

Nords Wharf P.S. Newsletter

Forever Onward



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Term 2 Week 6

Thursday 28 May 2015

Principal's Message

Public Education Day

Today is Public Education Day. A day to celebrate and reflect on the fantastic work that is being done in our public schools. Many recent improvements and enhancements have been made possible because of Federal and State Government funding through the Gonski model. Now in its second year, we have been able to afford additional staffing to support student learning. We have employed a School Learning Support Officer for four hours a week for individual literacy programs supporting students in K-2. We have employed a teacher for two days a week to provide Learning Assistance to support students with learning difficulties K-6. This includes ongoing support for Aboriginal students. We have been able to fund Mr D to be on class 2/3/4 enabling me to focus more on the principal aspect of my role as well as being available to provide support in classes as needed. Finally, we have been able to provide funding to support families whose children would otherwise miss out on opportunities due to financial restraints.

In 2016 we will receive a further increase to our funding. 2017 and beyond will be dependent on government commitment to ongoing support of the Gonski reforms.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous work being done by the Nords Wharf teachers and office staff. They are all extremely dedicated to providing the best possible education for your children.

Kids Matter Survey

You are invited to come and participate in our initial Kids Matter Survey for parents after school next week between 3-3:30pm. This will give us some baseline data so we can compare beliefs and perceptions before and after the implementation of Kids Matter. All staff members have already completed a survey and students will be completing one in the coming week.

The parent survey is to be completed online. We will have the computers set up in the library for you before and after school next week. Please make the time to come in. It would be fantastic if we had input from every family in the school.

Uniform

Now that the cooler weather is upon us students are wearing their winter uniform to school. We have the options of the microfibre jacket and pants, navy pants for boys and girls and the zip up jacket with our school logo on it. I've noticed that some students are wearing other jackets, such as their soccer jumper. These are not a part of our school uniform. Can you please check that your child is wearing the correct uniform each day. We have plenty of jackets in stock at the moment, in a variety of sizes. Please write your child's name on the jacket as these are items that the students take on and off and therefore unlabelled clothes often end up unclaimed in the lost property basket.

SSP Program

This year our K-4 teachers have introduced their classes to SSP. This is a highly engaging and effective phonics program. The students are using what they learn in SSP when reading and writing and are achieving excellent results. I was very impressed by the quality and quantity of the writing completed by Class 1/2 when I taught them yesterday. It was really exciting to see how well they were using their knowledge of sounds to write unfamiliar words. Teachers at other schools in Lake Macquarie are very interested in our work and we have had a few requests for them to come out and see SSP in action. Next Thursday two teachers from Carrington PS will be coming to observe in the three K-4 classrooms. There are likely to be other visits in the coming weeks and months. A great affirmation of the high quality education being delivered at NWPS.

Stage 2 Camp

Years 3 & 4 are back at school today after a fantastic three days away. Mr D has a further report. I hope you enjoyed seeing some pictures of the students enjoying themselves on our Facebook page. From what I have heard the students had a great time. Mrs Muir said that it was wonderful to see the students attempt, and succeed, with activities that they probably thought they would never be able to do. If you have any feedback then I would love to hear it. My opinion is that a Stage 2 camp every two years is sufficient. Please let me know if you agree / disagree.

Upcoming Events

Stage 2 Public Speaking Finals – 29 May

The seven selected students will be presenting their speeches tomorrow at 2 pm in the library. The two winners will represent our school at the Galgabba and Zone Public Speaking Competitions next term.

Gymnastics – 1 June

The next gymnastics session is on Monday. There will then be two more sessions on the 15th and the 22nd of June. All students need to wear appropriate footwear and shorts or long pants with the polo shirt.

P&C – 2 June

The next P&C meeting is on Tuesday, starting at 6:30 pm in the staffroom. The P&C are planning a fantastic fundraiser to be held in Term 3. Save the date, 4 September for an evening event. All parents are welcome to come along to the P&C to find out more and be involved.

CAPApillar Day – 3 June

Now in its third year, CAPApillar Day is an opportunity for our band students and selected Stage 3 students to participate in activities that develop their talents in the Creative Arts. It is held at Caves Beach PS and all of the Galgabba schools are involved. There is a performance at 2 pm showcasing the day's work. All interested parents are welcome to attend.

Athletics Carnival – 5 June

Details are on the note that was sent home. We will leave school by 9 am and return by 3 pm. All parents are welcome to attend. If you are able to assist with judging or with the canteen then that would be greatly appreciated.

Star Struck 10 – 13 June

Our Star Struck dancers will be rehearsing and performing over four days. Tickets are available through Ticketek.

K/1 News

WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT

This week, we watched an animation of 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen. We looked through our musical instruments and chose the ones we could use to represent sounds in the story, such as grass swishing or tip-toeing. As we listened to the story, we created sound effects. It was a lot of fun!

