Dear Parents,

Last Thursday was such a great day at our Swimming Carnival. I had not been to Hornsby Aquatic Centre since it was re-opened and it is a fantastic venue for the local community. Grey skies threatened early, but it ended up a fine day in the end. The participation rate was excellent, with many students really pushing themselves to complete the swim. Thanks to Miss De Palo and Mr Barling who did an awesome job running the carnival. I am reminded of the extent of the effort they make to allow as many students to compete when I know of larger schools who have only the Year Two children turning eight and up allowed to participate, and all students swim 50m only. Ribbons for the 25m will be handed out at assembly this week, with the rest handed out the following week.

Speaking of swimming, I was fortunate to be down at Homebush Aquatic Centre yesterday to see our students compete in the Zone Swimming Carnival. Thanks to Colleen Young who acted as Team Manager at the pool. Normanhurst students were beautifully behaved as usual and many of our swimmers did personal best times. Phoenix A. (2nd in freestyle, 2nd in breaststroke, 3rd in backstroke), James Y (2nd in freestyle) and Charlie B (2nd in butterfly) have qualified to swim in the Sydney North Swimming Carnival to be held on March 17th at Homebush. Congratulations to all those students who represented Normanhurst so well yesterday, and good luck to Charlie, James and Phoenix.

Ethics classes for Stages One, Two and Three started today. Kindergarten will hopefully start next week as we are waiting on the training of a fourth teacher. We have had a huge response, with Kindergarten and Stage Two classes to capacity. My thanks to Chris Mansfield who is coordinating Primary Ethics at Normanhurst.

Later this week a sheet will be distributed regarding publishing of student information and accessing online services. Some Kindergarten parents and new enrolments have already completed this as this section is included on the DEC’s new enrolment forms. The wording is slightly different in the new forms compared with the previous ones which is why we are asking you to complete the information and return to the school at your earliest convenience.

I was having a chat with our Band Director, David Sismey, and he was telling me that we have a total of 77 students in our Concert and
Training Bands this year. We have 179 students in Years 3-6. Total. That means, if my maths is OK, that 43% of 3-6 students in our school are involved in band. That is an amazing proportion of students! Learning an instrument isn’t easy – no instant gratification here. It takes dedication and determination to succeed. Qualities we all want and encourage in our children.

This Saturday a number of parents are descending upon the school to put the finishing touches on our new fixed equipment in terms of edging, soft-fall and other extras. Thank you so much to Louise Courtney and the large group of parents who are breaking their backs to make our playground even better!

Hard to believe it, but Parent Teacher Interviews are already looming. They will be conducted on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of March (Week 9) between 11am and 6:30pm. A note will go home shortly regarding this. I am keen to adopt a web-based booking form to make things easier for parents and the school. More information on this soon!

David Beggs

No Striver badges or Merit Awards were awarded last week due to the swimming carnival.

SWIMMING RIBBONS

At assembly on Thursday 5th March, the 25m ribbons will be presented.

READING TUTOR PROGRAM

Volunteers Needed

NPS is fortunate to be able to provide an intensive reading program for those children who need it. For the program to operate, we need volunteers who can spare one or two hours per week. Volunteer tutors will follow a step-by-step reading program, working with individual children. Training is provided to all tutors prior to the program commencing. If you can spare one hour a week this is a fantastic way to really make a difference to child’s education. Any parents, grandparents or community members would be welcomed. Please leave your details with the office if you would like to volunteer.

Michelle Pogainis
Learning & Support Teacher

CRICKET REPORT

Last Friday, our knockout cricket team travelled to Normanhurst Oval to take on an experienced team from Normanhurst West. For many of our players, it was their first game of cricket ever!

We lost the toss and were sent in to bat in humid conditions. Charlie and Josh opened the batting and had to contend with a swinging new ball. Normanhurst West eventually broke the opening partnership, which brought Rahul to the crease. He looked to dictate the terms against one of Normanhurst West’s spinners. Our batsman faced some clever spin bowling and we collapsed to be all out for 48.

Our players were enthusiastic in the field, with Zac, Nick, Oliver W, Phil, Damien, Justin and Will ensuring runs were hard to come by. Charlie made the most of the new ball, bowling a sharp delivery that caught the edge of the bat and Oliver H took an excellent catch at wicket-keeper. Daniel M proved to be tricky to face, taking a great wicket, thanks to a smart catch by a diving Morris. Unfortunately, two wickets were all we could manage as Normanhurst West chased down our total.

