











15 December | Issue #20

Northmead Newsbreak Principal's Update

school acknowledges the Our Custodians of the land on which Northmead

Public built - the people of nation. their deep Country. respects present



School was Burramattagal the Darug We honour connection to We pay our to Elders past, and emerging

Traditional

and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We ask all people that walk, work and live on traditional Aboriginal lands to be respectful of culture and tradition of Country. We extend our acknowledgement of and respect to all First Nations people of the world.

DEAR NORTHMEAD FAMILIES

This is our last newsletter for 2022...I apologise that it's a LONG one but there is a LOT to share before we end our 2022 school year...and some information has only very recently come to my attention! There is information about "Share our Space" on the weekends in the Summer Holidays as well as the Vouchers for families they can access using the Uniform Shop in 2023.

Every year we have a number of families who move to another area, interstate or the private system. This has been the case for 2023. Unfortunately we don't have a similar number of new students enrolling. This means when the school's actual numbers are due (after the 2023 Swimming Carnival) we will need to consider the number of 2023 classes. It looks like we will reduce our current classes by at least two more classes. This means two less permanent teachers. Some of our teachers are temporary and they are not included in this reduction. It is very important we wait to see students who "arrive" at the school in 2023 before we formalise whether we may form 25 or 26 classes next year. In 2022 we had 28 classes. Students will stay with their 2022 class teachers until after the Swimming Carnival until final numbers are

NORTHMEAD FAMILIES UPDATE (CONT.)

known on our return in 2023 so we make the optimal class plans for the school year.

Thank to you to those families who have also advised the school via email or phone calls any concerns about "student partnerships" that haven't worked well in 2021-2022. We take this advice seriously when planning our 2023 classes. If you need to let us know any information that you feel will impact on your child/children's positive progress in 2023, please email the school with attention to the Principal and Deputy Principals. Thank you.

How joyous was the K-2 Christmas Concert last

Monday? Thank you especially to Mrs Muzikant and Mrs K-2 Taylor as Assistant Principals and Miss Sparks for the planning/organisation of this truly festive event. The whole K-2 team worked SO



hard on the dances and songs and the beautiful student artwork that surrounded the area. Thanks to Mr Littlejohns for making chairs happen so quickly. Thank you Mrs Carmichael for organising the "Christmas Sign" that just highlighted the area. **HOW LUCKY** were we with the weather that day! Mr Littlejohns was putting away the last chairs as the storm broke. We all loved this happy, happy celebration together and with weather allowing, this to happen in Area A it is a great new tradition. Congratulations to our Year 2 MCs and all our K-2 students who danced, sang and enjoyed the experience. A lovely celebration for our students, families and K-2 staff to end 2022! If you have photos you feel could be added to our ongoing portfolio to celebrate our school over-time, please send them the school email.

STAFF FAREWELLS FOR 2023

Mrs Jane Del Valle informed me last Friday that she has decided to take a long break from teaching and has relinquished her position at N.P.S. from 2023. Whilst a difficult decision to make, it is the one that is best for her and her family and we wish that the next part of her life journey ahead brings health, happiness and dreams fulfilled. We thank her for her educational service and support of students at Northmean and we wish her well for her future education journey.

We WILL MISS YOU MRS DEL VALLE. Safe travels on your ongoing journey!

As communicated previously in Newsletters – Tuesday 20 December will be the final NPS 2022 school day either for 2023 or forever for:

- Mrs Jane Del Valle
- Miss Abbey Eyre
- Miss Sam Fulop
- Mrs Vicki Kennett
- Miss Chantelle Micallef
- Mrs Julia Mitchell
- Mrs Gail Wheatley

Thank you all for pour enormous contributions to the students, families and staff of Northmead Public Oschool.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE MET. SOUTH NETWORK AWARDS ANNE CARMICHAEL

Mrs Anne Carmichael – School Community Engagement Officer received a most deserved Girraween Principals' Network Award as the Community Engagement Officer. This is the "Award Description" I sent to the Metropolitan South Network for her nomination:

