Term 3 Week 5 13th August 2014

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents,

At last night’s P&C meeting there was a lot of talk about our School Fair which is being held on Sunday, 14th September. Plans are well underway to make it a fabulous day. There will be rides, food and many stalls – even animals! Information and flyers will be coming out very soon.

Another event coming up even before our Fair is our Obstacle-a-thon and Fathers’ Day Breakfast on Friday, 5th September. For those of you new to the school, a massive inflatable obstacle course is installed thanks to Mr Scott Bartholomew and each class has a turn through the day to negotiate it. Sponsors are collected by students prior to the day, and these sponsorship forms will be distributed soon. Last year we incorporated the Fathers’ Day Breakfast and many a dad had a go on the obstacle course with their child. It was hilarious and so much fun!

We still have a few more “Rise for Alex” bands and they are now available in the office for $2 each until sold.

Tickets to our School Concert are selling quite briskly. Please note that the matinee on Tuesday 26th August will be held in the school hall and the evening performance on Wednesday 27th August will be at Normanhurst Boys’ High School. A reminder that if you are able, the matinee has plenty of seats at this point.

I had to submit anticipated enrolments for 2015 last week (yes, already!) and of course at this point Kindergarten numbers are a bit of a guess. This year we are at the higher end of twelve mainstream classes, but from what I can gather, we may go up one class next year. I would urge parents already at the school to please submit enrolment forms for their impending Kindergarten child and also please advise others that you know of who are newly enrolling at Normanhurst or similarly leaving to notify the school as soon as possible.

This Friday marks the last PSSA round for the winter. The netball and soccer teams have had a great time going away each week to compete against other schools. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Prince and Mr Cull for their time coaching, transporting and refereeing (and umpiring) the students week in, week out. Jumping on a bus with sixty kids may not be
everyone’s ideal way of finishing off a long week, but Mr Cull and Ms Prince do it every week with enthusiasm and positivity! It is much appreciated by our students and community.

So many of our students achieve wonderful things and Archie H deserves a mention for his achievement at last weekend’s City to Surf. Archie entered his first City to Surf race and came 3282nd out of a total of 67,532 finishers. He came 2996th out of all male finishers and 9th out of a total of 1,206 male finishers in the under 12 division. An amazing result. Well done Archie!

David Beggs

No Striver badges or Merit Certificates were awarded last week as there was no assembly.

Calling all Artists

As the date for our school concert is looming we would like students to design an artwork that can be used as the front cover for the program.

Artworks should be A4 and be drawn with black pen or artline pen or computer generated. You should include your name and class on the front of the artwork in small print in the bottom right hand corner.

Six artworks will be selected for the front cover of the program and all artworks will be on display at the Matinee Concert.

Please hand your entries in at the school office. They are due by Friday 22nd August 2014.

P&C as they have separate bank accounts to that of the school.

ATHLETICS RIBBONS

At this Thursday’s assembly ribbons will be given out for the 100m, 200m and 800m for students who ran in age groups 8,9,10,11 and 12.

Vern Barling

2014 NSW PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE

LAST WEEK!.....LAST WEEK!.....LAST WEEK!

The NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge is finishing next week. For those students completing the challenge and entering their books directly onto the computer, they will need to have their reading record completed by Friday 22nd August. If you have a paper reading log and would like Mrs Spender to complete your reading record online then you will need to return it to Mrs Spender no later than Thursday 21st August.

Thank you
Carolyn Spender

PSSA SPORT

NETBALL

We had another fantastic sunny afternoon of netball last week. No wins but a lot of happy, flushed faces. A huge thank you to Tayla N and Alex P in 4N who kindly accepted my request to play for our B’s. We had some shuffling to do due to players away. They fitted in so well and were a bonus for the team. Thanks also to Kaitlyn P and Georgina L for playing in the A’s.

This Friday is our last match for 2014. Thanks to the girls for a wonderful season and to the parents who came out to support them. I will be on leave this week so Miss Stephanie De Palo will take care of the girls for their last match against Pennant Hills at Normanhurst Oval.

Happy netballing girls!

Katrina Prince
SOCCER

On Friday last week, Normanhurst Public School PSSA soccer teams travelled to Normanhurst Oval, this time to face Roselea Public School. In their penultimate PSSA game our players came out determined to end the season on a high.

