Important Dates to put in the diary

Friday 2nd December    Icy Pole Day
                      Gateways Final
Sunday 4th December    Rotary Xmas Fair—School Band Playing
Tuesday 6th December   Prep Incursion—Drama Tool Box
                      Gr 6—Yr 7 Transition Day
Wednesday 7th December Parent Volunteers Morning Tea 11am—11.30am
Thursday 8th December  Indonesian Day—Special Lunch
                      2017 Prep Play Date 2.30pm—3.30pm
Monday 12th December   Grade 6 Graduation
Tuesday 13th December  Grade 5/6M & L Beach Program
Wednesday 14th December Grade 5/6M & L Beach Program
Thursday 15th December Grade 5/6S & W Beach Program
Friday 16th December   Grade 5/6S & W Beach Program
                      2017 Prep Play Date 2.30pm—3.30pm
Monday 19th December   Grade 4 Beach Program
                      Grade 6 Big Day Out
Tuesday 20th December  Last day of Term—1.00pm dismissal - Assembly 12.20pm

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following award winners.

James, Prep P          Ethan, Prep L          Rastko, Prep S
Simone, 1/2R           Lily, 1/2O           Leo, 1/2S
Ingrid, 1/2S           Jed, 1/2D            Madden, 1/2C
Nick, 3/4S             Luca, 3/4S           Ned, 3/4M
Samson, 3/4G           Liam, 5/6M           April, 5/6S
Mia, 5/6L              Imogen, 5/6W          Tully, Prep L
Thomas, Prep S         Amelie, 1/2R          Gemma, 1/2O
Charli, 1/2S           Angel, 1/2C          Holly, 5/6M
Mohamed, 5/6S

LAST DAY OF TERM - TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

1.00 PM DISMISSAL
From the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

At last week’s assembly I announced there was a murder at Newport Lakes Primary - a ‘murder of crows’ have made our school their new feeding ground. Every day this group of birds converge on the school to feed upon the snacks and lunches left behind by our children after every recess and lunchtime. They not only do they pounce upon any left over sandwich or snack but are also getting into the children’s unattended lunch boxes, school bins and dumper - often leaving quite a mess behind them.

It would assist greatly if you discuss this with your children and ask that if they have any food leftover from their lunchbox, it should be placed into the bin with the lid closed, or preferably return home in their closed lunchbox.

Unfortunately these ‘scavenger birds’ will become more brazen and may even attack children’s lunchboxes if they believe there is an ongoing feed to be devoured at our school but if there is no food to be taken they will hopefully find somewhere else to use as their feeding ground.

School organisation and Funding- As was stated in the last newsletter, in 2017 we are planning to have straight grades from P-4 and composite classes in Yr. 5/6. This decision was made based on the number of students we had at each year level, after having many discussion with staff and leadership, parental feedback and the funding available to the school from the education department.

Victorian state schools are primarily self managed and staffing decisions, including how many teachers a school employs, what areas they teach and the programs a school conducts (specialist areas, intervention programs, extra curricula etc.) are decisions made by the Principal in consultation with staff.

Each school receives a yearly funding and it is the principal’s role to ensure the school operates within this budget. The funding based on a formula involving the actual number of students enrolled on census day (February 28 2017) and then additional funds for special needs for which the school may be eligible. These include low socio economic, EAL (English as a second language) remote location, etc. Much of this information is gained when parents complete their enrolment form when their child first begins school. Questions such as the parent’s present occupation, highest level of education, language spoken at home, etc. all go towards determining a children’s level of need. At Newport Lakes Primary School we are classified as ‘high’ in the level of socio economic and ‘mid-low’ in the area of EAL thus qualify the school for very little additional funding.
When determining class sizes in a primary school, the funding formula allows for, as a general rule, 1 classroom teacher for every 25 students. With an estimated student population in 2017 of 437 students, we will then have 18 classes. The school then has to determine what will be the make up or organisation of these classes. The choice can be varied but the total number of classes for the school in 2017 will be 18.

After this has been established, we then look at differing models involving straight classes, composites or a mixture of both. We look at the numbers in each grade level, the social groupings of the children, special needs, parental expectations and departmental requirements. It is also a departmental expectation that the P-2 year levels will have less numbers, on average, than the upper grades.

At NLPS we also have 4 specialist teacher programs (PE, Visual Art, Performing Arts - Music/Drama, and LOTE - Indonesian) all with their teacher. This is quite unique for a primary school, as most will only have 3 specialist areas.

We are also planning to continue with the school’s intervention programs in Literacy and Numeracy and this will involve 2 teachers (3 days per week) and Education support staff providing assistance every day.

Last week-end, one of our Yr. 5 students, Harry O, participated in the School Sports Australia National Track and Field Championships conducted in Sydney. Competing in the 10 YO High Jump against the best young athletes in Australia. Harry came 3rd winning the bronze medal with a jump of 150cm.

Well done Harry. We are all very proud of you and your performance.

Hope you all have a good week.