Thank you to all of the helpers for the lifts to and from the ground and Graham Harris for scoring the game.

Anthony Norman

P&C NEWS

www.npspandc.com
http://www.facebook.com/NormanhurstPublicPC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Class/Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th Mar</td>
<td>Working Bee</td>
<td>All welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th Mar</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 8pm</td>
<td>All welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th Mar</td>
<td>Family Fun Day</td>
<td>All welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th Mar</td>
<td>Election Day BBQ &amp; Cake Stall</td>
<td>Volunteers and Bakers Needed</td>
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A reminder that there is a Working Bee this Saturday 7th March, details elsewhere in this newsletter.

The next P&C General meeting is Monday 9th March in the staffroom commencing at 8.00pm.

1. Open/welcome
2. Presentation from the Principal of Asquith Girls High School
3. Apologies
4. Previous meeting minutes
5. Business arising from Previous meeting
6. Correspondence
7. Business arising from correspondence
8. Reports
9. Agenda items
   • Decision on payment for Mathletics/Reading Eggs
   • Discussing a parent complaint regarding Pancake Day occurring on Shrove Tuesday
10. General Business

Steve Clark
President

WORKING BEE

Saturday 7th March – 9.00am to finish
All Years: Kindergarten to Year 6

Meeting point: Canteen around 9.00am (where the sign in sheet will be) then wherever you find groups of people working.

We have a big job to do getting the new playground equipment ready for use...which means equipment and people are needed to dig, level, build smallish retaining walls and edges and to move 40 cubic metres (that's lots and lots of barrow loads) of soft fall mulch.

Equipment needs for playground landscaping: shovels, mattocks, crow bars, augurs for digging post holes, lots of wheelbarrows, rakes and lots of strong backs!

There are plenty of other jobs to do as well... the weeds are rampant, the wisteria is in need of a haircut, paths need edging and sweeping, drains need clearing, mulch needs replacing in the lower playground and around the red boat and a multitude of other gardening and tidying up tasks.

Equipment needs for general ground work: Wheelbarrows, rakes and spades/pitchforks, yard brooms/blowers, whipper snippers, ledge shears, secateurs, garden waste bags, hoses and attachments.

Tools with fully charged power packs, petrol driven trimmers/blowers etc. are preferable as outdoor power outlets are limited. If you have old newspapers please bring them – one of our parents will be working around Mrs Grimmond’s classroom and has asked for newspapers to layer for weed control – please leave them on the bottom step of 3/4G classroom opposite hand ball court.

Morning and afternoon tea will be provided. Please make your own arrangements for lunch if you are making a day of it! Please remember – water bottles, sunscreen and insect repellent.

House points are awarded and don’t forget $2.00/adult if you would like to become a member of the P&C and be covered for insurance purposes. The weather forecast is looking good. Any change in arrangements will be posted on the Normanhurst P&C Facebook page www.facebook.com/NormanhurstPublicPC

I will be around the grounds in various spots during the day – someone will know who and where I am if you need any guidance. Come for an hour or several, whatever works best around other activities.

Louise Courtney
0409 742 204

CANTEEN NEWS

Thank you to all those families that have embraced our online ordering system. Just to make things a little easier for you in the mornings I have changed the cut off time for orders to be placed. Orders must now be placed by 9.10am on the ordering day, giving you an extra 40 minutes for ordering.

Alexandra
Canteen Manager

BAND NEWS

Parent Band Roster

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>7.15-8.45am</td>
<td>Michelle Fitzpatrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>12.40-2.10pm</td>
<td>Cate Riley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9th March</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>7.15-8.45am</td>
<td>Stephen Ukovic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>12.40-2.10pm</td>
<td>Fiona Hales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>7.15-8.45am</td>
<td>Andrew Grattan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>12.40-2.10pm</td>
<td>Rowena Fagan</td>
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NPS PRAYER GROUP

NPS Prayer Group is meeting on Thursday 12th March to pray for the school, children and staff at NPS. We are an interdenominational Christian group and we would love you to join us from 9.00-9.30am outside the school canteen.
For further details please contact Caroline Maisano on 9945 1117 caroline.maisano@gmail.com Louise Horgan on 9489 4671 Louise_horgan@hotmail.com or Denise Pivetta on 9489 4232 or dpivetta@optusnet.com.au We look forward to seeing you there.

GIVE BLOOD

The Australian Red Cross blood service is visiting Hornsby on Monday 16th March, Tuesday 17th March and Wednesday 18th March. The mobile unit will be in the William Street Car Park. Please bring photo ID with you.