Welcome back everyone to Newport for an exciting 2013 school year. I would like to extend a special welcome to the new families who have joined our school and to all our new Kindergarten children for 2013. Once again we have a wonderful year planned, full of exciting and valuable experiences for our students. It is pleasing to see all the children return so refreshed and eager to start the year.

I would like to welcome Mr Scott Cooper who has been appointed as a permanent member of our Newport staff. I am sure he will enjoy being a part of our Newport community. We have a number of temporary teachers filling full-time positions at our school during 2013; Deborah Fisher, Greg Moran, Kellie Cogan, Emily Jefferys, Ashleigh Mallin, Michael Renkert and Lindsay Hill. I would like to welcome Miss Mallin and Mr Renkert to Newport. I am sure you will be warmly welcomed into the Newport community and enjoy your time at our school. Mrs Jo Moore will also continue in the school office.

We have a few staffing changes for the start of the year. Mrs Rulli will job share with Mrs Walter. Mrs Baldi has returned to the classroom and will job share with Mrs North. We have two permanent classroom teacher positions which will be filled through the Department’s staffing procedures in Term 1. These permanent teachers will start at Newport at the beginning of Term 2.

Class Formation
This year the placement of 777 students into 31 classes has been a very formidable task. Staff devoted a considerable amount of time at the end of 2012 and the beginning of this year to ensure that each class group is balanced and will work well together. A number of factors are taken into account when forming classes including gender balance, the academic needs of students, the social and emotional needs of students, the strengths of staff, the special needs of individual students and class sizes. Once classes have been formed it is very difficult to make changes without a resulting domino effect across the grade. Unfortunately it is not possible to make changes to classes once they have been formed.

Textbook Sale, School Hall
Wednesday 6th February
Last chance to purchase your 2013 textbooks. The sale will be held in the hall from 2.00 – 6.00pm. Parents who are unable to attend at this time can send payment with their child, cheque made payable to Dominie. School Fees can also be paid at the same time.

School Fees
As in past years, your school fees can be paid during our Textbook Sale in the hall on Monday afternoon. They can also be paid at any time through the school office.

Our school evaluation process has highlighted the need for Newport to focus on the provision and delivery of quality teaching and learning programs that effectively integrate Information Technology across the curriculum. This will be a focus for our school over the coming years. In order to achieve this we need to continually address the equity of access for students to computers and interactive whiteboards, update ageing hardware and the provision of support and training for staff in the delivery of programs. To meet this need the Newport Public School Council determined that a Technology Levy be applied to the school fee structure. We would ask that all families contribute to this levy as all children will benefit each and every year. In 2011 these funds were used to ensure every classroom had an interactive whiteboard. In 2012 the funds were used to install wireless technology and purchase class sets of netbooks for use in the senior classrooms, enabling ICT access for students in their everyday learning.

Newport PS is a member of the award winning Peninsula Community of Schools. Thirteen public schools from Collaroy to Avalon make up this community of schools, which offers a diverse range of educational experiences and opportunities for our students and staff. In past years students from Newport have been involved in robotics, student leadership, enrichment, writing, music and environmental programs. Each year all schools pay a levy, of $10 per student, to the PCS to meet the associated costs of these invaluable programs. This levy, of $5 per semester, has been included this year on the Term 1 and Term 3 account.
School Communication
Our weekly newsletter, the Natter, goes home every Wednesday. It is our major form of communication to parents. Please ensure that you check the Natter each week for school information upcoming special events. At the beginning of each term a calendar is provided in the Natter. This term’s calendar will be in next week’s Natter. It’s a great idea to put it on the fridge to remind you of our important dates. The Newport PS website is another source of communication and information. Weekly newsletters can be downloaded from the website. This website also has a calendar of events. We are currently in the process of adding our 2013 information. For particular events you will also receive notes from your class teacher. We would ask that you respond promptly to these. If at any time you are unsure, please contact the school office.

Parent Information Evening
Our Parent Information Evening will be held on Monday 18th February between 6.00 and 8.00pm. The evening is intended to provide an opportunity for parents to meet their child’s teacher and be informed about the year ahead, the class organisation, the class program and expectations for the year. Information sessions will again be presented on early Literacy skills and Maths 3-6. We hope that you are able to attend these important sessions which will be held in your child’s classroom. Session times are being finalised and will be in next week’s Natter.

Welcome Back BBQ
Friday 22nd February
Every year our energetic team of Year 6 parents organises the Welcome Back BBQ. It is a great social event that gives parents and staff an opportunity to meet and socialise. Put it in your diary and come along, join in the fun and support our school.

