Important Dates to put in the diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 31st January</td>
<td>Preps attend 9.00—1.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 3rd February</td>
<td>Preps attend 9.00—3.30 pm except Wednesdays until week 10th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4th February</td>
<td>Preps Coffee &amp; Literacy Chat in MPR 9.15—10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5/6 Team Challenge Incursion No. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5th February</td>
<td>Swimming Training 7.30—8.15 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 6th February</td>
<td>Preps Coffee &amp; Specialist Chat in MPR 9.15—10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 7th February</td>
<td>Grade 1 Excursion to Essendon Traffic School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10th February</td>
<td>Gr 3/4 Information Sessions 6.30—7.30 pm MPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11th February</td>
<td>Prep Information Session 6.30—7.30 pm MPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12th February</td>
<td>Gr 1/2 Information Session 6.30—7.30 pm MPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th February</td>
<td>Gr 5/6 Information Sessions 6.30—7.30 pm MPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17th February</td>
<td>School Council Meeting 6.30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 27th February</td>
<td>Preps &amp; New Parents Picnic 6.30 pm—Basketball Court Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5th March</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews 2—7 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Volunteers Required in 2014 – Parents Club President & Fresh Fruit Volunteers

Two of the very many successful parent co-ordinated and conducted programs that operate at Newport Lakes Primary School for the benefit of all our children and families are the ‘Fresh Fruit Monday’ and Parents Club.

The ‘Fresh Fruit’ program began as an initiative of the Bracks Government to benefit our local Australian fruit growers and suppliers and to provide our early years children with a piece of fresh fruit every week. Although the government no longer funds this program the school believes that it is a very important program and have funded the program ourselves. We purchase 2 boxes of a mixed variety of fresh fruit from our local fruiterer, Merlino’s every Monday morning and we have a number of parents that cut up the produce to make mixed fruit platters for each of our early years grades.

A number of our hard working volunteers that have been doing this role will unfortunately not be available this year. If you can help out for an hour or so on a Monday morning to assist in this role in 2014 we would love to hear from you. If you are available please come along to the canteen this Monday morning!! It is a wonderful opportunity to assist the school working together with a small group of other parents.

The Newport Lakes Primary School Parents Club is a very active and important part of our school community. Jacqui Lomas will need to ‘step down’ from her role as President of Parents Club in 2014 and a new parent will be required to take on this role. If you believe you could assist in this role, or would like more information about Parents Club or the role of the President please contact Jacqui directly or leave your details at the office and a representative will contact you.

The Parents Club provides many wonderful and beneficial programs and services to the school and without a President, it cannot operate. If you believe that you may be able to assist please consider the possibility of taking on, or assisting, in this role as it will be a great loss to all our school and students if the Parents Club does not continue in 2014 and beyond.

If any parents would like to assist with covering some new books, could you please leave your details at the front office.
Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all Newport Lakes students and families. We are very pleased to have you all back again and so eager to get back to work! A special welcome to all our Preps and other new students beginning at Newport Lakes this year.

We are sure you are going to enjoy your time at Newport Lakes Primary. Please remember that we are here to support you on your new educational journey and don’t hesitate to ask any of us if there is something troubling or puzzling you.

I would also like to welcome some teachers and support staff to our school including Taegen Pearson (Prep), Emma Govan (Yr. 3/4), Jackson Castigilone (Drama) and Morgan Rose (Education Support). A big welcome back to Tammi Cordell (Yr. 1) and Tracey Hall (Yr. 2) on their return from leave.

All grades had a smooth and entertaining start to the school year with their new teacher and classmates over the last week. The specialist programs of Physical Education, Art, Indonesian and Performing Arts (Music/Drama) will begin next week for all classes. For these lessons parents are reminded that children will require; Physical Education ~ runners (school shoes are not suitable for running and will also mark the floor of the hall when participating in active programs), a water bottle and if possible, shorts & tracksuit, Art ~ A waterproof (therefore paint proof) art smock and in Library ~ A library bag to protect borrowed books (a green/blue recycle bag from the supermarket is great for this task).

Newport Lakes Primary School is a ‘Sunsmart School’ and has a policy that all students are to wear an approved sunhat (bucket or legionnaire style) during terms 1 & 4. Students are to bring along their hats to school every day during Term 1 and a ‘no hat ~ no play’ rule will apply. Parents are reminded to clearly label their child’s hat and to continuously check that the label remains legible. It is also recommended that all students have their own water bottle with them every day at school. This bottle will be accessible to the children during class and must only contain water. Please do not fill with juice, cordial, etc.

We have had a very warm start to the year and the predictions are for a stretch of very warm and dry days to come over the next few weeks.

