
Newlands Newsletter

No. 31/2016

Friday 4th November, 2016

Newlands Primary School

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Message from Akash Pett

Dear Newlands School Community,

I am writing to inform you that I will not be returning to teach at Newlands in 2017. My wife is pregnant and we are due to have our first child in January. As such we are moving back to the Northern Rivers region of NSW where we both grew up and where our families still reside.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for a fantastic two years. Newlands is a wonderful school and I have felt at home from my first day. To the staff thank you for all your support, kindness and hard work. I consider myself very lucky to have been able to work with you all and I know that you will continue to embody the excellent teaching practices which have helped to make Newlands the progressive school it has become.

To all of the parents, carers' and grandparents, thank you for the sense of community which you have helped to build at Newlands which have made these past two years all the more enjoyable. Thank you also for entrusting me with the care and education of your children.

I have endeavoured to provide a safe, fun and engaging environment for my students and instill in them a love of learning which they will hopefully carry with them for the rest of their lives. Finally and most importantly, to the students of Newlands thank you for being the wonderful, creative, fun-loving individuals you all are.

We have had a fantastic couple of years and I will remember you all long into the future. I hope you have all enjoyed having me as one of your teachers as much as I have enjoyed teaching you. Never be afraid to ask questions and follow your dreams and remember to laugh as often as you can.

I will miss you all and hope to learn of the wonderful places you will go in your lives and the incredible experiences you will have. ¡Adios amigos!

Warm Regards,

Akash Pett.



Upcoming Events Term Four

November 11

- Literacy resources working bee with Sonya O'Brien

November 14

- School Council Meeting – 6.15pm.

November 23

- Whole School Concert

November 29

- E-smart workshop for parents 2.00-3.30pm

December 6

- Year Six transition to secondary school visit

December 7

- Santa to visit Newlands

December 13

- Graduation Dinner
-

SANTA'S Visit

7th December, 2016

Santa will be visiting the kids at Newlands for the annual photo. More information will be available in the weeks to come. This is a photo opportunity organized by Newlands with Santa.



Message from the Principal

Akash Pett

We would like to extend our thanks to Akash for his time at Newlands and wish him and his wife Emily all the best for their forthcoming birth of their first child. I would like to acknowledge Akash's efforts and enthusiasm as a graduate teacher to both provide a comprehensive general classroom program and drive our Spanish language initiative along with Angela and Bianca (Foundation year) here at Newlands.

New Classroom/Spanish Year 1/2 teacher, 2017

I would like to inform the school community that we have secured the services of a new teacher who will replace Akash as the Year 1/2 & Spanish teacher for 2017. Her name is Victoria (Viqui) Gras. She is a native speaker from Spain, who has recently graduated with her Master of Teaching from Melbourne University. She will volunteer in the classroom over the coming weeks. When Rae & Akash have created a timetable with Viqui they will let parents know in advance. We are looking forward to Viqui joining the Newlands teaching team and further developing our great Spanish language program.

Pupil Free Day

The staff and myself spent Monday at school working on developing our new directions for the 2017 Annual Implementation Plan. An important part of this work is to review the 'Staff Survey' results, the 'Parent Survey' results and comments, and the 'Attitudes to School' survey results provided by the Year 5 & 6 students.

The staff also reviewed our indicative budget plan for 2017 and how we can meet our teaching and learning goals with our limited resource base for 2017.

I would like to thank the staff for their constructive input in developing our teaching and learning goals for 2017.

Parent Survey Results

Thank you to all of the parents who completed a parent survey for us back in July. The Department of Education and Training (DET) has just sent us the results. We sent out 40 survey forms and received 24 back; a 60% response rate which is consistent with past years. Parents were required to answer 55 questions covering 18 different areas on the school climate, student behaviour and student engagement.

Compared to other primary schools, we were above state for 83 % of the areas surveyed; school improvement, teacher morale, stimulating learning, behaviour management reporting, learning focus transitions extra curricula, general satisfaction, student safety, classroom behaviour, student connectedness to peers, student motivation social skills school connectedness. The areas of Approachability, Parent Input & Homework will be areas of that we needed to work on to improve in 2017. While these results were down on last year, the General Satisfaction score of 6.46 (State score 5.47) was an improvement on our 2015 score of 6.00, a 14% improvement on last year's score.