Newport P&C Association
Tuesday 12th February at 7.00pm in the Library
Annual General Meeting
Our P&C Association is run by a very dedicated group of parents who are committed to supporting our school in everything that we do. This association has a number of roles. They provide a forum for parents to find out more about our school, to be involved in discussions about issues that concern them and they also perform an invaluable fundraising role for the school. Every year the P&C raises funds to support a number of school programs. Annually they provide funds to employ teachers to support students experiencing difficulty with learning as well as gifted and talented students. Each year we encourage parents to attend our P&C Meetings and support our school. We would especially like to see parents new to our school.

School Uniform
It has been wonderful to see our students return with such bright and smiling faces. However, as we look around the school we are seeing a number of versions on our school uniform. I would ask that parents support us in ensuring that the children of our school wear our school uniform with pride. Please make sure that your child has black school shoes, preferably leather to protect their feet at school. Plain white joggers are the expected part of the sports uniform. We are seeing a variety of brightly coloured shoes that do detract from our school uniform. We do expect that children wear a school hat; wide brim for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 and cap in other grades. We are all proud of our wonderful school. Your support in ensuring correct school uniform can assist our students to maintain that pride.

Students with Allergies/Anaphylaxis
The Department of Education has released new guidelines for schools in the management of the health care of students with allergies. Under these new DEC guidelines parents with children who experience reactions to allergies will be receiving a questionnaire in the coming weeks. Can parents please complete and return this to Mr Moran as quickly as possible. We are aware this is a duplication of information collected last year; however a change in DEC policy requires this to be done again.

Regards,
Margaret Charlton
Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
What a wonderful surprise it was to see that the start of the new school year was free from the usual rain and soggy conditions that have developed into a tradition for early Term 1 – except for Friday of course! Although some lunchtimes have been spent indoors, it has been lovely to see the children so settled and enthusiastic as they get to know their new teachers and peers, whilst learning and playing. As you know, at times of change, the children take their lead from the adults around them so being organised, positive and calm can often help them feel settled too. This will be a time of change for me too as, after a number of years officially “off class,” Mrs North and I will be teaching 2BN and, teaching with new technologies and experiencing the classroom dynamics is something I am very much looking forward to! I will be teaching Mondays and Tuesdays and available in the office on Wednesdays, when Mrs North will be teaching 2BN.
Cybersafety Program and Presentations

The importance of learning how to interact with others in our increasingly connected world is essential to being safe online and getting the most from our available technologies. Over the next 3 weeks, all students will be participating in our K-6 Digital Citizenship program, prior to completing our “Online Usage for Students” contract. The quote below provides a broad outline of the program;

Digital citizenship isn’t just about recognising and dealing with online hazards. It’s about building safe spaces and communities, understanding how to manage personal information, and about being internet savvy - using your online presence to grow and shape your world in a safe, creative way, and inspiring others to do the same.” (From Digizen.org)

Many of the teaching/learning experiences in the program, involve the students watching thought provoking videos followed by teacher facilitated class discussions of the issues presented. Whilst some of the material (especially in years 4-6) may be confronting, it has been endorsed by ACMA, DEC (Department of Education and Communities) and Kids Helpline, for use in primary schools and is designed to get students thinking about, and understanding the public nature of the Internet and its implications for them as producers and consumers of information. Whilst there are many videos available through the site, aimed at both primary and high school children, we have chosen those most applicable for 5-11 yr olds and those relevant to the way our student community is using the Internet and connecting with others online. The following website (once accessed, follow the purple video link) contains much of the material from the program, if you are interested in viewing these.


Many thanks to the Student Welfare Committee, particularly Shane Clements and Jill Matthews, for their time and effort in developing this program.

We hope you will also be able to join us for our ACMA presentation for parents on Tuesday 26 February at 6.30pm in the school hall.

For our Kinder Families

Deb Taylor, who is the DEC Early Childhood Consultant for Northern Sydney Region, publishes a Transition to School E-Newsletter each term. The following information comes from this newsletter which may be of interest for our families who are new to the primary school setting.

What does a positive start to school look like?