The Red Team again proved hard to break down defensively as Joey and Phillip worked together to great effect limiting Roselea’s time on the ball. Despite several shots on target, some strong glove work by Eddy and later Joey, ensured the opposition would have no easy breakthrough. As the game drew on the Red Team rallied and made a number of counter-attacking sorties up the wings thanks to Zac, Nick, Charlie and Bradley. Again the midfielders got through a power of work with Morris making some incisive passes and Nick and Archie some great dribbling runs. Damien was the first to put the ball in the back of the net with a powerful strike late in the first half. He repeated the dose in the second half to become the first player to score twice in the same game this season. Some strong defensive work by William and Eric helped Normanhurst secure a well-earned victory, 2-0.

The Blue Team put in an excellent effort with sterling performances by Eric, Josh, Daniel and Justin. Jamie in the sweeper role was again brilliant and he worried the opposition with both his defence and attack. Once again, Annalise played a great game in the middle of the park and she combined well with Kathy, Tom, Rahul and Cameron to penetrate Roselea’s defence. Playing up forward, Shakib put in a barnstorming performance, constantly terrorising the opposition with marauding runs. William also played brilliantly and in doing so, he became the second player this season to score twice in the same game, his cool head in front of goal helping to secure the win. Abigail was another standout on the day; she made some fantastic breaks and continually got into goal scoring positions. After setting up one goal, she then scored herself to send the team and spectators into raptures. The Blue Team showed great composure to claim the win, 3-0.

Well done everyone

Jason Cull

FOREVER

THRI VE

Dear Families,

Welcome to our new weekly column “Forever Thrive” which will contain information about healthy living. Each week staff, students, parents and the community will be able to share information through this column to promote healthier living in our school and community.

The articles can range from healthy recipes, lunchbox ideas, bushwalking spots, cycle ways or other outdoor venues your family has enjoyed, that you would like to recommend. You could even send information about paediatric development, nutrition advice, etc. Please acknowledge the source of the article in these cases.

We encourage everyone to email the office with any interesting items that we could include in this column.

Please send your emails to Normanhurst-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Subject: (name of article)

Get active, get moving.
Yours in health,

Judy Newton and Katrina Prince

Crossing the Midline (from Coastwide Therapy Services)

Quite a few little and big people have difficulty crossing the Midline. What is the Midline? How can we help? Why do they have difficulty? Below are some activities and a brief explanation of why crossing the midline is so important.

Crossing the midline is the ability to reach across the middle of the body with the arms and legs crossing over to the other side.

Crossing the body midline is an important developmental skill need for many everyday tasks such as handwriting, putting shoes and socks on with both hands and hitting a ball with a bat. When a child spontaneously crosses the
midline with their dominant hand, then their dominant hand is going to get the practice it needs to develop good fine motor skills. If your child avoids crossing the midline, then both hands will tend to get equal practice at developing skills and your child’s hand dominance may be delayed. This means that once your child starts school, learning to write may be much more difficult as they have two less skilled hands rather than one stronger, more skilled hand. Difficulty crossing the midline also makes it difficult with visual tracking from one side to the other when reading, meaning reading can also be difficult.

You may be able to tell if there are problems with midline crossing if your child:

- Frequently switches hands when writing, drawing, painting or colouring in.
- Uses their left hand when eating food on the left side of the plate and right hand when eating food on the right side of the plate.
- Rotates their body to the opposite side when reaching across the body.
- Has difficulty tracking an object from one side of their body to the other.
- Has poor reading skills.
- Has difficulty coordinating both sides of their body i.e. clumsy.
- Uses different feet to kick a ball.
- Doesn't notice all of the details on a page when copying pictures or writing, i.e. omits letters when copying from the board or a book.

What can be done to improve the ability to cross the midline?

- Bilateral integration skills (using both sides of the body at the same time).
- Daily life skills. Incorporate more midline crossing activities into the child’s daily life.
- Core stability. Work on core stability and trunk rotation.

Activities that can help children develop these skills:

- Fine motor activities: threading beads, play doh, cutting with scissors and pasting, paper folding/origami.
- Using a ruler or stencils to draw.
- Blocks and musical instruments to bang or play to bring the instruments together in their midline.
- Drawing figure 8s on the side or X on a vertical surface.
- Playing Twister.
- Cross crawls (touching your elbow with the opposite knee)
- Playing Simon Says.

Roll Ball. Child in 4 point kneeling, rolls ball to a target. Position the targets to either side and encourage rolling with the left hand to the right target and vice versa.

Balloon tennis. Child holds a racquet with 2 hands and bats the balloon thrown to each side of them.

Newspaper rolls. A rolled up newspaper can be used to hit a balloon. Grade the activity from using two hands to using one hand. Encourage reaching ACROSS the midline. Start off sitting, then kneeling then standing.

Make streamer or ribbon circles and patterns in front of and crossing their midline.

