Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We have had a wonderful start to 2013. Every teacher has expressed individually how settled the children are, how calm they are and how they have all played fairly and respectfully in the playground. The teachers are delighted with how the children are working in the classrooms and the place just feels like one big family. I hope you feel very proud of your children because they certainly deserve every accolade.

WELCOME to NEW STUDENTS
We have 7 new students in our school, apart from the new kindergarten enrolments who arrive today, Tuesday.

Year 5: Tehani Morris
        Aimee Peglar
Year 4: Toby Morris
Year 3: Kihara Stewart Van Est
Year 2: Ashton Peglar
Year 1: Elena Eckersley

We welcome these students and their families to our school and I know that they are being well cared for by our whole community. Our children just do this. They look after everyone.
We also welcome all of our new kindergarten children who looked so grown up in their new uniforms. There weren’t any tears at all and it was as if they had all been here for years. It’s one of the most special days in their lives. We also would like to welcome all the new parents and grandparents to our school.

CLASS FORMATIONS
We have 12 classes again this year.
KS/KN—Taken by Mr Paul Searant and Mrs Jodie Nguyen
1H—Mrs Louise Hislop, Mon—Thurs. Mrs Brooke Vitnell—Friday
1K—Mr Daniel Linsell—Mon & Tues, Mrs Brooke King—Wed, Thurs, Fri.
2D—Mrs Mel Davis
2N—Mrs Loren Newell
3D—Mr Ian Davies
4N—Mrs Kendy Nicholas
3/4B—Mrs Nicole Brady
5B—Mrs Kelly Bruce—Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Mr Daniel Linsell—Fri
5/6C—Ms Jen Connolly
6A—Mr Paul Agnew

WHAT’S COMING UP

Tues, 5th Feb  -  First day for Kindergarten students.
Thurs 7th Feb  -  Swimming Carnival
Tues 12th Feb  -  Prefect Induction Assembly, 10.30am
STAFF CHANGES

Mr David Lyddiard is acting as an Assistant Principal at Toronto PS for the whole year. Mr Paul Agnew will be here for the whole year in his place.

Mrs Maggie McNair has had some major surgery on her foot. She will be absent from school for the whole of this term and Mrs Loren Newell is replacing her.

Mrs Brooke Vitnell has returned after her maternity leave and will take 1H each Friday.

Mr Daniel Linsell will team teach 2 days a week with Mrs Brooke King (previously Mrs Mattila who is returning from maternity leave) 3 days a week. Mr Linsell will also work each Friday on Year 5 for Mrs Kelly Bruce.

Mrs Janelle Fidler is on leave after a fall last year. Mrs Mandy Thompson will be here as our art teacher until Mrs Fidler is well enough to resume duties.

Mr Paul Searant will act as Assistant Principal while Mrs McNair is on leave.

SEMESTER VALUE

For this semester we will be studying in great depth the value of resilience. As most of you know, we have been studying values for the past 12 years, long before it became a political catchcry. Our staff saw the need and they made the suggestion because they rightly perceived that one can’t assume that children automatically know what is deeply involved in each value. If “respect”, for example, is not shown to them, and role modelled, how would they understand the intricacies we would have assumed they had mastered?

With “resilience” children will be taught how to face and overcome challenges and how to bounce back positively from difficult situations. They may start this program with an “X” chart whereby, in each part of the “X”, they respond through brainstorming what they would see and hear if ones were resilient, how they’d feel, and most importantly, the fourth dimension regarding what they would be doing if they were being resilient because it projects each child into the real life situation.

These charts are usually displayed on the back wall of the classroom and can be easily referred to in class meetings or at time of need.

You can help at home. When things go “wrong” for a child or a person, a simple question such as "How can we fix this?” is a good start rather than telling a child what needs to be done. “Is there some way we can work out how to make things better?” “What are you prepared to do to make things better?” “What have you tried?” etc. The list of questions is endless really, but it’s important to have each child think responsibly for themselves, try their own solution, experience it and evaluate for themselves if it worked. If it doesn’t, we try something else. This approach works, but may take time.

