
School Council Meeting  
Parents’ Club AGM

**Monday 26th March**  
Grade 1/2 Excursion to Scienceworks  
Preps excursion to Newport Lakes

**Friday 30th March**  
Last day Term1—2.30 pm dismissal

**Monday 16th April**  
First day of Term 2

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**TERM DATES**

**2012**

**Term 1**  
February 2nd—March 30th

**Term 2**  
April 16—June 29th

**Term 3**  
July 16—September 21st

**Term 4**  
October 8th—December 21st

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**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.

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**AWARDS**

Congratulations to our award winners....

- Elliott, Prep D
- Alexander, Prep S
- Ruby, 1/2G
- Ned, 4W
- Yasmin, 1/2D
- Tara, 1/2R
- Tessa, 4A
- Audrey, 3D
- Lili, 1/2L
- Jojo, 3M
- Marcus, Prep M
- Jake, 1/2B
- Miles, Prep K
- Siksha, 5A
- Blake, 6J
- Indonesian—Jacob

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**FREE DRESS DAY—FRIDAY 23RD MARCH**

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Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that I find myself writing the last newsletter of the term! What a term it has been. Of course a large focus has been around the build up to the fete but alongside that we have had many other activities and learning opportunities in which our students and their families have been involved. These include the Prep Beach Party and New Families picnic, meet the teacher interviews, the morning swimming program for students involved in the District swimming sports and then of course the sports themselves, the Moomba All-Star Drummers and Performers being part of the Moomba Parade, our visitors from Japan and the culminating Japanese Cultural day, the Folk and Fiddle Bush Dance, three Grade six students visiting the local council chambers to articulate issues of concern for our school, just to name a few. As well as all this there have been local excursions to Newport Lakes, the Grade six students attended a Leadership conference in the city and the Grade 3 and 4 students were visited by John Nicola who shared with them his plan to run across the Sahara Desert to raise money for Optometry Giving Sight, which provides eye medical treatment for those less fortunate. A total of $448.25 was raised, a fantastic effort. I think you will agree, it has been a very busy and productive term.

School Council
We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and officially welcome our new school council parent members for 2012. Ryan Grieve, Matthew Shanahan, Kylie Halarakis, Martine Rolley and Jacqueline Newbegin were the successful candidates and we would like also to thank all the nominated candidates for their continued support of Newport Lakes Primary School. The first meeting with the new councillors will take place next Monday the 26th of March at 6:30 pm.

Enrolment Ceiling and Neighbourhood Zone
A very valuable and productive meeting was held last Thursday the 15th of March regarding the enrolment ceiling for 2013. We would like to thank all those who attended. Everyone present was solution minded and positive. It was decided that the first step would be to collect data regarding siblings who are intending to enrol at Newport Lakes in 2013 and beyond. A note was sent home and many have been returned, which we are currently collating. Thank you to all who have returned this information as it is giving us a clearer picture of how we can facilitate future enrolments without disadvantaging families. We ask that anyone who has yet to return this form to do so as soon as possible. We will keep you posted.

Teacher Professional Learning
Last Tuesday afternoon we were very fortunate to have a presentation from Gail Prunetti, on accommodating students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder into the mainstream classroom. Gail is from Western Autistic School and has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the area of ASD. She provided us with the current views of Autism and offered some very practical strategies to assist these children integrate and learn within a mainstream classroom. Teachers found the presentation extremely valuable as they believed that many of the strategies, such as displaying a schedule for the day and marking it off as the day progresses, providing visual cues such as gestures and pictures and teaching children about appropriate ways to express their emotions, would be beneficial for all the children in the grade. Gail has already visited our school on a number of occasions to observe students and assist their teachers and has promised to continue this extremely worthwhile service.

Fete
As you may have noticed on the fete newsletter, it is full steam ahead with the fete, regardless of the weather forecast. We have some contingency plans in place, one of those being to make sure that all available fingers and toes are firmly crossed! As we have no control over the weather, we are hoping that there will be enough clear skies to ensure a successful event.

See you all there!

Jeanette Finegan
Acting Assistant Principal
**The students in grade 3 have spent several weeks this term making and decorating lanterns in the Art room. These lanterns will be part of a community event for the Williamstown Festival on the evening of April 28th. The twilight lantern parade will weave its way through Nelson Place and into the Commonwealth Reserve. The parade will involve 500–600 students from the local area and will be an impressive site.**

On the Wednesday April 16th at 9am the Grade 3 students will be having a safety briefing and we are looking for parents to be involved as fire marshals. What this space for more information as the date gets closer – mark it in the diary as the community event of the year.

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**Luca Tarticchio in Grade 6 recently competed in the Preston Junior Track Cycling Carnival. He won 3 Gold medals and is now the Under 13 State Champion in the Flying 200m, the 500m Time Trial and the Scratch Race.**

He also won the progressive points race which was not a State Championship event. Congratulations to Luca on this fantastic achievement.

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**Farewell and Thank you**

Next Friday, the last day of term, is my last teaching day at Newport Lakes Primary School. Many parents have caught up with me over the last couple of weeks & I thank you all for your warm wishes & interest in what my retired life will bring. I have been most fortunate to have had the privilege to work with you and your children & this great school community. I will miss you all very much. I extend my best wishes to you all for whatever the future holds for you.

Kind Regards,  Nola Wilson
The Newport Lakes Parent Club was established in March 2008 and the focus was to “enhance community involvement at Newport Lakes Primary School.”

We are governed by a constitution, as required by the Education Department, and all positions are opened for election at the Annual General Meeting held in March of every year.

In order to function, the club must fill the roles of President, Treasurer and Secretary. Additional roles, such as Vice President, Fundraising Co-ordinator, Events Co-ordinator, Fete Co-ordinator etc. are determined on an as-needed basis.

As members of Parents Victoria, we have access to their policies and resources, including a comprehensive manual (available on CD) and regular updates via their newsletter.

Remember: the more people that volunteer for the roles of co-ordinators of fundraising, fete, gardening, events, etc. the less work each individual has to do!

For more information about any of these positions, please email Lorey on Inbentley@aapt.net.au

If you would like to nominate yourself or somebody else for one of the vacant positions, all you need to do is let Lorey know and/or just turn up to the AGM on the 26th March.

What does this mean for you? If you would like to be a financial member of NLPS Parents’ Club for 2012, a $5 membership per family is required to cover the costs of being a member of Parents Victoria and stationary costs. Please fill out the form below and return to the school via your child’s teacher along with your $5 (cash only)