FROM THE PRINCIPAL

School Community Numeracy Evening
Wow, what a great night we had. We had a spectacular turn out of parents who engaged in partnership with the school to work alongside numeracy expert Ann Baker. Ann spent the day working with all our teachers in their classrooms. Those who attended the Parent Information Evening had the opportunity to learn about what we have been doing in our classrooms. I joined in the evening and can truly say that it was highly engaging and useful. In this newsletter Mr Currie (Co-ordinator of Teaching and Learning) has elaborated on our numeracy work and how families can support their children at home. Thank you to Mr Scanlon and all the other teachers who helped out with the BBQ and movie night which coincided with this evening.

Newbery Park Primary School Kindy Transition Begins
The Newbery Park Primary School Transition program has begun. This is an ongoing process whereby pre-school students from McArthur Park Kindy are exposed to school life and expectations, and are supported with many scaffolds which are developed in collaboration between our junior primary teachers and the pre-school teachers. As the year progresses, the length of these sessions extends as our pre-school students become more comfortable with their new learning environment. We have found that our comprehensive program supports our pre-school students and their parents on their first day of school. I have included a snippet from a research article from the Deakin University for your reference.

Extract from: Preschool children’s transition to formal schooling: The importance of collaboration between teachers, parents and children – Deakin University Authors: Helen Skouteris, Brittany Watson, Jarrad Lum
The move from preschool to formal primary school is a daunting experience for many children, with challenges presented not only in the changing physical environment but also in their academic, social and emotional experiences (Margetts, 2002). Children entering formal schooling are expected to work independently, form new friendships, and adapt to the expectations of different teachers and routines of primary school (Dail & McGee, 2008; Dunlop, 2003; Loizou, 2011; Margetts, 2002). While some children may navigate the change easily, not every individual child is able to adjust so smoothly. To ensure that every child has the best possible chance of adjusting successfully to formal schooling, a wider support system needs to be put into place, with the teaching professionals, parents, and children working together. In particular, it is proposed that the greatest potential lies in the alliance of primary school and preschool teachers, with the aligning of teaching...
practices and philosophies across the two institutions ensuring continuity and support for children as they progress through their education (Dockett & Perry, 2003a).

Valuing our Teachers
The role of a teacher is not specifically defined, however, the National Professional Standards for Teachers state, ‘Teachers share a significant responsibility in preparing young people to lead successful and productive lives’.

At Newbery Park Primary School, our teachers do not start at 9:00am and finish at 3:20pm. Week in, week out they engage in staff meetings which finish at 5:00pm, on Tuesday nights, team meetings on Wednesday nights until 5:00pm, and we haven’t even included student case meetings, high school or junior primary hub group meetings. In the fortnight just gone they, on top of their normal responsibilities, have umpired and coached school football and netball on Monday nights, ran cross country trainings after school, coached and attended Gala Day, attended the Ann Baker parent sessions, organised sausage sizzles, movie nights, and picked up buses at 7:15am to get students to excursions just to name a few things! They don’t have to do these things, yet they do because they want to see our children succeed in life. In most instances teachers forfeit valuable time with their family and loved ones, their own extra-curricular activities or time programming for the next day’s lessons, which they then have to do when they get home.

Our teachers don’t ask for medals or trophies for their work, they don’t even ask for a thank-you. They would, however, appreciate your support. Our teachers only ever come to work with the intentions of doing a good job, and to help your child learn. We realise that at times certain issues arise and that you may be unhappy as a parent. If this does happen, please use our school’s processes for resolving issues and make an appointment to see your teacher in the first instance. Please don’t criticise our teachers out in the wider school community, it can hurt more than just the teacher and it can have a direct impact on your child’s school.

As proud Principal of Newbery Park Primary School, I would like to publicly thank all my staff for their ongoing efforts and commitment to making our school a great school.

NAPLAN reflections
Last week our students sat the NAPLAN tests, nationally run assessments in Literacy and Numeracy. I think we all have experiences from our own schooling of testing and some of us loved them and others talk of ‘freezing’ and not being able to recall anything come test day. The infographic shows the usefulness of the data we gain from NAPLAN testing. We expect results to come between mid-August and mid-September. At this time you will receive a detailed report showing your child’s performance.

Kind Regards,
Stuart Miller
PRINCIPAL
ANN BAKER PARENT SESSION

On Wednesday the 18th of May, Newbery Park was fortunate enough to have the creator of “Natural Maths”, Ann Baker, work with our staff and students during the day and deliver a parent information session in the evening.

The parent session proved to be an enormous success for all involved, with over 30 parents and community members attending. The night provided parents with an insight into how our teachers are using Ann’s Natural Maths strategies to support their child’s learning and development in mathematics. Along with this, Ann discussed many engaging opportunities and ideas for how maths and numeracy can be used more in the home to immerse children in mathematical language and problem solving.

The night was a huge success and I’m sure those that attended now have a greater understanding of how their child is learning in the classrooms and how they can better support this learning in the home.

Within this newsletter is a spread on some of the wonderful resources we have available for parents to borrow from the school and how this system works. Please come into the school and borrow some of the resources we have or speak to your classroom teacher.

As mentioned on the night, we will have PMA (Primary Maths Association) coming down to deliver a session on “Reporting and Assessment” on Monday the 20th of June. Again, this is another fantastic opportunity to gain a greater understanding on how your child is assessed across the curriculum and what the grades actually mean. More information will be available on this in the coming weeks.