TOILET UPGRADE

Mr Craig Melia has almost finished the wonderful job of changing the entry way to our main school toilets. It looks fantastic actually. He is quite fastidious with his attention to detail & we are so grateful for what he has done.
His lovely wife Donna and daughter Imogen, who is in Year 1, spent many long hours last Saturday in the pouring rain spreading mulch and making a garden in that area. There are even little tin flowers & butterflies sprinkled through the plants to jolly up the area. Donna said she's never felt so muddy & slushy in her life & I can just imagine why.

What a day it was, but thank you all most sincerely for what you've done for our school. It's just amazing.

The Department has also measured for new internal doors for both toilets where the height will certainly be adjusted to allow for greater privacy. This should happen soon. The Student Council has been requesting this for some time, so they will be very pleased that action will be finally on the way.

We will be painting the new external screens and on the quadrangle side we'll be placing large colourful signs depicting the values we embrace at our school. It's all happening!!

**SCHOOL HELPERS**

- Anyone wishing to help on our school reading scheme please see Heather or Loretta or Carol. This is a superb program which has huge benefits for children and if you can spare 1/2 hour once a week or a fortnight it would be most appreciated.
- We can always do with more canteen helpers. If you can help out, please ensure you name is down at the office too & we'll certainly slot you in.

**KIDS' CORNER**

For our new parents we always enjoy this section of our newsletter where we recognize achievements of our kids both within the school and in the outside world. There's so much to “sing about” because inside all of them is a little piece of magic.

- Our house captains for 2013 are:-

  **Captains** | **Vice Captains**
  --- | ---
  **Victoria:** Brendon Bourne | Liam Litherland
  Amy Neal | Ruby Crane
  **Burwood:** Tyran Cameron | Cameron Hayward
  Ellan Duncan | Makayla Smith-Wilson
  **Kenibea:** Solomon France | Isaac Taylor
  Leilani Poutapu | Mackenzie Evans
  **Glenrock:** Jayden Gibson | Cody Burgess
  Ellie Richards | Elise Marshall

These people were inducted in a ceremony yesterday in our school hall. Parents are always invited & they pin the badges on their child.

The first job involves managing their houses at this week's swimming carnival. They'll do a great job.

- Our school leaders for 2012 are:-

  **Captains:** Paul Battaglia and Brynn Hulls
  **Leaders:** Kahri Anderson, Lauren Farina, Hannah Gregory, Ty Hughes, Isaac Osmond, Jayden Pryor, Jacob Richardson, Nico Starkey, Lily Wilson, Joel Wyborn.

These children were chosen at the end of last year by our student body and they will be inducted next Tuesday, 12th Feb at 10.30am in a special ceremony in our school hall.

- Each class will be selecting their student councillor representatives who are part of the Student Council which is a decision making body within the school. They take this job very seriously and they do come up with fantastic and realistic ideas.
- Our leadership opportunities are offered with Library monitors and the KFC club. This is where Year 6 students volunteer to help other students at lunch time in the playground were necessary. They are not policemen. They play a support role and all are trained in the role.
**SCHOOL FEES AND BOOK PACKS**

The following fee schedules apply for the whole of 2013 for each class and includes text books, exercise books, and art supplies. Payment may be paid to the office at your earliest convenience.

We ask for $41 for our annual voluntary contribution and this equates to $10.25 per term which can be payable each term if that helps.

We ask this for the first 2 children in a family and subsequent children don’t have to pay the voluntary contribution.

Looking in the Newcastle Herald last week, the Newcastle Grammar School charges $18,500 roughly per year for Yr 6 students. It makes our $41 seem rather paltry, but you have no idea how much this helps us manage & effectively balance our budget.