In recognition of her making connections with individual students with the greatest of challenges as well as families during the "Lockdown" and beyond. She made daily "check-ins" with students and families during isolation to ask after their wellbeing, student engagement with learning, connecting families to services, liaised with families to facilitate technology hardware and internet connections provided by the school. She delivered over 90 Learning From Home packs weekly to families. On returning from our COVID lockdown she continued to assist the wellbeing and learning outcomes with students, kept the principal aware of individual students/families who required financial assistance with uniform, excursions and

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE MET. SOUTH NETWORK AWARDS ANNE CARMICHAEL [CONT.]

special events so these students maximise their school

life engagement. In addition, she has sought sponsorship to start and sustain a Breakfast Club which is now a hub of students and teacher primetting in the mornings and proving students daily "start to school" with a positive mindset and nourished in body and mind! Anne is the epitome of the



school's "True North" focus to be our **best self** individually and collectively – and nurture what matters most for every student, every day at Northmead Public School.

2024 ...100 YEARS

WE NEED A CENTENARY PLANNING COMMITTEE...



The school will be forming a staff / community "Centenary Committee"

for our 2024 milestone. Are you interested to join? **Send** the school and/or our P&C an email.

PRINCIPAL'S "P.S."

Thank you all to every single staff member of our amazing school team for their dedication, resilience, amazing talent, care and devotion to the students and families of N.P.S. This school is such a special place because of you all and you make such a difference to the lives and learning of our students. To our families; on behalf of the staff of N.P.S., whatever the personal beliefs or cultures of your family, I take this opportunity to wish all our students, families and community members what I believe to be the central message of the Christmas season: **peace**, **joy**, **understanding and goodwill to all**. Many blessings and joy to you and may your New Year be a prosperous, happy refreshing and fulfilling one.

To our outgoing Year 6, we will miss you smiles and wish you success on the next part of your journey in High School! **Dream BIG!** Believe in yourselves as we believe in you all and please know we will be thinking of you.

We may shed a tear because your time with us is now over...
...but we will always have a smile on our face and in our hearts because we did have this precious time with you.
I look forward to chatting with you again in 2023 in our
Northmead Newsbreak ... Mrs Anne Anne (Principal)

DEAR NORTHMEAD FAMILIES EVENT INFORMATION YEAR 6 DEC 16

All attendees to Year 6 Graduation Events on December 16 (excluding the ring-out which occurs around the boundary fence) will need parents/carers to "check-in" or esenting their invitation at the "check-in" of esenting their invitations have been sent home individually to parents/family members] This will be via the Moss Street gate before being admitted to the Year 6

Events. Thank you for your understanding in keeping all our students/staff safe with COVID-19 measures.

COVID UPDATE

Specific information regarding COVID-safe advice around particular school operations, including events, large gatherings or performances planned for Term 4 will be communicated by the school to our community, P&C Executive and committees as well as relevant Year cohorts, including planned end-of-year and Year 6 activities. Find more detailed information here: https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-forfamilies

As we read about the increase in COVID-19 cases in throughout the Sydney region, our school will continue to operate with our baseline COVID-smart measures in place throughout Term 4 to minimise transmission and keep our school open. This includes a combination of layered safety measures such as maintaining hygiene and cleaning practices, using rapid antigen testing (RAT) when experiencing symptoms, maximising natural ventilation and strongly encouraging mask-wearing particularly when indoors and/or physical distancing is not possible. Please continue to notify the school if your child tests positive to COVID-19.

SHARE OUR SPACE

The school will be open on weekends and public holidays as our school has vacation care during the week (NOOSH).

The outdoor facilities at your school will be open on the following



weekends and public holidays during the school holidays:

Saturday 24 December 2022 to Tuesday 27 December 2023 | Saturday 31 December 2022 to Monday 2 January 2023 | Saturday 7 January and Sunday 8 January | Saturday 14 January and Sunday 15 January | Saturday 21 January and Sunday 22 January Entry will be via the Moss Street Gate. The outdoor facilities at our school will be available to use from 8 am to 5 pm on weekends and public holidays only as part of Share Our Space. Please visit edu.nsw.link/ShareOurSpace: https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/content/inf rastructure/www/what-we-do/we-supportcommunities/share-our-space.html.

NEXT UP AT NORTHMEAD

- ***** Student reports emailed home Thursday 15 December
- Friday 16 December: Year 6 Graduation Assembly commencing 12:15 and lunch. Photos with parents to follow [note sent to Year 6 families with all details]
 Please note: Attendance to this event is by invitation only to maintain COVID-safe measures.
- ***** Year 6 Ring-out Friday 16 December 2:30pm
- * Last day for students now Friday 16 December
- **2022** Term 4 Staff Development Days
 - **1. Monday 19** and **2. Tuesday 20 December**
- **2023** Term 1 Staff Development days (*no students*)
 - **1. Friday 27 January** and **2. Monday 30 January**
 - Day 1 2023 for students Year 1-6: Tuesday 31/1

PREMIER'S BACK TO SCHOOL NSW PROGRAM



As we prepare for another year of learning in 2023, you can now apply for the Premier's Back to School NSW program, offering \$150 worth of vouchers (3 x \$50 vouchers) to help pay for school supplies like school uniforms, shoes, bags, textbooks and stationery Every primary and secondary school student in NSW is eligible for the vouchers.

Please <u>read this</u> attached letter from the Premier about the program and the vouchers.

You can apply for and access your vouchers in your MyServiceNSW account, in the Service NSW app, by calling Service NSW on <u>137788</u> or by <u>visiting your local</u> <u>Service CentreExternal link</u>. To be eligible, your child needs to be a NSW resident and enrolled in a NSW primary or secondary school in 2023. For more information, visit the <u>Service NSW</u>

websiteExternal link.

HELP IN THE HOLIDAYS

As we move into the holiday period we wanted to make you aware of the supports that are available for your child when they are not at school. Changes to routine can be hard and your child may experience times when they feel a range of challenging emotions such as sadness, stress, or lonely.

During the holidays we encourage you to check in/yarn with your child/children. It can be helpful to let them know that you are "there" to talk with. You may also like to encourage them to stay connected with friends and family, look after their physical health and engage in the activities that they enjoy.

If you notice that your child/children may benefit from chatting with someone, we encourage you to make them aware and support them to access services. This may be engaging with your local headspace centre, GP or access online or telephone supports.

Primary Schools Students

• Kids Helpline Positive self talk

- Kids Helpline Think calm thoughts
- Kids Helpline Resilience strategies for emotional
- strength
- Kids Helpine Problem solving
- Reach Out ys to c for che
 Families
 phone support: Parentline

phone support: Pa

s and w

1300

My Compass

https://www.mycompass.org.au/ This is a resource created by Black Dog which creates personalised support for mental health. This is focused on providing psychoeducation and skill development. This website can be used by staff and students.

suppo

- Mood Gym <u>https://moodgym.com.au/</u> An online resource that can help support and manage symptoms of mental health challenges.
- eheadspace
 <u>https://headspace.org.au/eheadspace/</u>,
 1800 650 890

Online access to a mental health clinician via telephone or webchat. It can be encouraged that students create an account with eheadspace, so that if they have to use this when distressed this is not a barrier for use. Parents can speak with a clinician for help supporting a young person.

- Reachout <u>https://au.reachout.com/</u> Tools and resources for stress management and mental health support strategies.
- CalmHarm <u>https://au.reachout.com/tools-and-apps/calm-harm</u> support develop strategies to deescalate when feeling distressed. It can be encouraged for students to download, or for use in classroom or advisory group. This can be used for staff and students. Use can be encouraged when not distressed, to establish the use and learning of a helpful coping strategy.



Dominic Perrottet MP



Premier of New South Wales

Dear Parents,

As the 2022 school year draws to a close, I wanted to thank you and all parents, students and teachers for your extraordinary efforts this year.

