Important Dates to put in the diary

Friday 5th December
Prep Orientation Day No. 3
Pizza Lunch Day
Final day for library books to be returned

Saturday 6th December
Working Bee 9am

Monday 8th December
School Council Meeting

Tuesday 9th December
Year 7 Transition Day
Parent helpers morning tea

Thursday 11th December
Prep Incursion
2015 Prep Play Date 2.45pm—3.30pm
School Banking Redemption Day—1.40pm in MPR
Parent Club Meeting 6.30pm Restaurant TBC

Friday 12th December
Icy Pole Day—Gr 6 Graduation fundraiser

Monday 15th December
Grade 6 Graduation

Tuesday 16th December
Grade 6 Big Day Out

Friday 19th December
Last day of term—1.00pm finish

TERM DATES
2014
Term 4
6th October - 19th December

2015
Pupil Free Days (TBC)
Friday 20th Feb
Friday 29th May
Friday 4th Sep
Mon 2nd Nov

AWARDS

Congratulations to our award winners:

- Joseph, 1L
- Lucy, Prep S
- Callum, 5/6L
- Charles, 2N
- Jane, Prep T
- Hussein, 3/4M
- Daisy, 5/6L
- Shae, 3/4G
- Eman, 5/6M
- Grace, 5/6S
- Pat, 1O
- Bailey, Prep D
- Mahdi, 2R
- Dee Dee, 5/6M
- Zali, 2N
- Grade 1O
- Grade 2N
- Darcy Prep D
- Patrick, 1C
- Macy, 3/4G
- Leo, 1L
- Fatma, 5/6W
- Catrin, 2H
- Evelyn, Prep D
- Bertie, 5/6S
- All Preps
- Ingrid, Prep D
- Mia, 2H
- Amy, 2R
- Hamish, 3/4W
- Oscar, 3/4W

We would like to wish the following students a very happy birthday:

- Jesse, 1O
- Ben, 3/4M
- Lucienne, 1L
- Cooper, 2R
- Tahir, 3/4H
- India, Prep D
- Charlie, 1L
- Mary, 5/6S
- Joseph, 1L
- Zachary, 5/6S
- Wren, 2R
- Grace, 1O
- Nicholas, 1O
- Cammy, 2H
- Edie, 2H
- Lucas, 2N
- Marcus, 2H
Dear Parents,

As we enter into the final part of term 4, we begin the very busy time of completing the school year. Some of the many items that we have planned for the last few weeks of school include the yr.5/6 swimming program, a Parent’s Morning Tea, Transition Days (kinder ~prep and Yr. 6~7), Yr 3/ 4 excursion to the Sun Theatre, Preps are visiting the Westgate Aged Care Centre, the Yr. 6 graduation, Big Day Out and the occasional class party.
And this is all in the last 2 ½ weeks of term!!!!!

**Twilight Soiree**- A wonderful evening of entertainment was provided to all those that attended the School’s premier ‘Twilight Soiree’ conducted last week. Over 20 of our very talented students performed a program full of different music items displaying their many different instrumental talents. A big thank you to all the students that performed on the evening (you were fantastic) and also to Racheal and Patrick Lawrence for initiating and organising such a magical and enjoyable evening.

**State Election**- Apparently there was an election conducted last Saturday but undoubtedly the highlight of the day was the Newport Lakes Parents Club Sausage Sizzle and stalls. The BBQ, cake stall, plant sale and ‘Book and Toys’ stall were an outstanding success and highlighted the wonderful community spirit of our school. Thank you to Mel Davies and all the parents (and students) that once again, gave up their time and contributed in such a wonderful way to our school.

**Transition Sessions** ~ Two very successful information sessions were conducted last Friday for our Prep families beginning at Newport Lakes in 2015. We currently have 69 new preps and 34 new families at Newport Lakes for next year.
The majority of the new families were in attendance and all the feedback on the sessions was very positive. Many of the new preps beginning next year have been able to attend the transition sessions and are all ready to begin their school days at Newport Lakes next year.