Departmental funding doesn’t even cover our Utilities Account. (ie Electricity, Water, Gas, Waste Disposal). We are then given $62.90 per child for the whole year. We only have one child no who receives integration funding support and to support our students in need, I always employ more people mostly out of the school budget. The Department of Education has also supplied another position to help with student well being for 2 days a week and this will be a great help.

What we do works, but your voluntary contribution is so crucial for us to receive.

**P&C MEETING**

Our first P&C meeting for the year will be on Tuesday, 19th Feb at 7.00pm in our staffroom. Come along, get involved, be part of the fun, have your say and let’s all work together to make this place second to none.

With your help, we can do this.

**CANTEEN 2013**

The new canteen committee has been hugely busy over the holidays putting in place some systems, a working philosophy and they have trialled some new foods, taste tested by some of their children and evaluated by them in terms of personal purchase. They are really enjoying what they are doing.

The Canteen will open next Monday with Mrs Davinia Glendenning being the buyer. They clearly tell me though that they are open to other ideas.

Changes may happen in stages, and there are 3 stages planned over time.

They have written a book which is filled with canteen recipes so that new people will know what’s entailed in preparing the menu.

However, this extremely keen group of parents is adamant that many other people want to have a say. Therefore, this Wednesday evening, at 7.00pm, we are holding yet another canteen meeting to ensure we are all on the same page. If you have any suggestions to offer, it’s vital for you to attend. Come to the library and air your views.

The current group of Mums have put a lot of energy into their planning but are very receptive to new ideas and I’d like to really thank them. They are all enthusiastic & keen to have our canteen as operational as possible. They actually “bubble”!!

We’ll be ordering 2 coffee machines, run on the honour system & children have been given a sheet on which they will make selections for the name of the canteen.

If we all pull together we can re-open our canteen and we can use many Yr6 children in serving. They would just love the opportunity.

If any parents can do a small amount of time, every little bit helps so let the office know if you can help & please come to our meeting.

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<th>Voluntary School Contribution</th>
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REALITY CHECK
Parents often tell me things they hear “over the back fence” about what’s happening in our school. Though much of this information may be embedded in some form of truth, frequently it doesn’t and sometimes it doesn’t follow our belief & value system. Please come to see me so I can give you all the right & honest information. Every decision we make at our school always has our beliefs & values deeply embedded into the reality of what’s happening. We are as transparent in this as is possible and that’s just how it is.
If you have any queries, concerns, issues, please go directly to the teachers, the office staff or me so that you will know that the information you are given is factual and not hearsay.
Likewise, we encourage all parents to come up to immediately discuss any issues or concerns. Our teachers are all there for you as possibly the first point of call. They are all willing to help you & discuss any issues. If there’s other problems, please always feel free to come to me too. I do “people” in the day, & ”paper” at night. This school is OUR school. You are all very important so please get involved and always feel welcome because you are!
Our teachers listen and we confer regularly.

CHAPLAIN’S MESSAGE
Happy 2013 to everyone, & a special welcome to all new students, parents and caregivers to our wonderful school.
Each year I need to inform new families of my role at this school.
Firstly, I do not teach or preach religion.
My role is that of a support person for children, parents, caregivers and staff.
I am available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for anyone needing assistance.

Any interviews are confidential, unless a child informs me of anything that puts him or her in danger. Then I am duty-bound to inform the Principal.

I also run Social Skilling, Anger Management & “Seasons for Growth” programs. (The latter assists children suffering from varying types of grief & loss.)

Please feel free to contact me if I can help you or your child.
Appointments can be made by phoning the school, & I am also happy to return phone requests.
Have an enjoyable year.

Helen Harvie
School Chaplain

THANK YOU
A huge thank you to the Wylie family for taking care of our precious chickens over the Christmas break. The students and staff appreciate your dedication in making sure they were well watered and feed.
Thank you very much.

UNIFORM SHOP
The uniform shop will be open Thursday and Friday between 8.30am 0 9.00am.

