Mrs McKenzie

It is with a sad heart that I announce to our school community that Mrs McKenzie has made the decision to retire from her working life in education. Mrs McKenzie will remain with us until the end of Term 3, at which time she will take long service leave until her retirement date in November. Mrs McKenzie has worked at our school for 14 years giving our Preps a solid start to their education. She has also take particular responsibility for the development of curriculum and for our focus on building practices to ensure a sustainable future. More information about this will appear in later newsletters.

Reporting on Student Progress

On June 17 and 18 we celebrated learning as our students reflected on their learning goals with their families. Progress was evidenced by actual pieces of work completed this semester. Students also detailed their future learning goals. Next week reports will be sent home. These written reports document the achievements and future learning goals of each student. They also suggest ways that home and school can work together as a committed team to support learning. Reports may be collected by parents after 3;30 on Thursday. A signed note authorizing another adult will also be accepted. Reports not collected by Friday afternoon will be mailed. Please ensure your mailing address is up to date with our office.
Countdown to the Athletic Sports – calling parent helpers!

Our Athletic Sports are scheduled for Friday, June 20 at Goldsworthy Reserve. If you are able to assist on this day, we can accommodate as many helpers as we can rustle up. All helpers will require a current ‘Working With Children Check’.

Preps 2015

Do you know of any young people who will be turning 5 on or before April 30, 2015? These children would be eligible to being school next year. Enrolments are now being accepted for our 2015 Prep intake.

2015 Senior Camp to Maldon

Next year our senior students will be going on camp to Maldon. This is a camp with a focus on bike riding. In the weeks leading up to camp, students will participate in a Bike Ed program. Students will need to have their own bicycles for the bike Ed component of this program. Then, whilst on camp, students will cycle to and from their various activities. The bikes used on camp will be supplied by the camp. This notice is intended to give advance notice of the need for a bicycle for Bike Ed at the beginning of 2015.

Excursions/Incursions—Term 2, 2014

Each term teachers plan learning experiences that address the AusVELS curriculum requirements. In so doing, they may plan incursions or excursions that make the learning more powerful. While teachers try to keep costs to a minimum, there is always an additional expense. A forecast of excursion/ incursion costs for Term 2 and 3 are:

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Student of the Week

Prep Podhorsky
Ryder B—For working really hard to improve his writing—HOORAY!

Junior Kelly
Mia D—For great handwriting.
Angus H—Just for being an amazing little boy who always does his best.

Junior Smith
Charlie C—For taking responsibility for his own belongings.

Junior Wrigley
Macey F—For a great week working towards her goals.

Middle Ashkanasy
James W—For showing improved self control and responsibility.

Middle Baird
Anders F—For his focus and dedication to all his learning. Keep up the excellent work!

Middle McKinnis
Maha D G—For being a responsible leader in the classroom. You are a fantastic role model!

Senior Burn
Teagan V—A well prepared and presented debate. Good rebuttals.

Senior McClelland
Ben McP—For a very productive week in the SLA. Your focus and hard work has not gone unnoticed. Keep it up big fella!

Senior Peel
Cashel Q—For his outstanding effort in our class debate—you did a tremendous job mate!

Arts
‘Kaisercraft Arts Award’
Tarik Z—For your wonderful artwork!

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K-ROCK - 8:30AM FRIDAY
NICK PUPOVAC
ASSEMBLY EVERY FRIDAY AT 3:10PM
ASSEMBLY LEADERS: JUNIOR STUDENTS
Polynesian Dancer—$6 per student
DAV (Debating) Workshop (SLA students) - $8 per student
Lightning Premiership (selected students) - $6 per student
District Athletic (selected students) - $8 per student
Paint Storm Incursion (all students) - tba

Non-payment of costs means that the school must meet the shortfall. This reduces the monies available for other resources for all students.

Please refer to our school ‘Parent Payment’ available in the Policy section of our school website.
www.newtownps.vic.edu.au

Student Unexplained Absences
If your child is to be absent from school, please notify the school on the morning of the absence. In this way we are able to monitor if each child has arrived safely at school. This is then officially recorded as an ‘explained absence’.

An ‘unexplained absence’ is cause for great concern for the well being of the student.

Please refer to our school ‘Attendance Policy’ available in the Policy section of our school website.
www.newtownps.vic.edu.au

Deakin University filming at our school
On Monday students from our school were filmed as part of the Science Teacher Education Partnership with Schools (STEPS) Project. By partnering with Deakin University, pre-service teachers have authentic teaching experiences and build strong relationships with students and staff at Newtown Primary School. This initiative will feature as a case study on the STEPS website: http://www.stepsproject.org.au/case-studies

This is yet another way in which our school forms partnerships to build a team committed to a providing a strong focus on deep learning.

Health and Safety Labelling Program—Asbestos
As part of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s Health and Safety Management Plan, new labelling has been installed at our school. The labels remind people to contact school reception prior to undertaking any works at the school, to ensure they have up-to-date information from the school’s asbestos register.

Asbestos - which was used extensively in building materials in the past but is now banned - is considered safe unless damaged or in poor condition. We conduct regular inspection of asbestos on our school site and has systematically removed much of the material. Please feel confident that your child is completely safe in regard to asbestos management.

The new labels form part of a comprehensive program to ensure Victorian government schools remain safe. Children’s safety is our number one priority. That is why the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is taking this extra step as a precaution.

Drainage workshop
Drainage works are now completed at the south side of the Multi-Purpose Room. This work was carried out and fully funded by the Department of Education to eliminate any chance of flood and water damage to our Multi-Purpose Room. The area will remain ‘out of bounds’ to allow seed to germinate and begin to grow.

School Uniform
Following discussion at School Council on Tuesday night, I would like to clarify our school policy around footwear. Our Student Uniform Code, ratified at School Council on June 19, 2012 clearly states . . .

| Shoes | Sturdy school shoes or runners, predominantly one colour either black or white. No thongs. |

This refers to both sports shoes and everyday shoes. There is an increasing occurrence of brightly coloured footwear appearing in our school. Uniforms are purchased by parents. Just as you would not send your child to school in a pink t-shirt, we also ask that you observe the shoe component of the code. When you are purchasing any uniform items, please remember to comply with our Student Dress Code. The code is also published in our newsletter and available from our school office.

For the full Student Uniform Code visit our website
www.newtownps.vic.edu.au
Reading your child’s report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . . Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar?

Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?
   Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?
   There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than disappoint?
   Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible. School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

Focus on strengths:
Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below average, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment:
Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter:
talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.