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# Newlands Newsletter

No. 34/2016

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

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## Newlands Primary School

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### *What a Wonderful Year*

As our last newsletter for the year I would like to reflect on such a wonderful year for Newlands Primary School.

#### **Spanish**

Our second year of Spanish has successfully grown from two teachers in 2015 to three in 2016. It has been wonderful to see so many students embrace the learning of another language and inspire each other to converse so freely and with confidence.

As we close on 2016 and look towards 2017, our new structure for delivering Spanish across all grades will be realized. This is a great moment for Newlands, and certainly proves that Newlands is an alternative option for parents to enroll their children.

At this point I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude to Akash and Angela and Bianca R for all their efforts to make our Spanish program the best it can be. Just for the record not only were these terrific individuals teaching the children, they were also teaching our very dedicated staff after hours.

#### **Performing Arts**

Like Spanish this is our second year of the Performing Arts program. And like Spanish we have enjoyed a wonderful second year with Mulynda at the helm. I think we would all agree it was the recent concert performance that showcased all the skills so wonderfully taught by Mulynda through the year. Again, like Spanish these marvelous opportunities to showcase our students would not be possible without a team approach operating within the school. We all must acknowledge Graeme's great talents in this area and his willingness to support the programme and the students alike.

#### **Curriculum in General**

Our teachers have provided all students with a varied and stimulating curriculum this year. The teachers have worked as a whole school team to create opportunities for all students to experience success; be it in the Arts, in Sport or just exploring learning. So again on behalf of the school community we thank our teachers for their professionalism.

#### **ES staff**

There are many aspects of a school that support learning, from the classroom



### Upcoming Events

#### Term One - 2017

##### January 30

- Teachers return to school

##### January 31

- Students from Year 1 to Year 6 to return to school

##### February 1

- Foundation students start school

##### March 13

- Public Holiday

##### March 31

- Last day of term 1
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## Important Announcement

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2017**

**Uniform shop open  
1 – 2 pm**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2017**

**All students from Year 1 to Year 6 must attend on this day.**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017**

**All Foundation students must attend on this day.**

teachers to the Specialist teachers. At this point I would like to extend our thanks to those Support staff like Caitlyn, Sue and Mardi whose efforts assisting students in the classroom has been a great help to their learning.

Of course like any good restaurant there must be great Maître de or front of house person. Someone, who is firm, beguiling and at all times is an absolute professional. For us at Newlands that person is of course Joy! There are many behind the scene elements to make a school run smoothly and Joy does this job with aplomb, so thanks Joy for a great year, and more of the same in the future.

Student Wellbeing and Family Liaison Teacher

This has been a new role for us at Newlands. Sonya O'Brien has taken on this role this year. The main element of her duties has been to support both students and families by providing advice or just listening to parents who maybe experiencing parenting issues. As principal I know this role and Sonya's efforts has been well received by the parents who have used this service. We look forward to further developing Sonya's role in 2017.

### *Best wishes for the future*

#### **Students**

For those students who will not be returning in 2017; including the Year six students we wish you one and all a great 2017. We hope you leave Newlands with fond and positive memories of your time with classmates and teachers.

#### **Staff**

This year we say farewell to Akash, who has been a part of the Newlands team for the past two years. Akash came to us along with Angela to help develop, guide and possibly inspire the positive development of our fledgling Spanish programme.....I think he and the team succeeded!

We wish you all the best on your new teaching journey and of course Emmy with the upcoming birth of your first child. I'm sure you will take many fond memories of Newlands with you to NSW. So thank-you Akash for your efforts and knowledge, the kids have really enjoyed your time with them.

### *Best wishes and thanks to our Community*

There are so many individuals and groups of individuals within our Newlands School community that we need to be acknowledge for all the great work they have completed. It would be a very long list of people if I named each and every person, so I would prefer to acknowledge and highlight some very notable achievements.

#### **Fundraising**

Our PFA has worked very hard this year to provide the extra funds to support our wonderful programmes in the Arts and the classroom in general. This group of parents gives up their own personal time at weekends and after school, so thank-you. We have all benefitted from their hard work- Comedy night, Concert and Library.

#### **Gardening Group**

Our grounds are so much better maintained and of course lush and full of bird life. Your efforts are seen every day and certainly admired by all. A great effort, so many thanks one, and all.

#### **School Council**

This is another group of parents and teachers who give up their time to volunteer and support Newlands Primary School pursue opportunities to make Newlands a better place, again thank you.

## **My Personal Reflection**

This is my seventh year at Newlands Primary School.

I can say without a shadow of doubt this year has been a great one to be a part of the Newlands community.

This year has seen us grow (2017-177 students) and became noticed by a much wider community of parents, for a range of reasons.

I feel very privileged to be part of a team of teachers who have given their all to make the programmes we instigated last year, develop into successful classroom programmes this year.

This is a great little school, we say it all the time, but in context it's very true! Every day I hear the kids happily playing in the playground, I see the engagement by the kids in learning taking place in each and every classroom.

#### **What do I see for 2017?**

A continuation of our Arts Programmes, the consolidation of our Spanish Program and the great work our teachers do in the classroom to challenge students academically will continue and grow stronger.

Hopefully some positive intervention by DET to improve the condition of our buildings.....maybe!

To close thank-you one and all for your support.

We wish you all the best for the festive season, a great holiday break and see you in 2017

Ross Dudgeon  
Principal

## *Library Committee*

The Library Committee would like to thank all the parents, grandparents and friends who donated books, funds and their time to make the library a dynamic and welcoming place for all the students of NPS. It's been a great year for the library with hundreds of new books added to the collection and thousands of books borrowed (and mostly returned). If you still have any loans outstanding please return the books before the end of term.

The Library Committee will be meeting early in the 2017 school year to discuss future plans for the library. We welcome new members to the committee and hope to extend our opening times and activities next year. Ken says he'd love to see a few extra fathers and grandfathers on the committee.

## *Parents and Friends Association say Thank you!*

What an incredible year we've had at Newlands. We've ended the year with an extraordinary concert which I'm sure has left us all smiling from ear to ear. A huge thank you to Mulynda and Graham and all the teachers, staff and parents who worked so hard to help put it together.

The PFA would also like to make mention of some of the great fundraising events that occurred this year, some of which included Bunnings BBQ, the school fete, the election BBQ, the Readathon and of course the great Comedy Gala and Monster Auction.

## **Total fundraising efforts raised \$24,000!**

We wish to extend a special thank you to Nelly Thomas and the Comedy Gala crew for all their efforts, without which such a spectacular night could not have occurred.

Our school benefits greatly from parent support for our fundraising events. The extra money goes directly to projects and initiatives which improve student outcomes and enhance learning. Fundraising also helps strengthen our great school community.

We hope you can be part of the PFA next year. New ideas and input are always welcome. Keep a look out for our new fundraising calendar, which promises to bring lots more fun events and raise money for our school.

Happy holidays!

Kristalo Hryscos and Marita Wallace: Co-presidents

Robert Larocca: Secretary

Natasha Groves: Treasurer

## *Congratulations to our graduation class of 2016!*

Sophia, Emad, Nicholas, Rohan, Ornette, Merri, Isaac, Ruby, Erin and Sam we wish you all the best moving forward in your lives.

Here are some shots from the graduation ceremony last week.