**Bookpacks** ~ Parents are reminded that all 2015 booklists need to be completed and returned with payment to the school by Friday 5th December. Bookpacks will be ordered and delivered directly to the school during the Christmas holidays. All bookpacks will then be labelled and distributed to the classrooms to be available to the children on the first day of school.

Please note: Parents will not be required to pick up the bookpacks from the school as they will be delivered directly to the student’s classroom.
School Organisation for 2015.
A number of staffing positions are still being advertised and decided. Although there still may be changes between now and when we begin the new school year the following organisation is presently planned for 2015;

Prep (x3)  Diana Stefanovic  Sarah Charles  Taegan Pearson
Yr. 1/2 (x5)  Tammi Cordell  Lee Rutledge  Amy O’Dowd  Leisha Liddell  Sarah Hatcher
Yr 3/4 (x5)  Denise O’Shea  Warren Hales  Emma Govan  Tarsh Nicholson  Carol Martins
Yr 5/6  Melinda Lagerwey  Matt Williamson  James Munro  Laura D’Agostino
Specialists:  PE / Terry Antoniadis  Visual Art / Laura Russell  Drama / Jackson Castiglione
Indonesian / Lyndal Carrington  Music / TBC  Reading Intervention / Susan Spelic

Composite or multi-age classrooms at Newport Lakes PS

Each year at Newport Lakes PS a decision is made about grade structures for the following year. In 2015 we will have three teams in the school with multi-aging or composite groupings, Years 1/2, Years 3/4 and Years 5/6. This has been a deliberate decision, which we believe is advantageous in the following ways.

What are the benefits of multi-aging for teachers and children?
Research has highlighted the benefits for both teachers and children when learning and teaching in a multi-age classroom. Benefits include more holistic, child-responsive curriculum practices that consider the understandings, capabilities and dispositions that children need for future work, e.g. working in diverse environments that seek workers who are multi-skilled, literate, cooperative, creative, adaptable, independent and resourceful.

Because of the mixed age group, the older children rise to the expectations of the younger children and teacher, being very responsible and having opportunities to lend and use their expertise. At the same time, the younger children benefit from the positive models of older children, often aspiring to their levels of capability.

It ensures that we have an even number of children in the different grade levels.

What does the research say about multi-age learning and teaching?
Teachers concentrate on what children can do, rather than what they can’t do. There is never any fear of failure, which builds confidence.
Competition is removed from the classroom. There is no comparison with other children and children are always ready to “have a go”.
Children are allowed to make choices and express themselves in many ways. Creative activities are common.
Children’s ideas are welcomed, and can be tried out. Children feel good about themselves, which makes an excellent environment for learning.
There is freedom of choice and exploration of many ideas, which makes learning an exciting and real part of children’s lives.
Children enter a class where there are older children, so settling in is much easier. Older children are usually delighted to help younger ones, and this helps them to feel very worthwhile and important. Confidence grows.
Children mix freely and are encouraged to work and play together. They learn the joys of co-operation, which leads to good citizenship.

From the principal (continued)....

It is always going to be difficult to select a structure that suits everyone. Many parents have expressed that they would prefer their child to be in a straight grade and just as many have expressed a preference for a composite grade for their child.

A teacher’s role in today’s classroom is to teach a child at their individual level and not necessarily a ‘grade’ level. There are of course expected outcomes for all year levels but in every classroom there are children achieving at a level below and above the expected level. It is important that the teacher plans and delivers a curriculum that accounts for a child’s individual level, skills and abilities regardless of whether they are in a straight or composite grade.

School Oval - After significant discussion and research, the school council have decided to upgrade the school oval by means of a ‘re-generation of a grassed sports area’.

At the end of the present school year, the present oval will be ripped up, a new irrigation system installed, the soil will be cultivated, fertilized, laser levelled and will then have the entire area planted with ‘village green kikuyu’ sprigs.

The new area will be watered and maintained by a professional sports field construction company until it is ready for use by the students. It is anticipated the oval will be fenced for at least all of term 1 when an assessment will be undertaken for its suitability of use.

During term 1, we are planning to take students (Yr.3/4 and Yr.5/6) to the park in Newcastle St. during lunchtimes for a play to alleviate some of the space restrictions we have in the school playground during this time. A permission note to attend the park during lunchtimes, under the supervision of teachers, will be sent home next week to all the 2015 Yr. 3-6 students.

