Newlands Primary School
2-26 Murphy Street, Preston, 3072, Victoria
Email: newlands.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website: newlandsp.s.vic.edu.au T: 9354 2928 F: 9350 3212

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Message from the Principal

CHILD SAFE POLICIES MANDATED

The Victorian Registrations and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) has mandated that in order for all schools to maintain a child safe environment for students, specific standards and policies need to be in place. The child safe standards are being phased in during 2016 and 2017. The initial focus during implementation is on awareness-raising and capacity building to assist schools and education and training providers to create and maintain child safe environments. For registered schools, Ministerial Order No. 870 sets out the specific actions they must take to meet these requirements.

The standards involve:
- strategies to embed an organizational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements a child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety
- a code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behavior with children
- screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel
- processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
- strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
- strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children

In complying with the child safe standards, schools need to be mindful of the diversity of students and school communities and include the following inclusion principles as part of each standard:
- promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children
- promoting the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- promoting the safety of children with a disability.

The Newlands Primary School Child Safe Policies are currently being reviewed and aligned to this new initiative of the State Government.

Minister Merlino’s Visit

Minister Merlino was scheduled to visit the school later this month. This visit has been rescheduled to early in December. I will confirm this new visit with the school community closer to the visit.

Ross Dudgeon
Community Reminders

Ride to School Day
Friday 14th October
We all enjoyed a wonderful morning in the sun with the kids proudly riding their unique wheeled creations.

Thank-you Melissa (mum of Asha & Ollie) for the balloons attached to the gateway of the school .......very festive!

Music Lessons
Instrumental music lessons update
Allegra Music will begin offering guitar lessons with Cameron at Newlands Primary early in Term Four. Lessons will run Monday afternoon during school hours as well as during after-school care. Cameron has many years teaching experience, including ensemble work in schools. He teaches all styles and levels.
The in-school program would be an extension of our studio curriculum, and so students would participate in term based activities (composition, duets, challenges etc), bi-annual recitals, have access to resources and use of studio guitars if required.
Times and class size can be varied to suit, but for a weekly 30 minute lesson in pairs, cost is $235 per term (10 weeks).
Enrolments now open - please contact Allegra 0406 836 397 or email info@allegramusic.com.au
Library Working Bee - Saturday 15th October, 1.00 - 4.00 pm
The library has over 100 new books that need covering before the children can borrow them. Book covering is easy and the members of the library committee are happy to teach the knack.
We also need help moving furniture.
Even if you can only drop in for an hour, all help is greatly appreciated. Please bring your own scissors. Good company and cups of tea provided. See you there!

Reorganisation of Literacy Resources at Newlands Primary School
We will be reorganising our literacy resources this term in readiness for use in 2017. All our literacy books are to be catalogued and put into new resource boxes.
**This reorganisation will take place each Friday afternoon during term 4 between 2:45 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.**

Please email me at: newlands.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au if you are able to assist us with this process.

Sonya O’Brien

Newlands Primary School embraces the benefits of technology and is committed to students’ exposure to cyber-safety when using the Internet, iPads and other electronic personal devices.
We aim to establish an eSmart culture which is in keeping with the values of the school.
We aim to educate Newlands Primary students to be smart, safe, responsible and ethical users of digital technologies.
To achieve this, Sonya is running a four week Cybersafety program it is being run for all students. Classroom teachers are involved in this program and are following up with the message of each lesson in the classroom.
An eSmart section is being created for the school website where parents, students and teachers will find resources related to being eSmart and Cybersafety.
Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you are aware of any helpful resources which we could include in this section of the website.
cyber rules

stay safe and have fun
on the internet

Be careful who you trust online. Making new friends can be fun, but there's a chance that they may not be who they say they are.

Set your profile to 'private' so your personal information is kept secret.

Tell your parents if you are upset by language, pictures or anything scary on the internet.

Always keep your password a secret.

If someone is nasty, offensive or makes you uncomfortable in a chat room, don't respond and leave straight away.

Don't accept any offers that seem too good to be true—they probably are.

Don't open messages from people that you don't know. These could be nasty, contain viruses or be trying to sell you something.

Think before you post information online—once posted it's difficult to remove.

Ask your parents before you give anyone on the internet your name, address or any personal details.

www.cybersmart.gov.au