1. Children feel safe, secure and supported within the school environment
2. Children display social and emotional resilience within the school environment
3. Children feel a sense of belonging to the school community
4. Children experience continuity of learning
5. Children have a positive relationship with the educators and other children
6. Children feel positive about themselves as learners
7. Children display dispositions for learning
8. Families have access to information related to transition to school tailored to suit the family
9. Families are involved with the school
10. Families are partners in their child’s learning
11. Relationships between families and the school are reciprocal and responsive
12. Educators provide continuity of learning for children
13. Educators are prepared, and confident that they can plan appropriately for the children starting school
14. Educators view families as partners in their child’s learning and provide opportunities for family involvement
15. Relationships between early childhood educators and school educators are reciprocal and responsive

Outcomes & Indicators of a Positive Start to School—Victoria University Early Childhood Education

What does that mean? Jargon Busting School Talk

COLA or shelter - Covered Outdoor Learning Area
ES1 - Early Stage One … Kindergarten
KLAs – Key Learning Areas (years ago they were called subjects). English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment (HSIE), Creative Arts, Personal Development, Health & Physical Education (PD/Health/PE)
Mufti – Out of uniform day where children wear casual clothes.
ICT - Information Communication Technology
SCHOOL/STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS – days when school staff are involved in professional development and children do not attend school.

All I Really Needed to Know about Big School I Learnt from other Parents

- a larger, healthy afternoon tea and a smaller dinner may be better for tired little tummies
- sign permission slips the day they come home and put straight back into the school bag
- put names on EVERYTHING – write them in several places on clothing, not just on the neck tags which can come off
- have a clip for all notes and newsletters on the fridge or a noticeboard so they can always be easily found
- a spare uniform from the school clothing pool is very handy, especially on art/craft days or wet, muddy days
- half fill a drink bottle with water and freeze overnight, in the morning top up with water for a cool drink all day
- get uniforms and bags ready the night before to save the morning rush
• if arrangements for travelling home are not the same every day, put a card with a picture of how they will be travelling home that day in their lunch box
• Get your child into the habit of checking their bag before they leave school each day and ensure they know where lost property is.
• Once home, encourage them to unpack their own bag each day (squashed leftover food will smell bad by the weekend!)
• Remember they will be at school for 13 years, not just these first weeks of Kindergarten, so relax and enjoy!

The 2013 school year started “with a bang” for 38 students and their families, when they participated in the Australian Youth Olympic Festival Opening Ceremony on the eve of Wednesday 16 January. While we were all enjoying the sunshine, the students, their parents, Mrs Nicol and Miss Jefferys were up early to catch a bus to Lidcombe for two consecutive days, followed by a day at the Entertainment Centre in preparation for the performance that same evening.

During the rehearsals, our students displayed the stamina and endurance of mature performers. For the opening ceremony, which included the parade of athletes, the raising of the Olympic Flag and the lighting of the Olympic Cauldron, the students had 4 or 5 pieces of choreography to learn, had to orientate themselves to enter and exit the performance area via several different tunnels and during the performance, had at least 4 costume changes. They were organized, attentive, sensible, thoughtful, excited and appreciative throughout the entire adventure – not to mention truly entertaining on stage!

Congratulations to Olivia Alvarez, Jordan Anderson, Chloe Bracher, Matthew Francis, Matilda Johnson, Jodie Louw, Emma Lowry, Louisa Mitchell, Grace Nielson, Sarah Ramsay, Lulubelle Ryberg-Neale, Chloe Shepherd, Jack Berry, Stella Campbell, Grace Carroll, Sacha Clements, Bella Donoghue, Mike Donoghue, Ashlie Edwards, Grace Fisher, Chloe Geeves, Jade Gregory, Madi Hunt, Caly Maguire, Rowan Mitchell, Billie Norman, Brooklyn Plunkett, Jacinta Rogers, India Spring, Ella Thomas, Jemima Thomas, Madison Walsh, Ella Paton, Renee Rounds, Isabella Williamson, Jessica Deathridge, Sarah Lowry and Selena Fethers for being outstanding representatives for Newport school. We hope you too, had fun!

A big thank you must go to all the parents who were particularly diligent in keeping up with communication during such a busy time of the year and for your exceptional punctuality in transporting the students to and from the venues. We also must pass on a big thank you to Tina Bracher and her group of parents who were able to help assemble the costumes over the holiday period which involved many hours with a glue gun and feathers! They did look spectacular.

Finally a big thank you must go to Mrs Nicol (who was lucky enough to find herself standing next to Susie O’Neil) and Miss Jefferys (who would have liked to be one of the performers) for co-ordinating the event with superb communication, for sharing their passion for performing and of course, for generously giving up their time.

For your interest, the Australian Youth Olympic Festival is for young (13-19 yrs) Olympic aspirants. Competing this year were athletes from 24 countries and competition and training was held in a number of Sydney’s Olympic facilities. In addition to the official proceedings, a celebration of youth is coordinated to welcome the athletes of the world to Sydney and it was that part of the celebration in which our students performed.