Placing stickers on one arm and encouraging the child to remove them with the opposite hand.

PEER SUPPORT

Living Positively

Peer Support continues this week. In their groups, the children will share the things they enjoy in life and they will have an opportunity to discuss their favourite activity. This session enables children to recognise what makes them happy. It would be wonderful if you could talk to your child about their favourite activity and how it makes them feel, as a follow up to this session.

Linda Grimmond

P&C NEWS

www.npspandc.com

http://www.facebook.com/NormanhurstPublicPC

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Class/Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th Sept</td>
<td>Obstacle-a-thon</td>
<td>Calling all Dads</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Father's Day Breakfast</td>
<td>(and Mums and</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Grandparents)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th Sept</td>
<td>Spring Fair</td>
<td>Volunteers needed</td>
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God Bless Them, And All Who Set Sail In Them

Our fabulous new boats were finally installed over the weekend in conjunction with the Working Bee (see Louise’s detailed report for more on that) and I am told they are already a big success with the kids. I would like to extend a big thank you to our Master Builder, Adam Kenyon and his able assistants, Scott Courtney and Phil Ramsay for making this possible. And of course many thanks to Louise who put so much work into sourcing these fine vessels; I
would like to think we will get many, many years of great service from them.

Fundraising Contribution

As we have now passed the halfway mark of 2014 I thought it timely to send a reminder for those that may not yet have been able to help us out with our Contribution scheme. The first two years of the scheme have provided a significant boost to the P&C’s fundraising efforts and we have already had a very positive response for 2014. For those that have not previously been able to assist but now find themselves in a position to do so, your support would be greatly appreciated. A copy of the Contribution Form is included with this newsletter.

NPS Spring Fair

As you are all aware our Spring Fair is just over a month away. Our organising team are working hard behind the scenes but your support will be essential to helping us produce a fantastic event. You will be hearing more from Lisa calling for volunteers and I would ask you all to pitch in where you can. And Year 1, we are on the BBQ so grab your tongs and come and join me!

Scott Veale

Working Bee

A pretty good turnout given other competing priorities - City to Surf, netball reps try outs, end of season sport commitments, a lovely Sunday afternoon etc.

The ‘jungle’ area near the hall had a bit of a refresh, the liriopes (thanks Leigh Hudson) were finally planted out on the bank beneath the basketball court with three new bottle brushes for a splash of colour. Now if we could just have a little rain!

Speaking of colour, our beautiful new boats were installed – bright red and bright blue (Go Normo!) and tested out by a few willing participants. Thank you to Scott Veale, Adam Kenyon, Phil Ramsay and Scott Courtney – our boat installation crew, ably assisted by other willing hands in between bouts of gardening.

A big thank you to the following 11 families for finding the time in their busy weekends to do volunteer work for our school: Chuck, Courtney, Dougall, Frank (doing work for NOOSH as well), Harris, Kenyon, Maisano, Ramsay, Riley, Thorp and Veale.

If you missed the attendance sheet please contact the school office with your children’s details so that they can be awarded their house points.

Finally, I am missing a small silver metal Digadoo brand hand trowel that was lent out at the working bee – if it went home with your equipment or if found somewhere on the school grounds could it be returned to the school office for collection.

Thank you
Louise Courtney
P&C Grounds Coordinator

BAND NEWS

Parent Band Roster

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<th>Thursday 14th August</th>
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<tr>
<td>Band</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>7.25-8.30am</td>
<td>Annette Phillips</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>12.55-1.55pm</td>
<td>Jaclyn Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 18th August</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>7.25-8.30am</td>
<td>Debrah King</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>12.55-1.55pm</td>
<td>Leigh Hudson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 21st August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>7.25-8.30am</td>
<td>Lisa Balian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>12.55-1.55pm</td>
<td>Motoko Takagi</td>
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Peter Rabbit Community Preschool is having an Open Day on Tuesday 9th September from 9.30am-11.30am in the grounds of St. Pauls Church, Pearce’s Corner, Wahroonga.

Their trained teachers will be available to show you around the Preschool and provide information on their high quality educational curriculum based on the Early Years Learning Framework. Enrolling now for 2015. More information please phone 9489 3699, or email info@peterrabbitpreschool.com.au

Thornleigh West Public School Spring Fair is on Saturday 23rd August. The kids will be entertained with rides, face painting, games and a Kindifarm. There will also be market stalls and lots of food on offer. Located on Giblett Avenue, Thornleigh, the fair runs from 10.00am-4.00pm and is gold coin entry. You can purchase arm bands for five hours of unlimited rides for $25 via www.flexischools.com.au (select Thornleigh West Public School).