Important Dates to put in the diary

Friday 30th January  Preps 9.00 am—1.30 pm
Monday 2nd February  Prep Literacy Information Coffee Chat—9.15 am (MPR)
Tuesday 3rd February  Prep Numeracy Information Coffee Chat—9.15 am (MPR)
Wednesday 4th February  Preps do not attend school—appointments only
Thursday 5th February  Prep Specialist Program Coffee Chat—9.15 am (MPR)
Monday 9th February  Grade 3/4 Information Session—6.30 pm—7.30 pm (MPR)
Tuesday 10th February  Grade 1/2 Information Session—6.30 pm—7.30 pm (MPR)
Wednesday 11th February  Grade 5/6 Information Session—6.30 pm—7.30 pm (MPR)
Thursday 12th February  Prep Information Session 6.30 pm—7.30 pm (MPR)
Tuesday 17th February  Parent Helpers Information Session 9.00 am—10.00 am (Library)
Thursday 19th February  Parent Helpers Induction Program 9.00 am—10.00 am (Library)
Friday 20th February  Pupil Free Day
Thursday 26th February  Preps & New Families Picnic—5.30 pm—7.00 pm

We would like to wish the following students, who may have celebrated their birthday over the holidays, a very happy birthday.

Marlee, Prep P  Ruby, 1/2L  Shima, 5/6M
Ella, 3/4N  Louis, 1/2R  Lily, 3/4M
Maddie, 3/4O  Haydn, 1/2C  Cindy, 3/4M
Noah, 5/6L  Grace, 5/6M  Gasper, 1/2R
Mariam, 5/6D  Max, 5/6D  Maria, 1/2L
Ashton, 3/4M  Harry, 3/4H  Sylvie, 5/6L
Daniel, 5/6L  Zion, 1/2M  Waled, 1/2L
Wilson, 5/6D  Liam, Prep P  Catrin, 3/4N
Yasmin, 3/4N  Nicholas, Prep S  Leo, Prep S
Gabby, 5/6M  Connor, Prep P  Simone, 1/2L
Lola, 3/4M

Follow us @nlpstweets
Newport Lakes is now on Twitter. So, if you already have Twitter, please follow us @nlpstweets. Just visit www.twitter.com

It would be appreciated if each family could donate a box of tissues to the 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 new teachers and support staff to our school including Ellen Morabito (Music), Steven Montgomery (Yr.5/6) and Lorraine Ryan (Art). A big welcome back to Laura D’Agostino on her return from leave.

All grades had a smooth start to the day, and the school year, with their new teacher and classmates.

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 water proof (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).

There have also been a number of changes and improvements to the school and surrounds over the holiday period including some very bright and exciting line markings, a new junior playground, new air-conditioners in 9 of the classrooms and a re-planting of the school oval. The oval works will create a reduced play area for the next 1-2 terms but the end result will hopefully be a well grassed playing surface for all children to enjoy in the future.

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 been fortunate to have comfortable weather for the start of the school year but it is likely that there will be 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.

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. Please ensure that you register your email details by subscribing 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 11th 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 9th February - Yr. 3/4
- Tuesday 10th February - Yr. 1/2
- Wednesday 11th February - Yr. 5/6
- Thursday 12th February - Yr. Prep

The Information Sessions are optional and 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 2nd Feb Janet Gill will be discussing Literacy, on Tuesday 5th Feb, Janet and Terry Antoniadis will be talking about Maths in the Prep Room and on Thursday the Specialist Teachers (Music, Physical Education ,Drama and Indonesian) will be discussing the wonderful things your child will be doing in their programs.

Staying informed about what’s happening at school and having a good communication channel with your child’s teacher is very important. There are many ways 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.

School Ground Supervision
Parents are reminded that playground supervision (teacher on duty) is provided before school at 8.45am and after school until 3.45pm.

Students should not be in the school grounds before or after these times unless supervised by their parents or an adult. Students should aim to be at school between 8.45 and 8.55am. This allows them to see their friends, chat or play a short game before school begins at 9.00am. Students playing in the school ground or on playground equipment after school MUST be supervised by their parents or guardians.

David Moss
Principal

**PARENT HELPERS IN Prep – 2 CLASSROOMS 2015**

If you would like to volunteer to help our Prep-2 teachers during the reading hour throughout the year then please sign the form below to attend a 1 hour induction session facilitated by Janet Gill. Parents will need to attend the induction in order to assist in classrooms. We have a record of all parents who attended our 2014 inductions, so if you attended one of those you will not need to attend our 2015 induction. We look forward to developing the home-school partnership as part of this initiative.

Please circle the day that you will attend:

Tuesday 17th Feb 9am- 10 am or Thursday 19th Feb 9am -10am

Parent name: ________________________________ Child/ren name & Class _______________________

I will attend the above Parent Helper Induction Session.