Other alternatives to fix up the oval were considered including the installation of further synthetic turf and also the laying out of instant turf but the option of re-planting, although possibly the most difficult, was believed the best long term solution suited to the needs of our school.

End of School Year - Early Dismissal ~ The term (and year) will finish on Friday 19th December with a whole school assembly to be conducted in the Multi-Purpose Room beginning at 12.20 pm.

The Yr. 6 children will be farewelled by walking the ‘archway of honour’ formed by all students and teachers in the school. This special walk will be conducted on the basketball court.

After saying good-bye to the Grade 6 children all other children will return to their classrooms before being dismissed at 1.00pm.

If you require your child to attend after school care, please contact the School’s Out of School Hours program and make a booking.

David Moss
Principal
Wow! There is only 2 weeks and 1 day left of this term! Parents Club still has some wonderful events to pack in. The kids are looking forward to their Pizza lunch, the 2015 Preps will have their last Play Session at the school, we'll help the Grade 6s run the last Icy Pole Day for the year and have our final meeting/dinner for the year.

Since the last newsletter we've held a hugely successful Election Day BBQ/Mini-Fete!! It had a great community feel and I heard some voters really appreciated connecting back with the school. Many voters left happy with an egg and bacon roll, sausage, cake, a beautiful handmade item or a bargain plant, toy or book.

It wouldn’t have happened without the assistance of so many people. Thanks in particular to the parents who put their hand up to help me organise (including ordering, set up, pricing and pack up): Jacqui Newbegin, Andrea Jones and David, Kerrie Jarman and Mim Brown and those parents who put in long hours including Kate Tapping, Jon Davies and the King family.

This will sound like an Academy Award speech, but it also wouldn’t have been possible without Sue Phillips and in roster order… Dan Cook, Molly Galea, Nicole and Jake Mansfield, Michael Zorbas, Mark Gowans, Simon Purnell, Andrew Hannaford, Mike Draper, Nat Thompson, Jacqui Lomas, Corey Johnson, Faye Assaf, Di Williamson and Imogen O’Neill and all the NLPS Kids who helped sell and pack up. Thanks for giving up your time on the weekend. The feedback from both adults and kids was that it was fun.

Thank you also to all the wonderful bakers who were really generous and gave up their time to make such yummy creations for the stall. The donations kept coming and coming. We sold nearly all the contributions and the very few remaining items were much appreciated by the Election Officials and families who had the hard tasks of lugging all the unsold items back to the 4th portable and cleaning the BBQ and needed a pep up.

I’m sure I’ve forgotten some people but the music is starting to play…

Melanie Davies

**Upcoming Events…**

**PIZZA LUNCH FOR THE KIDS – Friday 5 December**

The kids are looking forward to their special pizza lunch order.

This is our biggest lunch order to date. It took at least 10 working hours to process all the payments and collate orders!! Thanks Daria and Turiya and the Office Staff for helping me with this, gold stars for effort! Hopefully families will understand why we can’t give change (any excess amount will be treated as a donation) or accept late orders. We have order due dates and the amount of effort involved in processing them is enormous.

**DON’S NIGHT OUT – Friday 5 December**

The DON’s (Dad’s of Newport & Surrounds) are holding a social night out and have donated some of the ticket proceeds to our school. They would like parents to know that “Dress-up” is optional for this event.

**ICY POLE DAY: Friday 12 December**

Icy poles will be sold during lunchtime and will be 50c each. This icy pole day will be run by the Grade 6s with the assistance of the Parent Club Icy-pole Day Coordinator, Katrina Gowans. Money raised from this day will go towards the Grade 6 Graduation Ceremony.

**PARENT CLUB MEETING: Thursday 11 December 7:30pm Restaurant TBC**

For our final meeting of the year we’ll have a change of venue. We’ll conduct our meeting over dinner at a restaurant TBC.
SCHOOL BANKING REWARD REDEMPTION DAY
Thursday 11th December @ lunchtime

Almost 50 students now have ten or more silver tokens so are eligible to claim a School Banking reward. Only a limited number of tokens can be carried over to 2015, so come along at lunchtime on Thursday 11th December (we will let you know where in the next newsletter) with your tokens and reward redemption card and swap them for a cool reward. Reward items available are: Swimming bag, Projector Cup or Sea Streamers.

