**Norths’ News**

**A Community with Expectations of Achievement and Success**

**Important Dates to Remember**

**Tue, Wed & Thur 13-15 May**

**NAPLAN**

School Phone Number 9623 1443  Fax Number 9833 1283  Office Hours 8:30am – 3:30pm  
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“The hardest part of parenting is keeping kids’ chins up when life doesn’t go their way.”

Michael Grose, Parenting Ideas

9 May, 2014

**NAPLAN**

The annual National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy testing for Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 takes place from 13-15 May. Students are tested nationally in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. We request that all our students have a good night’s sleep, arrive at school early and have a healthy breakfast so they will be able to concentrate and do their best. If you wish further information about the NAPLAN test please contact your child’s teacher or Mrs McSpeerin. Alternatively, you may access more information including FAQs, a parent brochure and past results, at: [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au).

**SYDNEY WEST CARNIVALS**

Congratulations must go to Emily Archer, Pacey Spaulding and Wilson Orika for their tremendous efforts at their respective carnivals which were held last week. Emily competed at the Sydney West Softball carnival at Glenmore Park. Her team did exceptionally well, winning three games and drawing one. Both Pacey and Wilson competed at the Sydney West Touch carnival at Kingsway. Pacey and Wilson played brilliantly. Well done!

**SYDNEY WEST RUGBY LEAGUE**

We would all like to congratulate Lau Siafolau on his selection into the 11yrs Sydney West Rugby League team. Lau will now travel to Cronulla, to compete over three days at the NSW PSSA 11yrs Rugby League Championships. Good luck, Lau.

**OPPORTUNITY CLASS (OC)**

If your child is currently in Year 4, you may be considering applying for an opportunity class placement for Year 5 entry in 2015. You need to check the web for more details about applying and the application process involved. To apply online please visit: [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/placement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/placement).

Students who are selected to be placed in these specialised class settings are viewed as the most capable, academic students in their current Year 4 cohort. If you wish to seek further information about these settings, please discuss with your child’s class teacher or Mrs McSpeerin.
LIBRARY NEWS
On Tuesday we were all thrilled to have Australian author, Aleesah Darlison, visit our school. It was a wonderful opportunity for the whole school to meet a real author and we were very pleased she was able to come. K-2 students learnt about bats and meerkats. Then Ms Darlison read her latest picture book, “Little Meerkat.” Students in Years 3-6 were shown some of the steps Ms Darlison uses when she writes fantasy novels and looked at the range of chapter books she has written. All students were actively engaged in their session and enjoyed the group participation and mini quiz activities. Some lucky students received a bookmark for their participation. After the 2 sessions, Ms Darlison visited the Library and was amazed by the work the students have done to reflect their understanding and knowledge of her books. She was so impressed that she has asked Miss Campbell to choose 3 extra special students to receive a book prize for their outstanding work. This is very exciting and unexpected! The winners will be announced in the next few weeks and their book prize will be presented at Assembly. Ms Darlison even took photos of some of the work to add to her website!
Students who ordered autographed copies of her books were very excited to receive them. If you are still interested in ordering an autographed copy of one of her books, collect an order form from Miss Campbell in the Library and send your order and money to the Office by Friday 16 May. These orders will be delivered within 2 weeks.

ROOBY ROO
At last, the ‘Rooby Roo Verandah’ is nearly ready. Mrs Nolan and Mrs Robertson with the help of Mr Tanswell and Mr Fletcher from Dunheved High School have prepared for the area to be completed during the next week or so. This means that the red reading boxes will be coming out regularly on a Tuesday morning and we will be starting the teacher reading on the verandah. As well, there will be visiting guests to read us books. How exciting! So look out for the signs for the start and of course, we are sure ROOBY ROO won’t be too far away!!!

POWER’S READING
The Power’s Reading Challenge is well under way. Several students have read 5 books now and are working towards reaching the goal of reading 20 books. These students give up their recess and/or lunch to read with Mrs Power (retired teacher) and Mrs McGovern (parent helper) to improve their reading skills. Congratulations to all those students who are participating in this wonderful program.
Also a big, big THANKYOU to Mrs Power and Mrs McGovern for their support!

