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

Thursday 31st May
Parents Movie Night

Friday 1st June
Prep Music Show & Tell

Tuesday 5th June
World Environment Day

Friday 8th June
Sausage Sizzle Day

Tuesday 12th June
Pupil Free Day

Friday 15th June
Camp Deposit Due

Sunday 24th June
Prep Family Party

Wednesday 15th August
Art Exhibition Opening Night

Monday 8th October - Wednesday 10th October
Grade 3–6 Camp

TERM DATES
2012
Term 2
April 16—June 29th

Term 3
July 16—September 21st

Term 4
October 8th—December 21st

AWARDS
Congratulations to our award winners....

Maya, Prep S
Omar, 6J
Ethan, Prep M
Shea, 1/2L
Jake, Prep D
Tess, 1/2B
Patrick, 4W
Macayla, 3M
Max, Prep M
Freya, 1/2D
Ahmed, Prep D
Luca, 6J
Tess, 1/2B
Amelia, Prep S
Isacc, 1/2L
Sani, 5A
Tom, 4W
Charlie, Prep K
Luke, 1/2G
Lulu, 4A
Ayla, 2D
Isaac, 1/2L
Harry, 1/2R
Mackenzie, Prep M
Tilda, 1/2K
Nicholas, 1/2R
Otto, Prep S
Ruby, 1/2B
Marlo, 3D
Jayde, 4A
Kate, 5/6Jake, Prep D
Omar, 6J
Chevelle, 1/2R
Oliver, 1/2D
Callum, 3M
Sylvie, 1/2B
Anna, 5A
Jake, Prep D

Pupil Free Day—Tuesday 12th June, 2012

Quantin Binnah will provide care on this day if they receive a minimum number of students. If you require care on this day please call the centre on 9742 5040 to make a booking.
Dear Families,

Thank you to all the teachers, students and parents who participated in Education Week at Newport Lakes Primary School last week, making it such a rewarding and exciting experience for all concerned. Every activity was a great success and lots of fun, whilst also being an opportunity to showcase the amazing learning that occurs at our school, activities such as: open rehearsals for school band, open morning - when students listened attentively to parents and grandparents favourite books (what an overwhelming number of visitors we had), spelling bee, student versus teacher debate, performances by Bayside Secondary College Band, simultaneous storytelling time (we now all know and love the story of *The Very Cranky Bear* by Nick Bland) and to top off a tremendous week, we all munched on teacup treats provided by our terrific parents to raise money for The Biggest Morning Tea for cancer research.

As we head into Winter, it is timely to think about the importance of school attendance and arriving at school on time each morning. Being absent from school or arriving late, has a significant negative impact on student learning and wellbeing. I’ve included the following article from Michael Grose (parenting educator) for your information.

**It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school**

*When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.*

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time. It sounds simple, but it’s true. The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success. Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it’s often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned. It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away!

It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event. This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences. Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Commit to sending kids to school every day. Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time. Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence. Consider catching-up on missed work.
From the principal (continued) ....

**Being late is not okay either**

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late. Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

**It takes strong parenting...**

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as, “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!” Nice try. But the answer should be ‘No!’

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day. Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with **NO EXCUSE.**

By Michael Grose

**Student wellbeing service:** We have recently been introduced to a free service that is available to students and families of Newport Lakes Primary School. The service is called ‘onpsych’. The following is some information about the service. For more details, referral form or answers to frequently asked questions, please see your child’s teacher or ask at the school office. I am happy to chat with anyone with queries about this service.

Parents help their children from the moment they are born. Sometimes, a child will face problems that parents don’t understand and have trouble helping them with. Many parents know the pain of being a parent and feeling unable to help their child. This can leave parents feeling powerless.

As a parent, you are never powerless.

Children learn skills every day that help them succeed in life. At school, they learn many skills such as numeracy, literacy, artistic, physical and social skills. Some children learn at a fast rate and some at a slow rate. When a student falls behind, schools provide intensive teaching to remediate slow learning rates in literacy and numeracy. Children also learn social, cognitive and emotional skills. If children are not developing these vital skills, psychologists can help them with intensive skill development activities.

Seeking help from a psychologist in these situations can be of great benefit to parents and their child.
What do you get when you put a biscuit, a marshmallow, a freckle and half a lifesaver together? A very yummy teacup! A big thank you to Allana Arapakis and the team of volunteers for organizing a great morning tea for all the kids and the teachers and raising funds for Cancer Council. We raised $370, which was more than double the amount raised last year!

Tonight a group of about 40 parents are off to the opening night of What to Expect When Your Expecting. No doubt there will be many laughs. Thank you to Sue Phillips for organizing this event.

The sausages will be sizzling at lunchtime on Friday 8th June. If you have not put your form in please do so by Monday 4th June. We have 2 cooks to turn the sausages and extra people to serve them up. Tracey Jarret is co-ordinating this. Thanks Tracey.

Have a shovel? What about a wheelbarrow? I know just the place for you. Friday 15th June come to the end of the yard at 9am and help move the large pile of mulch onto the surrounding garden! If it is raining we will postpone to the following week. If you are able to assist please let me know jlo35310@bigpond.net.au

On Saturday 30th June we have been allocated the Sausage Sizzle at Altona Bunnings. This is an opportunity to raise over $1,000 from outside the school community. If you are able to assist please email Afro Cook at dan_cook@optusnet.com.au. Afro has volunteered to put together a roster of times from 8-4pm in one and half hour, or more, timeslots. More information closer to the time but all help greatly appreciated.

The school will be purchasing a new six burner BBQ to enable us to continue holding our great events for the growing community. The money that we raised from the Mother’s Day breakfast will go towards this. YAYEEE

A great turn out at this week’s Parents Club meeting. Thank you to the regulars but a big thanks to the new parents who turned up on a cold Monday night. And yes there was chocolate! And don’t forget this term we celebrate a very important birthday, no I do not mean the Queen. Whose is it?

Next Parents Club meeting Monday 25th June 7.30pm in the staffroom.

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Frequently Asked Questions

*What are the benefits of my child seeing an onPsych psychologist?* onPsych psychologists are experts in their field. They offer professional help with simple problems like making friends, to complex issues of mental health, such as:

- Dealing with bullying
- Fears, phobias & anxiety
- Behaviour problems at home and at school
- Self-harm, alcohol & substance abuse
- Depression
- Managing anger
- Attention deficit & hyperactivity
- Social skills
- Eating disorders
- Grief and loss

Common disabilities such as Hearing impairment, Sight impairment, Deaf, blindness, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, Cerebral palsy, Autism.

OnPsych also offers individual/group skills training:
- Communication skills
- Problem solving
- Stress management
- Negotiation skills
- Relaxation
- Social skills training
- Bully proofing
- Motivation
- Parenting

**Report writing:** Our teachers are spending every spare waking moment at present writing student reports, which will be sent home to parents on the last Monday of the term. Teachers will invite parents to school for an interview on the last Wednesday of term, Wednesday 27th June. This is an important opportunity to discuss your child’s learning and celebrate her/his achievements to date this year and we would encourage all parents to take advantage of this invitation. If you are unable to attend on Wednesday 27th June, please make arrangements to meet with your child’s teacher at another convenient time.

Have a great fortnight everyone,

Janet Gill
The Art room is looking for donations of artwork such as paintings, photography or drawings. Arty objects such as hand-made jewellery, quilts or toys. Items will be auctioned at the 2012 Art Exhibition.

Please take the time to have a look at this beautiful chair in the office donated by one of the parents for the auction.

WISDOM OF THE CROWD
The 2012 Newport Lakes Primary School Art Exhibition

The Newport Lakes Primary School Gallery - Multipurpose Building

Wednesday August 15th
6.30 pm—8.30 pm

An adult’s only event featuring student artwork for sale and art auction

Wednesday August 15th—August 21st
Gallery Hours 8.30 am—4 pm.

Tickets $5 per person
Includes a glass of wine on arrival, canapés and refreshments.

ALTONA GATE SHOPPING CENTRE RUN AROUND AUSTRALIA 2012

Newport Lakes Primary is participating in Altona Gates Shopping Centre Run Around Australia.

The Run Around Australia Campaign is designed to positively influence children’s (and their parents) food and lifestyle choices while offering school communities a great way to obtain additional funding.

The school with the most points at the end of the promotional period will win a Gold Medal Makeover valued at $46,000. This prize will assist schools in making their environment a healthy place to be. Weekly prizes will also be awarded to schools.

Families can simply present shopping receipts at the centre or drop them in the box at the school office.

If someone has a receipt that they want to keep, simply show it at the Customer Service Desk at Altona Gate—all receipts presented at the desk are stamped and handed straight back.
This week Cristy and a group of children cooked our beautiful broccoli grown by Garden Club. The cooking group made broccoli and Cheesy sauce. We are waiting for our snow peas to start growing, to cook an Indonesian stir fry with our broccoli. We have been growing sprouts in garden club. Please bring along a jar on Thursdays if you would like to grow some sprouts at home. We are still after donations of worms for our worm farms please. It would be great to start composting some lunch waste.

On Friday the 15th June we need volunteers to move mulch onto the garden beds please. Bring along shovels and wheelbarrows from 9am - 10am.

Sids and Kids

At the end of last term we donated the left over books, clothes and second hand goods from the fete to Green Sids and Kids. The SIDS and Kids foundation provide a range of services to support any family (or anyone in the community) who has been impacted by the sudden and unexpected death of a child. This may be from an accident (fire, drowning, motor vehicle), SIDS, Stillbirth or sudden onset illness. Thank you once again for your generous donations. Red Nose day is coming up. Please buy a Red nose on the 29th June and support this great cause. Bec and Ryan Grieve