In Maths, we have been exploring patterns. We made coloured paper chain patterns, necklace patterns and we clapped patterns on our bodies. We continued patterns using our coloured Bears counters.

Yesterday was National Simultaneous Storytime. We listened to the story 'The Brothers Quibble' at the same time as many other schools via our connected classroom's video link. It was great to be able to see children from other schools up on the screen and to wave and say hello to them!

Just a reminder that the Kindergarten class Public Speaking Competition will be held next week. Please help your child prepare to present the speech on their normal news day. It's a great idea to make some palm cards for them to use with pictures as prompts to help them remember what to talk about.

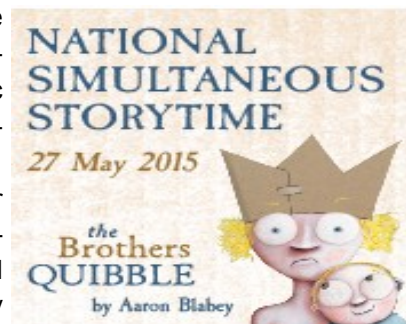
Trinity Hook



1/2 News

The Star of the Week is Kamea. The Year 1 and 2 students have presented some fantastic speeches this week. We have enjoyed listening to speeches on many different topics and it has been wonderful that the students have been so enthusiastic about getting up and talking in front of the class. Mrs Hird and I will continue to listen to speeches for the remainder of the week.

On Wednesday, 1/2 were fortunate to have Mrs Hird for the day while I was at Star Struck rehearsals. It was also the day for National Simultaneous Storytime, an important annual campaign that aims to encourage more young Australians to read and enjoy books. The book chosen to be read at the same time on the same day this year was "The Brothers Quibble" by Aaron Blabey, which the students enjoyed.



Kate Halligan

2/3/4 News

I must say although I was having a great time at the stage 2 camp I did miss my awesome year 2 students who were working in Mrs Halligan's and Ms Hook's classes. I am sure they also had a great time without me. Please remember that students who are in the Stage 2 finals for public speaking will be presenting their speeches this Friday during assembly in the library. We look forward to Ben, Grace and Annie from Year 3 as well as Ruby, Sunny, Evan and Elloise from Year 4 wowing us with their speeches.

Congratulations to Maggie, Dylan, Nina, Daniel, Ben Grace, Koby, Darcy, Ruby, Max M, James S, Thai and Sunny for scoring 100% in their spelling. Don't forget to record your child's reading each day that they complete a 10 minute reading session. It would be fantastic if all students achieved their Bronze Award this term, some students are already up to Double Bronze.

Next week our class will be looking at angles during maths and our news topic is Setting and Atmosphere. Students will explain or tell a story using words that create the setting and atmosphere that allows the audience to imagine or visualise what is happening.

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.

Stage 2 Camp

Stage 2, together with Mrs Muir and myself, went on camp at Morisset where a great time was had by all! Students participated in a range of challenging and sometimes scary activities.

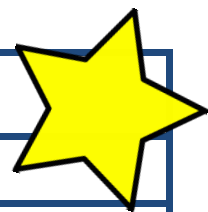
I must say the Outdoor Education Centre was fantastic; the staff were very caring, knowledgeable and accommodating. The food was fantastic and regardless of when a change was needed the staff always catered for the students' needs. I was very impressed with the shop on the last day where they made sure no one missed out and usually left with free extras. There were only a few tears on the first night and the second night went down without a single tear. The students went to bed quite well and did not struggle until the final day when their energy noticeably disappeared. For the most part, students still had smiles on their faces and Mrs Muir and I were very happy with the behaviour of everyone. I believe one of the most favoured activities was the giant swing. Even though some students closed their eyes for the last 3 seconds of the 'lift up', every single student went to the very highest point before being set free to swing. I would like to thank you for allowing your child to attend camp and for trusting me with their safety and wellbeing. I know they will share many stories of their time at camp with you. Thank you to the parents who were able to help with transport as this made things a lot easier.

I really enjoyed the camp and seeing the individual characters of the students come out as they explored new learning adventures outside of the normal school setting. It was great to see.

Hopefully mums and dads did not stress too much and enjoyed the short break to routine. I know you all missed your children very much and I know you were all missed for at least a minute or two! Thank you once again and I hope the students had as good a time as I did.

Mr Derbyshire (aka Mr D)

Merit Awards Term 2 Week 6



Class	Name
K/1	Hamish, Mya, Wil, Taleah, Delilah, Shaniah, Sophie, Tilly, Lisa, Callum and Caitlyn
1/2	Bailey
2/3/4	Ben, Koby, Savita, James and Ted
4/5/6	Harry, Coby
Reading Awards 	
Bronze	Sunny and Joe
Silver	Madison, Sunny and Kaydon
Gold	Max, Sunny and Kyan
PBL Awards 	
Bronze	Mimi, Evan and Elloise, Shontelle, Torhi and Alex

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