CYBERSMART OUTREACH PROGRAM – INTERNET SAFETY AWARENESS PRESENTATIONS

Knowing how to use the internet safely is essential to having a positive online experience. On Tuesday 26 February, we will be continuing to address the important issue of Cybersafety, with presentations made by Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA). During the day information seminars will be presented to our Year 4, 5 and 6 students as well as staff. This will be followed in the evening, with a presentation for parents from 6.30-8pm. The sessions, presented by ACMA trainers, will cover a range of issues including the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies, potential risks faced by children when online such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content and tips and strategies to help children stay safe online. We last hosted ACMA at Newport in 2011 and the session was very well attended with fantastic feedback. I have been advised that, in keeping up with technology, the presentation is regularly updated with new information and is well worth attending. Access to some of ACMA’s resources and information sheets is available through the link below.


To assist us with planning for the ACMA evening, a tear off slip has been included in the Natter for parents to complete and return to the office.

Warmest Regards,

Natalie Baldi
Deputy Principal
The first meeting for our P&C Association will be Tuesday February 12th at 7pm in the library. This evening will be our AGM and will also include a wine and cheese meet and greet. All parents are welcome and encouraged to come along and raise issues and ask questions about your school in a positive and casual environment.

The P&C raises funds each year to pay extra staff for literacy programmes and other needs within the school. It oversees the canteen and uniform shop and reports at our meetings are regularly received from our Principle, Deputy Principles, Music Groups, the Canteen, uniform shop and our fundraising committees. We also plan to have a number of exciting and relevant presentations at each meeting by key people within our school community. 2013 is our Fete Fundraising year as well and there is already lots of exciting plans being put in place. Come along and see what is going on in your school!

The P&C is also in the early stages of organising a Trivia Evening in the last weeks of Term 1. We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate this exciting event. If you are interested in helping out, please pop in and see Tammy in the Canteen or email Shani Law shanilaw@hotmail.com Any ideas, experience and assistance will be greatly appreciated and we look forward to hearing from you!

TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY MUSIC PROGRAM INFORMATION NIGHT
If you haven't already enrolled your child (ren) for the 2013 Music Program, it's not too late! We have a further Music Program Information Night to be held in the school hall from 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th February. For the Training Band (Years 3 to 6) we have availability for trombones, french horns, baritone horns, tubas, drummers, keyboard to play tuned percussion (xylophones etc.), bassoon, bass clarinet, baritone saxophone and a few more clarinets. There is also still some space on the Violin program (from Year 1).
An enrolment form is attached to the Natter. Many instruments are available for hire from the school or through hire-purchase from Mona Vale Music or Turramurra Music Shops. There is so much research based evidence that playing a musical instrument assists children in their school work - from the discipline of regular practice to improvements in maths. Being part of a band or string orchestra creates a bond between its members much like sports teams. We look forward to seeing you on the 12th February.

Wednesday 20th February: Music committee Meeting in the Staff Room at 7.30pm
Performance Band rehearsals started this morning and will continue on Friday (7.10am); Concert Band starts on Thursday morning (7th February 2013 at 7.10am) and Training Band will commence 27th February at 7.10am.

Regards
Jude Knott

WELCOME BACK BBQ!
Friday 22nd February 2013
5:00pm
Sausage sizzle, drinks, slushies and lollie bags for sale!
Come and enjoy a fun and relaxed evening with your family to welcome the school year!
Any queries, please contact;
Bec Hunt bechunt73@gmail.com
Meg Burke megandzane@hotmail.com

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS
School Holiday Open
Our special Uniform Shop opening on Monday, 28 January (public holiday) was incredibly busy (even in the torrential rain!). Luckily, we were able to make use of the school hall which kept everyone dry. A massive thank you to those who volunteered their time – Jenny Smith, Tracy Gowen, Louise Woods, Jane Park and Rachel Wilson. Of course, the day would not have been successful without the support of parents buying uniforms, so thanks to those parents who continue to support the Uniform Shop. Happily, we surpassed last year’s school holiday open sales total so we look forward to once again donating the profits to the P&C to spend on things such as support staff and improvements to the school facilities.

Alterations
We are thrilled to be able to offer an alteration service. Rachel Wilson has kindly offered her services for alterations. Uniforms purchased at the Uniform Shop can be hemmed free of charge. Small charges apply for other alterations. Uniforms should be pinned at the correct length and left at the Uniform Shop (marked with your details). Completed uniforms will then be delivered to your child once the alteration is complete.
**Ordering**
Orders placed online at flexischools.com.au prior to 5pm on Fridays will be delivered to your child’s class on the following **Monday or Tuesday**. Order forms can also be collected from the office or emailed on request. Please contact us if you have any order queries.