Reward redemption cards were provided to each student at the start of Term 1. If you can’t find yours or did not receive one, please put your tokens in an envelope with your name on it and state the reward you would like (from selection listed above) and bring it with you on the day. Note some students are eligible for more than one reward.

This will be the last opportunity to redeem a reward for 2014 so students are encouraged to come along. As limited stock will be available on the day, students may need to select an alternate item from those available. Rewards can also continue to be claimed prior to this day by submitting tokens with their Deposit books on Mondays.

If you have any questions, please call/SMS or email the School Banking Co-ordinators (Parent representatives): Allana Arapakis on 0400 113 333 or aarapakis@optusnet.com.au Daria Hewitt on 0402 329 611 or daria.nick@gmail.com

LIBRARY NEWS

All library books are required to be returned to school by tomorrow Friday 5th December.

Invoices for any outstanding books after this date will be sent home next week.
Say ‘Bon Voyage’ to the Lesser Family!

The Lesser family (Giles, Lauren, Katherine 3/4M, Evelyn 2H and Arthur Prep T) are setting sail for an adventurous year on our yacht "Meander".

We are aiming to leave in January. Meander is currently out of the water getting the finishing touches done her outside. After Christmas we’ll move out of our house and camp at a friend’s place while we make sure the inside of Meander is ready for us to move aboard!

Meander, our home for 2015, is an Adams 36, fibreglass sailing boat. She can sleep up to 8 people but we’re only taking 5! We are fitted with AIS tracking so if you go to http://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/details/ships/shipid:697223 you can see where we are or even log in to receive updates as we move about.

Although Katherine, Evelyn and Arthur won’t be attending Newport Lakes PS in 2015 they will be learning at Meander PS. Yes, we’ll be home schooling (or should that be boat schooling?) them for the year. Luckily, Lauren is a trained teacher and Giles is an engineer so we’re pretty confident we’ll rise to the challenge. The children’s teachers this year have given us some great pointers and ideas and we’ve already started planning the school work. We probably won’t be doing it Monday to Friday 9 - 3:30, but we will be learning! Some things will be the same - we will be practising our times tables, reading, writing and even spelling and some things will be different - school swimming will be most days! The school has been very supportive and Katherine, Evelyn and Arthur have been allocated to grades for 2015 so they can keep in touch with their classes. We’re very excited to be able to keep in touch with our friends and community in this way, reading your class blogs and newsletters.

We have set up a blog and here you’ll be able to read about the preparation, where we are and what we think of it, what the children are learning, samples of their work, what the parents are learning, how the sailing is going, the cool things we discover along the way and even some Meander TV videos! If you subscribe you’ll receive an email when we post something new. http://meandering-lessers.blogspot.com.au/ We would LOVE to hear your comments as we go and if you’ve got some good pointers about where we are please share them with us. Recommendations of activities, restaurants, hikes etc all welcome.

Our plan is to sail to Tasmania, explore the Tamar river and down the east coast to Hobart. After a couple of months we’ll head north again towards Sydney. We’ll aim to move on from Sydney around Easter and keep on heading north until it’s time to turn around (before the cyclone season). The benefit of taking a whole year is we can pick and choose when we sail, there will be no heading out in bad winds because ‘we have to get there’. If we like a place we’ll stay a while. We will sleep on board, at anchor usually or at marinas and yacht clubs when we fancy a little luxury like hot showers and laundry facilities (or simply more than 36ft by 10ft of “house”).

We’re looking forward to our adventures, sharing them with you and keeping in touch while we’re away. Giles, Lauren, Katherine, Evelyn and Arthur

(The photo was taken on Puffing Billy last year. The day we picked up our anchor!)
Instagram is certainly not an app that we are promoting at NLPS. However we feel that it is important that we share information about the app with parents and families of our students. This is because this photo sharing social media app is free and although the minimum age is 13, there is no proof of age requirements to download and use it.