We have for sale the sports uniform, hats, jumpers and tracksuit pants. All other uniforms, the girl’s tunic and boy’s shirts and shorts are available from Lowes at Charlestown Square.
If you cannot make our opening times, please fill out an order form and give to the lovely office ladies. They will forward it to Kim or myself and we will make up the package you require. It can then be collected from the office or sent home with your child.
Payments can be made by either cash, cheque in the uniform shop or EFTPOS payment at the office.

Thank you
Kim Sharman and Kellie Aurisch
**BAND**

Please note that Band rehearsals for our current band will resume on Friday morning at 8.30am. Instruments to be hired can be collected from the office. Hire fee is $35 for the year.

**New Band Members**

For the students who have expressed an interest in the beginning band this year, a note will be sent home shortly with detailed information.

**CANTEEN**

Our Canteen will be opening from next Monday, 11th Feb.

Attached to this newsletter is the Canteen Roster for this term. You will see that we have had a wonderful response from parents wishing to help out in the Canteen. We will be opening on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Don’t forget out meeting tomorrow night, Wednesday, at 7.00pm in our school library.

Many thanks,
Anita Crane & Kellie Aurisch

Sincerely

Pam Richardson
Principal

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**PLAYER REGISTRATION DATES FOR 2013 SEASON**  U6 – U17

- Wednesday 6th and 13th February 2013, 4.00pm to 6.00pm.
- Saturday 2nd and 9th February 2013, 1.00pm to 3.30pm.

The Registration Fee per Family is $130 per Player, for the first two Players and $115 per subsequent Players.

**Enquiries:** Neville Clifford (Registrar)  Mobile: 0423427229

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**KIDZBIZ @ WHITEBRIDGE**

Is an afternoon of games, craft, stories & fun for Primary School Children.

We meet on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month in the School Term from 4pm till 5.30pm at Whitebridge Uniting Church, at the Roundabout Whitebridge. The cost is $2.00 per child to cover the cost of afternoon tea & craft items.

All workers have completed a NSW Working with Children Check & read & signed our Working with Children Policy & Code of Conduct.

The dates for Term 1 are as follows; 7th February, 21st February, 7th March, 21st March & 4th April.

For more information please contact Cathy on 49081083

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Meet Danny Buderus, Sunday, 10th Feb from 2.30-3.30pm

Come and play Rugby League for the Mighty Magpies in 2013.

Registration days and times are
**Sunday 10th February 2013 2pm- 4pm**
**Sunday 17th February 2013 2pm-4pm**

at the oval Gardner St Dudley

Fees for 2013

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For more information 0428 584 569

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Happy New Year from Teresa Heighton at Ray White

Earn $200 for Your School

[Ray White advertisement]

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# CANTEEN ROSTER
February, 2013

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<td>Jenny Woodhead Heidi McDonnell</td>
<td>Canteen Closed</td>
<td>Nancy Webber Volunteer required</td>
<td>Priscilla Coates Sharnee Duffy</td>
<td>Elly Tindall Paul Tindall</td>
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<td>Kate Ormonde Reni Hookway</td>
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<td>Michelle Richards Karen Hulls</td>
<td>Wendy Rippon Sheree Murphy</td>
<td>Vicki Wylie Mary-Ellen Pedersen Penny Blok (1/2)</td>
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<td>Penny Evans Helen Harris</td>
<td>Canteen Closed</td>
<td>Melanie Egan Volunteer required</td>
<td>Linda Hahn Fiona Pearson</td>
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<td>Sara Smithson Donna Dagwell</td>
<td>Alison Moncrieff Cassie Thompson Jen Woodhead (1/2)</td>
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<td>Kellie Aurisch Gina Randall</td>
<td>Mel Baldwin (TBC) Vicki Wylie Suzy Wall</td>
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<td>29 Good Friday</td>
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<td>Janette Neal Karen Wilson</td>
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