I also want to let you know about a new program that will ease pressure on household budgets by helping to pay for your children's school supplies at the start of the next school year.

From 12 December 2022, NSW parents can access a <u>\$150 Premier's Back to School NSW</u> <u>Voucher</u> for each child in primary school, secondary school or home-schooling in 2023.

Vouchers can go towards the cost of school uniforms, shoes, bags, textbooks, or stationery purchased from registered businesses. You can apply for the vouchers via the Service NSW app, and for more information, visit service.nsw.gov.au, call 13 77 88 or attend a Service NSW Centre.

This new program is part of our plan to give families a more secure financial start to the year.

It has been fantastic to see so many students back in the classroom and thriving in 2022 after so many disruptions, and 2023 is shaping up to be an even bigger year for education in NSW.

We're rolling out a new, back-to-basics curriculum; making changes so students are even better prepared for employment and further education; doing more to recognise and reward our best teachers; and making it easier for parents to connect with your children's education.

It's all about taking those important steps to make NSW education the best it can be, so we can set up our children for future success.

Thank you again for all your efforts this year. I wish you and your family a safe and happy summer - and don't forget to download your Premier's Back to School NSW Voucher from 12 December.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Perrottet MP Premier



2023 Student School Leaders Major Year 6 Awards



2023 SCHOOL CAPTAINS & VICE CAPTAINS

SCHOOL CAPTAINS		SCHOOL VICE CAPTAINS					
Elizabeth & Bernie		Isla & Jordan					
PREFECTS							
Asher	Brooke	<i>N</i>	italie	Matthe	v	Gus	Pein

SPORTING HOUSE CAPTAINS & VICE CAPTAINS

BRIGALOW		1	Dunnebah
HOUSE	VICE	HOUSE	VICE
CAPTAINS	CAPTAINS	CAPTAINS	CAPTAINS
Meri 🚳	Alexander 🚳	Michael 🚳	Abigail 🕲
Rafael	Mia	Abigail	Dawn

MINORE		YARRABIN		
HOUSE CAPTAINS	VICE CAPTAINS	HOUSE CAPTAINS	VICE CAPTAINS	
Donovan 🚳	Alyce 🕲	Somer 🚳	Abdul 🚳	
Quiana	Ario	Felix	Elise	

MAJOR YEAR 6 AWARDS

2022 DUX	2022 TRUE NORTH
Gerard	Finn

N.P.S. ENDEAVOUR AWARDS	FRANK EMMETT ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD	LIONS CLUB CITIZENSHIP AWARD	N.P.S. SCHOOL CITIZENSHIP
Carlton + Kevin + Sherwin William + Dylan + Hyla	Summer	Lara + Ethan	Рорру

DRAMA AWARD AND	MATHS OLYMPIAD
GEOFF STEVENSON BAND AWARD	AWARDS TOP 10%
Sophia	Matthew + Sepehr

PREMIER'S SPORTING CHALLENGE AWARD	SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR	CASTLE HILL PSSA BARRY WHEELER AWARD
Hishi + Hisake	Geonard	Geonard

Farewell to Northmead



I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to all the students and families of Northmead Public School after 19 years! Goodbyes are always hard to do, but I will take many special memories with me. It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege teaching my students over the years and watching them grow, meeting younger siblings and becoming part of the lives of all the wonderful families who make this such a great school. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the lovely and thoughtful messages I have received so far. I will miss all of your faces very much next year! I'm not going too far, and I will be sure to keep in touch and see how everyone is going. Merry Christmas and best wishes for a fantastic 2023!

Mrs Mitchell



Last week Allira H, Yr 3, completed at the Australian Championships for Ballroom in Melbourne. Allira is now ranked 7th in Australia for Prostudent in Waltz and Samba and 5th in Merrilyn and Tangoette. She competed against 50 other dancers at this event.