These results are generally pleasing and indicative of the work the staff at Newlands Primary School put in to ensuring the best education for your child/ren.

Planned Maintenance Grants

Recently a number of schools received extra money for 'Planned Maintenance'. Newlands PS, no surprise wasn't a recipient of this largesse. Another of a long of queries I will be raising with the Minister when he visits!

If you have queries about this largesse please direct your enquiries to the following:

Robin Scott office – 9478 5611 **Email** robin.scott@parliament.vic.gov.au **Website** <http://www.robinscottmp.com.au>

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/robinscottmp>

James Merlino office – **Email** james.merlino@parliament.vic.gov.au, **Website** <http://www.jamesmerlino.com.au>

Twitter <http://www.twitter.com/JamesMerlinoMP>

Tell'm Ross sent you!

Ross Dudgeon

Concert Updates

Concert Tickets

Tickets are selling well. As of todayseats are still available. So, don't leave it too late or you may be disappointed.

Any further information about ticketing and the Darebin Arts Centre, may be found on their website at www.darebinartscentre.com.au

Babies and toddlers on parent laps

For most performances, children under the age of 2 years are admitted free provided they do not occupy a seat and are held on the lap of a parent or guardian. We will allow for children up to 3 years to sit on laps, any child above this age will need to purchase a ticket for an individual seat.

Mulynda & Graeme

Visual Art News –November 2016

Digital Art

This term, the senior classes (grade 3 / 4 and 5 /6) will be looking at Digital Art with a focus on artist David Hockney and how the iPad can be used as a creative tool with the use of drawing apps. This topic was selected to tie in with upcoming summer exhibition of Hockney's work at the National Gallery of Victoria which will highlight over 600 images he has created using a simple drawing app and inkjet printer.

Please visit www.ngv.vic.gov/exhibition/david-hockney/ for more information.

If your child is in Grade 3 / 4 or 5/6 and has a home iPad, could you please download a suitable drawing app for your child to use. My recommendation would be **one** of the following – SketchBook Express (free), Art Set (\$2.99) or Drawing Pad (\$2.99). Thank you! School iPads will be updated with one of these apps as soon as possible.



Grade 5/6 Arts Excursion

Our grade 5/6 class has been invited by the Art Department at Coburg High School to participate in a day focusing on The Arts on Monday, November 28th.

We will be participating in workshops in both Performing and Visual Arts. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to experience the facilities available at our local high school plus meet some of the staff and students! We are really looking forward to creating a strong partnership between our schools as it provides additional transitional support for our students as well as unique learning opportunities. More information and permission forms will be sent home closer to the time.



Small / Medium Jars with lids

I am collecting **small/ medium jars with lids** for a special end of year art activity for the junior school.

If you have any or able to save any over the next few weeks I would really appreciate it. I don't need them until December so we have a bit of time to start collecting! I'll leave a box in the office to receive donations. Thank you for your support.



Art Blog



Don't forget to check out our Art Blog from time to time for a glimpse of what is happening in the art room!

<http://visualartsatnewlands.global2.vic.edu.au>

Bianca Vecchio

Art Teacher (Monday and Tuesdays)

Community Reminders

Next Parents and Friends meeting

The next meeting of the Newlands PS parents and friends will be on Monday 7 November at 7:15. If you are a parent (or friend) and have an interest in helping the school please come along.

If you have any questions or want to know how to join (it's only \$2) then feel free to contact us.

Marita Wallace (arlenkeiva@yahoo.com.au) & Kristalo Hryscos (khryscos@hotmail.com), Co-President Robert Larocca, Secretary (roblaroc72@gmail.com)

Important Announcement

Concert Arrangements

November 21

- **Whole School Concert Practice**

November 22

- **Whole School Concert Practice**

November 23

- **School Concert**



On Tuesday the 29th of November at 6:30 p.m. we will be holding an eSmart forum for parents. At this forum parents will be presented with information on what being eSmart means and give parents resources and links to information which will help you to ensure that your child and whole family are responsible and safe uses of technologies.

Sonya O'Brien

Important Announcement

2017 Foundation (Prep) Transition Dates & Times

November 3

- 10–11.00am Prep Classroom

November 10

- 2–3.15pm – Prep classroom

November 17

- 10–12.00pm – Prep Classroom

November 24

- 2-3.15pm – Prep Classroom
- 6.30-7.30pm Information for parents