David Moss
Principal
WANTED—DONATIONS OF BOOKS

With Christmas fast approaching many families are taking the opportunity to have a clean out at home. If you have any books you don’t want, why not donate them to the school. These books will be used in classroom libraries.

Any donations can be left at the office.

SCHOOL BANKING UPDATE - REWARDS

Unfortunately, the Bush Fly Fans – Term 4 reward - are now out of stock due to popular demand. However, there are some great 2016 & 2015 rewards still available (while stocks last). Last day for orders for 2016 is Monday 5th December, to ensure stock arrives before the end of the school term.

If you have any questions about the program, please do not hesitate to contact the School Banking Co-ordinators (Parent Representatives):

Daria Hewitt: 0402 329 611 or daria.nick@gmail.com
Allana Arapakis: 0400 113 333 or arapakis@optusnet.com.au

Name: ____________________
Class: ___________________
Student ID: _______________

I would like to redeem 10 tokens for a:

- Outback Pat Bag Tag
- Wriggley Glow Worm
- Outer Space Savers Money Box
- ET DVD

All reward items are only available while stocks last
Recently in 1/2O, a group of children have been working on the following reading goal:

**I will ask and answer questions as I read.**

They had been reading a Lonely Planet book about Africa, and came up with a number of wonderings based on what they had read. For example ‘why do gorillas have dirty teeth?’ As they couldn’t find the answers in the text, and online research proved difficult, they ended up writing a letter to both the Werribee and Melbourne Zoos. They asked a Zookeeper to answer their questions (and essentially discovered a method of researching).

Last Friday, the four students were over the moon to read the response from Fiona at Werribee Zoo, included below:

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November 22, 2016

Dear Emme, Jomana, Rudy and Charlie,

Thank you very much for your letter. I am happy to answer your questions.

Some African people do like to eat dried antelope, this is called biltong.

Gorillas have dirty teeth because they don’t brush their teeth like we do with toothpaste and a toothbrush. They do sometimes pick food out of their teeth. Gorillas mostly eat leaves, bark from trees, fruit, seeds and flowers. Sometimes we need to make sure the gorillas at our zoo don’t have any problems with their teeth. They have a special visit from a vet who can clean their teeth.

The strongest African animal would be the elephant. Elephants can knock down trees with their tusks. They can lift heavy things with their trunks too.

The deadliest animal would be the hippopotamus. They are also very big animals and they are hard to see in the water. The hippo also comes out of the water at night to eat grass. If they get scared they run back to the water where they feel safe, and may knock over another animal, which is in their way.

Thank you for writing to me. I hope you are all able to come and visit the lions soon.

From Fiona
GRADE 3/4 LADY NORTHCOTE CAMP 2016
We are an informal group of NLPS families who are keen to get our kids out in nature. On Sunday 27 Nov, our intrepid adventuring families headed off for a bushwalk at Hanging Rock, amid many cries of "Miranda...". Stunning scenery, friendly families and all kids enthusiastically exploring giant boulders. There's no walk planned for December, but we are planning beach-themed outdoorsy activities in January and February, and a rail trail in March. If you'd like to join us in re-wilding our kids, look us up on the facebook group "Friends of Elizabeth St School" or email mollygalea@gmail.com to get on the mailing list.
BOOK & TOY SALE

Thousands of quality pre-loved books & toys, including out of print books

Books for cooks, kids, art lovers, readers, travelling and more

Grab a bargain or stock up now for Christmas!

Kids corner with activities to give you time to browse

All proceeds to charity

Saturday 3 December
10 am – 4 pm

Pilgrim Uniting Church Community Hall
Montague Street, Yarraville

pilgrimchurchyarraville.org.au
ROTARY CLUB OF WILLIAMSTOWN

CHRISTMAS FAIR 2016

Adults $2

Market Stalls

Free face painting

Free rides

Santa will be visiting

Free entry for kids

Animal farm

SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER 11AM - 3PM
AT SEAWORKS - 82 NELSON PLACE WILLIAMSTOWN

SPONSORED BY:

A ROTARY CLUB OF WILLIAMSTOWN INITIATIVE TO FUND COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECTS.
CHALLENGE YOURSELF

SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER - WILLIAMSTOWN BEACH

Kids Challenge (Ages 7-11): 750m
WOW Challenge: 1.2 km and 2.5 km
WOW Challenge & Victorian Championships: 5 km and 10 km

FEATURED OPEN WATER LEGENDS:
Chloe McCardel - English Channel Record Holder
Jarrod Poort - RIO 10 km OW Olympian
Sam Sheppard - 6 x Winner Lorne Pier to Pub
Mel Cunningham - Former World 25km OW Champion

PRE-REGISTER AND SAVE NOW!

WOW
& swimming victoria
WILLIAMSTOWN OPEN WATER & VICTORIAN OPEN WATER
CHALLENGE 2016 | CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Entry to the Victorian Open Water Championships events is open to Swimming Australia and Masters Swimming Australia members only. See www.swimming.org.au or WOWChallenge.com.au for more details.