Community Corner

Thank you

As a school community we have achieved so much this year in providing and helping others. The donated items such as school shoes and joggers that still had some wear left, were distributed to students that needed them. The donated football boots meant children that do not usually play sport had the opportunity to play rugby and soccer with borrowed boots. The members of the school community that donated breakfast club supplies or fees in advance meant breakfast club could operate 3 days a week. We would also like to thank the students who arrived early to set up and pack away and the teachers who did an extra duty to make it happen so smoothly. A big thank you must also go to Jo (canteen) and her helpers who regularly assisted breakfast club with the washing up.

The wider community has also been very supportive of breakfast club. We have received donations from The Rotary Club of the Hills – Kellyville, Big W Winston Hills, Winston Hills Lions Club, Grilled Gourmet Food Truck, the Davis family and the Northmead P & C.

If you are cleaning out wardrobes in the holidays please consider paying forward with shoes, boot and uniforms that still have some life left in them that we can pass on to other members of the school community.

Enjoy the break with your families and best wishes for the new year.

Thank you kindly,



The Parramatta Women's Shelter

Voucher Drive

Today we handed over gift vouchers that Northmead Public School families have been collecting these past few weeks for The Parramatta Women's Shelter.

The Women's Shelter is a safe place for women and children to go to escape family or domestic violence.

Thank you to Danielle Davis for delivering the vouchers to the women and children for Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who donated a voucher. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Poppy. Toby and Elke Jennings





Parramatta Council School Holiday Programs

Parramatta Council is offering a large selection of **FREE** holiday activities starting from 9th January 2023.

Children need to be registered to participate, and as there are a limited



SHP - Netball (Ages 5 to 12) Run in partnership with Netball NSW

Don Moore Reserve Netball Courts, North r.



Run in partnership with Harris Park Cricket Club.

Belmore Park, North Parramatta



SHP - Rookie Rollers (Ages 5 to 12) -Northmead Run in partnership with NBC Sports Club and Bowls Australia

NBC Sports Club, Northmead

JAN SHP - Multi Sport (Ages 7 to 12) Join the Active Parramatta Van team for the New skills and lots of games

Harry Todd Band Hall, Parramatta



SHP - Oz Squash (Ages 9 to 14) NEW ACTIVITY - The team is proud to be working with Squash NSW to facilitate this session.

Silverwater Park, Silverwater



SHP - Cricket clinic (Ages 9 to 16) Run in partnership with Harris Park Cricket Club.

Belmore Park, North Parramatta

number of places it is best to sign up as soon as possible.

This link will take you to the general information page: <u>Information page</u>. This link will take you to the Booking Page: <u>Booking Page</u>.

Melaníe Fletcher (EAL/D Co-Ordínator)

P&C NEWSFLASH

Northmead Public School P&C Association



SEASONS GREETINGS

The P&C would like to wish our Northmead families peace, health, happiness and prosperity for the holiday season and the new year ahead. We thank you and all of our volunteers for your contributions towards our school during 2022 and look forward to an even bigger and better 2023.

Happy holidays!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Next P&C General Meeting: Wednesday 15th February 2023 7pm via ZOOM

CONTACT US

NPS P&C Association: northmeadpublicschool@pandc affiliate.org.au

The Clothing Shop npsclothingshop1@gmail.com

Canteen ourschoolcanteen@gmail.com

NPS Band npsband@hotmail.com

CLOTHING SHOP UPDATE

Qkr! Menu

The Clothing Shop Qkr! menu will close from 3pm on Wednesday 14/12/22 for final end or year stocktake. Orders placed up until this time will be delivered to teachers on Thursday 15/12/22.

Any remaining backorders will be delivered in early Term 1. It is anticipated that our next delivery of short sleeve academic polos will arrive during January and will therefore be available by Week 1 Term 1. We apologise for this delay.

The Clothing Shop menu in Qkr! will remain closed for the holidays.

Our ordering system will switch from Qkr! to Square from the end of January to allow for us to accept and process NSW Government Back To School Vouchers. Please read on for additional information on when and how you will be able to order for the new term..