If the hot weather becomes extreme (above 34°C and a strong northerly wind) there may be the need to restrict or reduce the outside play times during recess or lunch. Although many of the children are very disappointed about missing out on their play periods, it is necessary that we restrict the amount of exercise and exposure to the heat on these days. In these situations students are supervised indoors where they participate in passive play such as board games and craft activities.

The ‘Lost Property’ box is located outside the office area. All items labelled with your child’s name will be returned to your child.

I would also like to remind our school community that we have a number of children at Newport Lakes that suffer from anaphylaxis. These children suffer from severe allergies to nuts and nut products (especially peanuts and peanut butter), fish and shellfish. We ask all our parents to assist in making our school a safe environment for these children by not including any of these products in your children’s snacks or lunches.

If there is a child suffering from Anaphylaxis in your child’s class you will receive a letter notifying you of this and how you can assist in making the classroom a safe environment for all children.
Communication at School

Communication between school and home is very important in every child’s education. There are multiple means of staying in touch with your child’s teacher and being informed of what is happening at school. Some of these include:

Newsletter – Every second Thursday the school newsletter is distributed to parents by email. The newsletter will contain information about activities and that have been happening and are being planned for the future. (A condensed hard copy will be available to parents upon request.) Please ensure that your email details are up to date on the school website.

Reminders Notice – Every Monday or Tuesday a ‘Reminders’ email will be sent out to all families on the newsletter distribution list giving details of the upcoming events for the following 2 weeks.

School Website – The school website (www.newportlakesps.vic.edu.au) has a wealth of information about the school and what’s happening. There is also a link to notify the school of any student absences, a copy of all permission notices that have been sent home with your child, a school calendar that contains dates of all events and activities throughout the year including holidays and pupil free days and a contact link to send emails to the school.

Contacting your Child’s Teacher – If you have any concerns or would like to discuss a matter in regards to your child it is very important that you arrange to meet with your child’s teacher. This can be done in a number of ways including;
- dropping in to the classroom before school (8.50–9.00am) Only suitable for brief messages
- arranging a meeting at a time suitable for both parties. This can be done by sending a note to the teacher, emailing the school (place teachers name in subject box) or leaving a message and contact details at the school office for the class teacher to contact you.
- emailing the teacher (as above).

Parent Teacher Interviews – These are conducted biannually, at the beginning of the year and at mid year. The first interviews will be conducted on Wednesday 5th March from 2 – 7pm. A notice will be sent home in a couple of weeks and bookings will be able to be made online. If you need to discuss a matter with your child’s teacher at any other time during the year please do not hesitate to contact the school to make an appointment.

Student Reports – All children will be assessed on the AusVels curriculum with a written report. AusVELS incorporates the Australian Curriculum F-10 for English, Mathematics, History and Science within the curriculum framework first developed for the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). Student reports will be sent home prior to the mid year parent interviews and at the end of the year.

Assisting in the Classrooms – There are many different ways you can assist in school and your child’s classroom. A parents helpers program will be operating for all P-2 classes where parents are rostered on to assist with the daily reading program. An induction program will be held later in Term 1 for new Parents to assist in the Parents Helpers Program. Parents are also often required to assist on excursions and classroom activities where an extra set of hands and eyes is of invaluable assistance. Please discuss with your child’s teacher if there are ways you can assist in the classroom.

Information Sessions – In week 3 of this term we will be conducting Information sessions in the evenings for all Grade levels. These sessions will give an overview of the curriculum, special events and activities, homework etc. All teachers in the grade level will be in attendance. The sessions will be conducted in Multipurpose Hall from 6.30 -7.30pm. The dates for each Information session are;
Monday 10th February - Yr. 3/4
Tuesday 11th February - Prep
Wednesday 12th February - Yr. 1/2
Thursday 13th February - Yr. 5/6

The Information Sessions are optional but unfortunately child minding will not be available.

Prep Coffee Chats – Next week a series of ‘coffee chats’ will be conducted for interested prep parents at 9.15am (drop the children off and come on over) to have an informal discussion about what’s happening in your child’s new classroom. On Monday 3rd, Janet Gill will be discussing Literacy, on Tuesday 4th Feb, Janet and Terry Antoniadis will be talking about Maths in the Prep Room and on Thursday all the Specialist Teachers (Art, Music, Physical Education, Drama and Indonesian) will be discussing the wonderful things your child will be doing in their programs.

Staying informed on what’s happening at school and having a good communication channel with your child’s teacher is very important. There are many ways and options this can be achieved as listed above, it is a matter of finding the means which suits your needs.

But if there are any concerns or ways we can assist, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher, the wonderful school office staff, Janet or myself.

I hope you have a good week and try to keep as cool as possible over the next few days.

David Moss
Principal