

Nords Wharf P.S. Newsletter

Forever Onward



Marine Parade, Nords Wharf NSW 2281 Phone: 4976 1257 Fax: 4972 5046 Email: nordswharf-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Term 1 Week 4

Thursday 19 February 2015

Principal's Message

Jellybeans

All the classes and teachers have reported great things from the Jellybeans program. The students are engaged and developing a range of music skills. I was in the library this morning and saw a part of what Kinder/1 and Class 1/2 were doing. It was exciting to see Kinders already playing two note songs on the glockenspiel and Class 1/2 were clapping in time to a musical score.

We are now in the third week of the program and, unless you are paying by instalments, all monies should have been paid. If you are yet to pay any money then please do so by next Thursday, otherwise, unfortunately, your child will be missing out. If you haven't paid because you are having financial difficulties then please come and see me so that we can make some arrangements. The school receives equity funds to support families in need.

Zone Swimming

The Zone Swimming carnivals are being held on Monday and Wednesday next week. Good luck to all of our qualifying students. Just meeting the qualifying time is a huge effort. Mr Westcott is running the carnival this year, in collaboration with Mr Agnew from Pelican Flat PS. If you are able to provide transport and stay at the carnival to assist our students could you please let Mr Westcott or I know. Class 4/5/6 will be taught by a casual on Monday and will be split on Wednesday.

Clean Up Schools Day

Coinciding with the Clean Up Australia Day weekend, we will be holding our annual Clean Up Schools Day on Friday next week. K/1 and Class 1/2 clean up within school grounds. Class 2/3/4 will clean from the tennis court to Government Rd and partially along Government Rd while Class 4/5/6 will go over to Baxter Park and down towards the Community Hall. All students should bring gloves to school to wear during the clean up. We do have some gloves available for students who don't bring in their own.

Teacher Professional Development

Teachers attend weekly meetings to further develop their skills in a range of areas. This term all teachers have continued in the Focus on Reading program, with Mr Westcott attending further leadership workshops yesterday. Also in the area of English, Mrs Hook and I are attending a conference tomorrow where we will be involved in consultation around a new "concepts continuum" that is being developed by the DEC. Last week all classes participated in PE lessons with the support of Miss McCarthy from Hunter Health. Teachers are receiving training on developing aspects of quality PE lessons using the SCORES model. SCORES stands for Supporting Children's Outcomes using Rewards, Exercise and Skills. Miss McCarthy will return for further training sessions in week 8.

Absences

Thank you to everyone who has been promptly sending in notes explaining absences. This is an area where the DEC has recently made some adjustments to processes that schools need to enforce. All absences need to be notified within 7 days of commencement. The principal has the authority to not accept an absence as being for a valid reason if they believe that the absence is not in the best interest of the child. This includes partial absences. These are recorded as Unjustified. There are no longer exemptions for holidays in school time. Holidays should be taken during the school holiday periods. The school will contact you for any unexplained absences.

Karin Hird

K/1 News

Homework was sent home this week. The sheets with the pictures and words on them that look like cards include 2 copies of every word. You can cut them out and play games like Snap, Memory, Go Fish etc to help your child learn them. Ask your child to 'duck hand' the sounds in the word (indicated with the black and grey lettering) then say the word as they play. I have had a number of parents ask for more information about the SSP approach (duck hands, lines and numbers) to help them support their children at home. I will be available Tuesday afternoon next week at 3.15pm if you would like to come to my classroom so I can explain the approach in more detail and show you how to use the resources that have been sent home. I am excited to be implementing SSP this year and I am already seeing great progress with many students. Of course, if you need more information at any time please let me know.

We have been investigating data in Maths and discovering how to represent it on a simple graph. We have looked at information, such as our favourite foods, and discussed which group is more/less popular. We have been identifying groups that are equal in size as well.



One of the books we have shared in class recently is *The Potato People* by Pamela Allen. We have made our own potato people and we are waiting to see if they grow 'horns' so we can plant them in our school garden and harvest our own potatoes.

As part of our unit of work on Persuasive Texts, the students were asked to persuade me and try to make me agree that we should have pet fish in our classroom. They were very convincing. On Wednesday a fish tank with 3 fish appeared in our room! We will be able to watch them throughout the year.

Trinity Hook

1/2 News

This week the Star of the Week is Max. Great job to all Year 1 and 2 students learning their spelling words last week. Students achieved amazing results for our first spelling test of the year.

This week, as part of our English unit about persuasion, we have been looking at ads and discussing how they try to persuade us to buy a product. 1/2 even had a go at 'advertising' some of our favourite recess snacks!