**Opening Hours**
The Uniform Shop is open Mondays 9-10am and Tuesdays 3-4pm. For enquiries, please contact newportuniformshop@hotmail.com or Carla Pettitt 0413-804-015 & Kate Raffles 0413-519-872.

**PRIMARY ETHICS AT NEWPORT**
This will be the 3rd year that Newport Public School has run the **Primary Ethics** program to provide the opportunity for those not attending Special Religious Education (SRE) / Scripture classes an alternative to supervised ‘private study’. The class has been very successful and has fostered stimulating discussion based on a range of ethical dilemmas.

The philosophical ethics classes that make up the Primary Ethics curriculum are inquiry based. Children use dialogue and discussion, learning how to think about ethical matters through the give-and-take of reasoned argument.

The **Primary Ethics Program** is now seeking expressions of interest from Parents or community members interested in becoming an Ethics Teacher or Coordinator at Newport Public in 2013 and teach philosophical ethics, on a voluntary basis. An Expression of Interest form available on the Primary Ethics web site: www.primaryethics.com.au

**Canteen News**
**Monday February 11th:** N. Roach
**Tuesday February 12th:** T. Sturzaker, N. Sampson
**Wednesday February 13th:** B. Wilson, P. Hitchman, B. Skene
**Thursday February 14th:** K. Francis, F. Douglas
**Friday February 15th:** V. Watkin, L. Barlow, K. Meek, T. Leslie

If you are unable to make your rostered day, please call Tammy on 9979 6504 or email the canteen newportschoolcanteen@hotmail.com

**Calling All Volunteers for 2013!**
Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who have already put their names down for 2013. We are still looking for a few more volunteers on Mondays and Tuesdays. If you are able to assist in anyway, please let the canteen know. We would love to see you!

The school canteen runs so smoothly thanks to the help of all our wonderful and dedicated volunteers! Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Grandfriends are all welcome. If you can spare anytime at all between the hours of 8.30 am and 2pm we would love to see you. Even fifteen minutes or half an hour for morning tea service is greatly appreciated! Call Tammy on 9979 6504 or email newportschoolcanteen@hotmail.com

"**Volunteers are paid in six figures - S-M-I-L-E-S**" - Gayla LeMaire

**New to the Menu for 2013**

Tammy has been very busy cooking new homemade snacks and meals and is very excited to offer these new additions:

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<tr>
<th><strong>Snacks</strong></th>
<th><strong>Morning Tea</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Apricot Rock Cakes $0.20</td>
<td>Spring Rolls $0.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celery and Carrot Sticks $0.50</td>
<td>Hot Food</td>
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<td>Hommus $0.50</td>
<td>Drinks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muesli Slice $0.50</td>
<td>Up &amp; Go $2.20</td>
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**Cold Snacks**

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<tr>
<td>Frozen Orange $0.20</td>
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<td>Frozen Juice Cup $1.00</td>
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Attached to the Natter is a copy of our new menu and copies are available in the canteen. Please make sure all lunch orders are handed into the canteen by 9.30 am and if you are ordering through Flexischools, please ensure order is placed by 9 am on the day you require your order.

**STEWART HOUSE CLOTHING APPEAL 2013**

Stewart House clothing bags are going home with your child today. Please return the filled bags to the veranda in the K-2 Campus NO later than 22nd February.
BOOK CLUB 2013

All K-6 classes have received Issue 1 of Scholastic Book Club. All orders need to be placed in an envelope clearly marked BOOK CLUB with your child’s NAME and CLASS. Cheques made payable to SCHOLASTIC and credit card payments are preferred. You can combine your orders and pay for them as one single payment. Credit card payments can be paid on-line or by phone and your receipt number needs to be recorded and sent back to school with your order. Please send K-2 orders to Mrs Falconer and 3-6 orders to the Library.

Orders are due back by TUESDAY 12th February

Please allow 2 weeks for your books to arrive.

If you have any questions, please see Mrs Falconer or Mrs Ericsson.

Book Club helps our school to purchase books and equipment for our Literacy programs.

Remember to READ EVERYDAY THAT YOU EAT!

GIVE YOUR CHILD A HEAD START!

GKR Karate is conducting classes for children, adults and families in your area.

- Build Confidence
- Improve Fitness
- Gain Self Discipline
- Learn Self Defence

Be one of the first 10 callers and receive... 75% OFF normal membership fee

Trial Memberships • Family discounts • No contracts

gkrkarate.com

Cybersafety Seminar by ACMA

Your name/s: ____________________________ Child’s name: ____________________________

I will be attending the Cybersafety Seminar to be held in the hall at Newport School on Tuesday 26 February 2013 at 6.30pm.

Please return to Shane Clements or Natalie Baldi through the office as soon as possible.