Dear Parents,

I mentioned last year that one of the best days I had in 2012 was the Book Fair and Character Parade. Yesterday’s parade brought back great memories and reminded me what was so special about it – the great community atmosphere, the joy on all the students’ faces, the staff participation and the creativity of everyone. I loved everyone’s enthusiasm, but I especially loved Year 6 getting in and being part of it. You see, in some places, some Year 6 groups start to get a bit apathetic at this time of the year, thinking they are too “cool” for events such as this. Not our outstanding young ladies and gentlemen. They got into it and are truly great role models for the younger students. Thank you to Mrs Spender who did a fabulous job organising this outstanding event.

Our NOOSH does a fantastic job looking after students before and after school, and as you may be aware, now offers vacation care as well. I was shocked to hear at the meeting that a small minority of parents often do not notify NOOSH when leaving their children in the morning or the afternoon on a casual basis. They just “assume” NOOSH knows about it. As you can imagine, this plays havoc with student numbers, staff ratios, food and a range of other issues. At my own children’s school OOSH, run by a private company, there are strict timeframes around the amount of notice given for bookings because they are bound by law (as our NOOSH is) to have the correct ratios or risk prosecution. We all know things come up unexpectedly from time to time, but please try to give them as much notice as possible. We don’t want to have to contact parents to come and get their children because NOOSH didn’t know they were coming and the ratios were at their maximum.

Our Student Representative Council (SRC) do a wonderful job in the school, having a say in the way the school operates, fundraising for charities and supporting the community. Today they are going to Bowden Brae Aged Care Facility in Normanhurst for morning tea. It is a great opportunity for the kids to interact with our more experienced members of the community and talk a bit about what school is like in recent times. Mrs
Grimmond and Miss Bendeich are accompanying them. What a lovely initiative!

Another word about our skateboarding sensation Louis. In the recent school holidays he entered the Australia and New Zealand qualifier of the “Top Grom” competition. The winner in each category is invited to California to compete in the finals. Louis was the youngest competitor and came 7th in the 8 – 10 year age group, which was an awesome result (or should I have said “gnarly”??). Fantastic effort Louis!

I know I have mentioned this a few times of late, but if you are moving out of the area and do not intend to have your children at Normanhurst in 2014 (and have not informed us as yet), it would aid planning if you could fill out the slip in this newsletter and return it to the school.

David Beggs

The following students received Striver Badges at our last assembly.

Abby M           Soraya H
Phoenix A        Caitlin B
Lola W

Congratulations to the following students who received a merit certificate at our last assembly.

Keely B  KIJ  Jessica T  3/4G
Jack K  KIJ  Alexander V  3/4G
Charlie G  KS  Jasmine H  4C
Jennifer S  KS  Kieran H  4C
Sam T  KB  Cameron A  4/5J
David P  KB  Paris N  4/5J
Lola W  1H  William M  5/6B
Amalie M  1H  Leila F  5/6B
Christian B  1S  Charlotte M  6G
Sarah K  1S  Elizabeth H  6G
Amelia M  2P  Damien K  Library
Malinsa R  2P  Luke R  Computer
Rebecca L  2N  Amelia M  Computer
Hamish T  2N  Nathan H  ESL
Kevin G  3V
Molly V  3V

CHOIR PERFORMANCE AT THE OPERA HOUSE

We would like to share some photographs with you of the Senior Choirs’ performance at the Opera House on Monday 14th October.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR NATIONAL CAPITAL EXCURSION

Last term, students from our school undertook an educational tour of the National Capital. While on this tour they participated in a variety of educational programmes focused on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) program toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school.
We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

The following activities/tours were undertaken by Year 5 and 6 on their trip to Canberra.

- Parliament House (Senate and House of Representatives Role Play)
- Old Parliament House, now the Museum of Democracy
- War Memorial
- Questacon

**PEER SUPPORT**

During Peer Support this week, the children will be discussing and developing ways to be responsible. The activities will reinforce the concept that being responsible is doing what we say we will do and to the best of our ability. This week help develop with your child 2-3 things they can do around the home to show they are responsible, ie. feed the dog each night, set the table at 6.30pm each day.

**VACATION CARE**

NOOSH will be running vacation care next holidays on the following dates:—

**Thursday 19th and Friday 20th December** (very handy if you still have Christmas shopping to do).

**Monday 13th to Friday 17th January 2014**

**Monday 20th to Friday 24th January 2014**

**Tuesday 28th January 2014** (staff development day)

A program will be finalised shortly. Please contact Ellen or Sophie to enrol your child/ren in Vacation care.

Just a reminder that if you have not notified NOOSH of casual bookings for your child/ren, they will not be accepted into care that day. They will be taken to the school office and you will be required to collect them. Please give Ellen or Sophie 48 hours notice of your casual bookings (unless in emergencies and, even then, please call beforehand).

Lisa Balian

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**PARENT BAND ROSTER**

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<td><strong>Thursday 24th October</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Band</strong></td>
<td><strong>Time</strong></td>
<td><strong>Supervisor</strong></td>
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<td>Concert</td>
<td>7.25-8.30am</td>
<td>Colleen Young</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>12.55-1.55pm</td>
<td>Jenny Turner</td>
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<td><strong>Monday 28th October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>7.25-8.30am</td>
<td>Heike Vine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>12.55-1.55pm</td>
<td>Denise Pivetta</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 31st October</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>7.25-8.30am</td>
<td>Natasha Haeussler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>12.55-1.55pm</td>
<td><strong>Volunteer required</strong></td>
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If you are able to assist on Thursday 31st October at lunch time please let me know on 0414 912 382.

Robyn McKern

**TRAINING BAND 2014**

Dear Year 2 families

Would your child be interested in joining our wonderful Training Band next year? Band is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn music in a fun environment at school. Please come to the school for an information night this Thursday 24th October. It will last approximately 1 hour. Please come along with your child to hear all about it. Any Year 3 children who did not join the Training Band in 2012 are also welcome.

When: Thursday 24th October – 6.00pm in the school staffroom. We look forward to seeing you there.

NPS Band Committee

**FREE TICKETS**

As mentioned in last weeks’ newsletter, the Lions Club of Bondi have generously donated tickets to the World Festival of Magic. This event will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour on Saturday 9th November. There are still a few tickets left for the 1.30pm show and the 4.00pm show. Tickets will be limited to four per family and can be collected from the school office on a first in first served basis. More information regarding this event go to www.festivalofmagic.com.au

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**NOT RETURNING IN 2014**

My child(ren) ________________________________ of class(es) ________________________________ will not be returning in 2014

Signed ________________________________