I am very proud of the way that the students are applying their knowledge of SSP (Speech Sound Pics), particularly in reading. Students have already shown great improvements over the past few weeks! Keep up the good work 1/2.

Mrs Halligan



K/1 with their new friend Tigger at the Teddy Bears Picnic last week

2/3/4 News

Students that asked for Home Readers were given books. There will be two or three books sent home each Wednesday as this is the only day we can sort and re-issue students with books. Please make sure your child brings them in on the Tuesday or Wednesday. Don't forget to record your child's reading each day that they complete a 10 minute reading session. If possible, I would also like to ask that you supply your child with a home reading folder that protects our school readers. We would love for the books to last as long as possible so other children are able to continue reading them. Some books do suffer slight damage if just put in their school bags with everything else. Thank you in advance.

Next week our class will be looking at 2D space during maths. Our news topic is "What they think about their class so far". Please feel free to discuss ideas with your child as a well thought out news item makes interesting listening. We will be working closely on making sure that during news students improve their confidence in talking to the whole class which will be fantastic preparation leading into Public speaking. The class is working well and getting used to the changes of a new teacher and a new setting including the increased work load and level of difficulty. As always, please feel free to come and discuss anything that you like or if time is making such a conversation difficult please send a note in with your child and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you to the parents that have already come in to help our students. Volunteers are always welcome.

Carl Derbyshire

4/5/6 News

This week we have written a persuasive text, "Children Should Learn to Swim". I was very pleased with the general standard with Joel receiving the highest mark. Well done, Joel.

Last week these people scored 100% in their spelling: Madi, Joel, Taj, Tiahna, Jesse, Todd and Sami. This was a big improvement on last week.

The students have received their Jellybean folders and music. These lessons have been very good and the children have enjoyed learning to play the recorder.

We also now have all our books and the children have been issued a folder for storing stencils.

Peter Westcott

P&C News

A reminder that the P&C AGM is being held on Tuesday, 3 March at 6.30pm in the Staffroom. The following positions will need to be filled: Canteen Coordinator, Band Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator. If you are interested in any of these positions and would like more information please contact Sidone Lambert on 0416 230 739.

Uniform Shop

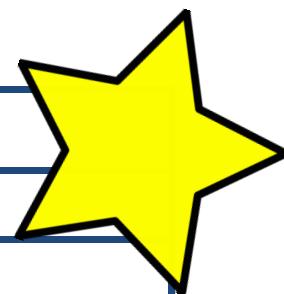
The Uniform Shop will be open next **Wednesday, 25 February** in lieu of Thursday from 9am—10am. Smaller sized hats, both bucket and surf style have arrived.

Thanks to the generous donations of families, our Second Hand Clothing Pool has lots of stock on sale for a gold coin donation: Polo shirts, Tunics, Jackets, Shorts/pants.

We also have discontinued stock on sale. Long sleeve polo shirts (sizes 6-12) \$5, and Senior long sleeve Rugby Shirts (sizes 12-14) \$5.

Merit Awards Term 1 Week 3

Class	Name
K/1	Callum, Mya, Rory
1/2	Kayden, Alby, Taj M, Evie, Isabelle, Tahlia, Tommy
2/3/4	Nathan LW, Thai, Maggie, Ben, Daniel
4/5/6	Madison G, Stanley, Kaitlyn, Eva, Lachlan, Koby, Jared



In the spotlight

How To Swim - By Joel

Freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly...I know them all. Do you? I started swimming at five. As I got older my coach told me why it's important to swim. Here are some of the things she said.

Swimming is so important. Every year, kids die because they don't know how to swim. You need to learn how to swim because you can get caught in rips, waves can take you under and you can drown!

Additionally, if someone really needed help and you couldn't swim that person could drown before you got help. If you could swim you could save them. When we got our pool my sister fell in and I saved her because I could swim.

Furthermore, if you can swim you can compete in swimming carnivals. Our school has recently had one. I made it to Zone for freestyle.

Finally, you can have great fun if you know how to swim. At my house my family and I jump in the pool and play volleyball. We all know how to swim.

In conclusion, it is vitally important to learn how to swim. It's based on life or death. You either choose to die because you didn't bother to try and swim or you live and choose to learn how to swim. I hope you start to swim and maybe you will end up in the Olympics, who knows? Just learn how to swim!

Absence Note

Name: _____ Class: _____

Date/s of absence: _____

Reason for absence: _____

Parent/Carer signature: _____ Date: _____

Change of Details

Child's Name: _____

Class: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____

Mobile phone: _____

Emergency contact: _____



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