The frequently asked questions below were taken from the website below, where a parents' guide to Instagram can be found. We encourage you to download this resource so that you are aware of the potential risks involved in using this app. Even though it uses the word ‘teens’ often, we believe that the more information to prepare you in the world of technology, the safer our children will be.


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Top 5 questions parents have about Instagram

1. Why do teens love Instagram?
   Because they love media, sharing it and socialising with it on their phones, and Instagram makes all that doable in a simple, eye-catching way. Teens like taking, cropping, enhancing, sharing and commenting on photos and videos. But the commenting isn't just commenting – in effect, they're socialising in mixed media conversations that include plenty of likes and links too.

2. Does Instagram have a minimum age?
   Yes, it's 13, which is similar to most other online services (originally because of US law). But Instagram doesn't ask users to specify their age, and there are many younger children who use the service, often with their parents' permission. Whether Instagram is "safe" depends more on how it's used than on the age of the user, but Instagram will delete underage accounts if they're notified and can verify the users are under 13.

3. What are the risks in using Instagram?
   Though there's nothing inherently dangerous about Instagram, the main things parents worry about are typical of all social media: mean behaviour among peers and inappropriate photos or videos that can hurt a child's reputation or attract the wrong kind of attention. Parents are also concerned that people their kids don't know can reach out to them directly. Kids can learn to manage these risks, which is why we wrote this guide.

4. What's the best way to help kids stay safe on Instagram?
   As with all social media, being respectful of ourselves and others makes us safer. Our posts and comments reflect on us and others in our photos and videos. Whether serious or silly, they become part of our public image. Respecting others in how media is shared, tagged and commented on reduces risk. While most kids are smart about this, it doesn't hurt for parents to be sure kids aren't posting provocative images or having inappropriate interactions with people they don't know, which leads to the next question...

5. Should my child's profile be private?
   For many kids, part of the fun of Instagram is developing a big following – a good thing for parents and kids to talk about. Having a public account on Instagram means anyone can follow you. A private account means that you have to approve each request from anyone who wants to follow you, so many parents have their kids start using Instagram with a private account. But there's no guarantee your child won't be seen on Instagram or any other photo-sharing service, because people post photos of each other. Even not having an Instagram account can't ensure a child won't appear in a photo there. How positive or negative a young person's experience is on Instagram or anywhere online depends as much on the person and his or her friends as on the app.

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Working Bee - Saturday 6th December @ 9am

Join us for our last working bee of the 2015 calendar year, and help prepare the school for 2016.

There are a number of jobs to do, ranging from painting, cleaning, and preparing the garden for the sound sculpture and year 6 totem pole. If you could spare an hour or two, we'll kick off at 9am, and finish at 11.30am.

We are after the following equipment/tools to assist in the various jobs.

- Post hole digger and spades.
- Cleaning spray, buckets, sponges and scrapers.
- Yard Brooms.
- Window cleaner, squeegees and rags.

Please email Mark Arapakis (marapakis@optusnet.com.au) if you're available to come along.
- ROTARY CLUB OF WILLIAMSTOWN -

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
11AM-3PM AT SEAWORKS,
82 NELSON PLACE WILLIAMSTOWN.

FREE RIDES
FREE FACE PAINTING
FREE ENTERTAINMENT
FREE ENTRY FOR CHILDREN.
GOLD COIN DONATION FOR ADULTS.
MARKET STALLS AND FOOD COURT
FREE PARKING
SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA

A ROTARY CLUB OF WILLIAMSTOWN INITIATIVE TO FUND COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECTS.
Entry form
Friends of Williamstown and Newport Libraries
2014 – 2015 Summer Writing Competition

Please complete this form and attach it to your entry.
Number each page and do not write your name and details on the story pages.

First name ............................................ Surname ............................................
Address ............................................ Suburb ............................................ Postcode ............................................
Phone ............................................ Date of birth ............................................
School attended ............................................ Year level in 2015 ............................................
Students graduating Year 12 in 2014 are also eligible to enter.
Library membership number ............................................
Category (please circle) Story / Poem ............................................
Number of words for short story ............................................
Number of lines for poetry ............................................