BACK TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS

NPS P&C have registered The Clothing Shop as a supplier for the NSW Government Back To School Voucher program for 2023.

The program will provide 3 x \$50 vouchers, totalling \$150 for each eligible child. Terms and conditions apply. For further information refer to the program guidelines at Service NSW.

https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/back-to-school-vouchers

The P&C are in the process of setting up a **seperate** *Square* **website** which will allow the provision/use of discount codes once your voucher has been submitted to the Clothing Shop. **Vouchers will not be able to be used through Qkr! Vouchers can not be redeemed retrospectively for uniforms already purchased.**

WHEN AND HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR VOUCHER

- From Monday 23rd January 2023 vouchers can submitted via email to <u>npsclothingshop1@gmail.com</u>.
- Clothing Shop volunteers will begin processing vouchers via the NSW Government from **Tuesday 31st January 2023** when school returns.
- You will then receive a return email with a unique Clothing Shop voucher code that can be used for purchases via our Square site.
 Please remain patient and allow time for our volunteers to get back to you.
- If submitting multiple vouchers per child please indicate in your email if you require individual vouchers to the value of \$50 each or to the value of \$100 or \$150. Only one voucher code can be used per order so you will need to plan ahead to maximise your voucher.
- Please ensure that vouchers that have been emailed to the Clothing Shop have not already been redeemed with another provider. Voucher codes will not be issued for invalid vouchers.

USING YOUR VOUCHERS TO ORDER UNIFORMS

- Vouchers can not be redeemed on Qkr! therefore our Square site will be open from Week 1 Term 1 to allow for purchases using vouchers as well as full payment orders. Further information and the link to this site will be provided to families closer to this time.
- Vouchers are for their whole amount and are single use only.
- Vouchers can be used on all school items including hats and school bags, summer and winter uniforms.
- If your order totals more than the value of your voucher, your voucher code can be applied as a discount with the difference to be paid at checkout.
- Vouchers are valid from January to June, so consider using them for Winter uniforms!
- During Term 1 the Clothing Shop menu in Qkr! will remain closed. Purchases can still be made on the Square site without a voucher.

WHEN WILL ORDERS BE DELIVERED TO CLASS

- Please continue to use your 2022 class until new 2023 classes are known. Once known please ensure you enter your child's new class so that orders can be delivered to them.
- Orders will be delivered to class ASAP once they are received. Orders are generally packed on Monday and Thursday mornings and distributed to classes via the teachers trays in the office.

FURTHER INFORMATION

 Updates will be posted on the The Clothing Shop - Northmead Public School and Parents and Caregivers of Northmead PS Facebook pages during hte school holidays.

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

Thank you to all of the families who have donated uniforms during the term for our re-use and recycling program. A huge thank you must also go to the wonderful Tania for volunteering her time to sort, wash, recycle and donate everything that has been received!

The program has been a success with three local primary schools and a number of preschools benefitting greatly from donations. We have also donated to charities in the Blue Mountains and what can't be used locally we are hoping to send to overseas schools.

Items that remain current uniform and were still in good condition have been added to the second hand menu in Qkr!

Our yellow recycling bin has now been emptied for the last time this year. Please DO NOT place anything more in the bin until next year. The yellow bin will return in Term 1 if you can hold onto your items a little longer.

Thanks everyone!



CANTEEN UPDATE

Thank You

This year has been our first full year of operation since COVID and it has been an amazingly successful one at that! Please join us in congratulating Jo on such a successful year and in thanking her all of her efforts throughout the year.

Thank you to our team of amazing volunteers who have dedicated their time to the canteen during 2023. Thanks also to the wonderful Northmead community for ordering your recess and lunch from our canteen and helping to support our P&C run business.

Teachers Christmas Lunch

There is still time to make a voluntary donation towards our Teacher's Christmas Lunch, to be catered for by our School Canteen. If you would like to thank our amazing teachers by making a donation, visit the Canteen menu on Qkr!. Jo will be cooking up a storm in the canteen for our teachers next week!