If you want any more information on anything that was discussed with Ann, please come into the school and borrow some of the resources we have or speak to your classroom teacher.

Sam Currie
Coordinator of High Quality Teaching and Learning

We are a Learning Community that values...
PRIDE ~ INTEGRITY ~ RESILIENCE
Values Award Winners

Room 11
Bianca, Tess & Layla

Room 7
Maddy, Aiden & Peter

Room 6
MJ, Zack & Summa

Room 10
Mandy, Heath & Olivia

Room 1
Charli-Rose, Zack & Sam

Room 3
Tamika, Spencer & Emma

Volunteers attended a lunch on Friday May 13th as a show of appreciation for the hard work that is done around our school. Thank you to those who attended, and a HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers that support staff and students at Newbery Park. Without you many programs and events wouldn’t exist!

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PRIDE ~ INTEGRITY ~ RESILIENCE
Cloudy with a Chance of Popcorn

Yes parents/caregivers, you did read the title right! The movie night held in week 3 was a huge success with over 60 students attending and viewing ‘Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2’. It was great to see so many students enjoying a bag of popcorn as they watched the movie unfold. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the year 6/7 fundraising efforts as well as the staff and parents who assisted me throughout the night. I would like to finish by especially thanking the year 6/7 students who arrived early to cook and prepare all of the sausages and popcorn for the night.

Mr. Scanlon

YEAR 6/7 & 5THEFM RADIO SHOW DATE SET

As many of you would be aware the year 6/7 class commenced a partnership with Radio 5THEFM which has seen the students visit the station and learn about community radio. It is with great pleasure that I can officially announce that the year 6/7 Radio show will be held on Thursday the 7th of July between 1:00-2:00 PM (Week 10). The show will involve the 5THEFM mobile broadcast van attending the school in order for the students to successfully host their show. We are thoroughly looking forward to this event and more information will be released closer to the date.

Mr. Scanlon

Football Program

This term we have been fortunate enough to secure funding from the Schools Sporting Grants which has allowed us to purchase specific P.E. resources for Australian Rules Football. Students in Reception – Year 5 will have the opportunity to learn basic skills and rules used in AFL. These will include kicking, marking, hand balling, tackling and modified game play. All lessons will be taught during class P.E. time by Mr Scanlon who has been accredited with his AFL Coaching certificate.

Mrs. Green
Phil Cummings Visit

On Friday 13th May, Phil Cummings visited NPPS. Phil is a well-known author, who has written a range of children’s books, including picture books, short stories and novels. Phil presented three sessions over the morning, sharing tips about writing and relating stories to our own personal experiences. Phil was a fantastic presenter, keeping everyone in the audience engaged and amused.

Naracoorte Cross Country

On Friday 20th May, eleven students from Newbery Park Primary School went to Naracoorte to participate in Cross Country. There were a lot of students from other schools participating in the event, which made it very hard to run. Lots of distances were covered by students and the weather turned out to be great.

Ella & Felicity

Congratulations to Ella Little who is heading to the State Championships for cross country, after finishing in the top 10 of the 13 year old girls category.
Walk Safely to School Day

Friday 20th May was National Walk Safely to School Day. A group of students and families met Miss Willmott and Mr Currie at the Squash Courts, ready to walk to school. It was a lovely morning and a great way to start the day!

Community Notices

Young Carers Respite Support Service

Attention Young Carers from primary school age to 18 years.................

Do you have a major caring role and need support with your education?

The Young Carers Respite Support Service can discuss helpful options so you don’t fall behind in your schoolwork.

This may include assistance with tutoring, school sports costs, educational materials, or accessing school camps.

To find out more call Carers SA, phone 8724 8700 or 1800 052 222
#STEMfun16

FREE FAMILY FUN EVENTS OVER 2 DAYS AND 3 SITES

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATHS

SATURDAY 28.05
MAIN CORNER COMPLEX 10am-3pm

Video Blogging Workshop with Marcus Jones
City Hall 10am - FREE - Bring mobile device

Ruben Meerman - Surfing Scientist
Dress Circle 11am - FREE

Kalyna Mienko & Bob Daly
Artists in the community
Dress Circle - 12noon - FREE

LEGO Australia - 10am-3pm - King’s Floor

Robotics & Coding Workshops
11.30am & 1.30pm - FREE - City Hall

Plus GEAR VR demonstrations
(BYO Samsung Phone)

SATURDAY 28.05
MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY 10am - 3pm

Escape from the Puzzle room
First session 10.20am - FREE
Your team has 15 minutes to solve a series of challenges to escape the puzzle room

Star Dome - FREE
10am, 11am, 12noon
1.10pm & 2.10pm*

*Numbers are limited
Book at the Library on 87212540

SUNDAY 29.05
THE RAILWAY LANDS 1pm - 5.30pm

Food and drink available for purchase on the day

Natur’s & Creek Play
Mud & Clay Play Stations
Play on Wheels play trailer
Double Helix Science Club
Tepees Build & Decoration
Billy Cart build & Speed Trials
HPV Pedal Prix Carts on display
Mil Lea Steam Engines & Machinery

“5 Senses in Nature” activities by DEWNR
Community Artists creating Art Work on site
Activities by City of Mount Gambier Sustainability team
Artwork and Vlogging Projections at approx 5pm
Lantern Creation & Lantern Parade at approx 5.30pm

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