I would like to be notified of the 2015-16 Summer Writing Competition: Yes  No

Declaration: I declare that this entry entitled ............................................ is an original work. I have not copied all or part of it from another writer. I have not taken someone else’s work and put it in my own words. I have read the conditions of entry.

Signed (entrant) ............................................
Signed (parent/guardian) ............................................

Privacy Notice:
The information requested is being retained by the council for the purpose of the writing competition. The information supplied will be used for this purpose only. Details stated purposes unless consent is otherwise provided by the applicant. The applicant may apply to the council for access to enter amendment of this information. An appeal will be available within 30 days after the appeal rights.

The Friends of Williamstown and Newport Libraries 2014 - 2015
Summer Writing Competition

For students in Prep to Year 12
Opens: Monday 1 December 2014
Closes: Monday 16 February 2015
Over $1,000 worth of prizes to be won.

VU Science Spectacular
2014 Family Night
FREE

Victoria University
Melbourne Australia

Skookum science demonstrations by the Professor Science Troup. Expect big bangs, explosions and huge amounts of wonderment.

The show runs for 70 minutes, followed by hands on science activities so that both parents and children can undertake and take home.

This is a free event for the whole family to enjoy!

When: Wednesday 3rd December 2014
Time: 6pm
Where: Footscray Park Campus
(some of Ballarat and Geelong Roads)
Building L, Level 1, Room 14 (next to gym)
(free carpark available across the road from venue)

An invitation for you, friends and family
Altona Yacht club is running a Tackers Program at Altona Yacht Club and would like to offer a special deal on Tackers.

is the main accredited introductory kids sailing course recognised by Yachting Australia. Ages 7 years - 12 years. Think Kids sail training think Tackers. Tackers is a great way to increase children’s life skills such as communication, self-reliance, team work, problem solving and self-confidence all while having fun in a kid-centric environment.

**Pricing:**

**Tackers 1 - $165** 7th Feb - 11th Apr 9.00 - 12.00pm (24 hour program which is $6 p/h)

(normally $330 for a 20 hour program)

For Information about Tackers visit www.discoversailing.org.au/tackers/

To Enrol visit www.altonayachtclub.org.au and under Tackers Enrolment, hit Tackers 1

Or

Contact Craig Turner at craggles9@gmail.com or call 0408 878 954

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**Commonwealth Bank**

Between 17th December 2014 and 31st January 2015 the Commonwealth Bank at Altona Gate shopping centre are offering a fantastic children’s show bag for every YOUTHSAVER School Banking account that is opened.

Don’t forget the 2015 rewards program for next year is SPACE themed and this alone will excite the students into regular banking!
Community Christmas & Craft with Heart

Sat 29th November
10am-2pm

Williamstown Church of Christ
cnr John St & Douglas Pde
www.willichurch.org.au

FREE

Music
Devonshire Teas
Jumping Castle
Nativity Scene

Kids Activities
Reflection Space
Christmas Tree Decorations

CRAFT MARKET for great Christmas Shopping!
Like to do something a bit different this year for Christmas?

For the fourth year we're organising a group present from our village of Newport, to a less fortunate village in a less developed part of the world. We call it the 'Newport Stable'.

We're planning to organise a group of families from Newport to each donate $101. The money will then go to World Vision to buy a stable full of animals for a group of families that aren't as lucky as ours.

If you don't want to buy a full share of the stable ($101), you can donate less. Or if you would like to buy more than a share that's fine too - the more money we raise the more animals we buy.

Over the past three years the amazing families of Newport have donated more than $6,000 worth of barnyard animals through the Newport Stable. And, that's a lot of donkeys.

We plan to get all the families who've donated together for a low key glass of bubbles and some nibbles to celebrate both the giving of our fourth stable and the fantastic community we live in - please keep *Monday 22 December at 5pm* free.

If you're interested in joining the Newport Stable please contact:
Sarah, nortonhollingworth@gmail.com, 0423 984 304; or
Kate, kate.tapping@gmail.com, 0421 196 523