COFFEE & CHAT (REFER TO POSTER FOR TERM 2 AGENDA)
Next week, there will be a ‘Coffee & Chat’ on Wednesday at 1.30pm in the RFF room. This is a great opportunity to come along in a very informal setting and have some Afternoon Tea with other parents. This time, there will be another presentation on ‘Maths in the Classroom’ with Mrs Duross-Smith. It doesn’t matter if you have not attended before as she will be quickly taking a look back at what she discussed and demonstrated in Term 1. What you will take away from the afternoon will be lots of ideas about how to help your children with Maths in a fun and easy way. Plus, Mrs Robertson and Mrs Greenow will have more general information on parenting, learning difficulties, courses, local events and also be able to answer any questions you may have.
‘Coffee & Chat’ aims to make our school a community to help and assist our parents/carers, students and each other in any way we can. We still intend to focus on fostering a group where parents can meet and talk but we are wanting to offer some support for your children’s curriculum. Hope to see lots of new faces on Wednesday. If you are unsure where to go, just drop in at the office.
KIDS, SOCIAL MEDIA AND PRIVACY
Regardless of your child’s age, the world may already know a lot more about them than you suspect. According to recent research:
92% of children under the age of 2 have a digital shadow (- it starts with proud parents posting newborn baby photos on Facebook or Instagram)
A quarter of Australian children 8 - 12 years old use Facebook, but the minimum age for a user is 13 years.
More than 20 per cent of tweens publish photos of themselves on Instagram.
Young people 14 - 19 have an average of 453 fans, friends or followers on social media.
2014 Privacy Awareness Week, 4 - 10 May 2014, is a good time to review your family’s privacy settings and discuss online security. You’ll find lots of practical information and resources to share with your kids at www.ipc.nsw.gov.au

TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?
As the cold weather hits, so do the winter bugs. It’s often hard to know whether to send your child to school or let them stay home to recover, especially when that means an adult cancelling work. For safety’s sake, if your child seems unwell you should always keep them home from school and seek medical advice.
School A to Z and the NSW Health have created an at-a-glance chart to help answer your questions about common childhood illness and how long sick kids need to miss school. Find it by typing this link into your web browser www.bit.ly/1hytn2E

PLAYGROUND AWARDS - Week 2
Listen on Assembly

KB  Riley Duffy
KH  Noah Nelson
KJ  Talisha Basiuk
KT  Aiden Dunn
1L  Bailey Hepenstall
1S  Lockey Feil
1RW  Makeyla Graham
2B  Alana Elphick
2V  Breeanna Saunders

2/3A  Shannahae Hohepa
3C  Tru Whitton
3R  Lily Hobson
3/4W  Malia Pine
4D  Brooklyn Ritchie
4/5A  Jenny Atua
5P  Jake Barker
6B  Shanit Prakash
6R

KIDS MATTER

VALUE AWARDS - Week 2
Fairness

KB  Lila Faapo
KH  Bianca Pestridge
KJ  Rayanne Zahr
KT  Ruby Pannaye
1L  Leilani Siafolau
1S  Michaela Armodoros
1RW  Clive Nicholson
2B  Adam Bartlett
2V  Talea Brown

2/3A  Bradley Fuller
3C  Kyra Vaughn
3R  Moana Muru-Brown
3/4W  Peter Nafol
4D  Rose Spiteri
4/5A  Melanie O’Neill
5P  Georgette Cooper-Challita
6B  TJ Pine
6R

Principal’s Awards
Jordyn Duffy
Maddison Jackson
COFFEE & CHAT

TIME: 1.30pm

PLACE: Aboriginal Community Room or RFF room

WHAT: Come along and chat with friends about how your children are learning in their classrooms. Enjoy meeting other parents/carers and share experiences. Meet Mrs Du Ross-Smith and join in with her sessions on Maths. She can show you how to help your children!

’What’s New in Maths K-6’ was well received.

WHEN: 2014 TERM 2 DATES

WK 3       WEDNESDAY 14 MAY
WK 5       WEDNESDAY 28 MAY
WK 7       WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE