Dear Parents,

At the time of writing this, we are gearing up for our Carols Night tonight. The students have been practising really hard and their songs are great. As I mentioned in the note sent out yesterday, we will be having it under the COLA. A bit more squashy, but I was concerned that forecast showers and storms might ruin our night if we were down the bottom. You can bet your bottom dollar that, in light of this decision, it will be fine and mild tonight! It may be a bit more tricky to retrieve your child tonight as well, but we will work out a system for trying to get you on your way as soon as possible at the conclusion.

Our School Presentation Day is being held next Tuesday 9th December. It is a celebration of student achievement in many areas. It is the hardest decision for the teacher all year, and while there are so many students who work hard at Normanhurst, we can only give awards to a few. So even if your child, like the majority of students, does not receive an award, it certainly does not mean they haven't worked well the entire year.

Student reports will be distributed on Friday, 12th December. I am currently reading all of them and marvel at the wonderful work being done by the students. As I have said before, we are all different and have different strengths and challenges – but when I look at my own children’s reports, I look at the level of effort first. If I know they are trying hard, then whatever academic level of achievement they have made is fine by me.

We have been fortunate this year to have a spare demountable classroom. We have used this space for small group work, storage and a number of other activities. We have appreciated it immensely. Normanhurst has so many great things going for it – but storage space is not one of them! I have been informed that this demountable is going to be taken in the next couple of weeks for placement at another school. It will open up the area near the bottom playground and we are considering what we can do with the open space left behind.

We are marching (hurting?) towards the end of the school year. A reminder that the last day for students in Wednesday, 17th December. Staff remain at school until the 19th December participating in professional development activities.

David Beggs
The following students were proud recipients of Striver badges at our last assembly.

Caitlin H. – blue   Isaac H. – blue
Zoe H. – red      Ethan B. - red
Stephanie M. - green

Congratulations to the following students who received a Merit Certificate at our last assembly.

Joanna C KIJ  Lara U  2/3N
Oliver P KIJ  Tessie T  2/3N
Grace Mc KS  Jack B  3D
Shiva R KS  Nicole N  3D
Evie W 1H  Jack T  4N
Jack K 1H  Chris O  4N
Libby P 1S  Grace R  4/5D
Charlie S 1S  Edward B  4/5D
Jan A 1/2M  Eric H  5/6B
Mahlia-Mai H 1/2M  Nick G  5/6B
Darcy M 2P  Kieran H  5/6G
Robert D 2P  Abby M  5/6G
Mia P Library
Liam M Library
Eryn T Computers
Brenton T Computers
Jack T EAL/D

LIBRARY NEWS

The Library stocktake has commenced and no further borrowing by students can be done this year. Could all parents and students check at home for books belonging to the Library and return them immediately.

Carolyn Spender
Teacher/Librarian

UNIFORM SHOP

The last day for the Uniform Shop in 2014 will be 5th December.

They will be open on Tuesday 27th January 2015, from 9.00am to 12 noon and orders can also be placed online.

NOOSH NEWS

NOOSH End of Year President Report

Thank you to everyone who has served on the Committee this year and the parents who have supported us. The Committee has made some significant changes to the operations and management of NOOSH which have had a positive impact into the care children receive at the centre.

Some of the changes introduced by the Committee this year include:

- Engaging Becklyn to assist in the management of the accounts and online services including an update to the website and enrolment process.
- Employment of a qualified Director who is professional, has a clear sense of direction and can communicate well with parents and children at the centre.
- Improving the resources including the purchase of carpet, blinds, games and craft supplies.
- Upgrading the security with the installation of security bars on the windows, security doors, alarm system and sensor lights to the outside of the building.
- Upgrading the electrical system in the NOOSH building.
- The purchase of a commercial dishwasher to meet regulatory hygiene standards.
- The creation of a sickbay space and purchase of adequate medical supplies to provide care to children who are sick or hurt themselves.
- Staff training to help improve the quality of care provided.
- Engagement of a cleaning service and gardener to assist in improving the hygiene and play spaces for the children.
- Increasing the budget for grocery items so better quality food can be provided for breakfast and afternoon tea.
- Vacation Care provided to families at the school and local community.
- Update to Policies at the Centre.
- Creation of a Parent Handbook.

The introduction of these changes at times has been difficult and I appreciate everyone’s commitment and enthusiasm to embrace the
changes necessary for NOOSH to be able to operate at its full potential.

A big thank you to our outgoing Secretary, Jo Schuster. Jo has serviced on the NOOSH Committee for the past three years and done a wonderful job. Our new Secretary is Elyssia Brennan who we look forward to working with during 2015.

Overall this has been an amazing year full of challenges and change which we can now see the benefits and will continue to see well into the future.

Paula Bourke
President NOOSH

FREE TO GOOD HOME

Baby Bunnies – gorgeous bunnies which are used to being handled by children. Currently six weeks old and looking for homes. Call Simonie Fox on 0412 645 597 if interested.